

world; and I believe that in the adoption of younger ideas lies the possibility of recovery. The new conditions must lead to a new line of thought. It has been said that the dead rule the living. I agree with that remark in this sense, that we allow laws and conventions made many years ago still to remain in force. No party has the courage to alter prevailing conditions. Must we continue to go down and down under the present system? What prospect is held out to the boys and girls coming on now? A youth of 17, unemployed, said to his father the other day: "I am not responsible for having come into the world. No more am I responsible for the conditions that now prevail. What is my prospect in life?" That is the view now being expressed by thousands of young men 17 and 18 years of age. Are those youths in 10 years' time to carry the burden of debt we cannot carry? Can they be held responsible for prevailing conditions, which even we ourselves did not make? They take a vastly different view. If ever youth was inclined to Communism, it is so inclined at the present time. I trust the Premier and his Ministers will have three successful years. If the Labour Party can lift Western Australia out of the rut, I hope that party will be returned to power for many years. As regards this side of the House, I feel sure we shall do all we possibly can to help the Government. The present age is an extreme age, and we are concerned for the welfare of this State more than for the welfare of Australia or that of the whole world.

On motion by the Premier, debate adjourned.

*House adjourned at 8.40 p.m.*

## Legislative Council,

*Tuesday, 1st August, 1933.*

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

## QUESTION—PROSPECTING SCHEME.

Hon. J. CORNELL (without notice) asked the Chief Secretary: Will the Minister be good enough to inquire from the Minister for Mines whether there is any substance in the assertions made in many parts of the Eastern and Northern Goldfields that the activities of men sent out under his prospecting scheme are being seriously hampered through delay in issuing necessary tools and other prospecting requisites?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied: I will.

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

*President to Present Address.*

**THE CHIEF SECRETARY** (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [4.35]: I move, without notice—

That the Address-in-reply, as agreed to by the Council on the 25th July, be presented to His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor by the President and such members as may desire to accompany him.

Question put and passed.

## LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

On motion by Hon. E. Rose, leave of absence for four weeks granted to Hon. J. Ewing (South-West) on the ground of ill-health.

On motion by Hon. L. B. Bolton, leave of absence for four weeks granted to Hon. J. Nicholson (Metropolitan) on the ground of urgent private business.

§ 1:

## SUPPLY BILL (No. 1), £1,500,000.

*Second Reading.*

Debate resumed from the 27th July.

**HON. J. M. MACFARLANE** (Metropolitan-Suburban) [4.38]: Before dealing with the Bill, may I also be allowed to congratulate the Leader of the House upon once more filling that position. I am sure we all felt, with the news of a change of Government, that Mr. Drew would naturally fall into his old Ministerial position. His wide experience and the confidence all members of this Chamber repose in him, single him out as the ideal Leader. I would also like to congratulate Mr. Kitson on again being selected to take some of the

burden from Mr. Drew's shoulders. It is regrettable that members in another place see fit to keep harping on the theme, the appointment of the Lieut.-Governor. If the Government saw fit to select a special citizen for this appointment, surely it is their due that the rank and file should graciously accept the situation. I congratulate the Government on the selection of Sir James Mitchell. It was a generous gesture to an old opponent and a recognition by them of Sir James's worth to the State during the years of his political life. By way of explanation before I address myself to the Supply Bill, I understand my motion for adjournment on Thursday last has been accepted as a disregard for the plans and wishes of the Leader of the House, and the convenience of country members. When I learned of this feeling after the adjournment, I gave Mr. Drew my assurance that there was no truth in the statement. If I had been made aware that there was a suggestion to avoid this meeting, I would have asked the House to adjourn the debate until next Tuesday. The genuine reason for my motion was that I was not ready to deal with a matter I wanted to bring before the House and an adjournment became necessary, seeing I was too slow on the Address-in-reply. The object of the Bill is to release the sum of £1,500,000 by way of Supply and, according to the Preamble, we are to advise His Majesty we give it cheerfully. I would be as ready as the next hon. member to do so, if I could be assured that the State's revenue was sufficiently buoyant. I shall support the Bill but the "cheerful" part of it has been rather dampened by Mr. Holmes's figures, wherein he showed the great discrepancy between revenue and expenditure on the one hand, and also by the Minister's reply to Mr. Harris's questions on Wednesday last disclosing the fact that the public debt for the year ended June 30th last has added to the public debt about £6 5s. per head of the population. I am always a careful observer of what Mr. Holmes prepares for this Chamber, and I admit I was disturbed somewhat at having my own convictions on the financial position confirmed so positively. But on reflection I realised there was a ray of light to prevent the entire shattering of confidence. Mr. Holmes quoted years for which we all recognise falling figures must be disclosed. Mr. Holmes used these to disprove the prediction that we had turned the corner.

I, too, have my doubts on that point, but I realise it will take a like number of years to prove whether the optimists are right. I sincerely hope it proves to be true. Then, again, I have to admit that Mr. Holmes included an expenditure that could not be called normal, namely, the exchange rate, which accounted for over £600,000, and unemployed sustenance, for over £650,000. Increased values for our primary products on a normal or increased output, with gold promising so well, would alter the position and make the Treasurer's lot a much happier one and the balancing of our budget a good deal easier.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: A wise man said one should hope for the best and prepare for the worst.

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: Without a schedule to the Bill, one cannot gauge whether, apart from the Public Service and administration, any works intended to be embarked upon will be reproductive, and I would ask the Minister to keep in mind those figures he supplied in answer to Mr. Harris's questions regarding the increase in the per capita debt. Unless work is fully reproductive, it will merely add to our already staggering interest burden—a burden that must nullify the benefits of better prices. One of the works on which a large sum of Loan money must be spent will be the Canning Reservoir, seeing that, whatever Government may be in power, provision has to be made for an increased supply of good water for the metropolitan area. It was to get information under this heading that moved me to ask for an adjournment of the debate, and that information was not available until yesterday. Hon. members are all aware that to complete the Upper Canning Scheme, between £2,000,000 and £3,000,000 will yet have to be spent. Just before the Minister for Works left for Melbourne with the Premier in April, a gentleman called on me and solicited my aid to obtain for him a private interview with Mr. McCallum, in order to lay before that Minister suggestions whereby a saving of one-third could be effected on this work and on all works of a like nature, small or large. I admit I may have been a bit sceptical, but the gentleman's standing in the community as a civil engineer is undoubted, so I felt it was my duty, in the public interest, to have the matter fully gone into, as members will realise what a saving it would be on an expensive work like the Canning Reservoir. The Minister for Works

was absent from the State for some time, but since his return I have telephoned his office on two occasions to ask whether he had had an opportunity to consider the matter, but have received no reply. I learn that the Minister's advisers know all about this gentleman's scheme, and perhaps the Minister for Works knows also. I view the matter from the financial standpoint as being well worthy of investigation, and I desire that the Leader of the House make inquiries and give the House the benefit of them. The name of the gentleman is W. H. Shields, who, I am sure, is as well known to many members as he is to me. When such large sums are involved, his contention should not be ignored. I have a letter embodying his ideas, and I propose to hand it to the Minister in order that he may inquire into the statements it contains. I wish to quote a few paragraphs from it—

In old days masonry dams were built, and if they carried away they considered that too little masonry had been used; if they stood, they were all right, even if two or three times as much masonry as was necessary had been used.

Last century French engineers and Professor Rankine, of Glasgow, investigated the failure of dams, and brought out what was termed the scientific profile. Until my dam had been adopted, their profile became known as the gravity type, because, like huge barrel staves, they resist the thrust of the water by their own dead weight. What Rankine and the French engineers did was to use their mathematical knowledge to pit the weight of the masonry against the push of the water and fix how much masonry was necessary to prevent the water from overturning it or pushing it away, and thus prevent the former disasters due to too little masonry or the waste of money due to far too much masonry being used.

In my dam the strength of the material is used instead of its dead weight, and I originally called it the "Strength dam," but Mr. Sparrow, the patent agent, thought that the name should be more descriptive and suggested, "Multiple arch dam," and that name is now world-wide.

Every principle in my dam has been tried out for centuries, but the grouping and use are new. In a mining shaft you do not make the masonry 1,000 feet thick at the 1,000 feet level. You rely on the ring of masonry taking up the thrust. Dams had previously been built with one arch spanning a narrow valley from side to side, but no arch over 300 feet in span had ever been built, and everyone was afraid to exceed that span for various reasons.

My innovation was to put in a number of piers, a common practice in bridge building, and to arch from pier to pier, also common in bridges. Had these arches been vertical, the

push of the water would have required enormously strong piers to prevent its overturning or pushing away the dam. I inclined the arches on a slope so that the weight of the water on the slope could hold the arches in position, and the weight of the masonry became negligible as far as safety was concerned.

The result of this utilisation of the strength of the material, instead of its dead weight only, is that much less masonry is required. One-third or even one-fourth of the masonry required for Rankine's profile may be used, and yet the factor of safety is much greater than in Rankine's profile. It becomes self-evident that if only one-third of the masonry, which Rankine's profile shows as a minimum in the gravity type, is used, the cost of the dam will be reduced to one-third or a saving of 66 per cent., which is quite a factor in a big dam or weir.

Mr. Shields mentioned in another letter that he evolved the scheme while working for Mr. C. Y. O'Connor on the Mundaring Weir and on other works, and that the plans are in the Works Department. He has been unable to get his ideas adopted, though a Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the matter admitted his contentions. He has been told that the idea is sound, but that owing to the fact that its effectiveness has not been demonstrated by practical use, it cannot be adopted locally. That is why he wanted to see the Minister for Works. I know that the Minister has been busy, but I could not allow this opportunity to pass without mentioning the matter to members of this House at a time when they are asked to approve of supply to the extent of £1,500,000. As to unemployment, some of the figures quoted are not reassuring. It is clearly evident that the numbers are not being lessened by finding permanent employment, and the Minister for Mines is now spending, according to an answer from the Leader of the House to Mr. Harris, £1,200 per week on men engaged in searching for gold. This makes another £62,400 per annum on the expenditure side for what may prove a very problematical return for the outlay, even provided that the scheme was water-tight and every man a trier. The sustenance scheme is a generous one, but reports are coming to hand of its weakness. The weakness is transport. The prospectors have to strike out from a rail or transport centre, some of them over a hundred miles, but I am told no transport is provided and no experienced guide or supervision. I ask members what is to be expected when men

have to transport tent, clothes, food and tools into the bush, on the allowance without transport. The unemployed can hardly be expected to have supplementary funds.

Hon. E. H. Harris: Many of them have no tents.

Member: They do not require tents.

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: Further consideration needs to be given to the position of these men, and, if what I learn is true, the Government should place them under a better organised plan and prevent the waste of what will be a huge sum of money. Again, I am somewhat perturbed about the auriferous concessions of over a million acres of no doubt the most promising country. There is apparently no clause in the agreements stipulating the employment of a satisfactory number of men, or, if there is, I have not heard of any men being so employed. If any of the sustenance prospectors get on to concession areas and make a discovery, the conditions seem to permit of their being despoiled. They will have to bargain with the concessionaires, who must have the first refusal to purchase from or reward the discoverers and, if the offer is refused, it can then be hawked about and, when a sum has been arranged, the concessionaires have still the right at the value arranged. There should be some board to determine the value of the discovery and how justice can be done to both sides. The Minister for Employment has announced new sustenance rates. Members will have seen in the newspapers statements disclosing the new rates which place the single man in a more favourable position than the married man. The Leader of the House would no doubt desire me to do his colleague justice, so I shall quote the new and the old conditions by way of comparison:—

Man, wife, and one child (3) persons:—

New proposal—	£	s.	d.
4 weeks full time, at £3 9s. 0d. . .	13	16	0
6 weeks sustenance, at £1 1s. 0d. . .	6	6	0
	£20	2	0
Mitchell Government payments—	£	s.	d.
10 weeks sustenance, at £1 1s. . .	10	10	0
Plus oversustenance . . . . .	10	0	0
	£20	10	0

or 8s. in favour of old system.

Man, wife, and two children (4 persons):—

New proposal—	£	s.	d.
4 weeks full time . . . . .	13	16	0
5 weeks sustenance . . . . .	7	0	0
	£20	16	0
Mitchell Government payments—	£	s.	d.
9 weeks sustenance . . . . .	12	12	0
Plus oversustenance . . . . .	9	0	0
	£21	12	0

or 16s. in favour of old system.

Man, wife, and three children (5 persons):—

New proposal—	£	s.	d.
4 weeks full time . . . . .	13	16	0
4 weeks sustenance . . . . .	7	0	0
	£20	16	0
Mitchell Government payments—	£	s.	d.
8 weeks sustenance . . . . .	14	0	0
Plus oversustenance . . . . .	8	0	0
	£22	0	0

or 24s. in favour of old system.

Man, wife, and four children (6 persons):—

New proposal—	£	s.	d.
4 weeks full time . . . . .	13	16	0
3 weeks sustenance . . . . .	6	6	0
	£20	2	0
Mitchell Government payments—	£	s.	d.
7 weeks sustenance . . . . .	14	14	0
Plus oversustenance . . . . .	7	0	0
	£21	14	0

or 32s. in favour of old system.

The married man with his responsibilities should surely have more consideration than is being meted out to the single men. Regarding the proposed Yuna-Dartmoor railway extension, I shall carefully scrutinise the needs for any extension or proposed new line. Motor transport has become an industry and has come to stay, and if roads were provided it could meet the needs of much of the future expansion desired, until it can be clearly shown that an added charge should be made to the already heavy capitalisation of the railways. We know the difficulty confronting the Treasurer to balance the budget, and we also know the difficulty of making our huge railway mileage pay. Steps are necessary to enforce the provisions of the Closer Settlement Act in the hope that unpaying country lines may be made to meet expenses. It is difficult

to make comparisons between one State and another, because we find that in this State there are four people to every mile of railway built, while in the other States the figures are 104 to every mile.

Hon. A. Thomson: In the other States development has already taken place.

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: I intend to examine very closely any railway proposition that is put before this House in the future, before I give it my vote. I do not intend to be a ready supporter of any railway proposition that may be put forward.

Hon. A. Thomson: The older States of New South Wales and Victoria are all well developed; you can only develop Western Australia by building additional railways.

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: I have been surprised at certain members' criticism of the Minister's action in resuming the reclamation work at the Causeway. Surely the metropolitan area can be permitted to provide employment on some of its necessary schemes. If the country needs were being ignored, I could understand the opposition. Apart from the reclamation work itself there is the very commendable reason of eliminating the algae nuisance and its attendant evils, danger to health and unpleasant living conditions through odours and mosquitoes. I have heard members state in this House that we run no risk from the malarial fever mosquito, but every Health Board member knows through the medical officers, that we have the malarial mosquito here in the "anophele," and it is also recognised that many people come South affected with malaria from the northern part of this continent and the risk is that some day these mosquitoes will contract the power to affect others from the malaria affected people from the North.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: Can you have malaria outside a malaria district?

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: Both the nuisance and the risk are so well recognised, that I know that the City Council is willing to contribute £1,000 per year for a number of years towards this reclamation work for the purposes of eliminating the conditions I have just mentioned. With regard to the development of the North, I support Mr. Holmes in his remarks on our treatment of that part of the State. I know it is a big job, far too big a job for the 400,000 souls who have an immense area in the South

to develop first. It is no use adopting a dog in the manger attitude; we will have to give this territory special consideration. Let us recognise that the difficulty of settling it adequately is beyond us financially, and solicit other aid. I want to supplement what has been said by Mr. Holmes and Mr. Moore. For many years to come we will have to recognise that we must deal with this northern proposition as a pastoral one and develop it on those lines. It will take much more money than this State can find today. I favour a new State, assisted by us, the Federal Government and the British authorities, or some such like proposal, and freed from all the oppressive tariffs that are now strangling it and also freed from the conditions we in the South set up against them.

Hon. G. W. Miles: Hand it over to England.

Hon. Sir Charles Nathan: Make sure first that England will take it.

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: For hon. members' benefit I have brought a plan to the House and desire their consideration for a short while to point out what our duty in the future must be to prevent the total abandonment of these areas and a charge being laid against us of neglect of our obvious duty towards it. To this end I have had a friend go into details of the Anna Plains Station predicament, which, of course, applies equally to other stations. I find that in 1918 the Anna Plains Station was purchased for approximately £50,000. The owners have since spent on further permanent improvements about £15,000, and have purchased 85 stud bulls and five stallions at a cost of nearly £7,000. The cattle on the station at present number approximately 12,000.

Hon. G. W. Miles: All clean cattle, too.

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: The last lot of cattle overlanded from that station were removed from Anna Plains in April, 1931. The number was 840 and all arrived at Meekatharra without loss. They were purchased by Mr. Talbot, of Wedderburn, Brunswick Junction, and landed there also without loss, transit having been arranged by two special trains. The Government land rents payable on Anna Plains leases total £420 per annum, and in addition there are road board rates, vermin tax, etc. The property is situated between the 19th and 20th parallels. I have a lot of figures showing the number of cattle that have been sent

away from the place. In 1931, ex Broome and Derby, the numbers were 495 and 10,533 respectively, and in the following year the figures were 1,048 and 7,792. I understand that pleuro-pneumonia is the chief reason why the cattle are hedged in.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: There is no pleuro-pneumonia there.

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: It is contended that there has never been a case of pleuro-pneumonia there, and there is very little tick. Some time ago, due to the fact that in West Kimberley some cases of pleuro were discovered, regulations were drafted and Parliament, recognising the danger of pleuro being carried to the South, adopted the regulations. I agree that we have every right to see that the southern herds are protected, but at the same time we should not fail to recognise that those who are in the North are also entitled to protection. I understand the department have stated it is permissible to drive the cattle along the coastal routes, but it is not possible to do that. I do not know the owners of the Anna Plains Station, but I have heard much of their ease during the last 12 months. We as a Parliament have been responsible for the position that exists, and we should now endeavour to correct it. It has no doubt arisen by the departmental officers suggesting precautions which appeal to them as being right without their having a proper knowledge of the position. The Anna Plains cattle do well when taken to the pastoral areas of the South and prove to be some of the best beef that has come from the North. I am mentioning this to show that there is no real reason for treating the owners of the station so cavalierly. I have already mentioned that over 800 head were overlanded to Brunswick Junction without any loss.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: And that was before the restrictions were imposed.

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: We are told in the Speech that the Government are looking into the question with a view to considering action. The previous Ministry, in 1931, appointed a veterinary officer from Queensland, Mr. Max Henry, as Royal Commissioner to make inquiries. Mr. Henry reported as follows:—

The question of dealing with the cattle between the 19th and 20th parallels is one of considerable difficulty. The station chiefly concerned on the Western side is Anna Plains. Of all the stations affected Anna Plains is

in the worst position, as overlanding is prohibited, because the road to the North and Broome is rendered so highly dangerous by the gross tick infestation existing on the stations between Anna Plains and Broome. The Anna Plains cattle are largely not immune, as tick appears to flourish only on comparatively small portions of the run. Therefore, without overlanding, there is no safe outlet for them, nor does there appear to be any safe outlet available.

It will be noticed on the map that the 20th parallel shuts out Billiluna. But cattle from that station have been driven into the Northern Territory and thence down to the Trans-Australian line and marketed in Kalgoorlie. If that be practicable, surely under the same strict supervision permission could be given to those people to bring their cattle overland to Meekatharra. Frazier Downs is another station in much the same position. Then there is an area in West Kimberley, Leopold Downs, entirely free from pleuro, but the district is hemmed in by pleuro. So except by driving their cattle to Wyndham Meat Works, those people have no opportunity to market them. I certainly think relief should be given to the leaseholders in that locality. The buffer anomaly is very peculiar. In regard to the buffer area at Anna Plains, it has been decreed that no cattle shall be left on that area, not even for the station owner himself, but the regulation has not been enforced and there are still cattle on the buffer area, although cattle may not be driven through it.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: Were not two inspectors sent out to inquire into that?

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: I have heard so, but it is not in my notes. Regulation No. 34 provides that no cattle can be kept within that area, not even the house cow. The Pastoralists' Association approached Mr. Ferguson, the then Minister for Agriculture, in 1932, and the Minister said the matter would be considered on receipt of a report from departmental officers then making a survey of the district. Perhaps, in consequence of that report, no further action was taken to enforce the regulation.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: That regulation applied to milking cows.

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: Yes, for the use of the station. We know that State cattle can be brought from the Eastern States, where pleuro has existed for many years. Under statutory declara-

tion and the supervision of officers, State cattle have been permitted to come into Western Australia, and on the 4th July, 1930, it was decided to import a lot of dairy cattle for the group settlements. A gazetted notice was published dealing particularly with dairy cattle, and it was framed about the time the previous Government elected to purchase large numbers of cattle from the Eastern States for group settlements. The regulation reads as follows:—

Provided that dairy cattle, other than stud cattle or cattle for immediate slaughter, may be admitted into Western Australia from the States of New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia, subject to the following conditions:—

1. Such dairy cattle shall be certified by the Chief Veterinary Officer of the State of origin to have been obtained from portions of the said State which are free from the disease known as pleuro-pneumonia, and not to have been in contact with animals suffering from the said disease, nor to have been on holdings known to have been occupied by animals suffering from the said disease during the preceding two years.

2. Such dairy cattle shall be accompanied by a clean tuberculin certificate and a clean certificate of health issued by a Government veterinary officer of the State of origin.

3. Such dairy cattle shall undergo quarantine for a period of 30 days from date of arrival at depot for tuberculin testing to date of release in Western Australia.

4. Importation of such dairy cattle shall be under the personal supervision of a Government veterinary officer of Western Australia, who shall personally exercise supervision over such dairy cattle during the whole period of quarantine in the State of origin.

If regulations can be made to apply to dairy cattle coming from the Eastern States, where there is always a risk, surely regulations can be made to permit cattle to come from an area where pleuro has never been known. Advices are on record in the Department of Agriculture, under letter of advice to one of the leading stock and station agents in this State, dated 30th March, 1933, to the effect that 12 cattle stations in West Kimberley are considered to be affected with pleuro-pneumonia. Of these 12, 8 different stations were discovered to be infected in 1928, two in 1929, and two in 1930. Since 1930 no fresh stations have been found to be infected. Of these stations in 1932, five provided only one case each, whilst one provided three cases only. At the metropolitan abattoirs the follow-

ing carcasses of cattle, which were shipped from West Kimberley and slaughtered here, were found to be affected, but not condemned: in 1930, 44, in 1931, 47 and in 1932, 32. No cases were recorded in any of those years of carcasses totally condemned for pleuro. For the season 1932, 28,459 cattle were killed at the Wyndham Meat Works, 28 carcasses were totally condemned, and 120 forequarters condemned.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: Not one per cent.

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: Not one per cent. So in setting up such difficult conditions in these clean areas, it seems to me we are too strict altogether. I realise that careful supervision must be maintained over the transport of cattle where there is any likelihood of disease, but at the same time we must not lose sight of other important aspects of the question. Then there is the buffalo fly. A singular thing about this pest is that to propagate freely it must have moist conditions, such as are to be found in cattle manure. Therein lies the danger. The cattle are shipped from Broome or Derby. First they are sprayed by a force pump before being put on board. Subsequently they are examined by torch light for any signs of spores, and if the inspector is satisfied they are transported south. The manure is collected and kept all the way down, and at Robb's Jetty it is placed in open trucks and sent to the Spearwood holdings for manuring purposes. So, if it is a question of preventing the spread of buffalo fly, everything points to bringing the cattle down overland; for it is recognised that in coming down the track they pass a point below which the fly becomes inert, thus rendering the proposition reasonably safe. Mr. Max Henry was sent to examine the conditions of the buffalo fly in the Never-Never, where the fly is not considered to be a pest. On the 8th May, 1933, Mr. Sanderson sent the following telegram to Dr. Rivett in Melbourne:—

Re buffalo fly stop Understand Dr. Tillyard now agrees both Canning and coastal stock routes safe, but spraying at Derby shipped cattle necessary stop. Please confirm by telegram as essential Anna Plains cattle be moved this month.

The following day he received a telegram from Dr. Rivett, reading:—

Council Scientific Research considers available evidence insufficient basis for definite conclusions, but following summarises Tillyard's personal opinion—(1) South-Western Division

of State is area of potential infestation by buffalo fly; (2) sea route has been demonstrated unsafe, hence strict precautions fully justified; (3) Canning stock route safe; (4) coastal route safe for normal methods of travelling on hoof. These represent present personal views Council's entomologist, but wish remind you that administrative control rests entirely with State, which will probably demand more precise evidence.

Pastoralists in the South have been very much perturbed at the possibility of the embargo being lifted and have rightly urged the Government to take very careful thought before exposing them to infection from the North. Still, it is only reasonable that relief should be given to the North, which we are told is steadily being depopulated. It has been said that compensation should be paid to these people. That is not what they want. They want to be able to carry on their business and extend it. I also wish to refer to the South-West conference that was held at Bunbury. On that occasion the question of the East Kimberley cattle restrictions came up for debate. There was in some quarters strong agitation for the maintenance of the present drastic regulations, but Mr. Ernest McLarty of Pinjarra put up a particularly stout fight for consideration for the North, as a result of which the conference finally carried a resolution. This shows that in the South we have recognised there is some danger of infection from the North, but that we also realise justice must be done to these people. The following resolution was carried at this conference—

That this conference requests the Government to take precautions to prevent pleuro pneumonia entering the south-west and elsewhere, and that the Government should endeavour to give some relief to those pastoralists in the quarantine area who are prevented from marketing their stock owing to the present regulations.

I am afraid there are many points I have missed.

Hon. G. W. Miles: Is the Royal Agricultural Society opposed to our getting any relief?

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: Members of that society recognise the difficulty. That is where I first came into contact with the conditions under which the people in the North are existing. We in the South have conceded that we have responsibilities towards the North, and that some way must

be found out of the position in order that relief may be afforded. The North must be allowed to expand instead of contract, as it has been doing in the last few years. Members of Parliament must take a certain amount of responsibility in regard to the case I have referred to. The officers of the Department were concerned about the danger of infection, and suggested certain regulations to the Minister. He accepted them, and passed them on to Parliament. Members, possibly failing to realise the effect of the regulations, accepted them, and a condition of affairs has now been created that is full of difficulty for those concerned. What we have done we can undo with a certain amount of reason. I am sure the Government are looking at the question in a lenient way. Already the Minister for Lands has been able to afford relief from the payment of rent pending a solution of the difficulty.

Hon. A. Thomson: That is not much relief if they cannot sell their property.

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: What we have done we should try to undo, of course with the necessary supervision to prevent danger from arising.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: To whom do you refer?

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: To Parliament, which agreed to the regulations.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: Parliament does not administer them.

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: We gave the Department power to administer them. Members did not realise the effect the regulations would have upon the North.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: You must give them power to quarantine any area at any time. It is the administration that is at fault.

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: I wish to deal with another matter I overlooked, namely the East Perth Power House. It is working up to the full capacity of its generators. If the large generator broke down I am told that it would seriously affect the power of every plant in the industrial centres, and extend as far as the cranes at Fremantle. Considerable time would elapse before relief could be afforded by means of another generator. I understand the last Government had in hand the question of supplying another plant. I hope the present Government will look closely into the matter. The position as it is con-



stitutes a menace to the community as a whole, in countless directions. Another matter to which I wish to refer relates to the recent general elections. Many stories of one sort and another were brought forward by both sides, but I desire to refer particularly to the Gascoyne election. This came before me as a member of one of the governing bodies on the Nationalist side. As a result of a conversation with the ex-member for the district, Mr. Angelo, and others, we made an investigation and found what we considered to be many irregularities. These were not such as to enable us to apply to the Court of Disputed Returns to have the election upset, but we did discover that 56 postal votes, known to have been cast in Perth for Mr. Angelo, were not recorded.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: How did you know that?

Hon. E. H. Gray: That shows how you get votes.

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: It was discovered through a subsequent investigation that these votes had not been recorded. We know they were posted to the Department's officers, but if they ever reached that centre they were not recorded.

Hon. G. Fraser: You only assume that.

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: We took up the matter with the Minister for Justice, who is investigating it. I hope at no distant date to ascertain where those 56 votes went.

Hon. E. H. Harris: Did they go up by aerial mail?

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: Yes, and through the office of the department in Perth.

Hon. J. Cornell: It looks as if they went up in smoke.

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: With these remarks I support the second reading of the Bill.

**HON. C. F. BAXTER** (East) [5.37]: It is usual in the early part of the session for Parliament to pass a Supply Bill to cover the amounts already expended while Parliament was in recess, and the future requirements of the Government. It is pleasing to know that an improvement has been effected in the amount of money allocated to Western Australia for the coming year. This gives one courage to look to the future for probably better times. We know that the value of our primary products has recently increased, and we hope this improvement will

continue and that we shall yet see the end of our troubles. I must, however, take exception to the limited amount we have in hand being used to provide further pleasure resorts. I refer to the dredging of the Swan River. The intention of the Government is to beautify the river. Surely these are times when every penny should be spent on works that will return some interest on the outlay. It would be time enough to spend money on the beautification of the river thirty or fifty years hence, when we might be able to afford such expenditure.

Hon. A. M. Clydesdale: If you beautify the city you will get an indirect benefit from it.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: I cannot see that. Had the last Government expended money in carrying out the beautification scheme which they stopped, funds would not have been available for the widening of the Causeway, which has been so beneficial.

Hon. A. M. Clydesdale: It is all part of the scheme.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: Let us do the necessary parts first. The fine road which has been constructed between the Causeway and Fremantle is governed by the Causeway itself. Why not do something to enable that road to be put to greater traffic use by constructing a proper causeway?

Hon. E. H. Gray: That may be done yet.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: Why was it not done when the road was being constructed? I hope the Government will continue the different irrigation schemes in the South-West. They mean a great deal to the State and will produce a good deal of revenue. I have been informed that the Minister for Employment, accompanied by Mr. Watson of the Trades Hall, recently paid a visit to the relief works, and in answer to a question told the men plainly they must join a union or they would not be employed.

Hon. E. H. Gray: It was sound advice.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: It was very unsound advice to give in these days. An income of 22s. 6d. a week is of great benefit to those who are struggling to get bread and butter to put into the mouths of their children. They should not be asked to find money for anything besides the necessities of life. I do not say I would agree to that principle if times were prosperous. No man should be coerced into joining a union. I would urge the Government not to alter the present system and revert to day labour where that can be avoided. Results cannot

be obtained from day labour or by demoralising a man on sustenance work. I trust the different undertakings I have referred to will be carried out. The high standard of the conduct of public life of Western Australia has, I feel justified in saying, been a matter of pride to the people of this State, and the maintenance of that standard has been an object of solicitude to our parliamentarians. I regret to say that the acknowledged high level of debate has not of late been consistently maintained, as is evidenced by recent reports in the public Press. Had the lowering of the standard characterised only the utterances of newly elected members one might have passed it by with the quotation "They know not what they do."

The PRESIDENT: Is the hon. member referring to another place?

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: I am referring to statements published in the Press. I do not know what happened in another place.

The PRESIDENT: It is not in order to cast any reflection upon either House of the Legislature.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: I am referring to no part of the legislature, but to public utterances that have appeared in the Press. Legislators who have had the honour to serve Western Australia for years have not refrained from strictures, which, serving no public purpose, were as valueless as they were unfounded. In criticising what I would describe as the unassailable appointment of Sir James Mitchell as Lieut.-Governor, the newly elected member for Northam (Mr. Hawke) who served his political apprenticeship in the South Australian Legislature, used the occasion to make a bitter attack on me. He had the support of no less formidable a debater than the Minister for Mines. The allegations proceeding from both members are merely undignified misrepresentations. I would refer particularly to some remarks made by the member for Northam, who has given promise of an important political future. I hope he will realise that I accept his mistakes with solicitous restraint, and I trust he will profit by any use of the rod of chastisement that I may make. The Northam electoral district, now represented by Mr. Hawke, forms part of the East Province, which I have had the honour of representing in this Chamber for the past 19 years. I have yet to learn that

the electors of the province return members to either branch of the Legislature for the purpose of indulging in personalities, and not for the purpose of harmonious collaboration to improve economic and social conditions. Convinced as I have always been of the undesirableness of any element of personal bitterness in public life, I have invariably sought to work amicably with all other Parliamentarians, quite irrespective of party affiliations. Mr. Hawke has called me to account in respect of loyalty to the Country Party—a party of which he is not a member. His anxious concern for a political entity to which he does not adhere, which in fact he opposes, has carried him to the length of recommending my expulsion from it. No doubt one should be grateful for advice, especially when it comes unsought. However, my critic may re-assure himself as regards my part in the Northam campaign. There was among the members of the Mitchell Ministry, obviously and necessarily, an understanding that the Cabinet representatives of the two parties forming the coalition should give each other countenance during the election campaign. It seems to me unthinkable that I, as a Minister, can have wounded the susceptibilities of the most extreme party purist in attending a meeting at which my Premier delivered his policy speech. On two distinct occasions I offered my assistance to the Country Party candidate for Northam—first, immediately after the delivery of the Party Leaders' policy speeches, and again after my return from the North-West. These offers were—not refused, but ignored. Consequently I retired for much-needed rest and recuperation, after my illness in the North-West, to my brother's home at Cunderdin. During my stay there I saw many friends of long standing, and my only electoral activity was to correct, to them, various misstatements which had been circulated regarding Sir James Mitchell. Had I failed to do this, I should have been wanting in loyalty to my former chief and false to my admiration of his high integrity of purpose and his kindly personality, considerate alike to political friend and foe. It is for supporting him that I have been publicly criticised—I might say, vilified—and accused of treachery to my party. I find consolation in the thought that it would be matter for regret if the

charge of having given electioneering support to my former leader were not justified by fact. However, at no time did I take any active part in the Northam contest. All that I did—and I affirm that no Cabinet Minister circumstanced as I was could have done otherwise—was to represent the Country Party moiety of the Coalition Government on the Premier's platform when Sir James Mitchell delivered his policy speech and rendered an account of the Ministry's stewardship during three strenuous, arduous years. For what purpose has this attack been made? Certainly for no good purpose. It seems a natural, inevitable product of its environment. According to Labour standards, East is East everywhere. Heaven be praised, the West is the West in that regard. I pray that "never the twain shall meet." Let us, then, for the good of our State and the welfare of our people, maintain those high standards of public life which for so long have characterised our proceedings—standards so finely represented in the personality and work of our late Premier, a statesman whom history will, in my judgment, rank with Lord Forrest. I greatly regret that public discussion should have become so heated, and that some of our younger members should have seen fit to introduce a new tone into the public life of Western Australia. I do hope that for the sake of harmonious working, for the good of the State, and for their own good those hon. members will realise that they have placed themselves in a false position, and that their object should be to benefit the country and not to descend to personalities. I support the second reading of the Bill.

**HON. J. J. HOLMES** (North) [5.53]: I had not intended to speak on the Supply Bill, and expressed my intention of refraining from doing so; but certain matters have cropped up and we should avail ourselves of this opportunity to draw attention to them. Let me thank Mr. Macfarlane for what he has said this afternoon regarding the position of our people in the North. The hon. member's statements go a long way towards confirming what I said on the Address-in-reply, that as the East treats the West, so does the South treat the North. It is only because we of the North lack voting strength in this Parliament, just as Western Australia lacks voting strength in the Federal Parliament, that we are left where we are. I shall not quote figures rela-

tive to the Supply Bill, but as regards the financial position of the State I did that on the Address-in-reply, but there is a point which I did not emphasise on the Address-in-reply. Western Australia has voted two to one for secession. It now becomes the duty of the Federal Parliament, from its standpoint, to try to counteract that vote; and I have gathered from certain remarks of the Governor of the Commonwealth Bank, who has nothing to do with politics but deemed it advisable to explain the financial position, that the Federal scheme is to give us as much money as we ask for, so that we may become hopelessly involved, when we shall be taken in altogether and become part of a unified Australia instead of working out our own salvation as two-thirds of the people of this country desire to do. It is plain as a pikestaff that that is the way the Federal Parliament proposes to bring two-thirds of the Western Australian people to heel. My speeches on the Address-in-reply raised numerous interesting points and threw out many suggestions as to what should be done. Owing to no fault of his own the Leader of the House was deprived of the opportunity of dealing with those points and suggestions. Knowing our Leader as I do, I am sure that he was impressed with the speeches; and in replying to them he would probably have told the country what the Government's intentions are. I respectfully suggest that the hon. gentleman avail himself of the opportunity which will present itself when he is replying to the debate on this Bill. One point which, in my opinion, the House and the country are entitled to have cleared up is the appointment of the Lieut.-Governor. Junior members of another place have been complimenting themselves upon their youth. Thank God one has to be 30 years of age before one can be elected to this Chamber. Those junior members overlook the fact that the big men of the British Empire have done their best when 60 or 70 years of age; and Gladstone was at his best when he numbered nearly 80 years. However, I think it is up to the leading men of the Labour Party to say what part the Premier and the Government took in the Lieut.-Governor's appointment, not leaving it to understrappers to suggest that the appointment was made without the knowledge or consent of the Ministry, when the man in the street knows that

nothing of the kind can happen. Surely common decency demands that someone in authority should publicly take the responsibility. I ask the Leader of the House to clear the matter up here if it is not cleared up in another place. Next I come to the extension of pastoral leases which Parliament granted during the last session. This has been referred to by a member in another place as one of the biggest pieces of political bluff that Western Australia has known for many years. I am prepared to say that the man who made that statement knew it was contrary to fact. There has been no political bluff of any kind connected with the matter, and no one knows that better than he does. True, there is a dispute between the Crown Law Department and the Lands Department as to the exact intention of one or more sections of the Act. Hon. members will recollect that in 1917 there was an amendment of the Land Act. The Act provided that a certain procedure should be adopted. The 1932 Act set out that the provisions of the principal Act and of the amending measures, which included the 1917 Act, in force at the commencement of the 1932 Act, should apply to leases granted under the 1932 Act. The 1917 Act provided that extension could be granted without the payment of additional stamp duties and so forth. In view of that provision of the 1917 Act, it was believed that there would be no dispute on the point in connection with leases granted under the 1932 measure, and that persons holding leases under the 1932 statute would not be put to the expense of additional stamp duty, running perhaps into hundreds of pounds, at a time when they were not in a position to meet such expense. The matter was mentioned to the then Premier, Sir James Mitchell, and he placed on record a definite assurance that no stamp duty would be charged. He also gave a further assurance that is on record—I have not seen the files, but I have seen letters that passed between the Premier's Department and the Pastoralists' Association—that if a further amendment of the Act were necessary to overcome the difficulty, the required legislation would be introduced. I admit that, in this instance, it will mean one Government fulfilling the promise of another Government. If an amendment is necessary to overcome the

difficulty, or if there is even an element of doubt about the position, I would suggest that the present leases be extended instead of new leases being granted. There must be upwards of 2,000 leases, and if the department have to make out new and separate leases, commencing from the very start and going right through the 2,000 or so leases that are in existence, there will be no end to the work; and all that could be avoided by merely extending the existing leases by endorsement.

Hon. A. Thomson: That would be merely exercising commonsense.

Hon. J. J. HOLMES: I am not blaming the Government for the position, although one member who has spoken did not give the Mitchell Government credit for commonsense.

The Chief Secretary: An amendment of the Act will be necessary to overcome the difficulty.

Hon. J. J. HOLMES: I am glad to have the Minister's intimation to that effect. I want to show that the North was not lost sight of by members who have represented constituencies in that part of the State, and that it was not lost sight of by the Mitchell Government. It will be remembered that the Minister for the North-West in that Government, the late Mr. T. A. L. Pavy, appointed a committee of men to deal with problems of the North-West and to submit a report to the Government. We undertook the work, and submitted a report that dealt, I think, with every problem that the North is faced with. One of the young men I have referred to, according to a report that appeared in the "West Australian," described the committee, the members of which worked week in and week out and went to no end of trouble thoroughly to discharge their duty, as a "few St. George's-terrace pastoralists, a member of the Perth Chamber of Commerce, merchants of Perth, and a few politicians from the North-West." After all our work, we seem, according to this young man, to be on the wrong track. A new star has risen above the horizon, and he is to perform miracles. This, Mr. President, will not be the first time we have seen people go up like rockets and come down like squibs. In the work of investigation, the committee were aided by all the members representing northern constituencies, irre-

spective of party politics. We all worked in unison and helped one another. Those North-West members included Sir Edward Wittenoom, Mr. Angelo, Mr. Miles, Mr. Coverley, Mr. Lamond and Mr. Church and myself. I do not know what Mr. Coverley, who has had to fight two elections, where he probably should have had to fight one only, will say when he hears that one of his colleagues in another place referred to him as "one of the politicians from the North." Others on the committee included Mr. B. Rostenstamm, Mr. E. W. DeRose, who represented the Perth Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Joseph Charles, Mr. John Forrest, Mr. Durack, and Mr. Jack Stewart, who represents large interests and knows a lot about the country. These are the gentlemen who are referred to as "St. George's terrace pastoralists, and a few politicians from the North-West."

Hon. G. W. Miles: What became of the report?

Hon. J. J. HOLMES: I will refer to that. Unfortunately, Mr. Davy came to an untimely end before he could deal with the report, and now it does not seem the business of anyone else to take it up.

Hon. G. W. Miles: The present Government have not yet had time.

Hon. J. J. HOLMES: I agree that they have not had much time to deal with it, so far. What did we deal with in the report that the committee furnished? We dealt with pastoral leases, also the unfortunate position of people in the back country behind Roebourne, where they are assessed at a high rate for land rent because their holdings are in close proximity to a port. Their jetty was blown away six or seven years ago, and has not been replaced, yet the high rate of rental has persisted ever since. Then we dealt with Class A reserves, which is an important matter. Statesmen of the past provided reserves all through the back country for those who were travelling stock. The reserves each comprised 1,000 acres, and were provided so that the stockmen could rest their cattle at the end of a stage without being harassed by the adjacent land holders. I was surprised to find that the reserves had not been gazetted as Class A. The former Minister for Lands, Mr. Latham, with whom I discussed the subject, agreed that the reserves should be

gazetted as Class A, and the present Minister for Lands (Hon. M. F. Troy) has told me he is of a like opinion. If they are Class A reserves, they cannot be sold. We have not had unscrupulous Ministers in Western Australia so far, but if the reserves were not gazetted as I suggest, an unscrupulous Minister could sell them to adjoining land holders, and then the travelling public would be robbed of their camping sites along the stock routes. Between Mingenew and Wungundie there is one reserve, and stockmen, in order to get their fat stock through, have to start early in the morning and travel late to reach that reserve. If that reserve were not available between those two centres, it would mean that the stock would have to travel 30 miles before resting. That points to the necessity for making the reserves Class A holdings in the interests of the travelling public. Then, should a proposal be made to dispose of one of the reserves, it would be necessary for special legislation to be introduced to Parliament, and the proposition would have the light of public discussion upon it. The committee also dealt with water supplies and other problems, including wharfage charges, with particular reference to the iniquitous supercharge of 20 per cent. that has been imposed for years past. We also dealt with the Navigation Act and the Gascoyne vermin charge, which was imposed but which the owners would not tolerate. We also dealt with the question of improving and stocking holdings, rentals, and the tariff, pointing out many things that were essential for the North, such as wire netting, fencing wire and so forth, which we considered should be admitted free of duty. We also dealt with taxation, chilling works at Derby, the Wyndham Meat Works, showing what had been done and what should be done, and also reported on Wyndham as an airport. We dealt with fishing, pearling, and whaling, mining, oil, and mining tenures. We suggested that the Imperial Government be approached with a view to participation in dealing with the problems of the North, and suggested research operations. It is on this point that we drew criticism from the new member for Gascoyne (Mr. Wise). Our only recommendation with regard to research work was as follows:—

Your committee recommend that a research department be established in the Kimberleys

for the purpose of investigating and advising on stock diseases, pests, fodder grasses, and other pastures.

That is all we could recommend under that heading, because we had specially brought before us the tropical expert in the North to give evidence. Having heard his testimony, we could not do anything else but look upon banana production at Carnarvon as the one possibility there. I will deal with that matter later. That evoked the criticism that I have referred to, in the course of which the members of the committee were referred to as "St. George's Terrace pastoralists," and so forth. Incidentally, the criticism also included a reference to Mr. Baxter as a "Minister by accident." However, to revert to the tropical expert whose evidence I have referred to; that gentleman admitted to the committee that he had been touring round the State since 1923. He had been here on behalf of the State Government, but went away and came back on behalf of the Federal Government. I think he has been here continuously since 1929. He admitted that he had spent six or eight months in one place. Why? It is said he spent three months on one station. I do not know why. There does not seem any necessity for it, in view of the evidence he gave. That expert also admitted that someone else had solved the banana problem at Carnarvon, and, in reply to a query regarding pineapples, he told the committee that he would not be in a position to answer the question for 12 months. That was nine months ago.

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

Hon. J. J. HOLMES: I was pointing out that an expert who had been in the North on and off since 1923, when questioned regarding the growing of pineapples, desired another year before he could express an opinion. Asked by the committee to describe the North, he described it, particularly the Kimberleys, as a tropical country without tropical rain. Questioned as to development he said, "If you mean agricultural development, my answer is no." He said that tropical fodder could be grown at Elephant Hill, near Wyndham, but he added that such an area, to be a success, would entail the expenditure of a lot of money. He added, "I could not recommend Government money being spent as a subsidy for advances on that area." He told us also that he recommended the Commonwealth Government that

tropical fodder could be grown in that locality, but that the question of economy was entirely disregarded by him in his recommendations. The only inference to be drawn was that tropical fodder could be grown there, but he would not recommend it from an economic standpoint. True, in a recent speech, according to Press reports, he referred to peanuts. Peanuts have been grown there, but we want something more than peanuts to solve the problem of the great North. Reference was also made to Birdwood grass. I know something about Birdwood grass and its history. The seed was sent out by General Birdwood to the Craig family, pastoralists of the North-West. Hence the name. No tropical expert produced it. General Birdwood was good enough to send out the seed. I have tried to grow it in the South but unsuccessfully. In the North, however, it grows prolifically and is a good fodder. The credit for the introduction of that grass belongs to General Birdwood, not to the tropical expert. Dealing with Carnarvon and the growing of bananas—he would not express an opinion regarding pineapples—he said, "I originally set out to prove the disadvantages of Carnarvon for tropical agriculture." After 10 years on and off, we ought to have got down to something like fact. On his own statement he set out to prove, not the advantages, but the disadvantages. The two points he raised were those of uncertain rainfall and heavy winds. Both of those problems have been solved, not by the tropical expert, but by two young men who came here from Queensland and who knew the job. They overcame the difficulty of uncertain rainfall by pumping water from the adjacent river, and they overcame the wind difficulty by erecting trellises and covering them with 7-year beans, and they have derived a handsome profit from the beans. That is what the practical men from Queensland have accomplished. But they have accomplished something further. Although our expert did not give much credit to anybody, he was bound to give credit to those Queenslanders on the pineapple question, because he had to admit that they had revolutionised the outlook for pineapple-growing at Carnarvon. They did what he thought could never be done, namely, produced pineapples under irrigation without rain. I do not think it fair that an expert should condemn the North for tropical agriculture when we can get practical men from the East to come

here and show us that tropical agriculture is possible. That is how the committee blew this so-called expert out. Hence his criticism of the committee.

Hon. J. T. Franklin: One was theoretical and the others were practical.

Hon. J. J. HOLMES: I have seen the pineapples and have tasted them. I consider the growing of pineapples under irrigation a most important development, especially as there is not only a local market but an overseas market for them. For bananas there is only a local market. I have been accused of having done nothing for the North. If the hon. member came to my office, he could find a complete record of everything that has been done for the North during the last 20 years, not only by me but by my colleagues. I have travelled the North with Mr. McCallum as Minister for Works and Mr. Kitson in his capacity as Honorary Minister. They have extended every courtesy to me and treated me as if I was one of their party, and I have treated them in a like manner. On one occasion during the ship's stay in port, I got Mr. McCallum out of bed at 2 o'clock in the morning—the weather was not too warm—to interview representatives of the road board. Let me give just one instance of something that has been done. The Mitchell Government, when in office some 10 years ago, wrongfully expended £17,000 belonging to the Gascoyne Vermin Board. The amount, with the addition of interest, has been carried forward every year until last year the total had reached over £30,000. I approached the Mitchell Government about ten years ago in order to get the matter tested in court, but the Mitchell Government would not grant a petition of right. I approached the Collier Government and they would not grant a petition of right. When the late Mr. Davy took office as Attorney General and Minister for the North-West, I laid the facts before him. That was after I had been battling for nine years. Mr. Davy, who had a high conception of right and wrong, said, "This is politically and commercially dishonest," and he saw that a credit of £30,000 odd was passed. By that act those people have ceased to be penalised as they were penalised before. In view of that one instance alone, are we to understand that a recently elected member has been able in three months to do more than the whole of the other members have done in years past? We represent the whole

province from Shark Bay to Wyndham. If Carnarvon is going to get all the plums, I presume that someone else will speak up. Surely Mr. Coverley, the member for Kimberley, who has had to fight two elections, will have something to say. If there is anything in the statement that so much has been accomplished in three months where we failed to do anything in years, there may have been some ulterior object, of which I would not accuse the Premier, the Leader of the House or the Honorary Minister. It was known that there was a possibility within the three months of the Gascoyne election being contested, and that might have had something to do with it, and with Carnarvon getting all the plums, but I find that some other places are being treated in a similar manner. I am not surprised at that because I know the justice that some members of the Labour Party will deal out to the northern parts of the State. The member for Gascoyne said land tax was an iniquitous tax. I have before me a copy of the rules enforced upon members of the Labour Party, and No. 4 in the fighting platform is, "Unimproved land values taxation without exception or rebate." I cannot see how the two statements can be reconciled—the one that land tax is iniquitous, and the other, the platform plank advocating unimproved land values taxation without exception. I have seen many elections conducted, but I have never seen one carried out as the Carnarvon election in March last. I want the Leader of the House to make a note of this, because it is one of the matters that should be inquired into. To begin with, the presiding officer is the man who sits at the table and issues personal votes. I call him the presiding officer for want of a better term. This man was an employee of the elected candidate's committee. He told me with his own lips on the night before the election that he was in the employ of the candidate referred to. He volunteered the information, and on the day of the election, he was the man representing the returning officer issuing the personal votes. Section 16 of the Electoral Act says "No person holding an official position in connection with any political organisation or election committee shall be appointed an officer under this Act."

The Chief Secretary: The present Government were not in office then.

Hon. J. J. HOLMES: Yes. The duty of the present Government is to inquire into the matter, and it is an inquiry that I am asking for. This gentleman, appointed presiding officer to sit at the table and issue the personal votes of the electors as those electors come in to vote, is an officer under the Electoral Act. If he is not, what else is he? We come to the question of scrutiny and the scrutineers. The returning officer, so the opposing candidate informed me—and this has not been disputed—would allow only one scrutineer at the principal polling place, Carnarvon. Section 113 of the Electoral Act sets out that there shall be one scrutineer at each polling place, or section of a polling place. In Carnarvon there were two sections, one section on the floor of the courthouse and another occupied by the returning officer on the bench. During the day the returning officer opened every postal vote that was there, 400 odd, and there was no scrutineer present.

Hon. Sir Charles Nathan: Was that the same man?

Hon. J. J. HOLMES: I am referring to the returning officer who was on the bench. There was one scrutineer checking the votes on the floor of the house and the returning officer was on the bench dealing with the postal votes without a scrutineer. The Chief Secretary knows that I do not make statements without facts to back them up.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: Did the candidate ask for another appointment?

Hon. J. J. HOLMES: I am informed by Mr. Angelo that the returning officer would allow only one scrutineer, and that scrutineer was checking the personal votes on the floor of the house. When the poll closed the postal votes were all in a box, and the returning officer refused permission to either the candidate or his scrutineer to inspect anything except the face of the ballot papers. Let me draw attention to Sub-sections 2 and 3 of Section 97 of the Electoral Act. Sub-section 2 sets out first of all what the postal vote officer has to do, and Sub-section 3 says "The postal vote officer shall endorse on the ballot paper the name of the district as on the counterfoil, the date of issue and sign the endorsement." What hope had anyone to check these votes when they were opened without scrutiny, and when the returning officer refused to allow the candidate or his scrutineer to see the

face of the ballot paper? The only way they could be acknowledged as valid was to see whether they were certified on the back by a postal officer. For about half the number of the votes recorded there were no scrutineers. The postal votes at Carnarvon numbered 410, and they were declared by the returning officer, without scrutiny, to be 143 for Angelo and 263 for Wise. Community of interest comes in, and the postal votes came from the squatters perhaps 100 miles back. When we get to Billabalong where there was another polling booth and the same class of electors were voting, we get the position reversed altogether. The figures were Angelo 56 and Wise 9. This was under a scrutiny. Mr. Wise himself told me he could not understand how the squatters came to vote for him; they had treated him with contempt. In some cases, he was threatened that if he came to the stations again he would be put on the wood heap. In view of what had happened, he should have understood the position. I come now to the postal votes. Records show that a number of postal votes were handed to the Electoral Department in time, but they were not in time to reach Carnarvon. I understand a number of them were posted by the Electoral Department, and I think evidence can be produced to show the date on which those postal votes were handed in to the department in Perth. A great number of them did not reach their destination.

Hon. E. H. Harris: They were never counted, you mean.

Hon. J. J. HOLMES: I have discovered two weak points in the Electoral Act which I think should be amended, and I hope the Minister will take early steps in that direction. First of all the postal votes should be sent by registered post and then there would be no difficulty about tracing them. The mistake is that the Act provides that the postal vote officer's name must appear on the outside of the envelope. It is quite right to put the name on the ballot paper which makes it valid, but they have to put the name on the envelope and so, as the postal votes go through now it is known at once when signed by, say, an officer of the Pastoralists' Association on the envelope, that the vote contained in the envelope is not a Labour vote. A lot of those votes disappeared and no trace could be found of them.



I only ask what I think is a fair thing, and that is that the whole matter should be inquired into. If I had been a candidate, I should have insisted upon an inquiry and possibly another election.

Hon. G. Fraser: Do you think it was only the anti-Labor votes that were missing?

Hon. J. J. HOLMES: All I know is that I have scrutinised the roll which I understand compares with the returning officer's roll and the votes are not shown as having been recorded. What are the Government going to do about it? Something should be done, because we must have clean elections so that people may give effect to their wishes. There can be no question of ignorance on the part of the returning officer. I have been in this House for 20 years, and only on one occasion have I mentioned the name of a civil servant. One could mention them every day of the week if it were so desired, but it is not cricket, and we refrain from doing so unless the necessity actually arises. The case to which I referred was that of Mr. Connolly, who was Agent General when he transferred the agency of the Wyndham Meat Company to a company of which he was a director. At that time I thought it was my duty to speak, and say that that should not have happened. There can be no question of ignorance on the part of the returning officer to whom I have alluded. I understand he has conducted elections before. He knows the law, or should know it. In conversation with him before the election he expressed annoyance because the late Mr. Davy, who was at that time Attorney General, had not given him a magisterial appointment.

Hon. J. M. Macfarlane: What is he now?

Hon. J. J. HOLMES: Clerk of Courts. I do not believe that Mr. Collier, Mr. Drew or Mr. Kitson or any other member I know would be a party to an act of the kind I have described. There are rumours of retiring magistrates and consequent magisterial appointments. I do not take any notice of them. I place confidence in the better men of the Labour Party, who I believe will do the right thing. The first point I raise is what part the Government played in appointing the late Lieut.-Governor? My second question has been dealt with by the Minister, who assured us that it is proposed to amend the Land Act as suggested. Also I want to know

is it proposed to appoint an up-to-date tropical expert for the North. We have had a suggestion from another place that the late occupant of the post is acting in an honorary capacity. Well, one cannot serve God and Mammon. If that gentleman is to act in an honorary capacity, I presume it is honorary merely in respect of salary, because the Constitution will not permit any alternative. But I cannot find anything that would prevent an honorary tropical expert from travelling at Government expense on the State steamer or any other steamer, or in travelling about the country in a Government motor car consuming Government petrol, and incidentally continuing the good work on behalf of the party to which he has been attached for many years. It is only fair that we should know from the Government what they propose to do about tropical agriculture in the North. For my part, I refuse to believe that, with all that magnificent country, we have got down to peanuts, Birdwood grass—introduced by somebody else,—pine-apples that some Queenslanders have demonstrated can be grown under irrigation, and bananas, when this expert thought that the climatic conditions at Carnarvon would preclude anything of the sort being grown.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: Did not he attempt fruit trees?

Hon. J. J. HOLMES: I saw by a report to the Director of Agriculture that he thought some good might be accomplished if he visited the stations and gave demonstrations as to how the gardens should be tended. In conclusion I wish to say without egotism that I have never side-tracked any attack upon me. I do not care what views other members of the North may have, but I have never yet taken an insult without having a hit-back. Hitherto we know that members, irrespective of party, have worked in harmony. When Mr. Coverley was first returned for Kimberley I put him on the right track in many instances. That is what we were all doing. We have at present amongst us what I consider a dangerous and pernicious tropical growth which must be nipped in the bud. That is all I have to say. I think the several matters I have alluded to are deserving of attention and close inquiry, and I pin my faith on the Leader of the House to see that it is done. I will support the Bill.

**HON. E. H. HARRIS** (North-East)  
[8.6]: In this Supply Bill we are cheer-

fully asked to grant to the Government the necessary revenue with which to carry on. Before doing that, I propose to make a few remarks. Mr. Collier recently expressed the view that as a State we have not yet turned the corner. With that I agree. I do not envy Ministers the task they will have in negotiating the corners in future, in their endeavour to meet their recent election obligations. Already by speech and in writing in the columns of the "Worker," the party's official organ, they are showing signs of their helplessness. They complain there is only a limited amount of money available, notwithstanding that they have had more loan money than had their predecessors, and have had it showered upon them by the much abused Commonwealth Government. From my place in this House I have previously said that the only pure-merino Labour leader in the Commonwealth, the only man that has endeavoured to put Labour's platform into practice, was the much criticised J. T. Lang, the ex-Labour Premier of New South Wales, who was supplanted by another, due to there being a State Governor who was game enough to intervene on behalf of the State. It would be appropriate to make reference to the appointment of the Lieut.-Governor, Sir James Mitchell. In recommending him to His Majesty, the Labour Government evidently had a double-barrelled motive, first to score a bloodless victory by having appointed a State Governor who is a resident of the State, and secondly to preclude their strongest political opponent from again contesting the Northam seat, which he represented for 28 consecutive years. That, in my opinion, was a distinct coup on the part of the Premier and his Cabinet. To appease the wrath of rank and file party members, the Government declared they had been unaware that such an appointment was to be made. Surely that is pure invention! I cannot believe the Collier Government or any other Government would stand for a Lieut.-Governor being appointed without their full knowledge. Now a few words regarding the gold-mining reservations. Notwithstanding many requests, residents on the Eastern Goldfields found they were unable to secure full information about the areas, the locations and to whom they had been granted. Following representations made, I asked the Leader of the

House certain questions as to the areas and the conditions. It was quite a revelation to the citizens of the State, particularly those on the goldfields, when those particulars were given. Objections to some proposed reservations in 1923 might be referred to. At that time gold was 85s. per ounce, and the then Minister for Mines (Mr. Scaddan), with the object of attracting investors and speculators who might bring capital into Western Australia to try out some former mines that had been abandoned, suggested that he ent Western Australia into 36 squares, after the manner of a draught-board, each one to be a reservation limited to the abandoned leases within the area. I think the proposal was that if anyone took a reservation, it would be limited to three or five years. Mr. Scaddan invited all the goldfields members to inspect the scheme that had been prepared and express their opinions on it. Those opinions proved to be against any such proposal being granted. The local bodies of the Eastern Goldfields circularised every goldfields member, voicing their protest. Labour members criticised it from every angle, and the proposal was abandoned. I have here reports of a number of speeches that were made in opposition to that proposal, but I will merely select one which is a fair average sample. This was a speech by Mr. Cunningham, the member for Kalgoorlie, made on the 15th May, 1923. Amongst other things, Mr. Cunningham said—

The Minister for Mines has brought along a proposition to divide the auriferous areas into 36 sections which could be granted to any concessionaire who made application for them. If this suggestion were carried out it would mean that the prospectors would be driven out of range of these abandoned mining properties in search of virgin ground. It was up to Labour members to come out and open the eyes of the people to the fact that the Mitchell Government were doing everything in the way of granting monopolies. The Government had assisted a State prospecting party, who had made discoveries in the region of Mount Shenton, and were given a concession of over 2,000 acres. He wished the Jones' party good luck, but he was not satisfied that it was in the best interests of the goldmining industry to grant such an extensive area. The mining laws, he thought, were sufficiently liberal to have allowed them to take up as many 24-acre leases as they required. The Government should hesitate before granting any other prospecting party an area of over 2,000 acres of auriferous country.

Hon. G. Fraser: Do you know whether Mr. Cunningham has changed his views since then?

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: I believe he threw a few bouquets at the Minister over the prospecting scheme.

Hon. G. Fraser: That has nothing to do with the reservations.

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: I have some further extracts here which may enlighten the hon. member.

Hon. J. Cornell: The hon. member should perhaps keep to the subjects about which he knows something.

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: The hostility from the Labour members was fairly unanimous, and the scheme was abandoned. Subsequently a few reservations here and there were made by Mr. Scaddan. After Labour's bitter hostility towards these reservations, it was a surprise packet to many Labourites to find that the Minister for Mines had granted the reservations that had been tabled in the House.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: Were they more than 2,000 acres?

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: Yes. Recently the Tributers and Prospectors' Association waited on the Minister when he was visiting the district, and lodged a protest. They were amazed to find that since the protests of these bodies to him, further immense areas had been granted. Members who have looked at the replies that are laid on the Table will have noticed that over 1,000,000 acres containing 49 reservations have been reserved. It may be of interest if I quote from the latest report of the Department of Mines the acreage that is embodied in the whole of the gold mining leases in this State. The acreage held under mining lease for all minerals is 54,119 acres. The return I asked for referred to gold only. On another page it is shown that the area under prospecting leases for gold and minerals, apart from coal, is 28,536 acres, and is less by 1,860 acres than in the preceding year, probably explained by a preference to taking up leases. The acreage held under each showed an increase greater than the falling-off in the prospecting areas. This shows a total acreage of gold mining leases and prospecting areas for gold mining and mineral leases of 82,655 acres. That return was laid on the Table of the House on Thursday last. That evening, to quote from the "Kalgoorlie Miner," the goldfields local bodies, which embrace the Kalgoorlie and

Boulder road board area, and Coolgardie, held their annual meeting at Coolgardie. The policy of past Governments and of the present Government in allowing large reservations of Crown lands to mining companies and private individuals was the subject of strong and unanimous criticism at this meeting of combined goldfields governing bodies. Members expressed themselves strongly in disfavour of such a policy, and it was resolved to request the Minister to grant no further reservations. The governing bodies took an active interest, together with Labour members, when the reservations were granted in 1923. After the meeting had dealt further with the matter we had this criticism from Councillor Elliott—

There were two different varieties of concessions granted: one was the kind which was given in many parts of the State to Mr. de Bernaldes and others, and the other was the type given to certain mining companies by the present Minister. In the former case the prospector found that he was, wittingly or unwittingly, on the concession, regarded legally as a trespasser.

I do not know what was in the mind of the speaker when he used that term. The majority of the prospectors, I believe, who have recently been sent out under the scheme at 15s. a week, have not the necessary money with which to buy a miner's right. Legally they have no claim to anything they may take.

Hon. J. Cornell: I know half a dozen cases of that sort.

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: Amongst those who went out are some experienced men, who would know enough not to go without miners' rights. They get a few hefty young fellows who can develop a prospect if one is found. If there are three or four in a party, the only person with a legal right to a claim, which may prove to be a Great Boulder, would be the prospector who had the miner's right. It is not unknown that in a case of that sort, when it comes to a question of pegging-out, the lease belongs to the man who has the miner's right. The meeting asked what would be the position if an alluvial find were made on reserved land. I should like some explanation about that. The terms regarding these reservations differ. It appears to me that in some cases the man who pegged out a find would have every right to it. There is a difference of opinion as to the right of the individual to mark off a lease

on a reserve, as to whether it would be open to him as if it were Crown land. The terms of the reserves provide in some instances that the finder shall, if he desires to sell, give the first right to the company or individual who holds the reserve. In other words, the person who has the reservation is always a prospective buyer of anything that is found upon it. I do not know whether that right would be given to the man who made the claim, or whether all the prospectors in the district could come into it and mark out and get their claims. That is a matter upon which prospectors would welcome information.

Hon. J. Cornell: Is a reservation a reservation if someone else can take it?

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: They would like this clarified. No doubt the Chief Secretary will be able to enlighten us. I have a further quotation from the "Kalgoorlie Miner," which expresses in strong terms their disapproval when a former Minister granted these reservations—

The reply to the question recently asked by Mr. E. H. Harris, M.L.C., in the Legislative Council reveals the most astounding land grab in the history of mining in Australia . . . . At a time when thousands of men are scouring the country for gold, when scores of mining companies are taking options over prospectors' shows, and spending money on their development in the hope of opening up a mine, we find that the Minister for Mines has granted two concessions to individuals and mining corporations over areas aggregating 1,153,584 acres.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: Are those figures right?

Hon. G. W. Miles: Does that include the rivers?

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: No. I do not know whether they are two miles long or 100 miles long. The river reservations include all river rights on the Gascoyne, Ashburton, Fortescue, De Grey and Yule Rivers. The whole of the prospecting areas for gold and minerals in Western Australia comprises 82,655 acres.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: And this runs into over a million acres.

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: Yes. The "Kalgoorlie Miner" continues—

At one time a plank of the Labour Party's policy dealt with the abolition of monopolies. The Collier Government appear to have substituted a plank for the creation of mining millionaires. An astounding thing is the manner in which the Labour Government differen-

tiates between the genuine worker and the big capitalist to the advantage of "big business." The prospector or small leaseholder has to transact his business with the Mines Department in the light of day. He has to make application to a warden for a lease or prospecting area, and before it can be granted every facility is offered for the lodging of objections. The big mining man apparently can transact his business in the Minister's private sanctum, and nothing is known of the transaction until a belated announcement is made that the Minister has signed away the property of the people. By that time the big man can snap his fingers at the public whose property has been handed over to him, and the Minister can go on drawing his Ministerial salary—until the next election.

Hon. J. Cornell: Have these reservations to be manned?

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: Some have to be manned by two men. There is one area of 16 square miles or 10,240 acres. In such a reservation it would be difficult to find out whether the employment conditions were being observed or not. The "Kalgoorlie Miner" continues—

Even the battling prospector has to pay a fee for his prospecting area, and the small leaseholder has to pay his lease rent; the holder of a reservation covering thousands of acres may pay nothing at all.

There is provision for the payment of a fee of £5 5s. for a reservation.

Hon. G. Fraser: I know one concern which must spend £10,000 a year.

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: They may be spending £20,000. Some of them have sent out geologists to get a plan of the area. One can see from the list provided that some areas have been idle since 1929, and have been granted from year to year.

Hon. G. Fraser: I know others which are not closed reservations, and prospectors can operate upon them as they have always done.

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: That may be so. I am speaking of the conditions set out in the reference. The "Kalgoorlie Miner" continues—

Every new find on or near a reservation will enhance the value of the surrounding ground and the concessionaires will be able to rake in the unearned increment. A really good find on or near any of the reservations might easily make the reserved area worth millions of pounds to the enterprising monopolists.

I urge that whatever may be done in regard to any reservation, the public have a right to get information of it at the Mines De-

partment or, preferably, through a local newspaper. This publicity would cost nothing, as the journals would be glad of the information. The area of the reservation and all conditions relating to it should be published in every instance. Much can be said regarding the good points of such reservations. One is the invitation to capital to come to Western Australia. We know that capitalists will not look at small areas.

Hon. J. Cornell: Foreign capital looks at small leases in South Africa.

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: That may be, but it is not the case here. Capitalists are disposed to look around for a reservation in the vicinity of any ground they take up. Men are not inclined to prospect reservations when they can find, close by, auriferous country on which they will be subject to no restrictions. Many of these reservations have been renewed from year to year. Many complaints made by prospectors in this regard do not refer to Mr. Munsie, but to Mr. Scaddan, who defended Mr. Munsie's action. I did not hear Mr. Munsie's recent defence, but I presume he contended, as is usually contended, that it was desirable to bring capital into the State. (Wiluna is the great illustration. Wiluna was held up for a considerable time, but eventually was floated in London and became the huge proposition it now is. I support the remarks of Mr. R. G. Moore regarding the embargo on Kimberley stock. North-Western members may think I am not interested in what goes on in the North-West.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: Another member with a broad view.

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: In my province there is chiefly mining, but there is also a good deal of pastoral, running up towards Wiluna and Leonora, in which district there are stations that in good seasons can accommodate large numbers of stock. I have in mind folks with a large area in the Kimberleys which is considerably over-stocked. Whereas in good seasons they could readily accommodate large numbers of cattle near Leonora, the regulations prevent them from bringing the cattle down. Ministers have from time to time sheltered themselves behind the reports of stock inspectors; but everyone connected with the pastoral industry says that if the line was altered so as to extend a little further south, much-needed

facilities would be afforded to people in the North having stock and unable to get them away except, as Mr. Moore said, by driving them to another State and bringing them back here. Those facilities would be appreciated not only by pastoralists in the North but also by those in the neighbourhood of the goldfields. A good deal of meat is consumed on the goldfields, and cattle could be brought down there without risk of their coming further south than the mining areas of Coolgardie. I understand the Government have appointed a committee to investigate this matter, and I hope it will be fully inquired into from the standpoint of men who have invested money in the pastoral industry of the North and want to bring cattle down.

**HON. C. H. WITTENOOM** (South-East) [8.35]: I offer no objection to the Bill, as the Government must be granted money; but this is an occasion on which one has a certain latitude, and I shall take the opportunity of offering some remarks which may be described as parochial. Last week an hon. member said that the granting of Supply was like signing a blank cheque. Nothing else is to be expected, as no information is given regarding the manner in which the money is to be spent. The Governor's Speech, which is more vague than usual, gives no information whatever as to the future expenditure of the Government. The Speech merely mentions the Yuna railway, which will traverse excellent country; and therefore the Bill will receive my support unless something occurs in the course of the debate to cause me to change my mind. Let me follow the example of many hon. members and congratulate Sir James Mitchell on his appointment as Lieut.-Governor. The appointment is a fitting tribute to one who has devoted many years of his life to the service of the Western Australian people and the advancement of the country. It is due to Sir James Mitchell that we have the great development in the South-Western and Great Southern districts. The butter export industry is due to his faith in that country. I do not know whether the appointment is a matter of years, or merely at the pleasure of the Premier.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: At the pleasure of the King.

Hon. C. H. WITTENOOM: I do hope that when the time comes for Sir James Mitchell to retire—not for many years I hope—the appointment to the position will automatically, or by some other arrangement, fall to the Chief Justice, which arrangement I regard as the most satisfactory. I also take this opportunity of congratulating Mr. Drew on his appointment as Chief Secretary, which must be most gratifying to all members. As a leader Mr. Drew has shown great tact and ability, qualities which are essential even in a Chamber described as non-party. Further, I congratulate Mr. Kitson, who has proved himself a capable Minister. For three years the work of this Chamber was done by only one Minister, but the burden is far more than one man should be asked to carry. I welcome Mr. Kitson's re-appointment. However, I am a little surprised at the appointment of nine Ministers, when the last three sessions have shown that the work can be done by seven. In the circumstances one would have thought that six Ministers in another place and two here would have sufficed.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: Six altogether would have been sufficient.

Hon. G. W. Miles: There would have been only six Ministers altogether if the other Government had come back.

Hon. C. H. WITTENOOM: Now I turn to the reclamation work being done by the present Government at the Causeway. I consider that a great deal of money is being spent there unnecessarily. If the Causeway is to be beautified, it is work for the Perth City Council, who are doing similar work at Mount's Bay-road, in the way of widening and beautifying, so successfully that I wish to take this opportunity of congratulating the Lord Mayor on it. It has been done so splendidly that other work of the same kind ought not to be taken from the Perth City Council and given to another body. Moreover, the Government should do only work of a reproductive nature, which the reclamation of the Causeway is not. During the last six weeks the Press has published several lists of works to be undertaken by the Government. They involve large sums of money, and are to be put in hand in various parts of the State. A good deal of work was to be done at Geraldton, a good deal at Bunbury, and a very

large amount at Fremantle. As regards Geraldton, I am very glad indeed that the works proposed are to be taken in hand. Geraldton is exporting over 2,000,000 bags of wheat per season, and the harbour requires some improvement. Even after the large amount of money spent on the harbour, gales from the North-West are apt to do damage, as in the case of a ship recently there. Again, Geraldton is the port of a large farming area. Similar remarks apply to Bunbury, which is having considerable trouble from silting around the jetties. The harbour must be kept right for shipping, being required for timber, coal, and farm products. Each time I have looked at these lists I have looked almost in vain for the name of my own port—Albany. I said that I am going to be parochial. Albany appears to be forgotten, so little is it mentioned. Improvements are done, but generally some distance out of Albany. Nothing is done to improve the Albany jetty or reclaim the foreshore. Many years ago a certain amount of dredging was done at the town jetty, but it is so long ago that I can hardly remember it.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: The Government dredged the harbour 2 feet deeper than was needed.

Hon. C. H. WITTENOOM: No. The inside harbour at present is 2 feet deeper than the entrance.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: Since it is the best harbour in the State, there is no need to do anything to it.

Hon. C. H. WITTENOOM: But there is no wharfage accommodation. Albany has merely the same old jetty in the same state of disrepair. The crane on the jetty is only half the size it should be.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: Roebourne has no jetty at all.

Hon. C. H. WITTENOOM: There is silting around the town jetty, which, however, requires but little dredging. The "Karoola" latterly has had to go to the deep water jetty instead of the town jetty, and thus Western Australia loses the advantages which would result from Eastern States visitors seeing the town of Albany. There is scope for great development in that direction, and Western Australia loses a good advertisement in consequence of the present arrangement.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: Cannot the boats moor at the town jetty now?

Hon. C. H. WITTENOOM: No, because the bottom of the harbour has silted up during the past fifteen or twenty years.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: The boats should be able to berth there.

Hon. C. H. WITTENOOM: I agree. Very shortly the jetties at Albany will be in a sad state of disrepair. One jetty is under the control of the Railway Department, and it is in a most dangerous condition.

Hon. J. Cornell: The Esperance jetty is like Mahomet's coffin.

Hon. C. H. WITTENOOM: The fact that the Esperance jetty is in a bad state of repair does not mean that the Albany jetties should be in a similar condition. If one were to inspect the jetties from below, it would be seen that the piles have been duplicated and the old piles are merely hanging from the top. A large amount of money will soon be required for adequate maintenance and repairs. The existing jetties are totally unsuitable for bulk handling purposes because they are too narrow and are in such a bad condition. I attach much importance to that phase, because I believe that in a few years the bulk handling system will be installed at the main ports of the State. For that reason I desire to see the jetties at Albany properly renovated or replaced by wharves. When the bulk handling scheme was drawn up, definite schemes were outlined for Fremantle, Bunbury and Geraldton, but the scheme for Albany was far from complete. In the later scheme that has been propounded recently, Albany is hardly mentioned. I admit that applies largely to Geraldton and Bunbury as well, for the scheme is one that affects particularly the Fremantle zone. So long as the Albany jetties remain in their present condition, there is no chance of bulk handling being installed there, and Albany cannot afford to be excluded from any such scheme. The port will run the risk of losing the wheat traffic that should be handled there. It will pay a farmer better to send his bulk wheat from Gnowangerup, for instance, to Fremantle than to send his wheat in bags to Albany.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: I do not think you are right there.

Hon. C. H. WITTENOOM: I think I am. It costs roughly a penny a bushel more by rail from Gnowangerup to Fremantle. It was established by the joint select committee that investigated the bulk handling scheme last year, that the farmer would be saved

threepence between the farm and the siding. In those circumstances, the farmer who sent his wheat in bulk from Gnowangerup to Fremantle would save twopence in bags alone.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: I do not regard that as proved. That was merely a finding of the joint select committee, and I do not think the saving is there.

Hon. C. H. WITTENOOM: The matter was gone into very fully. For the conveyance of wheat from the farms to the port, heavy trains are required, and these will take the wheat to the bins constructed on the foreshore.

Hon. G. W. Miles: Will not the use of the jetties be largely done away with if bulk handling is installed?

Hon. C. H. WITTENOOM: They should be replaced by wharves. Certainly the wheat will have to be deposited in bins on the shore and then transferred by means of elevators to lighter trains for conveyance over the jetties to the ship's side. I would suggest that a small portion of the foreshore should be reclaimed to provide two berths, as a preliminary to a larger scheme.

Hon. G. W. Miles: That is a sensible scheme.

Hon. C. H. WITTENOOM: The scheme has been discussed in Albany for many years and has been reported upon by engineers. The site lends itself to the work because the water is deep close off shore and will enable big ships to moor there. The material required for the work is conveniently situated at hand and could be almost gravitated to the position required. It would not be like the experiences at Fremantle and Geraldton where rock had to be transported long distances. The work could be carried out by unskilled labour and would absorb a large number of men who would be working, as the Minister for Employment desires, near to their own homes. The site for the work is opposite what is known as "the Lagoon." The Albany municipal authorities and the Chamber of Commerce wish that area to be reclaimed, but the Minister for Employment has refused to allow it to be done under sustenance conditions because he states it is not reproductive work. Before long, that work will have to be done for railway purposes alone. In my opinion, the construction of the two berths would be reproductive and would not be ornamental like the Swan River foreshore

improvements. The Lagoon is close to the Albany Cool Stores that are now used for fruit and other commodities. We anticipate that the works will be re-modelled for the freezing of fat lambs for export. About eight months ago the Albany Chamber of Commerce approached the then Government and asked that a report should be made on the conversion of the cool stores into freezing works. The then Premier, Sir James Mitchell, sent an expert on cool storage matters and also an engineer to carry out an inspection and submit a report. I know the report was framed and submitted but what has become of it, I cannot tell. We have made repeated inquiries, but we have been unable to ascertain whether the report is in the possession of the departmental officers or is in the hands of the Government. The Albany Chamber of Commerce have asked for the report on several occasions, but we cannot get hold of it.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: It is useless freezing fat lambs at Albany if the ships cannot lift them because of the inadequacy of the shipping facilities.

Hon. C. H. WITTENOOM: If we have the lambs, the ships will lift them. We can grow the right type of lamb for export and that was proved during the last week or two when a consignment of fat lambs were sent from Mt. Barker to the Midland Junction sale yards. The report received on the lambs was that they were perfect for export and an ideal export type.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: They should go to Albany, not to Midland Junction.

Hon. C. H. WITTENOOM: I quite agree, and that is why we want freezing works at Albany. The lambs are a South Down merino cross, and dress at 30 to 36 lbs., which I understand is the correct weight. They realised an average of 21s., which is a very good price. That demonstrates that not only can perfect lambs be produced in the South-West for export purposes, but they can be made available at times when the market is best for them, which is mid-September to mid-November. We have proved that the district is capable of turning out the right type of lamb, hence our anxiety to have the cool stores converted into freezing works. There is one other matter to which I desire to refer, and that is in connection with the Western Australian Woollen Mills at Albany. The com-

pany received great consideration at the hands of the Mitchell Government, and of the Collier Government who were in office before the advent of that Administration. I hope that the present Government and the Government Tender Board will extend similar consideration to the mills. The quality of the material produced at the mills is excellent. It is quite common for people in various parts of the Commonwealth, who are in a position to know, to inform the management that the cloth manufactured at the mills at Albany is not excelled elsewhere in Australia. We have been told that repeatedly. The cloth compares more than favourably regarding wool materials, which we are told are absolutely first-class. What is perhaps the best proof of that fact is that large quantities are sent to the Eastern States in competition with the output of the larger mills there and we are able to compete not only on the basis of quality but on that of price as well. The company are very fortunate in the manager who is in control of the works and we could not possibly get a better one. The mills are working overtime to comply with the orders. We have an excellent staff and the employees are nearly all young Western Australians who have adapted themselves to the work easily and well. We are using nothing but Collie coal although formerly we did use some Newcastle coal. I support the second reading of the Bill.

**HON. J. T. FRANKLIN** (Metropolitan) [9.58]: I congratulate you, Mr. President, on the results of your trip to the Old Country, and the excellent work you carried out in the interests of the State. On every possible occasion you spoke in glowing terms of this glorious part of the Commonwealth. That is what we require of our public men, more especially from men who hold such a high and important position as you do. I congratulate my old friend, the Chief Secretary, and also Mr. Kitson, on once more assuming the duties of Ministerial office. I have vivid recollections of my advent to the House, when I went to Mr. Drew for advice, and found him at all times willing and anxious to assist me. I thank him for what he did for me then, and I know he will carry on along the same lines as he did in the past. Everyone who has spoken this evening has referred in glowing terms to the appointment of the Lieut.-Governor. I



am pleased that a native-born Western Australian has been appointed to that office. While I am of the opinion that the Governor should come from the Old Country, if we are to have a local man, I do not think the Government—in fact, I am sure on the point—could have found one more suitable to occupy the position than Sir James Mitchell. I congratulate the people of Western Australia on the appointment. When we read the newspapers and get into touch with Ministers, we realise that they have a very difficult task before them. I consider, however, that they are going about their task in a workmanlike manner. They are getting all the information possible and securing advice from all sections of the people. The Minister for Employment adopted a very wise course when he appointed an Economic Council to assist and advise him of the possibility of finding work for the unemployed. That is what I have advocated all my life; a round-table conference can get further than if the parties concerned stand aloof. I expect good results to follow the conferences being held. The Minister for Works proposes to expend a large sum of money on the Perth-Fremantle-road. While I do not wish to be parochial, I believe that though the money could be spent there to advantage, it might better be used to widen and strengthen the Canning Bridge or erect a new bridge. Then heavy motor lorries should be prohibited from using the road on the north side of the river. The Canning-road cost over £120,000 and carries very little traffic, whereas all the heavy traffic should take that road. I understand that the engineer who built it believed it was intended to carry the heavy motors, and that is why such a substantial road was constructed. In the near future the bridge over the Canning River will have to be strengthened or a new structure erected. This would be an opportune time to undertake the work, and less expenditure would be required than is proposed to outlay on the Perth-Fremantle-road. I do not wish to prevent any suburb between Perth and Fremantle from obtaining good roads, but members will agree that the existing road is quite passable, and will last for a number of years. Complaint has been made about the Minister for Works resuming operations on the foreshore near the Causeway.

Hon. G. W. Miles: Would it not be better to have a sewage farm and improve the river in that way?

Hon. J. T. FRANKLIN: If we installed a sewage farm, the foreshore would still need attention. If the main stream of the river were properly cleared and given a good flow of water, the river would be cleansed and the abominable stench from the algae would be eliminated. I am firmly of opinion that some alteration should be made to the sewage bed in the river.

Hon. G. W. Miles: If it were removed from the river, it would prevent the growth of algae.

Hon. J. T. FRANKLIN: From the septic tanks on the hill to the sea at Wanneroo there is a fall of 8 feet. I do not believe in pumping the sewage into the Canning district and then returning the effluent to the river. A sewage farm should be established at Wanneroo where settlement is sparse and where there is a great area of land that could be fertilised to grow vegetables and fodder. In Melbourne considerable profit is made out of a sewage farm which is 25 miles from the city. If a sewage farm at Wanneroo did not prove successful, all that would be necessary would be to carry the effluent into the sea at some distance from Fremantle and the other beach resorts.

*[The Deputy President took the Chair.]*

Hon. G. W. Miles: That would be a reproductive work.

Hon. J. T. FRANKLIN: It would provide work for the unemployed and would be reproductive. In addition, the suburbs from Perth to Midland Junction would have an opportunity to instal the sewerage system. The ex-Minister for Works is deserving of credit for the improvements effected to the Causeway. Some people contend that a new structure should have been built. That, however, was estimated to cost about £250,000, whereas by widening and strengthening, the existing Causeway has been made suitable for traffic for the next 20 years, at considerably less cost, which was a good business proposition. Regarding the sending out of prospecting parties, the present Government and the late Government should be congratulated on their efforts to put the unemployed to profitable work. I still have faith in Western Aus-

tralia; I believe it will continue in the fore as a gold producer, and that it will pull not only this State but the Eastern States out of the mire. Western Australia did that 40 years ago, and I believe it is possible, by the progressive manner in which the Minister for Mines is trying to develop our auriferous areas, that history may be repeated. I am diffident of speaking about the North, because I realise that I shall be treading on dangerous ground. I acknowledge that I do not know much about the North. I am pleased that we have such capable members on the Advisory Committee. If we leave matters in their hands, I believe they will formulate a scheme that will be advantageous to that part of the State.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: We have reported to the Government, and cannot do anything more.

Hon. J. T. FRANKLIN: We do not know anything about the report. I think it should be published for our information.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: It was laid on the Table last October.

Hon. J. T. FRANKLIN: Such a report should be of inestimable value to the State. I have sufficient confidence in the committee to believe that their report, if adopted, would prove successful. We should assist the Government by passing the Supply Bill to-night, and I do not wish to delay the House unduly. There is one matter however, to which I must refer, and that is the recent vote on secession. Everybody, including the Commonwealth Government, must realise the significance of that vote at the referendum. When we have a two to one majority, there is no doubt what the people want. At this juncture one might reasonably express the hope that from the Supply which is now being granted, adequate provision will be made to send the most able and representative delegation to London in support of the case for secession. Since Federation is costing us over £2,000,000 annually, the expense of the delegation, however great it may be, is fully warranted. In 1890 the population of the State numbered only 46,000 and the total amount of Consolidated Revenue for the year was less than £500,000. If the Legislative Council of that day thought fit, as it did, to spend £3,000 in sending three delegates to London

to assist in securing Responsible Government for Western Australia, surely the Government and the Parliament of the present day will not be found lacking in due appreciation of the importance—indeed the necessity—of sending three or more delegates to London to assist in securing secession. The delegates of 1890 successfully withstood searching cross-examination before a select committee of the House of Commons, and they triumphed in securing Responsible Government for Western Australia. The question to-day is somewhat more involved and complicated than was the question in 1890, but we have the men capable of handling it and, if we send the right men to London, I entertain no doubt that this State will secure its freedom from Federation. It is a duty which we owe to the State and the people of Western Australia, and, as I have already stated, the expenditure is more than warranted. The delegation in 1890 consisted of Sir T. Cockburn-Campbell, Mr. S. H. (afterwards Sir Henry) Parker, and Governor Broome. I maintain that after the emphatic vote given on secession, we are losing valuable time by not sending a delegation to England to present the case to the Imperial Government so that the people of Western Australia will know exactly where they stand. The Government should take the first opportunity of giving effect to the wishes of the people. I earnestly recommend that two or three delegates be sent without delay, men of known ability, men we can trust, and let us have the question settled once and for all.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: You are expecting a lot from the Imperial Government.

Hon. J. T. FRANKLIN: Yes: I am expecting justice for Western Australia and I am expecting that the wishes of the two to one majority will be recognised and given effect to. I support the second reading.

**HON. H. V. PIESSE** (South-East) [9.16]: First of all I wish to congratulate the President on his return to Western Australia and upon the excellent work he did, while in the Old Country, in keeping this great State of ours before the British people. May I be permitted to congratulate the Chief Secretary on his appointment as Leader of this Chamber. I well remember, when I was quite a youth, my father fre-

quently saying that he was "always so friendly with Mr. Drew." We all know that he is looked up to by everybody: and I am quite certain that from all sides he will receive the best possible support as Leader. Further, I wish to congratulate Mr. Kitson on his appointment as Honorary Minister. In Mr. Kitson, I feel sure, we have an able, honest and conscientious assistant to Mr. Drew. The appointment of Sir James Mitchell as Lieut.-Governor is one that to me as a Western Australian is most pleasing. I commend Mr. Collier and his Ministers on having recommended the appointment, which undoubtedly has gratified the Western Australian people. Moreover, Sir James Mitchell will be ably assisted by his good wife, Lady Mitchell, in carrying out the duties of the position. Let me also express thanks to Mr. Baxter for the help he gave to this Chamber, and particularly to new members, during last session. I know that his assistance was most useful to me, and I specially thank him for it. I am glad to see Mr. Baxter return to the Chamber in good health. Now I wish to refer to the case of the Albany lumpers, who have made many requests for small allocations of farming land in areas varying from 20 to 30 acres. From this morning's newspaper I learn that there is talk about establishing such small farms at Spearwood. This course was suggested by me 12 months ago, as the lumpers at Albany no longer had permanent work. The seasonal work at Albany is now practically completed, and the lumpers there will have to go on sustenance for the next three or four months, unless some unforeseen occurrence, such as the burning of a collier last year, gives them work unexpectedly. Let us hope that such events as that which I have mentioned will not recur. If small farms were allocated to these lumpers, they could improve them in their spare time, and run poultry and keep a few cows. Then there would no longer be the spectacle to be seen in Albany of numerous lumpers sitting on the terrace waiting for some work to turn up: they would have an additional occupation which would greatly improve their financial position. I agree with Mr. Wittenoom that the Albany wharves are in a bad state of repair. This applies especially to the town jetty, which used to serve its purpose for interstate steamers, but latterly such vessels as the "Karoola" and the "Katoomba"

have found it utterly impossible to berth alongside that jetty. This fact causes much heavier expense in the handling of goods, and prevents passengers by the boats from visiting Albany and viewing the town and the scenery. One feature of the Governor's Speech upon which I desire to commend the Government is the proposed legislation dealing with aborigines. Having just completed, in company with other members, a tour of the province I represent, I can certify that every centre brought this most important matter before the party making the tour. Undoubtedly the condition of the aborigines largely is deplorable. At the Williams River some little time ago 60 or 70 of these unfortunate people were camped in slush and mud. The camp was simply a disgrace. At Gnowangerup and Tambellup, respectively, 350 and 150 natives are now being supplied with rations. Those two centres are desirous of retaining the natives in their districts, and they have asked the Government to set aside a certain area of land in order that the aborigines may have the opportunity of cultivating small portions and thus assisting to maintain themselves.

Member: Are all these full-blooded aborigines?

Hon. H. V. PIESSE: No; there is a large number of half-castes. As regards the half-castes, there is one matter I wish to impress upon the Minister. I know a half-caste who has been practically living as a white man, under white man's conditions. When standing for election about 12 months ago I visited Ongerup, and learnt that about 50 or 60 sheep were being lost there every week through native dogs. The half-caste I have alluded to was sent out to the centre, and on my recent tour I learnt that not a sheep was now being lost through dogs, this half-caste having caught practically every dog doing damage there. I was further informed, however, that this half-caste was not allowed by the Government to hold a gun license. Here was a man doing great service to the community, clearing a district of such a scourge as native dogs, and yet refused a gun license! In many instances the half-caste is not allowed to assist in maintaining himself and his family by the use of a gun. In my opinion the law relating to marsupials should be so amended as to abolish the royalty on skins. This would give a great impetus to the killing of kangaroo and brush.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: That is a matter to be done by regulation.

Hon. H. V. PIESSE: A Carolup farmer, having a property on the other side of Cherry Tree Pool, 20 miles from Katanning, informed me that there were 120 kangaroos in one of his paddocks. Five years ago the man would not have had more than five or six there. Undoubtedly the abolition of the royalty would greatly assist towards eradication of the pest. Travelling 2,200 miles in order to become acquainted with the province I represent, other members and I were requested at every centre to try to secure the abolition of the royalty. I wish also to thank the Minister for Employment on his prompt action regarding reforestation at Wagin. Only a little time ago Mr. Kenneally visited Wagin and promised to go into the reforestation question. By this morning's paper I notice that the work has been started. In the Great Southern district there are many areas which could be used for the same purpose, but none so suitable as the area near Wagin, which is large and adjoins other reserves that the local road board are prepared to transfer to the Forests Department for this excellent purpose. Mallet bark and sandalwood are being planted.

Hon. G. W. Miles: And jam.

Hon. H. V. PIESSE: During my term of membership I have come in close contact with the good work of the Main Roads Board, on which I must congratulate the board and their officers. Unquestionably the officials operating in the province I represent give excellent attention to all requests put before them. Bridges in particular are essential, although in many cases they may not be on main roads. Now, the Kulin district is cut off from the main road because it has not a bridge near Yealering. During three or four months of winter it is utterly impossible to get through from Kulin to Pingelly; one has to go right round through Wickiepin and Narrogin. I understand that an engineer has examined the plans for a proposed bridge and reported favourably on the work. Operations of this kind would give employment to married men at country centres. From election speeches of Labour candidates I understand that it is the intention of their party to find as much work as possible for married men in the centres

of which they are residents. I commend the idea as excellent. Along the Great Southern railway the Main Roads Board are finding work in the various towns and retaining the married men there. Let me congratulate the Minister for Health on the excellent work being done throughout Western Australia by his department. Undoubtedly the hospital accommodation available throughout the State to-day is excellent. Admittedly requests are often made for free hospital treatment on the ground that a hospital tax is paid, and these requests cannot often be granted; but there is no doubt that the money collected through the hospital tax does excellent work in furnishing funds to pay pound for pound subsidies towards the erection of small hospitals and even of large ones. I desire likewise to give praise to the Public Works Department on the excellent job they have made of the school lately built at Mt. Barker. The structure is of Western Australian wood, and the stone in it has been quarried from the hills alongside Mt. Barker. The building is as fine a bit of work and as well constructed a place as one could wish to see for the housing of school children. The department are to be congratulated on an excellent work.

Hon. G. Fraser: You are throwing a lot of bouquets around to-night.

Hon. H. V. PIESSE: I have not been looking in the hon. member's direction. I support the Bill before the House.

*[The President resumed the Chair.]*

**THE CHIEF SECRETARY** (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central—in reply) [9.30]: In the first place let me thank hon. members for their kind congratulations on my elevation once more to the position of Leader of the House. It will always be my effort, whether in that office or whether as a private member, to so comport myself as to retain the goodwill of hon. members, one and all. I have also to express my appreciation of the unvarying courtesy I experienced at the hands of the previous Leader, the Hon. C. F. Baxter, and it was a pleasure to me, as I expressed to him personally from time to time, to witness the effectiveness with which he handled the vast volume of intricate legislation which came before him during his three years of office. I am pleased with the apparent desire of members to pass the Supply Bill with reasonable expedition. If

there has been some debate this time, we must set off against that the fact that the Address-in-reply was concluded in the briefest time on record. Mr. Cornell raised a question which has my sympathy, and the sympathy of the Government, and that is the problem of providing railway facilities as early as possible for those farmers who, on the strength of assurances, took up and successfully cultivated land thirty miles or so from a railway station or siding. The first thought, which would come to the mind of one who was not acquainted with all the circumstances, is that this is no time to go in for railway construction? The position, however, is this: The Government have a large number of men who are either on sustenance, or who have been engaged in various works that have been, or will soon be, completed. There is over £2,000,000 of Loan Funds, which have to be spent in the relief of unemployment, and we consider that, as far as possible, this money should be utilised in creating definite assets of some sort or kind. It will not be denied that a railway is a definite asset if it will serve country which has been proved, in a practical manner, to be suitable for successful wheat-growing, and if the area of good land is of sufficient extent to warrant the expenditure. Apart from the Balla-Dartmoor, one of the railways mentioned by Mr. Cornell has been, and is, receiving the serious consideration of the Government. More than that I cannot say at the present time. Of course, it will be recognised that the purchase of rails for any line is out of the question now. Where railway construction is justified in the interests of the State, the preparation of the earthworks could be proceeded with, and a means thus provided of not only creating what would develop into an asset, but would give useful reproductive work to a number of men. Personally, I agree with Mr. Thomson in his advocacy of a public works committee with statutory authority. The Labour Government, during 1911 to 1916, introduced such a measure no fewer than three times, but unfortunately, it did not give satisfaction and it was rejected. If a sound measure of this kind had been enacted 21 years ago, when the Scaddan Government introduced it, I am satisfied that, in the intervening period, some millions would have been saved to the Government. This is not an official

pronouncement; it is merely my personal view.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: It has not worked out elsewhere.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: There will always be complaints, no matter how efficiently the machine may work. If members will think back over the last 21 years they will admit that on many occasions, if such a proposal had become law, unwarranted expenditure would have been avoided by means of a prior thorough investigation. The sad plight of unemployed boys, as referred to by Mr. Thomson, has, I am sure, been brought home to every member. As for myself, during the last four years, I have been regularly interviewed by mothers asking me to do something to assist in getting their sons a job. Boys and young men from 16 to 22 years of age have approached me to seek work. This is one of the questions which will no doubt engage the attention of the Economic Council, a body well qualified to assist in the solution of the problem. Still, the apprenticeship question has nothing to do with the situation that has arisen. There is no demand for apprentices. In fact, employers have been regularly approaching the Court to get release from the apprenticeship bond to which they were parties. Mr. Thomson's criticism on this point was unjustified.

There is little demand even for men who have learned their trade. Hundreds of them are out of work. But, under a scheme prepared by the Government, many of them will be given employment in their various avocations. In the metropolitan area there are public buildings and schools which have not known paint for a dozen years or over, and there are repairs of all kinds calling for attention. Tradesmen will be employed to do the work—which really means preserving the assets of the State. It is far better that this should be done than that these skilled tradesmen should be put on to labourers' work, to which they are unaccustomed. The reclamation of the Swan River foreshore has been attacked by Mr. Thomson. It is one of the works which provide a larger expenditure on labour and a lesser expenditure on material than most of the other undertakings, and those employed are men who would otherwise be on sustenance. It will transform the breeding ground of insects and a prolific source of algae into areas of land of great value in the future.

The proposal is to spend £12,000 on the work during the year, £1,000 of which will be contributed by the Perth City Council. It is estimated that of the total expenditure, 82.5 per cent. will be paid out in wages and the balance will be expended on materials, the approximate figures being £9,675 for wages, £1,065 for local materials, and £1,260 for imported materials.

Of the expenditure on material, 25 per cent. will be used for the purchase of Collie coal. This reclamation work is certainly desirable in order to clean up the objectionable conditions existing at the Causeway, and, furthermore, the reclaimed land will become a valuable asset of the State. The completion of the work will undoubtedly add to the value of property adjoining the areas reclaimed.

Mr. Thomson referred to the remarks of the Minister for Works in regard to the suggested reconstruction of the road between Perth and Fremantle. As the money for this work—if it be undertaken—will come out of the Metropolitan Pool into which the metropolitan traffic fees are paid, the question is one that does not vitally concern people in the country, who will be penalised in no way as a result. If such a scheme is seriously propounded by the Minister for Works, it will be for the people concerned to raise an objection, if there is any opposition to the proposal. I fail to see, however, that there is any justification for anyone else to enter into the matter at all. I am aware that the reservation of areas on our goldfields alluded to by Mr. Seddon are not popular in those centres. However, they have been made from time to time, by different Ministers for Mines in both National and Labour Governments with the endorsement of Cabinets. Some time ago I travelled through the Murchison, when the Mitchell Government were in office. I interviewed prospectors and discussed the reservations problem with them, and I came to the conclusion that the attitude they took up was the correct one. I wrote a strong letter to the then Minister for Mines and gave him a report of a deputation that had waited upon me and had protested against the attitude he had taken up. In his reply the Minister (Mr. Scaddan) gave me a very satisfactory explanation, which I accepted, and I let the matter drop because I was convinced that his attitude had been right in the interests of the State. These reservations do not re-

present any new thing. They have been made, as I have already pointed out, by various Governments from time to time and have been approved not only by the various Ministers for Mines, but by Cabinets, as being in the interests of the State. The reservations are approved after full investigation, and after the Minister is satisfied that only big companies could successfully operate on the areas proposed to be reserved. This is done only after a strict agreement has been entered into between the Minister and the other parties concerned. I may remark here that the Wiluna gold mine would be an abandoned shaft today, if it had not been protected for some years. And no one except a powerful company profitably could work that property. Yet there were frequent complaints against Governments for continuing the protection which has produced such great results. Mr. Seddon favours a superannuation scheme, and many will admit the necessity for it. But, for financial reasons, it is out of the question at present. It is something, however, that might well be kept in mind when brighter days come. Also Mr. Seddon wishes for some information about the Economic Council. I think he desires to know the extent of its powers. Necessarily, it is an advisory body, but it is a fully representative council of capable men whose advice will be of great help. It is functioning without any friction whatever, and I am in a position to say that the Minister for Employment has great faith in it, and is confident that it will render good service to the Government and the State.

Mr. Seddon thinks the expenditure from Loan Funds on prospecting is not justified. But a similar effort made by the previous Government had encouraging results; a satisfactory proportion of the money advanced was repaid, and repaid from what was got out of the ground, the production of new wealth. All the men who go out have to sign an agreement under which the whole, or part of the proceeds of any stone treated may, at the discretion of the Minister, be deducted from the result of the treatment and applied towards repayment of the money advanced. If only one good gold mine be discovered by reason of the operation of that scheme, the State will be well compensated for the expenditure incurred. The Government are assisting prospectors

who are practically destitute to the extent of 15s. per week for sustenance, the loan of tools, and rail fares to the fields. After the men have taken up a prospecting area, and it is considered necessary, fracture is supplied. The prospectors are sent out in parties of two, three or four men, and the department insists that one of the men shall have had experience. The scheme applies only to gold prospecting, and does not take in base metals. Two supervisors have been appointed, one from the Murchison district and one from the Eastern, Mt. Margaret and Mt. Malcolm fields. The prospectors are scattered over various goldfield districts. It is hoped that a good combing of these districts will be effected and that new finds will be unearthed. Up to date the reports are very satisfactory, and already several promising discoveries have been indicated. The Western Mining Corporation has stated that it is desirous of encouraging prospecting, and will give every assistance possible to prospectors on their reserves, including provision for water supplies, explosives and advice, the only obligation on prospectors being a first refusal of the purchase of any discoveries made, at a price not greater than they would ask from other investors.

I have noted Mr. Seddon's statement in reference to the shortage of houses on the goldfields. The matter has already come under the notice of the Government, but I am not in a position just now to say what action it is proposed to take. I will, however, forward an extract of this portion of the hon. member's speech to the Minister in control of Workers' Homes.

Like Mr. Holmes on the Address-in-reply, Mr. R. G. Moore on the Bill draws attention to the quarantine regulation under which a number of pastoralists in the North are threatened with ruin. Though their cattle are free from disease, the owners cannot move them from the station on which they have been bred. Already an investigation has been made, as a result of which it is learned that the position is more acute than was supposed. The Minister for Agriculture is very anxious to find a way out of the difficulty, and he fully realises the unfortunate position of these pastoralists.

Mr. Hamersley wants to know what amount of this Supply will be available to help the settlers in the fencing of their

properties. In reply I wish to point out that no provision in this direction is made under the Bill. Nor is it necessary that it should be. The amount requisite for the purpose is amply provided for under the Wire and Wire Netting Act, 1926. Under this Act an agreement was made with the Commonwealth Government, whereby an amount of £101,157 10s. was to be made available to the State Government annually for a period of six years for the purchase and supply of wire and wire netting to settlers. The agreement expired on the 30th June last. Under the contract entered into by both Governments, the State is to purchase wire and wire netting and supply it to settlers on easy terms of repayment. The repayments are based on a term of 25 years with a half-yearly instalment of £3 10s. per £100 worth of netting supplied. Interest and principal are included in the instalment. A mortgage is taken over the property to be netted in order to secure the debt.

Hon. G. W. Miles: Has that been renewed?

The CHIEF SECRETARY: No, it has not. During the currency of the agreement, the State Government were unable to utilise the full amount available. The actual amount drawn was £429,630. Over £100,000 of this sum is still available. It is scarcely necessary to remind members that, although the Commonwealth Government advances the money the State Government have to take all responsibility for repayment.

Mr. Hamersley further asks how much from the Supply Bill is to be devoted towards pursuing further the decision of the people in connection with the referendum on secession. Perhaps I shall make myself clear if I say that this Bill simply provides for a continuance, in the same volume, of the expenditure authorised under last year's Estimates. As there was expenditure under last year's Estimates in connection with the referendum, it can be assumed that the money likely to be required until the end of this month will be covered by this Bill. The Government's intentions with regard to the referendum are briefly set out in the speech of the Lieut.-Governor, and no doubt when the proposed legislation is introduced the position will be clearly defined.

Mr. Mann stresses the advisability of rebuilding Caves House, which was destroyed by fire. That work has been held over for a long period owing to lack of funds. A portion of the proceeds from the insurance received was spent in rehabilitating the house, the balance being held in trust by the Treasury. No doubt, if there had been sufficient money available to cover the cost of the building, including equipment, the work would have been undertaken and completed soon after the fire occurred.

Mr. Mann, when referring to veterinary services in the South-West, stated that Colonel Le Souef had no method of transport other than the railways. This statement is incorrect as Colonel Le Souef is in receipt of an allowance of £175 per annum to cover travelling expenses and cost of running a motor car, which he was required to provide. This officer is not expected to furnish veterinary assistance except in cases of emergency. His duties are to instruct and advise settlers. His headquarters are at Margaret River and his activities are limited to the Agricultural Bank districts of Busselton and Manjimup, including Northcliffe. Owing to a revival in the use of horses, the demand for the services of veterinary surgeons has increased to such an extent that suitable practitioners are able to obtain a much better income from private practice, and are therefore not willing to accept Government appointments. Quite recently, the Public Service Commissioner advertised, both in this State and in the East, for a veterinary surgeon to be attached to the Stock Branch of the Department for Agriculture for service in the South-West. The result was failure to receive any applications from persons considered to be equipped in all respects for the position. It is hoped that a suitable man may be available after the final examinations for veterinary surgeons which will be held in Sydney later in the year. If such a man is not obtainable, then it may be necessary to advertise overseas. The Chief Veterinary Officer has advocated the formation of farmers' clubs, the members of such clubs to subscribe toward the subsidising of veterinary surgeons. In such circumstances the members of the clubs would, of course, have first call on the services of the veterinary surgeons. It is not thought advisable that these practitioners should be subsidised by the Government. If they were, they would

be expected to administer the Stock Diseases Act. This would, in all probability, alienate them from their clients to such an extent that remuneration from that source would almost cease. Other matters have been referred to; several were dealt with on the Address-in-reply. With them I shall deal later. There has not been time to get all the information necessary, but I have taken action to get it and will do my best to clear the atmosphere. As to the questions raised regarding the appointment of the Lieut.-Governor, I am not going to take part in any political discussion affecting Governors or Lieut.-Governors. I have been many years a member of Parliament, and not until this session has such a question been broached. I regret that it has been introduced by members of Parliament. Only once in Australia, I think, was action taken, and an appointment discussed, and that was the appointment of a Governor in Queensland. There was a protest from both the Premier of the State and the Leader of the Opposition, because there was something connected with the appointee's career that did not appeal to them, and there were good grounds in that case for a discussion and probably a protest. The Imperial Government, however, would take no action, and a solution was found by the gentleman ultimately resigning. That was one case in the history of Australia, a case in which perhaps the circumstances justified a discussion on the floor of the House, but I certainly am not going to be drawn into the matter to any greater extent than members have succeeded in inducing me to go. I shall do my best to supply information in every other respect.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### *Standing Orders Suspension.*

On motion by the Chief Secretary, Standing Orders suspended to enable the Bill to be passed through its remaining stages at the present sitting.

#### *In Committee, etc.*

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

#### *Third Reading.*

Bill read a third time, and *passed*.



**ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.**

**THE CHIEF SECRETARY** (Hon J. M. Drew—Central) [10.11]: 1 move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday next, 5th August.

Question put and passed.

*House adjourned at 10.12 p.m.*

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**Legislative Assembly.**

*Tuesday, 1st August, 1933.*

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Address-in-reply, seventh day ...	...	...	...	Page 212
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The **SPEAKER** took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

**ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.**

*Seventh Day.*

Debate resumed from 27th July.

**MR. LAMBERT** (Yilgarn-Coolgardie) [4.34]: I desire to join with other members in congratulating you, Mr. Speaker, on your elevation. I feel confident that, like those who have preceded you in your high office, you will uphold the traditions surrounding it. Also I wish to refer to the loss, either by death or election defeat, of some of those who were so familiar with the House in recent years. Particularly do I deplore the death of the late Mr. T. A. L. Davy, who endeared himself to all of us by his charming and graceful personality, and his many other qualities and capabilities. I would refer with feelings of pleasure to the speeches on the Address-in-reply that we have heard from new members. While it is more or less traditional to regret the passing of some of the older members, we must admit that the speeches delivered by

new members have been of so high an order as would lead us to believe that those members are destined to play a useful part in the public life of the State. On the other hand, one could not conscientiously suggest that the speeches delivered by the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the National Party need be printed upon gold. In the State-wide problems with which we are confronted, generalities can hardly carry a great deal of constructive worth, and are not likely to get us very far. In a sense, I admired the able speech delivered by the Leader of the National Party, but in his flights of oratory he carried us into mid-air and there left us dangling, with the conviction that he himself believed that some of the generalities in which he indulged would solve, at all events, a few of the problems with which the State is faced. He went to considerable pains to criticise the pre-election speeches of the then Leader of the Opposition, and alleged that what he termed specious promises made by the then Leader of the Opposition had led to the defeat of the then Government. If not declared in actual words, at all events that was implied. May I remind the hon. member that, prior to the making of any supposed pre-election promises that would be likely to influence the electors, there was a conspicuous mutiny in the ranks of the Nationalist Party, and the lieutenant of that party not only mutinied, but eventually scuttled the ship. To-day we see him trying to discipline the remnant of his crew. Of course, under his capable leadership there is just a possibility that, notwithstanding that regrettable episode in the life of the previous Government, he may yet rally his forces. It is remarkable how the present state of affairs has created all kinds of political economists from A to Z, from Ananias to Zola, not forgetting our Dick Turpin of Australian finance, Professor Shann. At all events, at present there is so little doing for the Professor of Economics at the W.A. University that he can be relieved from duty in order to place his wide knowledge, both theoretical and practical, of world economics at the service of the World Economic Conference. If the economists there attending were all of the same degree of learning as is possessed by Professor Shann, the conspicuous results reached by that conference are not to be