

a one-sided account of a purely private transaction into a political discussion in order to draw a red herring across the trail. From the manner in which the remarks were made, I could only account for the hon. member's outburst by supposing that he was blinded by party bias. He could easily have ascertained the facts from the bank or from the solicitor concerned. I have always refrained from personalities, and from references that were not strictly political and such as my position in this Chamber required me to make. When I do express an opinion, I endeavour to do so courteously and without imputing motives. Each of us here has important public duties to discharge, and very often the duty is a painful one. In the case under review I can only again express my surprise that the Government have decided to inform members that it is practically impossible to furnish the information, and have not promised that in future a strict account of all such expenditure will be kept. During a period of 25 years I handled thousands of pounds of public money, and was quite rightly required to account for every penny of it. I have therefore become accustomed to expect that this should apply in all cases to those entrusted with the spending of public funds, irrespective of the position held. May I quote one of many letters received by me from electors of my province—

My chief reason for writing is that I like to see any man get a fair deal, and neither Drew nor Moore gave you that. I personally wrote to Moore and asked him to obtain the information. He did not do as he was requested. Of course it was presumption on my part to ask him. But I did not think that he would have the hide to use my letter to slate you for complying with a perfectly legitimate request. Although he did not answer my letter, I would not believe him if he said he did not receive it, as he used some of the facts I gave him when he was trying to prevent us from obtaining information that we are justly entitled to receive. I was under the evidently mistaken impression that the only justification for the existence of the Council was that it was the impeccable guardian of our purse, but according to Drew, Nathan, and Moore—vide "Hansard"; that is all I go on; if they are a fair sample of the Council's guardianship, I say cut the cost and do with one Chamber. You may show this to both Drew and Moore, if you so desire, as I have only stated facts as I know them.

In conclusion, I desire to express my thanks to those members who have supported me in this motion. Such support was quite

spontaneous and unsought, and therefore all the more appreciated.

Question, as amended, put and passed.

House adjourned at 5.50 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 24th October, 1933.

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

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT.

The SPEAKER: I have here a copy of the Auditor General's report, which I will lay on the Table.

ASSENT TO BILLS.

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

- 1, Government Tramways Act Amendment.
- 2, Mortgagees' Rights Restriction Act Continuance.
- 3, Industries Assistance Act Continuance.
- 4, Reduction of Rents Act Continuance.

QUESTION—MIDLAND RAILWAY, INSPECTIONS.

Mr. HEGNEY asked the Minister for Railways: 1, Is he aware that the contract between the Midland Railway Company and the Western Australian Government pro-

vides that the Commissioner of Railways may make periodical inspections of the company's line as set out in Clause 31 and following clauses? 2, Is he aware that no reference to such inspections is made in the Commissioner of Railways' annual report? 3, How frequently, during the past three years, have inspections been made? 4, Will he advise the House—(a) what weight of rails are used on the track; (b) what weight of engines are in use; (c) the average speed of an express train; (d) the average number of men employed in each gang to keep permanent way in order? 5, Will he give instructions that future annual reports of the Commissioner make reference to such inspections?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, Yes. 2, Reference to the inspections is made in the Commissioner's quarterly reports, which are laid on the Table of the House. 3, Annually. 4, (a) 46¼ lb. on the greater part, 60 lb. on the remainder. (b) Excluding shunting engines, from 77 to 90 tons. (c) 25 miles per hour, excluding stops. (d) 5½ men per gang. 5, This is considered to be unnecessary.

QUESTION—POLICE APPOINTMENTS.

Mr. J. MacCallum SMITH asked the Minister for Police: 1, Is he aware that country candidates for admission to the police force were asked to present themselves at headquarters in Perth, and that they had to do so at their own expense; that when they arrived they were not given the opportunity of appearing before the selection board, nor were they given any reason for not being interviewed? 2, Has he heard that at the last sitting of the selection board the Commissioner of Police stated that he had sufficient men enrolled, and yet more men were taken on the day following, but the country applicants were not given a chance of passing the examination, although they had been asked to attend. 3, As these ignored candidates were put to considerable expense and inconvenience in coming to Perth at the behest of the Commissioner, will he cause a refund of their fares and expenses? 4, Will he see that candidates in future are given equal opportunity of passing the examinations and that the present method of inviting them to attend be discontinued?

The MINISTER FOR POLICE replied: 1, Prospective suitable candidates for the police force were notified that recruiting would take place on a certain date and all candidates attending were seen by the board. Thirty-four recruits were enrolled, and of this number 17 were country candidates. 2, As the medical examiner had rejected more men than was anticipated, it was necessary to select others for medical examination in order to obtain the quota required, and the four necessary to complete the quota were country candidates. 3, No candidates were ignored and the expense of their attending at Perth to seek employment cannot be borne by the Government. 4, All candidates are given equal opportunities. It is absolutely necessary that a personal examination of the candidates should take place.

QUESTION—LUCERNE FLEA PARASITE.

Mr. DONEY asked the Minister for Agriculture: 1, To what extent has his department experimented with the bellid mite (*Biscarius Lapidarius*) which, it is claimed, preys upon and destroys the lucerne flea? 2, Are the results regarded by his department as satisfactory, and are they equally satisfactory in all districts where the establishment of this parasite has been attempted?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE replied: 1, Trials with this mite have been made in pasture infected with lucerne flea, and the mite distributed on 70 holdings; also widespread field surveys carried out throughout the South-West. 2, On the coastal plains—yes; in the Avon Valley—encouraging.

BILL—LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ACT AMENDMENT.

Introduced by Mr. Sleeman and read a first time.

BILL—FIRE BRIGADES ACT AMENDMENT.

In Committee.

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

Clauses 1, 2—agreed to.

Clause 3—Consequential amendment, Section 6:

Mr. LATHAM: I move an amendment—

That paragraph (c) be struck out.

The principle underlying the putting of this sort of provision into an Act of Parliament is wrong. While the Government may feel it to be advisable to-day to put it in, because it will give representation to the firemen's union on the board of management, there may come a day when the employers may ask to be put on. Will that be advantageous to the union?

The Minister for Railways: The provision is a perfectly just one.

Mr. LATHAM: But why single out these people for representation on the board? Already they can get into any municipal council, and so reach the board.

The Minister for Mines: You have the volunteer brigades represented on the board; why not the permanent men?

Mr. LATHAM: Well, I think the paragraph should come out.

Mr. CROSS: The Leader of the Opposition says it is wrong to place an employee of the Fire Brigades Board on the board, but he omits to say there are nine other seats on the board, and that there will be no possibility of a representative of the permanent men dominating the board. On the other hand, that representative will serve a useful purpose in tendering the board practical advice. At present there is on the board virtually no one with practical experience of fire fighting. That is evidenced by the fact that the Fire Brigades Act of 1916 is entirely out of date. In my electorate there are four fairly lengthy streets with only one fire hydrant in each. Practical firemen know that a hydrant placed in Suburban-road is useless for combating a fire at the top end of Brandon-street. And in the centre of this large unprotected area is the Kensington school, with no fire hydrant near it. To ensure even a measure of protection there should be at least a dozen hydrants in that locality. At present, while the chief officer has power, in the event of a fire, to pull down buildings, shore up walls, dynamite places, close roads, and go on to private property for water, yet he has no power to insist upon a local authority putting in a fire hydrant where it is required. At the corner of Rokeby-road and Hay-street, Subiaco, there

has been a dummy hydrant from the time the water main was laid down. For years past members of the permanent staff have been asking for a real hydrant there, but the local authority declares it would cost them £8 a year. It is wrong that a local authority should be compelled to bear the cost of a hydrant at all. It is ridiculous that a local governing body should be able to refuse to instal necessary fire hydrants. The permanent men consider that an amendment to the Act is long overdue.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I would point out that the hon. member is now discussing a subject not dealt with by the amendment before the Chair.

Mr. CROSS: The permanent men should be represented on the board. I oppose the amendment.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: I support the amendment. I see no necessity for a member of the present staff being put upon the board. Those now constituting the board are sufficiently experienced to deal with all matters brought under their notice.

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 4 to 8, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

BILL—ENTERTAINMENTS TAX ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH (Hon. S. W. Munsie—Hannans) [4.50] in moving the second reading said: This is an exceptionally small Bill.

Mr. Griffiths: But very dangerous.

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH: The Commonwealth are relinquishing their entertainments tax. The amount they are giving up in this State is approximately £11,400. That is what it was anticipated the Commonwealth would collect this year. The previous Government doubled the entertainments tax, both on the amounts below 2s. 6d. and those above 2s. 6d. We, therefore, have either to bring down this Bill to enable us to collect £11,400, from the taxation on amounts from 2s. 6d. upwards, or else, to be consistent, we shall have to sacrifice £25,500, on the lower amounts. This State

is not in a position to sacrifice so large an amount by way of entertainments tax. It would be ridiculous for us to sit idly by whilst the Federal Government withdrew their entertainments tax, for that would mean that persons who went to the theatre would pay 1d. on every 1s. whereas those who went to an ordinary picture show costing 2s. would pay 2d. in the 1s.

Mr. Sampson: I have no objection to your withdrawing the tax.

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH: We cannot afford to lose £25,500. The total tax collected in this year from entertainments was £62,486.

Mr. Stubbs: That includes racing.

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH: Yes. If we did not bring down this Bill, in order to be consistent we would have to forego 1d. in every 1s. below 2s. 6d. We cannot do that, and cannot afford to bring the rates into conformity with a tax of 1d. in the 1s. right through. This Bill merely repeals Section 4 of the principal Act and inserts a new section setting out that the rate of tax shall be 2d. on payments of not less than 9d. and not exceeding 1s., and that on amounts exceeding 1s. the rate shall be 2d. for the first 1s. and 1d. for every 6d. or part of 6d. by which the payment exceeds 1s.

Mr. Latham: You are doubling the tax.

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH: No. We are only taking the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per 6d. which is now collected by the Commonwealth Government.

Mr. Latham: They have not been collecting it for some time.

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH: They are now collecting it on amounts over 2s. 6d. This Bill does not affect the taxation on amounts under 2s. 6d. The Commonwealth have never collected on amounts smaller than 2s. 6d.

Mr. Latham: You are picking up what the Commonwealth are dropping.

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH: Yes.

Mr. Latham: This Bill does not seem to convey that idea.

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH: It does.

Mr. Latham: It says that on amounts of not less than 9d. and not exceeding 1s. the rate of tax shall be 2d. That is more than we are getting now.

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH: It is not. It was 1d. on 9d. and not more than

1s. until the last Government doubled the tax, making it 2d. This State will still not be collecting on any higher amounts than is the case in other States. The Commonwealth have been collecting a tax of 1d. on every 1s. and a tax of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on every 6d. or part thereof on amounts of 2s. 6d. and over. It is that $\frac{1}{2}$ d. I am seeking to collect. In New South Wales on amounts exceeding 1s. 6d. and less than 2s. the tax is $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and over that it is 1d. for the first 2s., and $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for every additional 6d. In Victoria, between 10d. and 1s. the tax is 1d. and up to 1s. 6d. it is $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; between 1s. 6d. and 2s. it is 2d. and between 2s. and 2s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. it is 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and after that the rates are the same as ours. In South Australia, a 3d. payment carries a tax of $\frac{1}{2}$ d., on 3d. and not exceeding 6d. a tax of 1d., and it is 1d. for the first 6d. or fraction thereof above that amount. In Tasmania, for amounts over 1s. but not over 1s. 6d. the tax is 3d., over 1s. 6d. and not over 2s. it is 4d., and over 2s. it is $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for every additional 6d. South Australia's tax therefore starts at a figure lower than ours, and that of Tasmania is the same as ours. We are in the position that we could not say to some people we were going to charge 4d. for every 2s. ticket, when others who pay 3s. to go to an entertainment would only find an additional 1d. in the 1s. or 3d. altogether.

Mr. Latham: That is a poor excuse for collecting £11,000.

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH: We cannot afford to lose £25,500. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Mr. Latham, debate adjourned.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1933-34.

In Committee of Supply.

Resumed from the 19th October; Mr. Sleeman in the Chair.

Department of Public Works and Labour (Hon. A. McCallum, Minister).

Vote—Public Works and Buildings, £65,850:

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. A. McCallum—South Fremantle) [5.0]: The main activities of the Public Works Department come under Loan expenditure.

Most of the big works are financed from that source. The explanations concerning the department are usually given on the Loan vote. The vote under review deals almost exclusively with salaries, although this year, because of the abolition of the Property Trust account, and that vote having become exhausted, a good deal more expenditure comes under the heading of revenue expenditure. Therefore the Public Works Department, in the matter of expenditure from revenue, is not a department calling for much explanation. I wish to make some comparisons between last year, this year, and previous years, so that the Committee will know how the department stand in comparison with the past, and what is the outlook for the future. Last year's expenditure from revenue for ordinary public works and services connected with public buildings was £19,159, and from funds in the Government Property Trust account £46,338. The Treasurer explained, in introducing the Budget, that the Sale of Government Property Trust Account has been exhausted, and that money for such purposes now must come from other sources. It is interesting to contrast the sum from revenue, £19,159, with that from the trust account, £46,338. For maintenance and all other charges, including interest and sinking fund on Goldfields Water Supply, the expenditure was £108,239, and for Other Hydraulic Undertakings £23,916, plus £843,665 from Loan, making a total of £1,041,317. In addition there was an expenditure of £47,455 by the department in connection with works not financed directly from funds specifically provided by Parliament, including such works as the building of hospitals, the cost of which would come from the Hospital Fund and from subscriptions raised by local committees. On such works the expenditure was £47,550. A comparison between the above figure of the total expenditure for 1931-32 from all sources, £752,710, and the total expenditure for 1931-32 £1,041,317, shows an increase for last year of £336,157. The principal works put in hand were resumption of dredging at Bunbury, in an endeavour to secure the original depth of the harbour, and preliminary work in connection with organisation for improvement of the existing accommodation, which ran into £12,000.

Mr. Latham: That came out of Loan funds?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Yes. There was continuation and permanent renewal work on the North Wharf and Victoria Quay, £58,000. Then there was continuation of the Geraldton harbour works, £57,000, and Geraldton water supply and roofing of the Witcherina reservoir and other improvements, £33,000. In connection with the Loan Estimates I shall give fuller information relating to improvements in country water supplies, some of which have been done on a pound for pound basis at Harvey, Bunbury, Moora and Waroona. In connection with Goldfields Water Supply, the policy that has been adopted of improving the main conduit accounted for an expenditure of £105,000 last year. It is known, of course, that some agricultural districts are largely dependent upon that main, just as the goldfields are. Under that heading I propose to give a good deal of information on the Loan Estimates. There has been a most interesting development in connection with the main. A large amount of money has been expended, and pipes have been reconditioned. The money, however, came out of Loan funds, and therefore this is not the place to deal with the subject. The total expenditure last year for improvements to public buildings, including new buildings, was £33,000. Hon. members will see by a reference to the Estimates that the amount for the current year is considerably larger. Perhaps the most important work put in hand during recent years is irrigation and drainage in the South-West. With that proposition I shall deal pretty fully now, in order that I may clear up some misunderstandings which exist, and also in order that I may make clear not only to hon. members but to the public just how the Government view the situation. I hope, further, to impress the member for Murray-Wellington (Mr. McLarty) and so save him a little worry and bother in the future as well as saving myself a little time. Extensive work has been done in connection with irrigation and drainage in the South-West. I personally am hopeful as to the future. I believe that that work will mean a great thing for the South-West. The main drawback of the district has been too much water in the winter and not enough water in the summer. The task of irrigation is largely

to provide artificial rain for the summer months and to take away the overplus of water in the winter months. Personally I think the work now in hand will prove to be one of the finest things ever done for the South-West. However, it has to be proved. It may be that I have a good deal of Scotch caution about me; I cannot help that. It was born in me. I think that when I give the figures to the Committee, hon. members will agree that before any additional large expense is undertaken in connection with further irrigation works, time should be given to prove what has been done up to date. Probably hon. members are convinced that Western Australia has rushed ahead too quickly with various propositions in the past, not stopping first to test out their value, or to consider what their ultimate results were likely to be. We have plunged headlong into expenditure amounting in some cases to millions, without sufficient trials beforehand. The present Government do not propose to repeat that proceeding. Irrigation and drainage works are new in Western Australia. The Government's view is that the works now nearing completion should be tried and proved before any additional large expenditure is undertaken in the same line.

Mr. Ferguson: We have a fair instalment.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I think the hon. member interjecting will agree, upon hearing the figures, that there has been a pretty substantial undertaking entered into on behalf of Western Australia, and that we have a duty to see that the works now in hand are doing what is intended on behalf of the settlers. I am being pressed to undertake new irrigation works, particularly the Logue's Brook work around Yarloop and Cookernup. The hon. member who just interjected is pressing me in regard to receiving a deputation in favour of that work. I am also being pressed to put in hand works connected with the flats below the Serpentine Falls. Both those works mean heavy expenditure. I have to examine the position under the expenditure already incurred before I can recommend Cabinet to undertake further works. Up to the 30th June last the expenditure on irrigation works and drainage works in connection therewith has been—Harvey No. 1, £65,002; Harvey No. 2, £215,517; Collie, £246,337; Waroona, £58,180; making a total of £585,036 actually spent up to the end of last

June. Over half a million of money is already invested under those headings, and the work is still in progress, not yet completed. The areas which the works serve are—Harvey No. 1, 3,856 acres; Harvey No. 2, 18,364 acres; Collie, 34,170 acres; Waroona, 8,000 acres; a total of 64,398 acres. Regarding the area within each district for which water is provided, it will be appreciated that no such scheme could ever supply sufficient water to irrigate the whole of a district. That is not attempted in any such scheme. A percentage of the land only is irrigable and the areas in the several districts that will be irrigable are: Harvey No. 1, 3,660 acres; Harvey No. 2, 6,121 acres; Collie, 11,390 acres and Waroona, 2,770 acres. That means that out of the 64,390 acres in those districts, 23,941 acres are irrigable, and water will be provided for that area. The estimated number of settlers who will be served are: Harvey No. 1, 286; Harvey No. 2, 160; Collie, 187; Waroona, 72, or a total of 705 settlers. In some of those districts there are substantial areas held by individuals, and I think the intention, judging from the manner in which the rates were fixed and the scheme was laid out, was that it would ultimately lead to the breaking up of large areas and force the owners to subdivide their holdings. In the Harvey No. 1 area the different holdings average from 2½ acres to 62 acres; in Harvey No. 2, two acres to 1,180 acres; in Collie, 5 acres to 1,000 acres; in Waroona, 5 acres to 1,100 acres. The rates at present levied for irrigation amount to 7s. 6d. for each irrigable acre with the right to one free watering, and 2s. 6d. per acre for additional waterings, with a minimum charge of £1. For drainage, the rate struck represents 6d. in the pound on the unimproved values of the holdings. The Collie district has not yet been rated as the work is not completed, and no drainage rate has been struck for the Waroona district because the drains were constructed many years ago. The storage capacity of the several reservoirs should give the Committee some idea of the extent of the work that has been carried out. Take the Harvey No. 1 scheme; the original dam held 518,000,000 gallons only, and the dam has been enlarged to hold 2,275,000,000 gallons. The Wellington dam in the Collie area has a capacity of 7,500,000,000 gallons and the reservoir at Waroona has a capacity of

504,000,000 gallons. When members realise that the Mundaring reservoir holds 4,600,000,000 gallons, it will be seen that the capacity of the Harvey reservoir is just about half that of the Mundaring reservoir, whereas the capacity of the Wellington dam is $1\frac{1}{2}$ times as great as that of Mundaring. It will be appreciated that there has been a very considerable conservation of water in the schemes I have mentioned, and that water will be available for irrigation purposes.

Mr. Wilson: It will put Collie on the map.

Miss Holman: The scheme is not in your electorate.

Mr. Wilson: But I have the water.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: By the time this work is completed and the drainage system dealt with, it is estimated that £750,000 will have been expended. After making provision for maintenance and administrative costs in connection with the drainage and irrigation schemes, it is considered that not more than two per cent. will be returned to the Treasury, and it is very doubtful whether the return will be more than one per cent. for many years to come.

Mr. Latham: That refers to a direct return, but the scheme will provide revenue in other directions.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: We hope that that will be the result, if the schemes are successful. The best that can be expected is that, for some years to come, the Treasury will receive a return of two per cent. On the financial position disclosed by the estimates, that is an optimistic prediction. I will make some comparison between the cost of the works now completed and the estimated cost of some of the undertakings I have been requested to put in hand. The total cost of the head works when completed—they are not completed yet—will be: Harvey, £144,421 to supply water for 9,781 acres; Waroona, £35,000 to irrigate 2,770 acres; Collie, £145,000 to irrigate 11,390 acres. The cost per million gallons over the area will be: Harvey, £63; Waroona, £70; and Collie £19. Take the position regarding the Cookernup-Yarloop scheme or, as it is better known, the Logues Brook scheme, which I have been pressed consistently to put in hand. On a rough estimate—detailed surveys have not

yet been made—furnished by the engineers, it would seem that the head works alone will cost £83,630 and the area to be irrigated will comprise 2,285 acres. The whole district comprises 8,000 acres. The capacity of the reservoir would be 800,000,000 gallons and the cost per million gallons would be £104.

Mr. Ferguson: That is five times as much as the Collie scheme.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Yes. That scheme would cost £104 per million gallons as against £19 for the Collie scheme, £70 for the Waroona scheme and £63 for the Harvey scheme. The rough estimate of the total cost for the whole of the work is £125,000, and that would work out at £50 for every acre irrigated, or a loadage on every acre in the district of £15 5s.

Mr. Stubbs: The land would not stand it.

Mr. Ferguson: You will not have that deputation.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I hope that my statement this afternoon will relieve the member for Murray-Wellington (Mr. McLarty) of the pressure exerted upon him and that it will also relieve me of the pressure as well. There is no possible hope in the world of the suggested work being undertaken. Those works that are in hand now will have to prove themselves. Over £750,000 of the taxpayers' money has been sunk in the jobs already authorised. We do not want to repeat what has happened in the past when the State has rushed headlong into schemes involving huge expenditure only to find that those schemes have not come up to expectations. I hope I have not offended the susceptibilities of the member for Murray-Wellington, but I want to relieve the pressure that has been exercised with regard to the schemes I have mentioned. I do not think any scheme that would load every acre in a district with an indebtedness of £15 5s. and every irrigable acre with a loadage of £50, would be favoured by anyone. It would be impossible for the settlers to carry on under such a scheme.

Mr. Stubbs: It would be worse than the Group Settlement Scheme.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: At any rate, the Government do not propose to touch the scheme and it is merely wasting the settlers' time to come to Perth to discuss the problem with me. Regarding the scheme for the Serpentine Flats, the position is that the Metropolitan Water Supply authorities

expect to take the water from that river within the next 15 or 20 years and to divert it to the metropolitan area.

Mr. Latham: It would be dangerous to touch that scheme.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Moreover, within 30 years they will have to take the water from the Murray River. If the Government were to proceed with the scheme and create all sorts of vested interests, it would be wrong in view of the advice of the engineers, and statistics indicate that, should the growth of the metropolitan area be in accord with the past ratio, within 15 to 20 years we shall have to take water from the Serpentine River and from 25 to 30 years hence, we will have to take water from the Murray River.

Mr. McLarty: That means that the Murray River will never be used for irrigation purposes.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Unless something unforeseen should happen, I should say not.

Mr. McLarty: It has an enormous catchment area.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I know that. The engineers have taken out all the particulars and I have indicated the advice they have tendered to me. Whatever the future may hold in store, we are at present confronted with the position that £750,000 has been spent on an irrigation and drainage scheme that has yet to be proved a success. I do not know of one drainage area in Western Australia that is yet paying its way.

Mr. Latham: There are very few irrigation areas in the world that have paid their way.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I am hopeful that the irrigation and drainage scheme will pay. I believe that is the outstanding work carried out in the South-West since Western Australia commenced the development of agriculture. We cannot afford to stake the taxpayers' money on gambles any longer. There has been too much of it in the past. We must be more careful in these days. I have mentioned what has been done during the last few years and it represents substantial work covering considerable areas and involving the expenditure of a large amount of money. In view of that, everyone should be satisfied to watch developments and judge by the results a

year or two hence. At the moment the Government are not prepared to engage in any further works of that description. I propose, when we are dealing with the Loan Estimates later on, to make a full statement regarding the roads of the State. Members will appreciate the fact that we have not had a discussion on road matters for the last three years. Millions have been spent on roads.

Mr. Latham: Millions!

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Yes.

Mr. Latham: Surely not millions.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Well, over £1,000,000. If the Leader of the Opposition desires the exact figures, I will give them to him later on. The fact remains that no opportunity has been given for a discussion of road construction matters for years past. I propose to have an item in the Loan Estimates to enable that discussion to take place and I shall be prepared to give members full information.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: Will that discussion indicate amending the expenditure or will it be just a review of what is going on?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: It will mean amending the expenditure. I will set out the policy of the Government as I proceed.

Mr. Latham: I do not think you have a Vote for it this year.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Yes, there will be one on the Loan Estimates. A promise was given when we sat in Opposition that an item would be included in the Estimates for the purposes of a discussion, but that promise was never kept. It will be provided this year and the fullest information will be given to members. An item dealing with salaries and other details will be found in Division 25 of the Estimates, under the heading of Public Works and Buildings. It will be noted that for last year £65,200 was provided and the expenditure amounted to £63,500. This year the Vote is £70,342, showing an increase of £6,835. The estimated expenditure and the actual expenditure last year were fairly close, and it cannot be expected that the expenditure can be calculated to the last pound. It is always assumed in framing Estimates that officers will be employed for the full year, but at times many of them are not. The result is that the vote must vary correspondingly. Then there are all sorts of deductions from the vote and those are set out under the respective head-

ings on page 46 of the Estimates. There is a difference in the items this year with regard to road boards. Owing to legislation that was passed, more Government auditors were appointed, and the arrangement was that the State would pay half the expense and the local authorities the other half. Under the new order, the auditing of the books of local authorities is proceeding all the while. The accounts of the local authorities are being brought up to date. The expenditure regarding that item discloses an additional £1,095 this year. There are also some rebates. At times officers of the Public Works Department do work, the expenditure in connection with which appears under other headings. When Loan works are provided for, the salaries are set out and rebates are received from the different works as time goes on. The full details are set out on page 47. There is a considerable increase for salaries and incidentals to provide for the auditors, as I have explained, the statutory increase for civil servants, and for extra staff on account of additional work. The staff has to be strengthened in the professional division particularly. Regarding the vote for contingencies, I wish to direct the attention of North-West members particularly to the increased provision for repairs and maintenance at North-West ports. A sum of £12,000 has been provided, an increase of £11,400. Only £600 was provided for that work last year, whereas we are providing £12,000. Repairs to public buildings show an increase of £23,467, a sum of £600 only having been provided last year. The amount of £24,000 this year has to come from revenue. Previously work of the kind was financed from the Property Trust Account. The State has invested in public buildings over £3,250,000 and very little work has been done to maintain them, or keep them in decent repair, during recent years. Three and a quarter million pounds worth of State assets has been allowed to fall into a state of disrepair. Members need look no further than Parliament House buildings. The wall of one room had fretted so badly, owing to leakages, that another wall had to be built inside it. The Government are trying to get public buildings into a decent state of repair. In reply to a question by the member for North-East Fremantle (Mr. Tonkin), I tabled a return showing the expenditure on school buildings and teachers'

quarters during the last six years. The amounts were as follows—

		£
1928	21,994
1929	26,819
1930	25,590
1931	9,309
1932	5,016
1933	7,300

Mr. Griffiths: If the Government had not the money, they could not spend it.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Everyone knows that tradesmen such as carpenters, plumbers and painters have been employed to chop the grass off footpaths, though it grew up after the next shower of rain, and it would have cost the State little, if any, more to employ those men at their trades. Skilled men have been employed on road making, a job for which they were unfitted. We are putting those men back to their own trades as far as possible, and we think the result will be to the advantage of the State as well as the individuals concerned. The estimated revenue for the Department of Public Works and Buildings in 1932-33 was £12,000 and the amount actually collected £11,408; Department of Labour, estimated revenue £3,500, actually collected £3,525; Goldfields Water Supply, estimated revenue £173,000, actually collected £171,971; Other Hydraulic Undertakings, estimated revenue £45,500, actually collected £43,224. On the whole the estimates proved fairly accurate. This year we estimate the revenue as follows:—Public Works and Buildings, £13,400; Labour, £3,600; Goldfields Water Supply, £175,000; and Other Hydraulic Undertakings, £46,500. The Revenue Estimates for public works do not allow much scope for explanation because they are mainly items for salaries over which we have no control. Salaries are fixed by statute, by the Public Service Commissioner, or by tribunals, and Parliament has lost control of them. I hope the information I have given will help members to understand the work of the past year and the work intended for the current year.

Item, Wages of hall porter and of office cleaners and labourers employed in Public Works Offices, Perth, Bunbury and central offices, Geraldton and Kalgoorlie; also window cleaners, public offices, Perth, £2,050:

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: There has been considerable discontent regarding office

cleaning, and the organisation covering cleaners, composed largely of women, feel that many of their activities have been controlled by piece work and contract conditions, and that the Government are encouraging other employers to follow suit. I do not know whether the statement is correct, but it has been made over and over again. It is stated definitely that window cleaning is done by contract, whereas previously it was part of the ordinary work of the various cleaners employed more particularly for school cleaning. We would be justified in being somewhat generous to cleaners. They had great difficulty to get an award and the rate has never been high. The organisation is weak, and it is difficult to get members to attend to matters affecting their hours and wages. We should take as liberal a view as possible of Government cleaning to encourage private employers to be liberal. Many more cleaners are engaged in private employment than in Government work. I have a great deal of sympathy with the so-called charwomen who are largely widows, struggling from early morning till late at night to earn the little they get, often to maintain a family. I ask the Government to take as liberal a view of their claims as possible and avoid speeding them up by adopting piece work or contract conditions.

Item, Maintenance works as may be required, including maintenance of dredges and barges, mooring buoys, jetties, embankments and general maintenance of harbour and river works, £1,000:

Mr. CROSS: This item shows an increase of £477 over last year's expenditure. That is clearly a step in the right direction. I hope provision will be made for constructing a protecting embankment at Melville-terrace. The Minister promised a deputation some-time ago that his engineer would consult with the engineer of the local authority and see what could be done. I hope provision will be made on the Loan Estimates to put that necessary work in hand before next winter.

Item, Repairs and maintenance, North-West harbours, buoys, jetties, tramways, rolling stock and other works as may be required £12,000:

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: I am pleased that an increased amount has been provided for the maintenance of the State's assets

along the North-West coast. I recently took a trip along the coast, and as one who had been associated with the construction of some of the works, I was interested to see how the buildings and jetties were standing the strain of years. The most recently constructed jetty at Beadon is not a credit to the State. It was a contract job and is not a credit to those associated with it. It has a shoddy appearance, and the deterioration is so pronounced that one would say the materials had not been all they should have been for a structure of the kind. One realises how difficult it is in those remote parts to supervise contract work. The maintenance charge for the jetty is likely to be great. Already maintenance expenditure is being incurred on work that should have lasted much longer. We are all aware of the difficulty regarding supervision in distant parts of the State, and the Beadon Jetty is an illustration of the importance of avoiding contract work there if it is our desire to keep down maintenance costs. Maintenance at Beadon Jetty has already started, and the cost will increase as time goes on until eventually reconstruction will have to take place because the work has not been carried out up to the standard that is required for the North-West.

Mr. SAMPSON: It may be that if this work had not been carried out by contract, the cost would have been considerably in excess of what it actually was. Generally speaking, concrete structures are not very satisfactory. There are those who consider that jetties should have been constructed of piles that would stand up to the ravages of the borer, and so get away from the danger of fracture that is ever-present when concrete is used, and particularly where the rise and fall in the tide is as great as it is in the North-West.

Item, Roads and Bridges, Drainage and Wells throughout the State, including grants and road board audits, etc., and land settlement for soldiers, groups, etc., roads, bridges and drainage, £3,000:

Mr. CROSS: I notice that nothing was provided last year and that £3,000 now appears on the Estimates. I desire to draw attention to a work that is long overdue, namely, the widening of the Canning Bridge. This is one of the weak links, if not the weakest, in the roadways of the metropolitan

area. I am hopeful also that the Minister will see his way to connect Albany-road through Queen's Park to Canning Bridge, and in that way save a considerable distance by road to Fremantle for those who are travelling from the southern part of the State. The traffic over the Canning Bridge is very considerable, and I am anticipating that a serious tragedy will occur there if the work of widening is not carried out.

Item, Repairs and improvements to drains in the South-West, £500:

Mr. McLARTY: The Minister has told us where we stand with regard to irrigation works in the future, and I do not blame him for being cautious. I hope, however, that his caution will not prevent him from carrying on further drainage works in the South-West. A good deal of money has already been spent in the South-West and a very fair proportion of it in my electorate. My electorate is a narrow strip of country lying between the hills and the sea, and development which has taken place in the back country has brought more and more water into it. All the drainage work that has been carried out is justified since it is bringing the country into productivity. The Premier and the Minister for Lands must have been greatly impressed with what they saw recently in the different parts of that district. I was hopeful that the Minister for Works would tell us something about future drainage works there, and I had intended to ask him whether it was proposed to make a sum of money available for further drainage works in the Coolup agricultural area. Also I desire to know what is to be done with reference to drainage at the Peel and Bateman Estates. Unless something is done in those areas to relieve the settlers of water, some of them will have to abandon their holdings. I was surprised at the Minister stating that the waters of the Murray River would be required for metropolitan use within the next 30 years. There, again, I suppose the Minister is wise in taking the advice of his experts, but if our population increases at the present rate, I do not think the waters of the Murray will be needed for metropolitan use for another century. Chiefly, however, I should like to know whether it is intended to carry on further drainage work in the South-West, particularly in the Coolup area, and on the Peel and Bateman Estates.

Item, Improvements to town water supplies and stock routes in the North-West, £1,000:

Mr. MARSHALL: Recently I had an opportunity of travelling along the stock route beyond Meekatharra and observed the condition of the wells. I am informed that all along the route, from the head of the railway on the Murchison to the Kimberleys, the wells are in a deplorable state. To-day I received a communication from the Meekatharra Road Board, which body, in turn, alluded to a communication from drovers who drew attention to the fact that at certain wells along the stock route it was not possible to obtain water, and that they were compelled to split up the party and proceed south in search of it. Many deputations have visited Perth and drawn attention to the neglect of the wells along the stock route. Perhaps some of the deputations waited on the present Minister for Works when he was in office before; I think they did. Attention has been drawn to the amount voted being inadequate. Now the matter has become really urgent. Stock is being moved where wells are, but on account of the disrepair into which those wells have been allowed to drift, they have become almost useless. In addition to the wells, being useless, the equipment has also suffered, and all because the Government have failed to provide what might be said to be an infinitesimal amount that would have helped to keep them in order. Now the overlanding of stock has become impossible. The question has not been sprung on the Minister because there have been complaints for a number of years. I also desire to bring under the notice of the Minister the importance of increasing the domestic water supply at Meekatharra. In this district there has been a big influx of population, just as there has been in other goldfields areas. I have received a communication from the secretary of the local hospital indicating that the institution is labouring under difficulties owing to the inadequate water supply. Members can imagine what will happen there should an epidemic break out. Some time ago the engineers commenced to put down a bore to supplement the supply, but the work was stopped owing to the lack of funds. Since then the population has increased rapidly, and the engineers have done their best, with the limited amount of

money at their disposal, to improve the position. I hope the Minister will regard this as a matter of urgency, because a water supply is all important in that part of the State. The climatic conditions during the next few months will be almost intolerable, and the position will be aggravated if an adequate supply of water is not available. I trust the Minister will regard the necessity to recondition the stock wells in the North-West as another matter of urgency. If the Government do not intend to recondition the wells, it would be better to say so, and the growers will then know that they must send their stock to the ports for shipment south. It is deplorable to think that after travelling hundreds of miles, quite out of touch with civilisation, a drover, with 500 or 1,000 head of cattle, may arrive at a well only to find that no water supply is available. That sort of thing is intolerable. I would not be so emphatic if it were not for the fact that successive Ministers have been informed of the state of the wells and have been urged to have them reconditioned. I do not think the present Minister needs to be reminded of the importance of the matter, and I trust he will see to it that the wells are put in a condition capable of providing for the stock. I received correspondence this morning emphasising the neglected condition of the wells, and I trust the Minister will devote some attention to that matter.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: The member for Murchison will have noticed that the Estimates contain provision for the expenditure of £9,000 this year on wells, whereas nothing was provided last year.

Mr. Marshall: That is so.

Mr. Latham: Money was made available out of the Sale of Government Property Trust Account.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: Yes, that is so. When I was in control of the Works Department on a previous occasion, the road boards in the North were allowed £10 per well per annum in order that they might keep the wells in repair. During the regime of the Mitchell Government, the provision was reduced to £5 and in some instances there was no payment at all. The local authorities have been advised that provision has been made for the payment to them of £5 per well in their areas, and I have also informed them that I am endeavouring to do something more along those lines.

Mr. Coverley: Some do not want anything.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: I will inform the member for Murchison that I have already given every road board in the North-West and the Kimberley Division a grant of £500, and yesterday I authorised the payment of another £250, each of these amounts representing cash. During the previous three years the road boards did not get a penny.

Mr. Marshall: That is correct.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: In addition to the £750 in cash that has been made available by the present Government during the five months we have been in office, the boards have been advised of the provision of £5 per well, with the intimation that I am endeavouring to do something more under the latter heading.

Mr. Latham: Did you say that they received nothing during the previous three years?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: Yes. I know the hon. member visited the North, and promised the road boards £300, but that money was never paid over.

Mr. Latham: I think you will find it was paid all right.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: It was not paid over, and the boards have asked me to honour the promise that was made to them.

Mr. Latham: I think you will find that it was paid to them, and also that an additional sum was made available to the Gascoyne Road Board to deal with the road to Yankee Town.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: The hon. member will find that my statement is correct. I had intended to reply to the debate, but the general discussion was finished when items were called on. I had intended to refer to some drainage matters and to inform the Committee that an amount will be set aside for the renovation of the drains in the Peel and Bateman Estates. I cannot give the actual amount because the work has not been commenced, and the engineers do not know what the cost will be. That work will be done during the summer months. Further work will be dealt with under the Loan Estimates, and I will then have an opportunity to deal with water supply matters at Meekatharra, to which the member for Murchison made reference.

Mr. MARSHALL: I was particularly pleased to hear the statement made by the Minister with reference to the assistance

rendered to road boards in the North. I received a letter this morning from the Meekatharra Road Board. I must have been written three days ago, and evidently the board knew nothing about the Minister's action. I assure the Minister for Works that £5 per well per annum is not nearly sufficient to enable the wells to be kept in repair.

The Minister for Works: I agree with that statement.

Mr. MARSHALL: Owing to the decreased provision made by the Mitchell Government, the trouble commenced. There are certain road board districts with a few wells close to town sites where the wells can be attended to, but in the Meekatharra Road Board area, which is the largest in the State and has hundreds of miles of stock routes within its boundaries, the work could not possibly be done for £5 per well per annum. I shall not have anything further to say before we get the additional information that I desire. I am grateful to the Minister for what he has done, and I hope the wells will be put into decent repair.

Item, Additions, repairs and maintenance of public buildings generally, etc., £24,000:

Mr. TONKIN: I take it this item covers repairs to school buildings and quarters. Last year £533 was spent in respect of all the numerous items covered by the Vote, whereas this year provision is made for the expenditure of £24,000.

The Minister for Works: That is a start.

Mr. TONKIN: I am pleased with the start, too. I am concerned about the way in which the money will be spent. I have extracts from the annual reports of the Education Department. In the report for 1925-26 which was signed by the then Minister for Education (Mr. Drew) and Dr. Andrews, who was then Director of Education, the following appeared:—

The average annual expenditure for 1906-07 to 1914-15 was £50,570. For 1915-16 to 1919-20, the average was £23,396, though the number of schools had greatly increased. The number of schools has more than doubled since 1906, and the demands for new schools are numerous in the freshly-settled districts. The inevitable result of the war-years is that buildings were not kept up to a proper standard of maintenance and repair. A greatly increased expenditure is needed to make up the arrears and maintain the buildings in thoroughly good condition. Twenty years ago the vote for maintenance and repairs was at the rate of 2½ per

cent. on the capital value of the buildings. This was at a time when the buildings were in good repair. Now, when the buildings are in very bad repair, the vote is less than 1 per cent. of the capital value. The consequence is that a very large expenditure must be faced if the buildings are to be brought into proper condition.

Similar statements appeared in the annual reports for 1926-27 and 1927-28. The report for 1930-31 included the following:—

The position regarding teachers' quarters is also unsatisfactory. A considerable number of quarters are too small, and in many cases proper quarters should have been erected in order to enable the staffing arrangements of the department to be carried out adequately. Each year the accumulation of arrears for quarters, school accommodation, and school renovations will naturally continue to swell the bill, which must be faced in due course.

In 1931-32 the expenditure on repairs and maintenance of public buildings generally fell to £10,599, so that we went from bad to worse. Then in 1932-33 there was a miserable amount of £770 provided on the Estimates, and the expenditure totalled £533 only.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. TONKIN: Before tea I was referring to the expenditure in 1931-32 on provision for repairs and maintenance of public buildings. The amount was £10,599. Of that, certain money was expended on the actual erection of new buildings. For example, there were four new one-room schools, 22 new class-rooms and two new school quarters, and the removal of seven schools, six pavilion class-rooms and one school quarters. After that it becomes clear that only a small amount of money was left for repairs to school quarters. For many years past very little money has been spent on school teachers' quarters. I have lived in a number of them, and so I can speak with first-hand authority. The department from one year to another has charged the same rents, irrespective of rents charged elsewhere, without spending a penny on repairs to the buildings. I am pleased, first of all, to see that the Government have had sufficient vision to provide £24,000, but if that amount is to cover all the items mentioned, I am afraid only a small portion of it will be spent on repairs to teachers' quarters. If the right thing were done, of that £24,000 the sum of £23,999 would be spent on re-

pairs to teachers' quarters, the remaining £1 being divided amongst the other items, all of which have had their share for years past. I should like an assurance from the Minister that as much as possible of the money provided will be devoted to the repair of teachers' quarters. It is a standing disgrace and should have been attended to long ago. I hope the largest possible amount will be spent on teachers' quarters, and that next year the Minister will do his best to get up to the standard of 2½ per cent. of their annual value. It is not wise economy to allow repairs to stand over, for under that policy some day these places will just fall down, as I believe, a courthouse in the electorate of the member for Murray-Wellington was allowed to fall down before the department would repair it. Again, the teachers are being charged full rent for these quarters, and are therefore entitled to the same service as they would get from a private property owner.

Mr. LATHAM: I do not think the Minister desired to mislead the Committee when he told us there was only £770 on the Estimates last year, of which £533 was spent. The Minister will find on page 109 of the Estimates that no less than £10,000 was provided last year out of the Sales of Government Property Trust Account. The Minister knows that the work done last year could never have been done out of the small amount he mentioned. And there was money found in other directions, so I hope members will not expect a tremendous amount of work from the £24,000 now provided. To a certain extent all Governments are to blame for not maintaining their buildings, but during the last two or three years it has been the greatest difficulty in the world to maintain the people, let alone the buildings. I doubt if the member for North-East Fremantle would say that teachers' quarters ought to be repaired even at the expense of many people who have difficulty in finding the rent to pay for a room. I just wanted to correct the idea that only £533 was spent last year.

Mr. MOLONEY: I was pleased when the Minister emphasised the importance of providing work by the repairing of these buildings, and I contrasted that with the methods previously adopted, when men were put on sweeping paths, instead of being more usefully employed. We all know how our

public buildings have been allowed to get into a state of disrepair. I stressed it on the Address-in-reply, and I am glad to see the Government have taken action. Any person conversant with buildings knows that every year they are left unattended means piling up the bill of costs. Schools I am particularly concerned with are those at Subiaco and at Jolimont. I have stressed to the Minister the necessity for repairing those buildings, but up to date nothing has been done. I hope that out of this £24,000 repairs will be effected to the Bagot-road and Jolimont schools. The late Administration did nothing whatever for those buildings. The fences are rotting and the schools themselves are mildewed. The Minister has said that something will be done, and I trust he is right. The putting in hand of these belated repairs would mean work for artisans who in turn will be able to employ others by purchasing goods. It is a significant gesture on the part of the Government that, despite the colossal proposition with which they are faced in finding work for the unemployed, they are able to provide £24,000 as against the miserable amount instanced by the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. McLARTY: The member for North-East Fremantle said that a courthouse in my electorate had been allowed to fall down. Actually, it did not fall down, but was pulled down to prevent what might have happened. I should like to ask the Minister if any provision is being made for the erection of court buildings. There is not a suitable courthouse building between Perth and Bunbury. A court is held in Pinjarra, but it is held in the very small police court, and when a case is heard the room is unduly crowded, with no accommodation for witnesses or others who should have the right to enter the court at any time. I hope provision will be made for the erection of a court house at Pinjarra.

Mr. MARSHALL: The Minister has explained the reason for the considerable increase in this Vote. I should like to know from him the total amount to be spent on the upkeep of Government House, Perth, and the Government Cottage at Albany, including furniture and fittings, china and glassware, etc. Those buildings have not been occupied for a considerable time, and now that the Lieut.-Governor is in posses-

sion, I should like to know the probable expenditure under this Vote. We cannot afford to pay for luxuries. I am trying to get a few pounds for a legitimate work to make possible the transport of stock to feed the people of the metropolitan area, but I cannot get it. Also money is wanted for certain work by road boards, but we cannot get it. Yet when it comes to the provision of china and glassware for Government House, we can have it. If the State were prosperous, it would be different; but while we are compelled to ask those on the lower rungs of the ladder to go without money, the State should make a sacrifice and do without luxuries. I shall complain every time such items are presented to us. The cost of luxuries should not be imposed upon the taxpayers while we are in urgent need of every penny to assist in the carrying on of the State's industries.

Mr. Latham: Those items have appeared on the Estimates for years.

Mr. CROSS: The Applecross school has been in need of repairs for a long time. The previous Government promised that repairs would be effected and I understood the cost would be only a few pounds. The people are exasperated because they declare that the health of the children has been affected owing to the canvas blinds having become worn and the children deprived of protection from the winter weather. A letter received this morning from the President of the Parents and Citizens' Association contains the following—

The canvas blinds in the infants' room at the Applecross school have been responsible for the illness of my son during the last two winters, and if better provision cannot be made, it will be necessary for him to be taken away from the school. The position is that when the rain saturates the blinds, the prevailing wind blowing on them makes the room like a large freezing chamber.

I have received several complaints, and I hope this work will be given precedence over the replacement of glass and chinaware at Government House.

Mr. PIESSE: I agree with the member for North-East Fremantle that the whole of the increased vote should be spent on renovating teachers' quarters and school buildings. It is not the fault of the Works Department that renovations have not been made; the need for the work is realised. The vote will have to be materially increased

before the arrears of work are overtaken. During the past few days men who were unemployed have been used to renovate some of the buildings in Katanning. The work is long overdue. Buildings have deteriorated and fallen into a state of dilapidation. The difficulty has been that money could not be found to provide the material with which to carry out the work. There is need for extensions to the court house and police station at Katanning.

The Minister for Works: That would come out of loan money.

Mr. PIESSE: I hope the Government will not overlook those needs when the Loan Estimates are brought down. A sergeant and three constables occupy one room 12 feet by 14 feet. That would not be permitted elsewhere.

Mr. Latham: Are not they nearly always out?

Mr. PIESSE: It is impossible for the sergeant to do his work satisfactorily under such conditions, especially since the police have been required to do extra work in connection with unemployment. No witnesses' room is provided at the court house; witnesses have to stand outside in the heat or rain. Only a moderate amount is required, and I hope it will be provided on the Loan Estimates.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: A good deal of work has been done in the country. The department have been busy trying to overtake some of the arrears. A while ago I pointed out by way of interjection that, if the previous Government did not have the money, they could not undertake the work. The Minister took me to task by stating that it was better to employ skilled men at their trades rather than at chopping grass. Money is more free than it was 12 months ago.

The Minister for Works: It is the same money.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: More money is available this year. The cost of material precluded the previous Government from undertaking many necessary works. That, however, does not detract from the activity of the present Government.

Mr. HEGNEY: I am pleased that, following representations to the Minister during the last six months, improvements have been effected at the Bayswater school in the way of installing septic tanks. A sum of £1,000 was provided, but the work cost only

about £800. Since I have represented Middle Swan I have made representations to Mr. Keenan and to the late Mr. Davy, when Minister for Education, to have improvements made to the Bayswater school ground. A plan has been prepared and is ready to be put into effect when the money is available. As £200 was saved on the septic tanks installation, the balance might be made available to improve the playground. The school is built on a hill and the playing area is inadequate. It is proposed to cut away the back portion of the hill and dump the spoil on a departmentally-owned block on the opposite side of the road that requires filling. The Eden Hill school at Bassendean requires the extension of the water service to the lavatories. The woman cleaner has to carry water about 50 yards to ensure the cleanliness of the place. The Parents and Citizens' Association desire to know whether the money can be made available for the extension, which would cost under £5. The money would be better spent on ensuring the cleanliness of the school than on providing china and glassware for Government House.

Hon. N. KEENAN: I confess myself somewhat surprised at the Minister for Works being made the subject of criticism in respect of certain works that members desire to have carried out at various schools. The Minister for Works makes a certain sum available to the Minister for Education and he allots it as he thinks fit.

Mr. Tonkin: I do not think so.

Hon. N. KEENAN: The Minister for Works does not determine the carrying-out of any particular work.

The Minister for Works: We only act as contractors.

Hon. N. KEENAN: Yes, and it is somewhat unfair to criticise the Minister regarding matters that must be determined by the Minister for Education.

The Minister for Works: I am not a bit upset about it.

Mr. Marshall: Nor is the Minister for Education.

Hon. N. KEENAN: The Minister for Works might inform us what portion of the gross sum he is prepared to make available to the Minister for Education. Then when the Vote of the Minister for Education comes before us, we can ask him what particular works he is prepared to carry out

with the money. Every member would doubtless be able to put up a case for the improvement of schools in his constituency. In my electorate, for instance, there are two schools that sadly need improvement. The Rosalie-street school is one, but the Minister for Works should not be criticised for that. I should like the Minister to say how much of the gross amount will be made available to the Minister for Education to enable him to undertake the necessary repairs, additions and alterations to schools throughout the State. We can then have a fair and square squabble as to who will get it.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: This vote shows a big increase, but there is no indication as to how the money will be expended, apart from what we have been told by the Minister. For additions, repairs and maintenance, etc., to public buildings, the estimate this year is £24,000 compared with £533 last year. Some of us are concerned about the upkeep of Government House, and whether that will be an increased burden upon us, compared with previous years. I should like to know what proportion of the £24,000 will be expended on Government House.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Members ought to be satisfied that we have been able to find £24,000 out of revenue this year compared with £500 last year. It is a pretty substantial increase. The Treasurer gave me authority to employ 100 tradesmen for 52 weeks of the year on repairs and renovations to public buildings. We have the hundred men employed now. The week before last we had exhausted all the sustenance list for payments. All new buildings and additions are provided for out of Loan. The practice in respect of school buildings is that the representatives of the chief architect in different parts of the State visit each public building and report upon its condition. Upon these reports the chief architect selects the most urgent works, and these are given preference with the money that is available. I should have thought the member for Subiaco would be the last man to complain. One evening he urged that certain work should be put in hand at once at Parliament House, and he drew a sad picture of the condition of the building. On his arrival at the House the following day, he saw a thousand bricks outside. I cannot hope that the same fairy

wand will be waved over the two schools in Subiaco to which he referred, but something will be done there. I am proceeding at the moment to spend £60,000 out of Loan on buildings, and I hope to have more than that before the year is out. There are no particular proposals with regard to Government House. The only work done there will be that which is urgent and necessary. No more money will be expended on Government House now that it is occupied than would be spent if it were not occupied. If the roof is leaking and the walls are damp, repairs will be effected. I do not think the member for Guildford-Midland will have any cause for complaint in that regard. Already the Government have given a fillip to the building trade, and we hope to come to terms with various people so that it will be given a further fillip. Once that industry gets a move on, it creates a lot of employment for other industries, and is the best index of all the industries. According to the figures, a substantial improvement has already taken place. In our own way we are doing considerably more than has been done in the last few years to revive the industry. It is a big thing to get this additional amount of money out of revenue.

Hon. N. Keenan: How much of the total sum available will be given to the Minister for Education?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I cannot say. If there is a courthouse, a school, and a hospital in a particular town, the representative of the chief architect visits the buildings and sends in his report as to their condition. Those works which are most urgent are put in hand, whether they be in connection with a school, a courthouse or a hospital. A lump sum is made available for public works, and the chief architect decides which of those works is the most urgent. We have already done a good deal for hospitals.

The Minister for Mines: Out of the entertainments tax.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: We are spending the money. Even now we are adding another wing to the Hospital for the Insane. We do not allocate a certain sum of each department, but the money is spent in the way I have described. When we come to the Loan Estimates I shall be

able to give more definite information to members on the point.

Vote put and passed.

Votes, Labour £1,079; Arbitration Court, £4,244; State Accident and Insurance Office, £1,957—agreed to.

Department of Minister for Justice (Hon. J. C. Willecock, Minister).

Vote, Minister for Justice £63,891:

THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE (Hon. J. C. Willecock—Geraldton) [8.14]: I do not propose to say much about the administration of the Crown Law Department. It is the legal adviser for other Government departments. We carry out the legal work for all departments requiring our services. We provide for the administration of justice in the courts. It is amusing to note the number of people who come by way of deputation to the Minister saying, "You are the Minister for Justice; I am suffering from a grave injustice, and I want you as Minister for Justice to remedy the injustice." The Minister for Justice does not exist for that purpose. The department exists to give all people facilities through the courts to obtain justice in respect to any differences of opinion they have with each other, or with the Crown in relation to the citizens of the State in the matter of criminal proceedings or anything of that kind. Contrary to the view of some people, the Minister for Justice is not a court of appeal for anyone who has a grievance regarding the manner in which he has been treated. We carry on the legal work of the Government, and do the drafting of Bills for the Legislature. We also look after the Land Titles Office and other governmental instrumentalities. The work of the department is the same year after year. Hon. members may know what is being done from the amounts of money anticipated by way of revenue. This is not a large recurring item. The department goes on its way, doing good work for the State generally, seeing that the courts are staffed and that everybody gets the hearing he is entitled to from any court. For the current year the revenue of the department is expected to be £237,000, or about £8,000 more than last financial year. Probate duty, an item which naturally is only a speculation, may reach £100,000 this year, as

against £91,000 last year. When one asks how receipts from probate duty are estimated, the Under Secretary is apt to say that all the people likely to die during the year are taken into account and that an estimate is made accordingly. At one of the Premiers' Conferences a Treasurer, when dealing with probate revenue, was asked why he did not expect so much from that source as he had received during the previous year, and replied that in the previous year there had been a fortunate epidemic, which carried off a number of wealthy men. However, we proceed on the law of averages, and arrive at this estimate. Some of the differences in the figures of the Crown Law Department do, however, reflect the general business done by the community. In the Land Titles Office a little more business is going on than was the case a couple of years ago, and this item gives a good indication of the prosperity, or otherwise, of the commercial community. It is expected this year to show an increase of £400 or £500 on last year. Liquor licenses are expected to return approximately the same amount as last year. The departmental expenditure is estimated at £63,000, whereas last year it was £67,000. About £4,000 less expenditure is budgeted for this year, because last year there was a general election costing £8,000 or £9,000. That figure does not include the expenditure rendered necessary by the referendum on secession. This year there will be a biennial election for the Legislative Council, which will not cost more than about half the amount expended last year; and therefore a saving of about £5,000 is expected. By way of giving hon. members some idea of the work of the department, I may mention that 72 Bills were drafted for last session, 55 being passed. On the criminal side there were 10 more cases in the Supreme Court than during the previous year. The number of magisterial cases brought by the Crown decreased to the extent of 33 per cent. Fines paid numbered 795 as against 985 the year previously. One phase of the business done by the Crown Law Department which may interest the Committee is the registration of companies. During last year there were registered in Western Australia companies with a total nominal capital of about £16,000,000 more than the year previously. That was brought about by the flotation of numerous mining

companies with authorised capital of, say, £1,000,000 whilst having an actual paid-up capital of perhaps a couple of thousand pounds. However, the figures are based on the authorised capital, and not on the actual capital. Naturally, nothing like £16,000,000 of capital is likely to be raised or put into circulation in Western Australia unless everyone of the mining companies floated turns out an enormous success and needs all its authorised capital.

Mr. Stubbs: Do not these companies have to pay fees?

The MINISTER FOR JUSTICE: Only on their registration. The Estimates of the Crown Law Department never create much discussion. It is merely a commercial department, doing work for the Crown. I submit the Estimates to the good will of the Chamber.

HON. N. KEENAN (Nedlands) [8.22]: The increases estimated in this department are purely guesses, and there cannot be any justification at all for them. There never can be any justification for a guess.

The Minister for Justice: It is the law of averages.

HON. N. KEENAN: Where is the law of averages as regards probate?

The Minister for Justice: We get about £80,000 or £90,000 every year from probate duty.

HON. N. KEENAN: When the people on whose estates the estimate is based died, there was more money. If the Government have proceeded on those lines, they have made a mistake. Some of the items appear unjustifiable. Why should increased revenue in the law courts be estimated when everyone connected with the practice of the law knows that the business is shrinking every day?

The Minister for Justice: There is £3,000 more estimated.

HON. N. KEENAN: There is no justification for that. It is only a small sum, and I do not suppose the failure to realise it will materially upset the whole of the Estimates. There are some reductions for which it is difficult to find justification. The first is inquests, which are written down £250 this year. It may turn out so, but I do not know on what possible reasoning the reduction is arrived at. Is an average taken for inquests too?

The Minister for Justice: Yes.

Hon. N. KEENAN: What is the average, and over how many years is it arrived at? When there is a reduction in fees for witnesses and jurors at the Supreme Court. If there is going to be an increase in business as the increase on law courts generally suggests, there certainly will be an increase in witness fees, because among the other litigants who will be more active will be the Crown, and these are fees for Crown witnesses. Then there is a reduction which, though it is only the small one of £97, I am sorry to see. It is in the amount to be spent for the defence of destitute persons. As everything is being pared down, this too undergoes paring; but it is one of the last Votes one likes to see pared down. Destitute persons should always get assistance if it is possible.

The Minister for Justice: We had £100 on the Estimates last year, and it was exceeded.

Hon. N. KEENAN: Surely it is a wrong principle to put down a sum which in one's heart of hearts one knows will not be enough, but which one is prepared to exceed. However, even on that basis I am glad to know that it is proposed to maintain the item at a figure necessary to give assistance to destitute persons. Another observation of the Minister which I heard with great regret is that his department is purely administrative and has nothing to do with securing justice to the citizens of the State, but is merely there to see to the carrying on of the machinery. With all due respect to the Minister, I beg to remind him that justice does not end in the law courts. The highest prerogative of the Crown is the administration of justice. It stands above all law; and when the law courts, as happens in all human affairs, make erroneous decisions, then the Crown exercises that prerogative. It must always be there to do so. It is the highest fountain of justice.

The Minister for Justice: The prerogative of mercy.

Hon. N. KEENAN: I am perfectly certain the Minister would never refuse to listen to any appeal made to him on proper grounds to cure a miscarriage of justice.

The Minister for Justice: That is the prerogative of mercy, and not the prerogative of justice.

Hon. N. KEENAN: The prerogative of mercy and the prerogative of justice are absolutely allied.

The Minister for Justice: They are allied, but are not exactly the same.

Hon. N. KEENAN: The Minister holds himself out as sometimes distressed by having people come to him to have decisions rectified. He is there as the Minister for Justice, to see that every subject of the Crown, no matter how humble that subject, has an audience and a hearing. If that subject conceives himself or herself not to have been justly treated, he or she is entitled to be heard by the Minister.

The Minister for Justice: I said I was not a court of appeal, as some people think the Minister for Justice is, or the Attorney General is.

Hon. N. KEENAN: If there is a court of appeal, let those people refer to the court of appeal; but in some cases there is no court of appeal.

The Minister for Justice: Some people want to appeal to the Minister for Justice on the facts of the case.

Hon. N. KEENAN: What else would they want to appeal to him on? I wish to express my regret that any Minister for Justice should give voice to such sentiments. He is there for the purpose of seeing that no single subject of the Crown is denied justice. Of course there will be many trivial cases and many bogus cases, but in every case that possesses merit it is the Minister's duty to see that the decision of the law courts, if it is wrong, is put right. I regret very much to know that any other conception of his office exists in the Minister's mind.

MR. MARSHALL (Murchison) [8.30]: In my contributions to the general debate on the Estimates so far, I have had occasion to urge additional expenditure on the part of Ministers, but this time I desire to suggest economies to the Minister for Justice. I do not know why the procedure should be such as it is, but I desire to deal with one remarkable instance that came under my notice the other day. I happened to be travelling from Meekatharra to Wiluna recently. At the same time Warden Butler was travelling to Wiluna to carry out his ordinary routine work. On the list requiring his attention there were between 90 and 120 cases. While many of them related to small matters, others were important. At that time a resident of Wiluna stood charged with a very serious of-

fence, the nature of which necessitated his trial before a superior court. Because of some procedure of which I am not aware, the case had to be heard at Cue. I assume that is so because, although Warden Butler had so many cases to deal with at Wiluna, he had to refrain from continuing his duties, when in the midst of the cases he had to deal with. In addition to the accused person to whom I have already referred, the complainant, his lawyer, the lawyer retained by the Crown for the prosecution, and all the witnesses were residents of Wiluna, at which township Warden Butler, who had to deal with the case at Cue, was also present at that time. As the case was listed for trial at Cue, Warden Butler and the whole army of those concerned had to travel 200 miles to Cue in order that the trial might proceed. After the matter was disposed of, Warden Butler and those concerned in the proceedings had to return to Wiluna, presumably all, with the exception of counsel for the accused, having their expenses paid by the Crown.

Mr. Tonkin: Was there a beer strike at Wiluna at that time?

Mr. MARSHALL: No, and that would not have affected the position because I do not think any of those concerned were in the habit of taking a few drinks. Will the Minister inquire into the circumstances that made it necessary for all those people to be transported to and from Cue for the purposes of the trial?

The Minister for Justice: Any of the interested parties could have applied for a change of venue.

Mr. MARSHALL: I do not know anything about that. I know I was with Warden Butler when he complained about having to proceed to Cue before he had completed his ordinary routine work at Wiluna, and then to return to Wiluna to attend to the remainder of the cases listed for hearing. The case to which I have referred was tried at Cue and I think the jury disagreed. Finally, I believe the accused pleaded guilty. I suggest to the Minister that we cannot afford such extravagance. There may be some reason for it, but that should not be allowed to prevail in these times. There is another matter concerning the Minister's department. Ever since the members of the Licensing Court finished their work as a Licenses Reduction

Board, I have contended that there was no further work for the court to do. I know the arguments that have been used in the past, in reply to that contention, and I presume they will be heard again this evening. It has been said that the board has rendered wonderful service to the State. I admit the correctness of that contention, but we have never given the new law a trial under the former conditions whereby we had licensing magistrates in the different licensing districts. Whatever might have justified the expenditure of £3,000 per annum when that expenditure could be recouped from the compensation fund to which contributions were paid by the liquor trade, that justification has now vanished because every penny of the expenditure has to come from Consolidated Revenue. I do not think the State can afford the expense involved in enabling the licensing bench to tour the country to decide upon a few applications for wine, beer or gallon licenses. The other day two members of the court travelled from Perth to Hall's Creek in order to hear an application for a gallon license. According to replies to my questions in the House recently, the compensation fund provided by the liquor trade has been exhausted, so that the expenditure must be borne by Consolidated Revenue. The fact is that the licensing court commenced their operations with the passing of the new legislation. To those who say that there has been a wonderful improvement, I would suggest that the court has never had to work under conditions that obtained when the old Act was in force. If we could operate under the existing law with the system that obtained under the previous Act, there is nothing to say that the licensing magistrates would not act quite as efficiently as the present body. I suggest to the Minister that the old system of administering the liquor laws would work just as efficiently under the new Act as the present court. While the Licenses Reduction Board had work to perform, it was probably wise to have it done by an independent body, more particularly as the expenses involved were paid by the trade itself. The work of that body has been completed and now I suggest to the Minister that we give the old system of administration a trial and let us ascertain whether there would be anything faulty under it. Certainly I do not think we can

afford the expenditure of £3,000 a year out of Consolidated Revenue for the present system of administering the licensing laws.

Mr. Patrick: You suggest reverting to the old system of having licensing magistrates in licensing districts?

Mr. MARSHALL: Yes. That has never had a trial with the advantage of the later legislation. I do not desire to criticise the work of the court as at present constituted because the personnel has been almost completely changed recently. The financial position is such as to warrant the Government closing down on the present form of expenditure.

MR. McLARTY (Murray-Wellington) [8.43]: I desire to draw the attention of the Minister for Justice to the necessity for the establishment of a Local Court at Harvey. The population of the Harvey district has increased during the past few years. With the establishment of the irrigation scheme, the population is likely to increase very rapidly. Should a resident of Harvey desire to have a claim dealt with by the Local Court, he has to travel either to Pinjarra or to Bunbury, a distance of about 30 miles either way. The cost of legal proceedings is expensive enough without the necessity to travel such a long distance and probably not being able to return home the same day. I do not think the establishment of a Local Court at Harvey would involve much expense to the Government, seeing that all that would be needed would be a clerk of courts. I feel sure the amount of legal work to be dealt with would compensate for any expense that might be involved. I hope the Minister will agree to give favourable consideration to my request, which, if acceded to, will greatly convenience the people of the Harvey district.

MR. FERGUSON (Irwin-Moore) [8.45]: We have a stipendiary magistracy of which we are all very proud, and which would be an ornament in any State. But occasionally one of the magistrates, when he has before him a person charged with being of evil fame, recommends to the prisoner after conviction that he leave the metropolitan area and get out into the country. I do not say that the Minister should dictate to any magistrate, but I do suggest in all

seriousness that the Minister might indicate that in the view of Parliament and of the Government, it is not advisable that people of evil fame should be urged to get out into the country. I enter an emphatic protest against this, because while persons of evil fame are within the metropolitan area, where we have a limb of the law at practically every street corner, they can be kept under surveillance, whereas when they are out in the isolated back country areas, there is no such check upon their movements.

The Premier: Generally they are arrested again the following week because they have not gone to the country.

Mr. FERGUSON: I have here a clipping from the "West Australian" newspaper which shows that a magistrate said to a convicted person:—"I suggest that Perth is no good for you. I am going to give you this chance to get out into the country." There are in the farming areas many isolated districts. Normally the farmer is away from the homestead all day, and when a person of evil fame calls at the house he finds the farmer's wife or sister or daughter alone. Imagine the feelings of a woman thus alone in the house if she knew that the man who, ostensibly, has come to beg a feed is a convicted person of evil fame who has been hounded out of Perth and advised to go to the country, where he can do so much more harm than he could do in the city. Possibly that woman is miles away from a police station and has no telephonic communication, and so is entirely at the mercy of the vagrant human reprobate. We do not want such people in country districts, and I ask the Minister to give a gentle hint to the magistrates that it is not the wish of the Government or of Parliament that those people of evil fame should be advised to go into the country. It is far better that they should remain in the metropolitan area under the surveillance of the officers of the law.

MR. PIESSE (Katanning) [8.49]: For some time past considerable inconvenience has been caused to those who have had to pay probate duty, mainly because in arriving at a valuation of the duty it is found that many of the assets have only a nominal value, and therefore it is very difficult to ascertain their true value. Our State probate duties are, on the whole, lower than those in the Eastern States, and the com-

plaint is not so much in regard to the State probate duty, but because estates have to pay Federal as well as State probate duty. This is a recent innovation on the part of the Federal Government, and I should like to know from the Minister whether there is any hope of inducing the Federal authority to retire from this source of revenue, as they have retired from the collection of entertainment tax.

The Minister for Justice: The Federal probate duty goes into the national debt sinking fund: it does not go into revenue.

Mr. PIESSE: I do not see that the Federal Government should collect probate duty at all, since they have an overflowing Treasury. Surely this is an opportune time to call upon them to withdraw from the collection of such duty. One other matter I will refer to concerns irregularities at elections. I am sorry to have to draw attention to this again, but I think it is my duty to do so, notwithstanding that it is a complaint of a personal nature, that unfortunately I was mulcted in the expense of carrying out what the Chief Electoral Officer or the registrar should have done at the last elections. The matter has been brought under the notice of the Minister, and I hope he will enforce the law in the case I have in mind. I do not wish to repeat what I said on a former occasion, but 209 claims which were out of order were admitted by the registrar, and the names of the claimants were duly enrolled. As a candidate, I had to do what the Chief Electoral Officer or the registrar should have done, namely, object to those claims, and that omission on the part of the officials caused me to expend considerably more than I should have been called upon to expend; in fact I do not think I should be called upon to expend anything in carrying out the law. It is clearly set out on the back of each claim card that any person witnessing a claim without being personally acquainted with the claimant is liable to a penalty of £50. The Act has been flagrantly contravened. There never was a clearer case, for 209 claims were lodged by people who had been only three days in the district. The Chief Electoral Officer and the registrar knew it, and should have objected to those claims. I am not going to ask the Minister to proceed against the claimants, for after all they were not very largely responsible for being enrolled; but it is the

Minister's place to take action against those who have contravened the law in so flagrant a manner. Of the 209 claims put in, a candidate witnessed 42 of the signatures, while his paid agents witnessed the rest. That should not be allowed to go unchallenged, and I am surprised that the Crown Law Department did not follow up the case on its being reported to them.

Item, Crown Solicitor and Parliamentary Draftsman, £1,008:

Mr. MARSHALL: I desire to express my appreciation of and thanks to this officer, who has always been very obliging and courteous when I have had to do business with him. I am sorry to know he is indisposed, and I hope he will quickly recover his health. Then there is also Mr. Hampton, the Under Secretary, who is always obliging and courteous. When we have officers ever ready and willing to assist us, we should show appreciation of the services they render.

Item, Salaries of officers under the control of the Public Service Commissioner: Salaries and wages generally, including temporary assistance and allowance to Master while acting as Commissioner of the Supreme Court, district allowances, allowances for leave due to officers on retirement, and to officers under Public Service regulations, and proportion of salary of officers due to other departments, £44,234:

Mr. LATHAM: Under this heading, in the informative column, three magistrates are shown. Can the Minister tell us who they are? We have magistrates provided for under a special Act.

The MINISTER FOR JUSTICE: The Leader of the Opposition will know that we have arranged with the Health Department to make use of their officers in the North-West. Under that arrangement we appoint them magistrates as well as doctors.

Item, Licensing Magistrates, £1,800:

Mr. LATHAM: There was a necessity for these magistrates at one time, because a lot of hotels had to be closed and it was necessary for somebody to go round and see that a fair deal was given to those whose licenses were taken away. The trade provided for it. But to-day there is no need for it; all there is to be done is to renew licenses. I

do not know how the new board will get on, but the old board did some remarkable things. For instance, they insisted on one hotel in a dry area installing a sewerage system without there being any water for it.

The Premier: That was some years ago. I think I know the district to which you refer.

Mr. Marshall: They did just as remarkable things up my way.

Mr. LATHAM: It was a most extraordinary thing to do, and now the hotel has neither the one service nor the other. The expenditure could well be cut down. It will be necessary to complete the year with the present magistrates, but it should not be necessary to continue three magistrates, two clerks together drawing £436, temporary clerical and other assistance costing £233 and a receiver of revenue at £60, and incur considerable travelling expenses. If the statement of the member for Murchison is true that the board travelled to Hall's Creek to inquire into a gallon license—

The Minister for Justice: They had not been to the North-West for three years and they covered the whole of the North-West to ensure that the premises were up to the mark.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: We have increased the standard and it should be maintained.

Mr. LATHAM: The Act has been altered and the law is quite different from that which operated previously. To test the feeling of the Committee I move—

That the item be reduced by £1.

If the amendment be carried, it will be an instruction to the Government to reduce the expenditure.

The Premier: All the wretched little hotels in the country were given a license previously when the magistrates were on the bench.

Mr. LATHAM: I do not credit the board with having worked wonders. They had a good Act to administer. No better man could have been selected to assist the board than Chief Inspector O'Halloran.

The MINISTER FOR JUSTICE: If there is one piece of legislation that has had an outstanding effect on the outback life of the country, it is the Licensing Act and its administration by the board of three mem-

bers. Those who had had experience of the men to whom licenses were formerly granted and of the administration of the law know what a tremendous improvement has been effected. In the country, at any rate, the improvement in the accommodation and the service and the reasonableness of the prices charged are remarkable. One cannot fail to appreciate this after travelling through Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland, and comparing the accommodation and prices.

Mr. Latham: The board did not have anything to do with the prices.

The MINISTER FOR JUSTICE: Yes, they did.

Mr. Latham: There are beer strikes and the board do not interfere.

The MINISTER FOR JUSTICE: I am referring to accommodation.

Mr. Latham: I do not think they fixed the prices at all.

The MINISTER FOR JUSTICE: They are not a price-fixing board, but they have required a standard of accommodation and it is remarkable that the service is provided at the price.

Mr. Sampson: Of course, beer is a food.

The MINISTER FOR JUSTICE: The board have seen fit to impose conditions for the renewal of licenses respecting accommodation, sanitary and other arrangements for the conduct of hotels. They may have exceeded their powers, but the effect has been good. They have set a standard unequalled, I think, in Australia, and the standard has been maintained. In the old days when we had licensing magistrates assisted by other justices, dealing with people who, to an extent, were personal acquaintances, it may be that the sense of justice outweighed local prejudices, but it is not desirable that the administration of the licensing laws should be the duty of one man. The board of three members administering such an important adjunct to the social life of the community have been an outstanding success. It would be a retrograde step to revert to the bad old days, the bad old methods, and the bad old accommodation.

The Minister for Mines: Not only bad accommodation, but no accommodation at all at scores of hotels.

Mr. Marshall: The present Act compels the provision of accommodation; the old Act did not. What is the good of blaming

the previous administration when the Act was faulty?

The MINISTER FOR JUSTICE: The previous Act did permit of hotels being established to sell beer, but food could not be obtained there. It permitted the establishment of hotels on 18-ft. frontages.

Mr. Latham: The board have gone to the other extreme and compelled licensees to erect buildings that may ruin some of them.

The MINISTER FOR JUSTICE: I called at a hotel where the proprietor was doing the work of the chambermaid because he could not afford to employ help. He had undertaken a building liability in good times and was suffering hardship through the depression. There are hundreds of people anxious to get licenses, even under existing conditions. The fact that one or two hotels may have too much accommodation for ordinary needs does not deter numerous other people from applying for licenses, particularly in the metropolitan area. In the last six months petitions have been referred to the board respecting new licenses. We can be proud of the administration of the Act and of the accommodation that has been provided. The manner in which the board have carried out their duties has influenced the improvement.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: The Minister forgets that the improvement is not due to the administration of the board.

The Minister for Justice: I did not say the whole of the improvement was due to the board.

Mr. Marshall: The Minister referred to the bad old days, but he should have referred to the bad old law.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: Licensed premises previously were not all that could be desired. The accommodation was below the standard demanded by the public, and Parliament investigated the question. A select committee, afterwards converted into a Royal Commission, ascertained the facts and were assisted by an authority and enthusiast who was a credit to the police force. I refer to Inspector O'Halloran. That competent officer devoted much thought to the work and helped the Commission in their investigations. The outcome was an amended law, and it is the amended law that has brought about the improved conditions. It gave an opportunity to wipe out the 18-ft. frontages referred to by the Minister. Where

keen competition made it impossible to provide for the public needs, the competition was removed. A multitude of hotels were competing for a bar trade, and the competition so crippled the lot that not one could provide the accommodation the public were entitled to have. We really applied organised marketing to the liquor trade. Legislation proved of assistance to improve the standard, and the general standard was elevated by the Act and not by the administration of the board.

The Minister for Justice: The board helped.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: But the big factor was the legislative reform. There were many hotels in Hauman-street, Kalgoolie, so many that it was impossible for any one of them to provide the accommodation and service that the public had a right to expect. Even to-day there are hotels in some parts of the country that are not a credit to the board. In some of the remote parts where the police are not present, the board cannot be expected to maintain control. Recently I went into a hotel that was the dirtiest I had seen for many years, and I would not go inside it again. The standard cannot be maintained by the board, but it can be maintained by the police. In the locality to which I referred there were no police, or the police visited that part only occasionally.

The Minister for Justice: What would the police do if they had cause to complain?

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: They would report.

The Minister for Justice: And the board would consider the report when dealing with the license.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: But the point is that the board constitute a too expensive medium of administration, and there is no longer any need for the board. Parliament provided the machinery whereby the standard could be lifted. Whilst the trade was contributing to the expense of the licensing board, it was quite right for us to maintain that organisation to clean up the trade. The trade has now been cleaned up. Why should the people of the State be called upon to maintain a board which is now no longer necessary? This is an economy which could be put into operation without impairing the efficiency of our hotels. I agree that the

country hotel accommodation has been enormously improved.

The Minister for Justice: It is desirable that we should have uniformity.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: That can be obtained and maintained by the police administration of the Act, under the direction of magistrates as was the case before. Now that the fund has been exhausted there is no further need for this system. State funds should not be called upon for this purpose. I suggest that an investigation be made into the matter to see whether some economy cannot be effected next year.

Mr. SAMPSON: Many hotel-keepers would conduct their premises in a proper manner without any control, but that is not so in all cases. There has been a marked improvement in the maintenance of and services given in hotels in recent years. The food is good, the linen clean, and the water supply is generally ample. It is futile to say that if the board were abolished the present condition of affairs would continue. The board which inspects hotels and determines the amount to be paid for licenses is worth while retaining. The actual revenue received last year for liquor licenses was £58,358. We cannot expect to collect that money unless we give the public some return for it. It is only right that the travelling public should be considered. In the old days fly-doors were not provided, and the hygiene of the buildings was bad. I am opposed to any suggestion that might lead to the abolition of the board, which is performing an important service to the community.

Amendment put and negatived.

Vote put and passed.

Department of the Minister for Education (Hon. J. C. Willecock, Minister).

Vote—Education, £564,000:

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION (Hon. J. C. Willecock—Geraldton) [9.23]: This is a large department which is doing a tremendous amount of work for the public, and exercising a great amount of influence upon the citizens of the State. In order to keep pace with modern theories and practices, and to keep abreast of modern thought, it is necessary for the Department to spend a large sum of money. Unfortunately it is

very difficult to find the funds with which to effect improvements in this direction. This is one of the few departments to which an increased expenditure has been granted. I think the increase represents a sum of about £10,000. Nearly all that money is swallowed up in increments to the staff, and the necessary expenditure which has to be incurred through the opening of new schools, and through the increases in the personnel of the staff of existing schools, whose average attendances have improved so much in the last year or two. The average attendances of children are increasing year by year. The depression does not seem to have affected that position. There still goes on the natural expansion of the number of children attending schools, and we have to find the money for the Education Vote irrespective of the position of the Treasury. During the last three years some of the activities of the department have been dispensed with. There has been a general cut in the expenditure. It has been said that the department has been cut to the bone. It is even said the department has been cut into the bone compared with the expenditure some years ago. Seeing that the Treasurer has not been able to make available sufficient funds with which to carry on the affairs of State, which has been going to the bad to the extent of a million or a million and a half, we know there must be a cutting down of items irrespective of their value to the department. When the member for Netherlands was Minister for Education he found it necessary to cut down the Vote by over £100,000. No member would envy him the onerous duty of administering the Education Department in these stressful times, because many of the reforms which are known to be necessary in order that we may progress to the full are impossible of accomplishment. Any Minister would have in mind various forms of development which would lead to better means of educating the youth of the State, but owing to the financial position it is impossible to carry such plans into practice. Restrictions of this kind are particularly hard in the case of a department like this, which exercises so much influence upon the general community. The Treasurer himself would be most anxious to spend money effectively on improving the standard of education of our children, and there would be no more pleasurable duty for any

member of the Chamber than to give the children a better chance in life through the medium of our schools. During the last two or three years, however, it has been necessary to reduce the expenditure of the department. Whilst we are not so badly off as we were, and the outlook is brighter, we are not more flush of money. The unfortunate part about a sudden financial emergency is that we have to do without things for a little while. In the Education Department there are replacements and such like things going on all the time. Certain branches of equipment can be allowed to go without replacement for a little while, perhaps for a year or two, but after three years it is a real task to carry on the department with the comparatively small amount of money that can be made available to it. The individual can go without a suit of new clothes for one year, and may even do so for two years, but in the third year he will find it impossible to avoid purchasing some new apparel. What applies to the individual, or to the home where people may for a while do without linen or some other household commodity, applies equally to the Education Department. When this sort of stringent economy goes on year after year, we must strive to find money with which to build up the equipment. Although the Treasurer has been able to allow a small additional sum to the Education Department, he knows that it is not sufficient to enable it to reach the required standard and that we are not able to do nearly as much as we would like to do or could do if the financial position were better than it is. In the Railway Department a similar set of circumstances arose, but the safety of the public had to be considered and the Government were compelled to find about £120,000 for what were termed belated repairs in the department. While we can carry on to some extent, though unsatisfactorily, in these respects, the Government do not expect to be without criticism regarding some facilities which are eminently desirable, and which only the lack of funds prevents from being provided. But there is this to be said, that the children of this State have had opportunities of attending schools. Many of the children who in the ordinary course of events would have left school on reaching the age of 14, 15 or 16

years, have been allowed to continue their schooling during this time of stress, when there is no employment for young people of their age. We have been able to provide at least the education they require. No child has been turned away from school, or denied the opportunity of attending school, even if beyond the compulsory school-leaving age. There has been overcrowding to some extent, but the children have not been denied educational facilities. Such economies as stress of circumstances has compelled, have not been made at the expense of the children's education. There has been some discussion on the Works Estimates with regard to repairs and renovations. That matter having been dealt with, I shall not touch on it except to say that the position is that during the past few months the Government have been able to effect considerable improvements. The roof of the James-street school, which was rusting through, has been entirely renovated at a cost of over £1,000; and, wherever necessary, repairs have been attended to, as the Minister for Works stated. The question of new schools will be dealt with on the Loan Estimates. The great difficulty in regard to not only educational establishments but other public buildings such as police quarters, the Old Men's Home, the Hospital for Insane, and so forth, is that during these stressful times it has been impossible to find money for upkeep. We have to try to make up that leeway. It has not been practicable to declare that a certain amount of money shall be made available for schools. The necessities of all departments are considered, and whatever money the Treasurer makes available is divided according to the urgency of the needs of the several departments. Nevertheless, we are going on in the matter of education. This State in 1929 had only 809 schools. Despite the depression that number has been increased by 62. Therefore whatever dire necessity has compelled the Government to cut, it has not been done at the expense of the child. The new schools are mostly in outback places. In the metropolitan area it has been necessary to add new rooms to existing buildings. One reason why the cost of education in this State is so high is that so large a proportion of our educational establishments are in outback areas. No less than 61 per cent. of all the schools in this State

have an average attendance of under 20. Only about 40 per cent. of our schools have an average attendance of over 80. Our problem is to give educational facilities throughout widely scattered areas, and this necessarily means large expense. The average size of classes should be about 40, and yet 61 per cent. of all our schools have a total average attendance of under 20. There is the driving arrangement, by which children are able to obtain better tuition. In Toodyay, for instance, the Education Department have four driving contracts within a distance of 10 or 12 miles. Thus the children are brought into Toodyay and receive the advantage of a better type of education. I do not think the arrangement is more expensive, for in its absence the four centres around Toodyay would have to be furnished with four teachers to teach about 10 children each. We do not shut down a school as soon as the attendance drops. It is only when the attendance falls below eight, and that fall seems likely to be permanent, that serious consideration is given to closing the school. Where there are four or five children belonging to two or three families we have what are called assisted schools, a contribution of £12 per head being made by the department. There is also the correspondence branch catering for children.

Mr. Mann: That is a very fine system.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: Still, there are disadvantages connected with it. It is rather hard to impose on a mother with the household management of two or three children and baking bread, and so forth, in an isolated place deprived of the amenities of civilisation, the additional responsibility of guiding to some extent the education of children.

Mr. Doney: That is a disadvantage.

Mr. Sampson: I believe most of those mothers appreciate it.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: Yes, and are prepared to make the sacrifice.

Mr. Sampson: They enjoy it.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: I think the woman situated as I have described has enough to do without making the sacrifice of time and labour involved in correspondence schools. Children in outback areas are to be commended for the manner in which they have made a success of the

correspondence classes. Members who went to the recent Royal Show saw the exhibition of work put in by various children in correspondence classes throughout the State. It was an absolutely wonderful display.

Members: Hear, hear!

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: It was a credit to the children themselves, a credit to the parents who assisted the children in their education, and a credit to the personnel of the staff conducting the correspondence classes. The system has been extended somewhat. In small schools of eight or ten, and up to 20, the department do not give education beyond the sixth standard. However, correspondence continuation classes have been extended to those children, so that higher education of the seventh and eighth standards can be obtained by correspondence. The teacher of the comparatively small school can assist in the correspondence course given to children taking the advanced grades. Numbers of children have passed the junior examination without any other education than through the correspondence continuation classes at comparatively small schools with an attendance of seven or eight. Whatever has been done in regard to the reduction of expenditure, or refusal to increase expenditure where it is undoubtedly required, no one can truthfully say that much has been denied to the children. From an educational standpoint we have got through this stressful period remarkably well. The ordinary curriculum has been extended to other forms of education, including domestic science, agricultural tuition, and so forth. The ramifications of the Education Department spread over practically every subject necessary for the child. In Perth there are 2,832 children obtaining advanced education at the Technical School. In order to reduce the cost of primary education, the department some 12 or 18 months ago set aside the services of one of the senior inspectors, Mr. Miles, for getting out a series of reading books. These are quite as good as those that were in use previously and are much lower in cost. The books are quite representative and constitute an excellent production. The illustrations are the work of a State department and the book represents something of which we need not be ashamed. It adequately covers all the subjects generally dealt with in reading books. Western Australian his-

tory and literature have not been neglected as in the past and we have produced a book at less cost to the parent than obtained formerly.

Mr. Sampson: We have a thoroughly well equipped and well-managed Government Printing Office.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: Yes. We have arranged another matter that represents an innovation in Western Australia and it relates to exercise books. In the Eastern States a system has grown up under which firms, in return for the privilege of the advertising rights, furnish free exercise books to the children. We received an offer from the Eastern States but we considered we should conform to the views held by members generally that everything that can be dealt with locally should be retained within the State. We did not accept it, but made arrangements with a local firm to undertake the work. From the commencement of the school term next year, a firm has undertaken to supply every child with free exercise books four times a year. While that may not appear to represent much, when a parent has three or four children, each of whom requires an exercise book every few weeks, the saving of the few shillings represents something tangible to the family. There is a regulation that prohibits advertising in connection with school books. We consider that, in the interests of the parents and the children, we can afford to alter that regulation and so secure to them a saving of anything up to 7s. or 8s. a year. Spread over the 70,000 or 80,000 children who are attending our schools, that will represent a considerable amount in the aggregate. The advertisements that will appear on the exercise books will be entirely under the control of the Education Department and nothing offensive will be permitted. Each advertisement will have to be approved before it can find a place on the covers of the books. Parents, who are in receipt of sustenance or are unemployed, find the expense involved in providing exercise books for their children a considerable burden. The system has proved successful elsewhere. We know that advertising depends upon the number of people that the medium reaches, and while the system has been successful in populous areas, we hope that it will be equally successful in Western Australia and that the parents and children will continue to secure the benefit involved.

Mr. Sampson: Are not free books issued to children whose parents are in receipt of sustenance?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: Yes, sometimes.

Mr. Sampson: They should be.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: I want to make it clear that the printing and compilation of the books will be wholly effected in Western Australia, thereby obviating the necessity for continuing the importation of such scholastic requirements. The Education Department is a large spender. The educational requirements of the department represent an expenditure of about £560,000. Then there are other branches such as mining, agriculture, aborigines and the University. A fair sum of money is expended under those headings representing about £40,000, bringing the total cost of education in the State to about £600,000 per annum. That represents an expenditure of about £1 7s. 5d. per head, whereas a few years ago it amounted to £1 18s. 7d. per head. Owing to the operations of the Financial Emergency Act and its effect upon teachers, in addition to other economies that have been effected, the total cost has been reduced. I warn the Treasurer, however, that some of those economies cannot continue for many more years, because more equipment is required. The expenditure under that heading has been cut down to a point that should not be allowed to continue much longer. Equipment wears out and must be replaced.

Mr. Sampson: Modern maps should be procured, as well as other requisites.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: Yes. In most of the schools the maps displayed on the walls to-day are upwards of 25 years old. I do not suppose there is a map in any school that shows the important township of Wiluna. Here we have a town with 5,000 inhabitants that will play a tremendous part in the economic life of the State. Probably not one of the children attending the State schools could point to the position of Wiluna on the map of Western Australia displayed in the class rooms.

Mr. Sampson: Most of the maps fail to show Alice Springs and do not show a centre north of Oodnadatta.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: We have a tremendous responsibility regarding the education of our children. We

have passed and are still passing through stressful times, but the work of the Education Department during the past two or three years has not catered for the needs of the children to anything like the adequate extent members of Parliament would desire. Possibly there is one notable exception to that in the person of a member of another place. In catering for the practical educational needs of the children, the Government will not allow any slipping back, and as times goes on, we hope we shall be able to improve the educational facilities provided for the children and restore some that had to be discontinued owing to the financial situation.

Mr. McLarty: The Parents and Citizens' Associations are still doing splendid work.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: I am glad the member for Murray-Wellington mentioned that point. Those associations have rendered exceptionally good service. They have undertaken responsibilities that without doubt should be shouldered by the community through the Government. They have effected many improvements. They have provided equipment, renovated buildings and procured many requisites at their own expense. They have attended to the recreational, as well as the educational side of the work. The member for Nedlands (Hon. N. Keenan) is aware of the work done by the association in Nedlands. At their own expense they have gravelled part of the playground, laid down the grass, bricked up the front of the school and carried out general improvements that have rendered considerable assistance to the Government. I am sorry we are not in a position to encourage the work of the associations to a greater degree than is possible to-day. At Geraldton the association undertook the renovation of four or five class rooms, provided maps and other equipment that properly should be a charge on the State. Equally commendable work has been carried out in connection with hundreds of other schools. The activities of the associations have not been confined to the metropolitan area or to the larger country centres. They have applied to small country schools and much has been done to improve the life of the children, making it much more pleasant and encouraging them in their education. I hope we shall be able to render more assistance in connection with playgrounds

than has been possible in the past. It may be that when men are provided with sustenance they will be allowed to do work in return by improving playgrounds and in other directions render services that will be distinctly advantageous to the children and of immense assistance to the Education Department. The annual report of the department has been laid on the Table and it covers almost every activity of that section of Governmental operations. Should there be any matters not dealt with in the report regarding which members desire further information, I shall be pleased to furnish them with the particulars. I have much pleasure in submitting the Estimates for the Education Department.

MR. TONKIN (North-East Fremantle) [9.57]: Considerable time has been devoted by members to making much noise on the Estimates. I am reminded of the exhortation of the negro cab-driver who, glad of the lightning which showed him the road, but terrified by the repeated peals of thunder, cried out "Oh Lord, give us more light and less noise." It is in the hope that I may be able to throw some light on a very vital subject that I consider I am warranted in making more noise. The Education estimates provide for the extra expenditure of £10,154. As the Premier stated in his Budget Speech, the Government are to-day providing for not more than the normal increase in schools and staff. I could read into his remarks the regret the Premier feels at being restricted to such a small amount. I am satisfied from what the Minister stated that he thoroughly appreciates the work of the Education Department, and I am satisfied that he is a true democrat inasmuch as he realises that probably the best way to spend State money is upon the education of the people. The main idea held by some people regarding education seems to be that there should be less of it. Fortunately, people who hold that view are becoming fewer year by year. Parliament is still not without some people who believe that education should not go as far as it does. Generally speaking, all parties in this House are agreed that a fair measure of education should be provided. There is some difference of opinion as to the extent to which education should go, and the nature of it. No democracy may look with confidence

to the future unless its educated citizens have the wisdom and power to lead the public to action, to lead them to think so as to make others think, and to feel so as to make others feel. In a democratic country it is essential that every attention be given to the education of the young, who are to make the citizens of tomorrow. The times are not without their hopeful signs. I read in the "West Australian" of the 18th October a very interesting example of what has been done in Great Britain. I intend to read not the whole of the article, but merely to refer to one or two points. It deals with experiments being carried out by the district of Barking. Here is an extract—

An interesting example of the progressive spirit as applied to education is to be found in the remarkable achievements of the education committee of the borough of Barking, which lies just outside the educational area controlled by the London County Council.

Some idea of the nature of the work is given—

The committee then set to work to build schools in the new area into which children were now flowing at the rate of 120 per week. The full programme included three senior schools for children of 11-14, five junior schools for children of 7-11, and five infant schools for children of 5-7. The senior schools were so placed as each to be the centre of one-third of the new area, and they were further located so as to be within easy reach of specially provided playing field accommodation. The scheme is not yet completed, but up to the end of 1932, within two years from the adoption of the plans, the committee had built places for 5,900 children. Apart altogether from the money expended in remodelling the schools on the existing area, the total amount spent by the Borough of Barking on new schools will approximate £286,500.

And that at a time of so-called depression, when Governments generally are curtailing their expenditure on education. The article concludes with this—

It must have been with no little pride that this small borough of 50,000 people beheld the opening of six new schools on October 6, 1932, by Sir Henry Hadow, the chairman of the committee, upon whose far-sighted recommendations they had based their scheme.

We should take off our hats to the people of Barking; they are certainly modern and understand what the times require. What are the aims of education? That is the first consideration. The Parliamentary Secretary of the Board of Education in Great

Britain, when speaking to the Education Vote in the House of Commons, said—

Neither workmanship, citizenship, nor culture by themselves can be treated as the aim of education. No one can be considered adequately educated who has not learned to combine good citizenship, good workmanship, and the mastery of his leisure.

I commend the last phrase of that to my friend, the Leader of the Opposition, who seemed to have some doubt on that aspect when I mentioned it during the Address-in-reply. "The mastery of his leisure." That is one of the primary aims of education, to so fit people that they will know what to do with their leisure, that they will keep it on a high plane, that their activities when away from their work will be such as to cost the State the least amount of expenditure, as might be occasioned by acts of vandalism and so on, which frequently occur in an uneducated community. The raising of the standard of industrial comfort as the result of the mechanisation of industry has increased the means of recreation. Despite the depression, people to-day have considerably more means of recreation than they had in the last century, and it is therefore necessary that they should have additional education to fit them to use that leisure in the proper way. Even in the day of John Stuart Mill it was realised that the function of education which counted for most in the economic efficiency of the country was that in which the fitting of the people for their leisure hour was attended to. Every member of Parliament ought to be acquainted with the subject of education and with the educational system of the State. He should have at least a working knowledge of each of the branches, in order that when we consider expenditure of revenue we should be able to get the maximum benefit from the amount the State is able to expend from time to time. It is quite possible that perfectly justifiable expenditure in one direction may be applied with still better results in another direction. We might feel that money is being spent quite correctly in a certain place, but nevertheless it might be possible by transferring a portion of the expenditure to another place to give a greater general benefit. I hope later to point out how that might be done in our own case. Let me give you a quick survey of our educational system in Western Aus-

tralia. We have a Director of Education who has jurisdiction over the primary schools, then the post-primary or central schools, then the secondary or high schools, and the continuation schools. Unfortunately, at present the continuation schools are non-existent, owing to the emergency measure of the previous Government. We have also correspondence schools, manual and domestic science schools, the Technical School, the School of Agriculture—that is the Narrogin school; Muresk does not come under the Education Department—and also the Teachers' College, unhappily now closed. We have no control over the University, for it does not come within the purview of the Education Department. The Government certainly have some say; they are able to appoint six members out of the 18 on the Senate, the governing body of the University. So, unfortunately, we have not very much say there. We find in the report of the Education Department that right through the system there is inadequate accommodation. The Minister himself admitted that to-night, and said he deplored it. No doubt it does exist, and it is considerably curtailing the benefits we ought to be able to expect from the educational system. On page 4 of the report of the Education Department we find these words—

The numbers of post-primary pupils in the metropolitan area have so steadily increased, that finding room for them at the existing schools has become an acute problem. The accommodation at the Perth Modern School is fully taxed. The central schools in Perth are still overtaxed, not as regards space, but as regards the numbers in the classes. In these schools it is considered that 40 children per teacher is sufficient. Most of the rooms will hold 50, and the numbers generally range between 40 and 50.

To my knowledge, there are many classes that go nearer 60. We have, on page 13 of the report, a further reference to the subject of accommodation. It says—

We still have some schools which are overcrowded in Perth.

They are overcrowded in Fremantle, too.

Mr. Griffiths: And in many of the country districts.

Mr. TONKIN: The report continues—

Our Perth Girls' School is too large for the headmistress to come into personal contact to give the guidance necessary to adolescent girls.

That is a deplorable feature. Those girls have a right to expect personal contact with the headmistress. They are at a critical stage, but on account of the lack of accommodation, they are deprived of that to which they are entitled.

We need far better playground provision and far more laboratory accommodation, etc., for the work in science. It is to be hoped that the erection of an additional Perth Girls' school will take place this year.

Why always Perth? I hope an additional girls' school will be erected at Fremantle. Accommodation there is lacking just the same; we have no high school, and it is time we had one. If a high school were provided at Fremantle, it would relieve the congestion in the secondary schools in Perth, and possibly they would not then need the accommodation that is now said to be essential. Not only do we lack the necessary accommodation, but the amount of equipment at the schools is also sadly lacking. The report is fairly illuminating in that regard. It says—

Our science equipment in the primary and central schools is inadequate. We should spend considerably more in this direction than we have been able to do during the past three or four years. The Technical College also needs further equipment. It is to be hoped that money can be provided in the near future to bring our equipment, which at present is not up to the mark, more into line with the equipment that would make the work of the school and the teacher more effective.

The fact that the schools are short of the equipment they ought to have retards the teachers in their work, and the State is not getting full value for the expenditure of money in salaries. If we pay a teacher £250 or £300 a year and do not give him all the material required, we are not going to get full value for the salary paid. It is foolish economy to keep schools short of equipment. It is ridiculous to put a man to work and give him insufficient tools with which to work and expect to get maximum efficiency. The provision of extra money is not only desirable but essential, in order to get full value for the money being expended. There is a further reference in the report to equipment, and there is not the slightest doubt that it is a vital factor. It says—

The work of the schools as a result of the efforts of the district inspectors and the teachers is generally of a high quality, but it could

be made better by the provision of more generous equipment.

Now I come to two of the most important divisions of the education system. The first is that of domestic science. On page 10 of the report we find some illuminating remarks on this question. Dealing with household management the report says—

Instruction in domestic science is regarded by the department as a very valuable part of a girl's education, particularly in view of the fact that so many girls in these days go to work immediately upon leaving school, and have neither time nor opportunity for training at home. It has to be remembered that these girls are to be the wives and mothers of the State, and that practical work of this description, which makes a strong appeal to them, is of the utmost value.

Unfortunately, owing to the financial position, no new centres were opened during the year, and none but extremely urgent repairs could be carried out to the existing buildings. The buildings are falling into a state of disrepair, and require renovation internally and externally.

Owing to the incapacity of the department through financial stringency to provide new centres, many big girls had to be excluded, and the work of some of the other girls had to be cut down below the amount of time which should be given to this work.

We really need at least two new centres, as well as the enlargement of the Fremantle centre, and the value of the work is such that if funds can be found during the next financial year, the work recommended should be carried out.

The same tale is told in connection with manual training, the work which is really a kindred subject for boys. It says—

It is a great pity that for very many years we have not been able, through want of funds, to erect any new centres for manual training, and that the present accommodation is lacking as far as the number of boys available is concerned. Many lads have had to be excluded simply because we could not get the money to erect additional centres.

Is it fair that the sons of some parents should be denied manual training when money is spent in other branches of the education system that is not giving the value that the expenditure on manual training would give? It is within my knowledge that boys in the Fremantle area were deprived of the opportunity to get manual training. I had a class the year before last, and because there was no room for the boys at the Fremantle centre, they did not get any manual training. Parents complained to me, wanting to know why their sons did

not get wood work, though the children who went to the South-terrace and East Fremantle schools received manual training. All I could say was that there was insufficient room at the centre, that the teacher simply could not accommodate them, and that there was no possibility of the boys getting manual training. The fathers of those children were taxpayers of the State; their money went into general revenue, and they had a perfect right to expect that what other children obtained should be available to their children. Those children lost the opportunity to get manual training. In the following year a number of them left school without attending a woodwork centre at all. Even though 12 months' training would not have been much, it would have given some of them ideas of handling tools, and those who possessed any aptitude would have been able to build on the knowledge acquired. However, they were deprived of the right of getting manual training, which was entirely unfair. From the point of view of the State it is a complete economic waste, because expert opinion is to the effect that the more training that is given to the hand and the eye the better is the citizen. The report contains a very interesting statement on that phase. The opinion of the late President of the Board of Education in England, the Rt. Hon. Sir Donald Maclean, K.B.E., LL.D., M.P., is published in the report as follows:—

In recent years, particularly in connection with the organisation of our elementary schools, a great deal has been done to secure a better balance between training through the hand and ordinary school subjects. The provision of practical rooms of different types in the large number of schools recently erected, or now in course of erection, is an indication of the realisation of the need for such a balance. We need, however, to carry this movement much further. For a country situated as we are in this changing modern world, there is no danger more insidious than the complacency which keeps on repeating phrases like "The British workman is the best in the world." A generation ago he certainly was, and intrinsically he may well be still. It would be wrong, however, to assume that his superiority over foreign competitors can be maintained if they have the advantage of a well-considered system of training which is denied to him. It is often wrongly assumed that with the development of machinery, hand skill is no longer so necessary. There is plenty of evidence to suggest that though the applications of the hand skill may have altered, the need for it is not diminishing. The works manager of an im-

portant engineering works in England said recently, "The craftsmanship aspect of the educational problem is urgent and important. If necessary, some of the energy at present devoted to theoretical training should be diverted to help in the solution of the difficulty." What is needed under the conditions of to-day is adaptability, alertness, self-reliance. I know no better method of imparting and developing these qualities than handicraft training. I therefore urge that such a foundation be laid in the schools of general education as will enable definite usable hand skill to be readily and rapidly acquired subsequently.

The German nation is not backward in that respect, and the German people have undergone considerable sacrifice to give their children the necessary training. If we fail to keep pace with them we shall soon fall behind nations like Germany. Markets will be lost to us, and as a nation we shall lose our status. Wherever possible the Government should endeavour to find additional money to give that training to which the individual has a perfect right. The same lack of accommodation and equipment is evident in the technical training. The technical side of the department has been living upon capital for some time. In this connection the report of the department says—

The permanent equipment has not been added to during the year, and the consumption of working material was reduced to the minimum. There are no surplus stocks available for use, consequently the low expenditure of 1931 and 1932 cannot be maintained. The work of the science departments would be more efficient if additional modern apparatus could be supplied. It is essential that certain expenditure should be made as early as possible to remedy this defect, and that the supply of scientific journals should be restored.

Here is another example of the starvation of the system which will react unfavourably upon the education system as a whole. The previous Government closed the continuation classes. Doubtless it was hoped to save a fairly large sum of money by that means without much explanation, but it meant that the boys and girls of working people were deprived of an education to which they had a perfect right. That was a very unwise economy, if it can be called such. It has been said as regards commercial life that every year of a boy's schooling after the age of 13 or 15—the figure varies—is worth £1,000 as capital, or £100 in power of earning salary later on. That is probably an extravagant statement, but there is sufficient truth in it to pass current

amongst business people. A boy in his early teens is wasting his life in slowly acquiring a trade when he should be acquiring his best education, so that he might not only be more efficient at his trade later on but be given a mental taste that would best safeguard him against economic deterioration. The power to learn things taught at school increases rapidly after the age of 13. Every subject that calls for reflection such as languages, science and history, becomes more readily assimilable with the widening intelligence of the child. The years spent at school after 13 are more valuable than those spent there before 13. It is what a boy learns after he is 13 that makes the chief difference between an educated and an uneducated man. It is frequently said that such-and-such a man had very little schooling, and yet he appears quite an erudite person. Such an individual has studied considerably when his ordinary school years have passed. Many men have left school when in the third standard, at the time when they could do little more than read and write, but they continued their studies when at work and progressed. I believe Sir George Pearce was one of those people.

Mr. Needham: It has not done him much good.

Mr. TONKIN: He read the wrong books. What a lad learns after he turns 13 makes all the difference to his future life. As Carlyle put it, it is the difference between a stunted and a well-grown tree. In many cases a superior natural ability yields a less efficient mind than a lower natural ability that has been educated. The extension of the years of schooling is really an extension of the national productivity and the national efficiency. That leads to better habits, better recreation, less crime, better public health, less burden on the community in the support of inefficiency and crime. When they cut out the continuation classes, the previous Government did the State a great dis-service. They deprived the boys and girls of an education when they should have been obtaining it and when they could best assimilate it. I do not know that night continuation classes afford the best method of giving this additional education, but they are better than no method at all. If it were possible for the State to consider the introduction of day

continuation classes, all the better, because when a child has done his day's work as an office boy or something of the kind, he is not in good condition for going to study, although many great men have obtained their education by that means. Night continuation classes, of course, are better than none at all. If the Government can see their way to re-install those classes and thus afford boys and girls an opportunity to get a better education, they will be doing a service to the State. In connection with our technical training we provide what are called self-supporting classes—a good idea. On referring to page 7 of the Education Department's report, members will notice a paragraph dealing with this subject. It states—

In addition to paying instructors' fees, payments are made for administration, light and depreciation. Material and equipment required are procured out of the self-supporting revenue. Any balance remaining is paid into general revenue. There were 586 students in the classes in 1932. Fifty-three classes were in operation—45 in Perth, 3 at Boulder, one each at Fremantle, Kalgoorlie, Geraldton, Claremont, and Midland Junction.

I should say that the majority of boys and girls attending those classes are sons and daughters of working men and women, children of people probably in straitened circumstances. Yet the money is found to afford facilities for their children to get this extra education in self-supporting classes. An interesting class in public speaking was held at Fremantle last year. What strikes me forcibly is that we make the boys and girls who want this extra education pay a fee to a self-supporting class, while the University obtains a Government grant, so that children of people who can well afford to pay for it get a higher education free—in many cases, simply for the sake of a tag after their names. At one stroke we deprive boys and girls of continuation classes. Then we say to them, "You can have additional education if you pay a fee to a self-supporting class." And then we give a grant of about £25,000 to the University, where, I suppose, the majority of the students are from families well able to pay for their education. To me that does not seem right. We curtail domestic science and manual training and continuation classes; we deprive the boys and girls lower down of what they should get and of what others are

getting. and at the same time we provide free education for children of people well able to pay. There we have considerable room for improvement. That brings me to a consideration of the University. Some day an organised society may secure such equality for all its members that every child educated will go through the University, but that time is a long way ahead. For the present there is no economic reason why such a course should be adopted. There is no reason at all why we should endeavour to educate all children with a view to their being sent to the University. If we do not do that, it is wrong to use general revenue for affording a University education to a mere few. That course would be justifiable only if every child were being sent to the University and given the advantage of the training to be obtained there. We know full well that despite our vaunting that education is free from the kindergarten to the University, it is not so. Going through the University is an expensive business—two guineas for the Guild of Undergraduates, a pound deposit for this unit and a pound deposit for that other unit, sports fees, the standard of dress to be maintained. It is an expensive business well beyond the range of the pockets of most working men. Therefore, the big bulk of the children of working men never see the University.

Mr. Needham: Except from the outside.

Mr. TONKIN: It is wrong to expect that all children should go through the University. We have not the raw material available. We cannot hope to train a cat to muster sheep. Every child has not the natural ability to become an expert or to derive the full advantage from University training. Therefore it would be pure economic waste to train many children through the University. In practical politics that course would never be contemplated. Yet a strange feature is that the high schools have such a curriculum that all students are trained for continuation at the University. They are taught languages and various other subjects to fit them to go through the University. All of them are trained in a block after that fashion. As a matter of fact, only five per cent. of them pass on to the University. For the other 95 per cent. of the high school pupils, much of the education given represents absolute waste. Some other subjects should be taken. It should be easy to find

out which pupils are capable of going on to the University to study, and these should be selected and specially trained. The others should be told, "You will never get through the University, and it is only waste of time for you to try. We shall give you an education which will benefit you very considerably so long as you remain here, and which will be of great advantage to you when you leave school." There seems to be room for improvement in this direction also. A scheme which might be of advantage commends itself to me at this juncture. The ideal way of dealing with the situation would be to alter the present system of scholarships so as to grant scholarships for various State departments. After all is said and done, we should look at the question from the broad aspect of the State. We do not train individuals for their own benefit. If we provide a free education, we do it with the idea of benefiting the State as a whole. It seems to me that we need experts in every department—in the Mines Department, the Agricultural Department, the Education Department. There should be a competent board to select promising boys and girls for the various departments. Some have a special aptitude for mathematics, some for languages. They can easily be discovered. They should be selected, and the State should provide scholarships to see them right through their education. The number required every year could easily be arrived at, and probably the cost would not be more than that entailed by the present system of scholarships. We should select these boys and girls and say to them, "We are training you for such and such a department, because you show special aptitude in that direction. The State will see you through, and find you a position when you are through." Then the son of the poor person would have an opportunity equal to that of the son of the rich man. The former would know that after he had gone through the high school and the University, the Government would provide for him, and pay his fees, and, therefore, he would be no burden on his parents. The State would receive a full measure of benefit from the training of such a lad. Every department would benefit under that plan. We would then educate young men who would know their respective jobs thoroughly, and, in every sense of the term, the students would be servants of the State for

the benefit of the whole community. We could then say to other persons who desired to have a University education, "If you desire a University training, have it by all means, but not at the expense of the State. If you desire to obtain a degree, you can get it, but not at the expense of people who cannot get the less advanced education to which they are entitled." Apart from the scholarship-holders to whom I have already referred in the suggestions I have made, those who desire to go to the University should be required to pay fees. There is no justification for providing free education to persons who can well afford to pay for it themselves, at a time when there are those lower down the social scale who will never have an opportunity to secure a University education, and, at the same time, are deprived of manual training or a course in domestic science that is their real heritage, and to which they are justly entitled. Until those children can be given the training that is so necessary for them, we should not provide University education for people who can pay for it themselves. In a report issued recently, the University authorities fore-shadow that next year they may be obliged to curtail the number of students who will be admitted, and they may exclude some students. Another report also suggests, according to to-day's "West Australian," that it may be necessary to appoint some "associate lecturers" from among the students and to allow them small honoraria to compensate them for taking tutorials. I cannot speak of the work of the University from actual first-hand knowledge, but I have a copy of the University calendar through which I have gone carefully. I find it hard to reconcile certain disclosed facts with the statement that appeared in the Press. For example, there are 34 full-time lecturers at the University, including the professors, 35 part-time lecturers, and three co-examiners. That makes a total of 72 lecturers, who had to deal with 778 students this year. That represents an average of 11 students per lecturer. How is the time of the lecturers spent? I have looked through the various departments, and I shall select one to deal with now. I shall select one of the most important departments, the name of which I shall not disclose. I find there are three lecturers in charge of the department and be-

tween them they give seven lectures a week of one hour each. I am told that the rest of their time is spent on tutorials, and in marking papers. That may be so. I have an idea that professors get paid for marking papers. The examination fees, which run into over £1,000 a year, are divided and paid to the examiners for the work of marking papers. Last year a number of students took tutorials and assisted in the marking of papers. It appears to me that there is something radically wrong with such an arrangement. I am prompted to inquire further when I consider that last year a certain professor went for a holiday, and now he is to leave the University altogether. It is a fact that there are some students at the University who have never received a lecture from that professor. For various reasons, he has been allowed to enter the employ of a financial institution, and was also permitted to journey overseas. Now he is leaving us altogether. It is hard to reconcile those facts, if the existing staff is overworked. It is hard to reconcile that position with the statement that next year the authorities may find it necessary to appoint students to take tutorials and pay them honoraria. It is hard to understand that position in view of the fact that in one of the most important departments, three lecturers between them give seven lectures a week of one hour each. Possibly there may be some explanation, and I would like to know what it is. There is one other aspect in connection with the University that I do not like. The University issues a Diploma of Education to teachers, and in three years 89 diplomas have been issued. The rate of issue is considerably in advance of that in any other State of the Commonwealth.

The Minister for Education: The number is in advance of requirements.

Mr. TONKIN: Yes. That would not be quite so bad, but when one probes into the circumstances leading to the issue of the diplomas, one is forced to conclude that apparently there is no concern felt if the diplomas are made to appear worthless. I will give an example to illustrate what I mean. This year a student, who had never been in a primary school, secured the degree of Bachelor of Arts. He attended the Diploma of Education course from March to August and obtained the diploma with distinction. That student can

now put after his name "Dip. Ed." as an indication to the public at large that he represents the last word in efficiency regarding teaching. Here are the facts: That student attended ten lectures on the teaching of English, four lectures on the teaching of geography, four lectures on the teaching of history, two on how to teach nature study, two on how to teach music, and two on how to teach drawing. He did not attend any lecture on how to teach arithmetic or on how to teach physical training. Yet that student gained the Diploma of Education with distinction! It is an absolute farce. A person possessing the Diploma of Education requires to know more than the theory of education. It is one thing to talk about a subject and quite another thing to apply that knowledge. One could be the most erudite man in the world, able to talk elaborately on any subject, but if he attempted to teach, he would find it was a horse of another colour. The student I have referred to had no experience at all in primary school work, yet he can emerge from the University ostensibly equipped to take charge of a school. If you were to ask the headmasters their opinions on the capacity of those people, their remarks would not be very flattering to the University. Someone in authority ought to check up on that. Those who have earned their diplomas ought to be the first to get up and say, "You are discounting the value of the diplomas we already possess by issuing them like this." In one State, I think South Australia, it is required that three years of practical teaching should be taken before the Diploma of Education is granted. If we are going to give a person the hallmark of efficiency, we require to be certain that that person is efficient. But when we get the example of students attending a few lectures and reading up how to teach, and then obtaining the diploma, it makes one wonder what the University is thinking about. I specially mention this because I have heard that the University desires to take over the control of the training of teachers, that they are anxious to train the teachers for our service. If what I have related is a sample of how they do it, I hope the present Minister will never agree to that.

The Minister for Education: You can be sure about that.

Mr. TONKIN: I am pleased to hear it. For academic subjects let the students go to the University by all means, but let us have a training college to give the teachers, who are to look after the raw material of the State, their practical training by men and women who have been in charge of primary schools and who know what it is to handle a class. The State requires about 180 teachers per year to make up for resignations and expansions of the service. When the depression hit the country the resignations fell off, because the women teachers were not getting married; and the department curtailed expenses and so the expansion did not go on, and it became necessary to close up the Teachers' College. Usually the department appoints certain monitors. They get appointed as monitors with the idea of serving one or two years and then going on to the college to be fully trained as teachers. When the college was closed down those monitors could not get their training, and so they have been kept on for three, four or five years.

Mr. Latham: The college has not been closed for that length of time.

Mr. TONKIN: It is possible that some of these monitors might have been completing their second year as monitors when the college was closed.

Mr. Latham: It was only about 18 months ago.

Mr. TONKIN: It must have been before 1932, because it is referred to in the 1932 report. So if we take a monitor in his second year before the college closed, and we recall the time elapsed since the college has been closed, it is probably five years. It means that in a number of cases the monitors who had been kept on for four or five years were being asked to do the work of a fully-fledged teacher, but did not get the pay of a fully-fledged teacher. So in that respect the department were getting cheap labour. Some of those monitors were in sole control of a class, the headmaster of course being responsible. A fourth-year monitor could be given complete control of the class, thus doing the work for over £100 less than it should have cost. It was a matter of cheap labour.

The Minister for Education: A lot of them were appointed as assistants.

Mr. TONKIN: And a lot were not, and those are the ones to whom I refer. I do

not know what is in the mind of the Minister; perhaps the Government have come to some decision in connection with the college. But we have now reached the stage where all the ex-trainees who went through the college and had to stand down owing to the depression have since been absorbed. In addition a number of those four-year and five-year monitors have been appointed teachers and, further than that, a number of very worthy teachers known as teachers on supply, married women previously in the service of the department, have also been employed.

The Minister for Education: All except one.

Mr. TONKIN: We have reached a stage where we have absorbed the ex-trainees and the monitors—without appointing fresh ones until this year—and the college is still closed. What is the State going to do for its teachers next year and the year after? Are we going back to the last century, when the department was obliged to put on people with only the slightest idea of education?

The Minister for Education: And some with no idea of it at all.

Mr. TONKIN: Yes. Are we going to waste the State's money by putting unqualified people in charge of the schools, or are we going to deny educational facilities to the people? If the Government face up to the position, they will realise that the college must be re-opened, and re-opened at once. It is not necessary that we should go on with the wholesale training of teachers, but we should train sufficient for our needs. Resignations are becoming more normal, the lady teachers apparently are getting married and creating vacancies. It is the job of the department to see that no break occurs, that the State has fully trained teachers capable of taking up the work. I have kept the Committee late, but it is not my fault. I had a certain amount that I thought should be said, because education is a subject from which most people shy, and as a rule very little of much moment is said upon it. Because it is one of the most important subjects, I felt it my duty to deal with it. I sounded various Ministers as to whether it was intended to adjourn early and they indicated that they wanted the debate to continue. Therefore, if members feel somewhat aggrieved, they must blame someone else.

Just a few remarks in conclusion. The University report for the year has this to say—

Although the University, like our other public institutions, must suffer through the economic exiguity of the times, every thoughtful person must realise that the cure of our ills lies in more, not less, extensive education, in the cultivation of intelligence, in every field of human activity.

With that I entirely agree. C. J. Melrose, in his "Data of Economics" makes these interesting remarks—

The economic structure is not built up of a definite quantity of dynamic forces in which the human units are so many cogs, levers, and pulleys. The mental condition of mankind is, when all is weighed, the greatest factor in the complicated mechanism. That is, the social and economic evolution can proceed no faster than the mental factor is capable of being attuned to the new conception and outlook.

That sums up the situation completely. We in this Chamber can ensure that the development of the mental factor is not retarded. By wise direction and wise administration we can get the maximum development of the mental factor and, commensurate with the development of the mental factor, we will find that the evolution can proceed and that our social and economic conditions can improve for all mankind. That, I think, is the aim of our civilisation, that each day should find us nearer the goal when we shall be increasing the standard of comfort for mankind. As the University points out, and as Melrose points out, it is the education of the people that will ultimately solve our difficulties. That reminds me of a very pertinent remark I heard last night. I attended a debate at Fremantle between a Communist and a Douglas Credit supporter. The Douglas Credit supporter, in the course of his remarks, stated that the people were in their present state because of their mass stupidity. Sitting behind me was a lady of obviously communistic tendencies who audibly agreed with the speaker. She remarked, "Yes, quite right." A gentleman next to her said, "Yes, quite right, and that is the business of the Education Department." With that I agree. If there is mass stupidity abroad, it is because we have not properly educated the people. We have not taught them along the right lines; we have not given them the right stuff. I have an article that all members should read, headed "Can our schools face facts?"

It points out that a number of things taught in the schools are probably a waste of time and sheer hypocrisy, and that if we want to get the maximum benefit, an alteration of the curriculum is desirable. Let me give some quotations—

In the name of fair play, non-partisanship, and the like, our schools rigorously tend to exclude what is commonly called "controversial matter." Actually, of course, there could be no education in history or social problems which excluded points on which men differ. There are literally no non-controversial subjects that are worth discussing in the so-called social sciences. What our children get, therefore, is not a fair point of view on life, but the point of view which is accepted by or forced upon the majority. If a minority is large enough to make its political influence felt, the controversial subject is dealt with simply by excluding it. This means that our children learn the bare bones of the legal structure of our government, but none of the interplay of ideas and interests which makes those bones live and move.

Under this system of sterilised education, some amusing things happen. I have met scores of University graduates who couldn't tell the difference between a socialist, an anarchist, a communist, and a single-taxer, and thought that all of them were names of something they didn't like, and therefore abused. Current events are usually so many headlines patched together with no interpretative teaching, save as the prevailing prejudices, local or national, supply the variously coloured glasses through which the pageant of our times is seen. History is not human; still less is it scientific. It is French, German, British, American, or Australian, scarcely nobler or more enlightening than the oral tradition by which family and clan feuds are kept alive in backward regions.

Such lack of education, or mis-education, has tragic results in a world in which true education is the only alternative to catastrophe, made infinitely more deadly than heretofore possible in history by the perfection of our control over the natural sciences and of machinery. If our schools are to be of the least use to us in the all-important matter of training the next generation in the social control of the billion wild horses of machinery, certain things must be done.

1. We must recognise that controversial issues cannot be avoided, and that to teach children and young people to face them fairly and intelligently is the main business of education.

2. We cannot and must not deal with controversial issues by teaching the absolute truth of one point of view. We must fairly present the facts, and then offer a fair statement of the contending interpretations of those facts. The facts will include the history of the labour movement, some of the less creditable sides of national history, and pertinent information on current problems, as well as rosy eulogies of national heroes and that popular deity, the successful man. We shall encourage teachers

in the schools deliberately to stimulate thinking and classroom discussion on the cause and extent of poverty, the reasons for war, the difficulties in the way of peace, the meaning of liberty, and what justification, if any, there is for a system under which ten million are unemployed because they are alleged to have produced too much.

3. Such education is only possible when we select teachers as if they were members of the holiest profession, and then give them freedom both as teachers and citizens, to serve the great cause of truth. We may demand of teachers that they do not seek to hypnotise young minds into accepting their own dogmas. We may not demand of teachers of the rising generation a slavish obedience to expediency or the dominant prejudices of the local powers that be. Finally, if we are to train our children to face controversial issues, we must let them have some experience in being citizens and not merely subjects in the schools. We learn by doing. No wonder we turn out such bad citizens from our schools when students are so often penalised for non-conformity and so generally deprived of any voice in discussing the issues of their own world. No one is more aware than I of the difficulties in the way of carrying out this modest programme. They are not insuperable if those workers with hand and brain, who must make the world of to-morrow, recognise that only frank and fearless facing of facts and dealing with them intelligently will enable us to control the giant machinery of our times for life, and not for death.

It was my intention to give the Committee only a few quotations from the article which I have just read, but it is so full of sound sense that I decided to quote it in toto. I am in agreement with the ideas expressed, and I now leave the subject to the reflection of members.

Progress reported.

House adjourned at 11.12 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Wednesday, 25th October, 1933.

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

BILLS (4)—THIRD READING.

- 1, Feeding Stuffs Act Amendment.
- 2, Fruit Cases Act Amendment.
- 3, Plant Diseases Act Amendment.
- 4, Police Act Amendment.

Passed.

BILL—FIRE BRIGADES ACT AMENDMENT.

Received from the Assembly and read a first time.

BILL—LAND.

Second Reading.

THE HONORARY MINISTER (Hon. W. H. Kitson—West) [4.42] in moving the second reading said: This is a measure which is long overdue. Many of the Western Australian statutes have been amended from time to time and consolidated, but I do not think any of our laws require consolidation so urgently as do at the present time the Acts dealing with land. The absolute necessity for the simplification of the laws relating to the disposal of Crown lands has been recognised for many years past. Session after session amending measures dealing with difficulties and proposals which have cropped up in connection with our land legislation have been passed. These measures have not only amended sections, but in many cases have superseded, wholly or in part, sections which have not been repealed. As a consequence this legislation is now in such a chaotic state that it is extremely difficult for people to understand just what the law is. Those difficulties affect many sections of the community. They affect the general pub-