

Hon. G. W. MILES: If this is to apply to the whole State it would be better to provide for 30 days.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: The clause says that "at least fourteen days" notice must be given. The provision for 21 days will be the minimum and a court would take into consideration the circumstances and would give a long period if necessary. We cannot expect to set out exactly what is necessary to meet every case coming within the purview of an Act of Parliament. For that reason minimum periods are provided and we rely on the court to give reasonable notice.

Hon. H. STEWART: In this instance, the period of notice is specified, but when it was a case of dealing with other parties who may be interested, we did not make such a provision in an earlier clause.

The Minister for Education: I have made a note of that point.

Amendment put and passed.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: I move an amendment—

That in line 4 of Subclause 4 "notice" be struck out and the word "summons" inserted in lieu.

Obviously, the provision to be made refers to a summons and not to a notice.

Amendment put and passed; the clause as amended agreed to.

Clause 45—Matters to be considered by the board:

Hon. J. W. KIRWAN: The clause could be made more explicit as to the matters to be reviewed by the board. It should be made clear that they are to consider the suitability of the premises for the accommodation and convenience of the public. I move an amendment—

That in paragraph (b) of Subclause (2), after "conducted" the words "as a place of accommodation and refreshment for the public" be inserted.

Amendment put and passed; the clause as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 46 and 47—agreed to.

Progress reported.

House adjourned at 10.45 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Wednesday, 15th November, 1922.

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

QUESTION—JOLIMONT FLOODS.

Mr. RICHARDSON asked the Premier: 1, Is it the intention of the Government to pay compensation to those residents of Jolimont who have suffered by reason of the flood waters? 2, If so, when?

The PREMIER replied: 1, Yes. 2, Immediately the compensation due to each claimant is ascertained. The inquiries are in progress.

QUESTION—FEDERAL MINISTER, POLICE PROTECTION.

Hon. W. C. ANGIN asked the Premier: Were the Government of the opinion that the residents of Fremantle and district were so incensed at the treatment meted out to Western Australia by the Commonwealth Government that they considered it advisable to send six policemen to protect a Commonwealth Minister when addressing a meeting at Fremantle on the evening of Monday, 13th November.

The PREMIER replied: No.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

On motion by Mr. Mullany, leave of absence for two weeks granted to Mrs. Cowan (West Perth) and to Mr. Royland (Kalgoorlie) on the ground of ill-health.

BILLS (2)—THIRD READING.

- 1, Pearling Act Amendment.
 - 2, Agricultural Bank Act Amendment.
- Transmitted to the Council.

BILL—INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE ACT CONTINUANCE.

Second Reading.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (Hon. H. K. Maley—Greenough) [4.36] in moving the second reading said: This is the

usual Bill to authorise the continuance of the Act for another term. Members are fully au fait with the necessity for continuing the Act. As the operations of the I.A.B. are being investigated by a select committee of this House, it would perhaps be inadvisable at this juncture to say anything more than is necessary to formally introduce the Bill. I assume that members of the select committee, of which the member for North-East Fremantle (Hon. W. C. Angwin) is chairman, will soon finalise their inquiry and members will then have an opportunity to learn the exact position of the board as ascertained by the select committee. The present Act will expire on the 31st March, 1923, and the continuance will be for a further period of 12 months. It is necessary to keep practically a year ahead, as Parliament will not be sitting when the Act expires and the continuation of the measure requires statutory authority. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. P. Collier, debate adjourned.

BILL—LAND ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

Hon. M. F. TROY (Mt. Magnet) [4.39]: From the opportunities I have had to consider the Bill, I do not think there is anything objectionable in it excepting Clause 6, which apparently gives the Government power to fix a higher rate of interest than 5 per cent.

The Premier: To prescribe a higher rate.

Hon. M. F. TROY: Yes. This is in connection with improvements on property which may be selected or resumed. I take it this applies to pastoral leases in the South-West area.

The Premier: Yes.

Hon. M. F. TROY: Some of them are being cut up. This clause will give the Government power to alter the rate of interest charged to the selector on the cost of improvements. I do not think such an alteration would be warranted without some special information being tendered in support of it. Such improvements would have been made very cheaply and when money could be borrowed very cheaply, and it is unreasonable that the selector should be handicapped by the interposition of high rates of interest. I do not suppose a lower rate will be fixed; the intention no doubt is to increase it, and this being so, the people who take over pastoral leases will be compelled to pay more than a fair thing in the way of interest. These resumptions have to be made sooner or later, and if 12 men can be settled where only one man is settled at present, it will be unwise to make the conditions impossible for the new selectors. The Bill also gives the Government power to allot land to settlers without

their going before the board. From what I can learn from group settlers, and from men I have been instrumental in sending to group settlements, they become attached to certain areas, either by sentiment or predilection, and if they have to go before a board, they might be turned down and disappointed.

The Minister for Agriculture: They have to ballot for the blocks.

Hon. M. F. TROY: But if disappointed, they might receive a check, and decide not to go on with the business. If the State is to receive value from the improvements made on group settlements, it is desirable that the man who gets the land is the man who wants it, who is prepared to go on with it and who is satisfied with it, the man who says "This is the bit of land I want; I shall be able to make good on it." A man of that description is more likely to do well than if he is put on a block for which he has no liking.

Mr. O'Loughlen: It is not possible for them to get the choice of blocks.

Hon. M. F. TROY: But men become attached to a certain locality. A man who was sent to the Busselton district was not present when the ballot was taken, but his name was put in and he secured a good block. He is quite satisfied with his block and has become attached to it. That is the beginning of successful settlement. A man must be satisfied and be determined to make good. The proposal to give people the title without submitting a block to auction in connection with workers' homes in country towns may have its defects and may lead to favouritism, particularly where the supply is not equal to the demand. If there are a large number of applicants for a worker's home in a country town, unless the claims of all can be heard by some board, there is bound to be a lot of dissatisfaction. I know it is difficult to have these matters determined by a board. When people go to a town, it would be a good thing to have the house ready for them; but when we realise that the supply is not equal to the demand, and that for every worker's home in a country town there will probably be 10 applicants, unless means are provided to judge the claims of the 10 applicants, there is bound to be dissatisfaction. I do not know whether the Premier has considered that aspect, but that is how it appeals to me. I am glad to notice that workers' homes are to be erected in the country towns. There is undoubtedly a need for those homes, for I know of cases where civil servants and others have been compulsorily transferred to country districts and have been compelled to leave their families. I know of instances where husbands have been separated from their wives for long periods, the husband having to go to the country and the wife remaining at home in the city. That is a most undesirable state of affairs, particularly from the standpoint of domestic happiness. I am one of those who believe that husband and wife should be together as far as

possible. From the standpoint of population, it is also undesirable that husband and wife should be kept apart, as I have indicated. When a couple are married, they should not be separated particularly in these degenerate days, when opportunities for breaking the marriage tie are so abundant. I have come into contact with a number of men who are in the unfortunate position of not being able to keep two homes going.

The Premier: That is what we are seeking to avoid.

Hon. M. F. TROY: If people are to cultivate an attachment for the country areas, what hope is there in the circumstances, of achieving that result? Those who are transferred to country districts, having to be separated from their families, look upon the city as their home. That does not make for a successful development of the country districts. It is desirable to extend the erection of workers' homes to country districts and I would be sorry to do anything that would handicap the Government in that direction. Unless some provision is made to safeguard the position, charges of favouritism may arise, together with the resultant dissatisfaction, when several applications are made for the same home. I trust the Government will give consideration to that position and make arrangements to meet such circumstances should they arise. Apparently, from the remarks of the Premier, when introducing the measure, there is a doubt as to whether the Bill gives power to grant the freehold.

The Premier: It does not do that. That aspect comes under the Workers' Homes Act.

Hon. M. F. TROY: I am glad to hear the point has been cleared up. The last clause of the Bill gives the Government the right to sell the leasehold to people holding town blocks.

The Premier: That is the law now.

Hon. M. F. TROY: If that is so, why make provision in the Bill?

The Premier: Because the regulations go too far. They may extend to leases that are temporary, like the lease of a foreshore and so forth.

Hon. M. F. TROY: If that is the position it is understandable. Regarding the clause amending Section 68 which provides discretionary power to the Government to dispose of any land at not less than 1s. per acre. I presume that applies to sandplain country and if that is so, I approve of it.

The Minister for Agriculture: That is what you advocated.

Hon. M. F. TROY: That is so and at the last Labour Congress, with the assistance of other delegates, I had that proposal placed on the Labour Party's platform. I realised the necessity for some such provision. I have heard people talking about the great value attaching to sandplain country and one person said he had seen some hundreds of cattle sent on to sandplain country, and come back after a few months looking fat.

The Premier: It must have been good sand!

Hon. M. F. TROY: When that statement was made, however, it occurred to me that if the sandplain had been as good as that, it was a wonder that the man had not availed himself of the opportunity of procuring some. Unfortunately, we have too much sandplain country in Western Australia. There is good sandplain country and bad sandplain country. In a season such as the present with a light rainfall, good sandplain country will produce fine crops. I have some doubt about it though, in a heavy season. There are hundreds of thousands of acres of sandplain country in Western Australia which comprises sand without subsoil and the result is that, although vast areas of this type of country lie adjacent to the railways and are within a good rainfall area, no one will take them up. We know there is a scarcity of land adjacent to railways to-day and that a lot of people are looking for land but cannot get it. This land, although available, is not taken up because it is of no particular value. Even under existing conditions, no one could do well on sandplain country unless he held a block of good land adjacent. Such sandplain country will not keep even a few sheep all the year round. We must realise that probably the part of Western Australia within the best rainfall belt is that lying between Geraldton, Dongarra and Perth. There are hundreds of thousands of acres of sandplain country west of the Midland railway line, but although it has been available for long periods, it is still lying idle.

Mr. Davies: It is not all bad, is it?

Hon. M. F. TROY: I speak of land the hon. member has never seen. Perhaps 90 per cent. of it is bad.

Mr. Mann: The land around Wongan Hills is very light.

Hon. M. F. TROY: That may be so. I do not know that country.

Mr. C. C. Maley: The land you speak of is good grazing country, anyway.

Hon. M. F. TROY: It may be good grazing country, yet it has remained idle for many years and has not been taken up even yet. Some people have taken up a few spots and perhaps the member for Irwin has one of them.

The Minister for Agriculture: He has been busy picking the eyes out of it.

Mr. C. C. Maley: The eyes of it are not picked out at all.

Hon. M. F. TROY: Land adjacent to the coast is good sandplain country, because it has a limestone basis. Such land provides good feed, particularly in the sandplains adjacent to Perth and along the coast line. In the Greenough and Dongarra districts, the sandplain is good, because there, too, there is a limestone basis. Sandplain country which has a depth of 20 feet of sand and underneath that, rock, is of very little value at all. Country of that type is merely a breeding ground for vermin, including rabbits and emus, the latter having destroyed many acres of crop in recent times.

The Minister for Agriculture: The dingoes are bad too.

Hon. M. F. TROY: Yes, and this is always a menace to settlement. Under the present conditions, a man is charged, in addition to survey fees, 4s. 6d. an acre for this land and it is impossible to do anything with it. In my opinion, it would be better if the land were leased at a low rental or sold at a low rate. For my own part, I would prefer to see it leased. I suggest to the Government that the area should be classified and leased for 30 years or so, at a peppercorn rental with the condition that the person securing the lease should improve the holding by erecting fences, finding water, and stocking it. At the end of 30 years, when our lands are better known, the Government could re-appraise it.

Mr. C. C. Maley: What about the man who has made the improvements? Where does he come in?

Hon. M. F. TROY: He would not lose. The present lessee of a pastoral area does not lose when his lease is resumed. Arrangements are made regarding the improvements.

Mr. C. C. Maley: Suppose a man had planted his lease with lupins and so on?

Hon. M. F. TROY: The member for Irwin is going to make a speech, and I would prefer him to make it without interrupting me.

Mr. Underwood: You can make a few interjections.

Hon. M. F. TROY: There are some hon. members who think that 4s. 6d. an acre is not much to pay for this land. It must be remembered, however, that immediately a settler takes up the land at 4s. 6d. an acre, the road board officials come along and tax him on that valuation. Later, the Land Tax Commissioner values the land on the same basis with the result that the settler finds he has to shoulder three or four additional imposts, bringing up the price of the land to between 6s. and 7s. an acre.

Mr. Teesdale: What do the survey fees run at?

Hon. M. F. TROY: They would cost between 3s. 9d. and 4s. 6d. an acre. There are individuals at present holding sandplain country which they have secured free of rent for five years and they only have to pay interest on the survey fees. As soon as the five years are up, they abandon their properties. They make no improvements because they know it is impossible to do anything with the land. During the time Sir Henry Lefroy was Premier it was stated in the Governor's Speech that land selection was proceeding apace and that 300,000 acres had been taken up. The selection of that area did not mean real development because the land was taken up under the provision that no rent should be paid for five years. The result was that a lot of the land was taken up with the object of dummying. Now those areas are coming back to the Crown, because nothing was done and the people have simply abandoned them. I would prefer to see this land leased, after classification by the Government, for periods of 30 years on condition that the leaseholder shall improve the lease and at the end of 30

years, the property could revert to the Crown, the leaseholder to be paid for the improvements or else to take the land over again at a valuation. That would be a better provision. I should not like to have to clear some of the sandplain, for the heavy winds would then blow all the surface away. Sandplain is of no particular value, except as grazing country, and it takes four or five years to prepare it for that purpose. The Bill provides that the applicant must pay the survey fee at once. That may be somewhat of a handicap to the selector, but it is a very proper safeguard for the Government. Generally I approve of the Bill, because I know from experience that something ought to be done with this land, and that nothing will be done with it under present conditions.

Mr. WILLCOCK (Geraldton) [5.2]: One would have thought that a Bill which was going to make so much difference to agriculture would have either the blessing or the denunciation of the Country Party.

The Premier: If one approves of a Bill, why should he get up and talk it out?

Mr. WILLCOCK: Apparently all the Country Party members are satisfied with the Bill. In respect of the price of sandplain I, too, approve of the Bill. It will make a big difference to the development of the country. There are enormous areas of sandplain between Geraldton and Mullewa which cannot be economically worked under the existing price of 3s. 9d., but which if reduced to 1s. will certainly be utilised. It has good feeding capacity for sheep if it be treated in the right way, but if high values are placed on it, nothing can be done with it. If, as appears probable, the Country Party are unanimously in favour of the Bill, I am prepared to let the second reading go through.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Mr. Stubbs in the Chair; the Premier in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1—agreed to.

Clause 2—Amendment of Section 39:

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Where is the necessity for making in the Land Act reference to the Workers' Homes Board?

The PREMIER: Because this land is to be used for the erection of workers' homes exclusively. Under the clause, land is set aside for this specific purpose.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 3—Power to dispose of town and suburban land under the Workers' Homes Act:

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The clause gives the Governor power to make regulations to override the provisions of the Workers' Homes Act.

The Premier: No.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: It gives the Governor power to say how the land held by the Workers' Homes Board shall be disposed of, and power to the Governor means power to Ministers. I remind the Premier of the warning uttered by Mr. Pilkington, who told us the danger the State was running in legislating by regulations.

The Premier: I agree with that.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: He said we were doing more of it here than was being done in any part of the Empire. Part IV. of the Act refers principally to freehold for workers' homes. It deals also with leasehold land held by the board. The Workers' Homes Act provides for the building of homes on the alternative systems, leasehold and freehold. The Bill will enable the Government to give the Workers' Homes Board power to sell the land on which they have built a leasehold home.

The Premier: No.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Many a man has a leasehold workers' home which he obtained on splendid terms, and which he could not have secured but for the leasehold system. If this system be knocked out, other persons will be prevented from securing similar homes. In my electorate are many workers' homes costing from 15s. to 17s. per week. If they were to be thrown on the market, their cost would advance to 20s. and 30s. per week. If power be given to sell those homes, all the advantage will be to one or two who want to get rid of them.

The Premier: The Bill does not contemplate anything of the sort.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Regulations will not be framed giving power to sell leasehold homes?

The PREMIER: No. We must have the right to prescribe the conditions of payment. This only empowers the giving of special terms for the land, and that under the Land Act, not under the Workers' Homes Act. Leasehold land held under the Workers' Homes Act is dedicated for that special purpose. It is under the control of the board, not under the control of the Lands Department. The land referred to in the Bill is to be set aside for the purpose of these homes. All that we ask is that we shall not be required to put up the land for sale by public auction, and further that we shall have power to make regulations prescribing how the land is to be taken. The Bill does not affect any land dedicated under the Workers' Homes Act. It is a very troublesome business to decide how leasehold land held under the Workers' Homes Act can be converted to freehold. The land was acquired under special circumstances. Also the homes themselves are worth to-day twice as much as they originally cost.

Mr. McCallum: These provisions will only apply to land taken in accordance with this measure?

The PREMIER: Yes.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 4—Amendment of Section 68:

Hon. M. F. TROY: I move an amendment—

That all the words of the clause after "to," in line 5, be struck out, and the following inserted in lieu:—"lease for a term of 30 years land under that section, at a rental to be fixed by the Governor."

There will be a consequential amendment.

The Premier: No; the amendment will not be carried.

Hon. M. F. TROY: I think it better to lease land at a peppercorn rental for 30 years, with the condition that the holder shall improve, fence, and stock it, and provide water, than to sell the land. At the end of the 30 years the rent should be fixed on the value.

Mr. Money: That would be the value after the holder has developed the land.

Hon. M. F. TROY: The Act provides a certain minimum value of land, namely not less than 1s. per acre, plus survey fees. If at the end of 30 years the land is of no greater value, it can be re-leased; otherwise it can be re-appraised.

The PREMIER: I hope the amendment will not be carried. The value of land is subject to ever-varying laws. I do not know that there is such a vast difference between the worth of a leasehold and that of a freehold, though of course the desire is always to have freehold, and freehold is a better security. If under this measure the land were leased instead of being sold—

Mr. Harrison: There would not be the same incentive to improve it.

The PREMIER: Improvements would not be done to the same extent, even under a lease for 30 years. The proposal now is to sell land for what it costs to sell, plus survey fees and office charges; in fact, the Government sometimes get rather less than that. I think it wise to let people have the title after they have done their improvements. Moreover, it is not desirable to mix the forms of tenure.

Mr. LATHAM: I hope the Committee will reject the amendment, and I quite agree with the Premier. The mover of the amendment put up a good argument against it. To-day we have difficulty in getting people to take up these lands. The great incentive is the hope of becoming the freehold owner. I rather regret that the Premier has not seen fit to increase the area from 5,000 to 10,000 acres, because by far the greater portion of these lands are pastoral.

The Premier: A lot of that land will be ploughed.

Mr. LATHAM: There will be great difficulty in getting people to spend more money in making experiments in that direction. The present system of disposing of land is in the best interests of the State.

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 5 to 8, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

BILL—LIGHT AND AIR ACT AMENDMENT.

Council's Message.

The Assembly having amended the Bill, and the Council having modified the Assembly's amendment, the Council's modification was now considered.

In Committee.

Mr. Stubbs in the Chair; the Premier in charge of the Bill.

Assembly's amendment, Clause 2, strike out the word "exceeding" in the last line, and insert "less than" in lieu thereof:

Council's modification, strike out the following words:—"and insert 'less than' in lieu thereof:"

The PREMIER: The clause has been amended three times, and it now means what it has always meant, and what we want it to mean, namely that the light and air space is not to come within 12 feet of the alignment of the street. The clause really means that the measure cannot apply to any light and air space given outside a limit of 12 feet from the frontage of the street. In this matter I agree with the views which have been expressed by the member for North-East Fremantle. I move—

That the Council's modification be agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN: The modification means that the building, whether one likes the fact or not, must be 12 feet, not more and not less, from the alignment of the street.

The PREMIER: I think not, Sir.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I have discussed this matter with those who profess to know something about it. The mistake of the Premier, and others who think with him, is that they take the line from the land instead of from the building. The object is to prevent the erection of a building within 12 feet of the alignment of the street. The position to-day now is that the distance has been fixed at 12 feet.

The Premier: No, you are wrong.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: It will not be possible under the Council's amendment to make the distance 13 feet; it must be 12 feet. If the clause dealt with the land it might be all right, but it deals with the building.

The Premier: It deals with the light and air space.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: If the words "less than" were left in, it would be possible to go as far back as one would like. The clause could have been framed differently so as to make it clear. The idea of the Council was to prevent the creating of open spaces from the air shaft to the street, which it was feared might become places for loitering.

The PREMIER: The Act which it is sought to amend refers to the grant of the right of access of light or air. It says "No

such grant of the right of access of light or air." That is to say that an agreement cannot be made or enforced so as to prevent the erection of any building on the alignment of a street to the depth of 12 feet. If we pass the clause as it stands, any grant for access to light or air must be nearer than 12 feet to the alignment of the street.

Mr. MONEY: The amendment is clear but the wording of the clause is cumbersome. It will be possible to go beyond 12 feet but the distance must not be less than 12 feet.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I see the position now. The amendment may be allowed to go through.

Question passed; the Council's modification agreed to.

Resolution reported; the report adopted, and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1922-23.

In Committee of Supply.

Resumed from the previous day; Mr. Stubbs in the Chair.

Department of Minister for Agriculture (Hon. H. K. Maley, Minister).

Vote—Agriculture generally, £58,449:

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (Hon. H. K. Maley—Greenough) [5.45]: If hon. members have taken the trouble to peruse the annual report of the department, they must have been struck by the amount of educational instruction which has taken place in the past 12 months. Thanks to the assistance rendered by Professor Paterson of the University, and also by Dr. Dale of the Health Department, it has been possible to carry out an instructive course for womenfolk in rural household management. I also desire to express my appreciation of the lectures delivered by those gentlemen during that course. In addition, under the auspices of the University, we have had a course of instruction by our technical officers on dairying, dealing mainly with the technical side of the industry. At all the larger district shows we have had a display of agricultural produce from our State farms, and an officer in attendance explaining the exhibits to farmers. The educational value to the farming industry of the work done on our State farms during the 12 months, as demonstrated at the annual field days at the Merredin and Chapman farms, has been very great indeed. The management of those two farms has been of a high order and I am gratified to say the appearance and general work of those farms has been excellent. Members were given an opportunity to attend the field day at the Merredin farm and I am expecting to hear an expression of opinion from some of those who attended. The same applies to the

field day held at the Chapman farm at which members from the northern part of the State were in attendance. During the 12 months we have made some investigations regarding potato storage, and experiments have demonstrated that sound potatoes free from potato moth and disease can be kept for edible and seed purposes under ordinary storage conditions, and that potatoes can be kept under cool storage conditions, and that certain temperatures suspend the activities of the potato moth and prevent the occurrence of the disease known as fusarium. The department have made every endeavour to practise economy, without impairing efficiency, and we have kept within our vote in spite of the fact that last year we appointed additional agricultural advisers. These agricultural advisers were young men from the University who had passed with high distinction the course under Professor Paterson.

Mr. A. Thomson: Very wise appointments, too.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Owing to the rapid expansion of the dairy industry and the fact that many of our technical officers are approaching the age for retiring, we ought to train our young men to qualify for these positions. Several officers of the Stock Department are getting on in years and further help is needed for the butter and fruit industries. Regarding the wheat production, Western Australia has reached the stage when the success of its wheat belt has been established. During a series of years we have stabilised the industry which should now be capable of progressing, aided only by a little judicious direction. A considerable proportion of the activities of the department have been devoted to the encouragement of other branches of agriculture which have not made such great development as wheat has done. I refer particularly to fruit production, to the dried fruit industry, and also to dairying. The Government Statistician has to-day completed his estimated forecast for the season, based upon returns supplied by the various country inspectors under the I.A.B. and the Agricultural Bank, and he has calculated the yield as likely to be 14,687,241 bushels.

Mr. Willecock: Over a million drop on your estimate of a fortnight ago.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: That is not so.

Mr. Angelo: It is a difference of 300,000 bushels.

Mr. Harrison: What is the date of that estimate?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: I told the hon. member it was completed to-day.

Mr. Harrison: Do not get cross! Surely I am entitled to ask.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: It would take more than the hon. member to make me cross. If he thinks I am cross, he is very much mistaken.

Hon. T. Walker: He is only a little perturbed.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: The average estimated yield works out at about 9.4 bushels per acre. To the member for Geraldton, I must say that considerable pessimism was manifested six weeks or two months ago. I had no reliable data to work on, but from personal observation and from the observations of the Director of Agriculture I stated that I expected a yield of 15 million bushels. A week or ten days ago I took out certain figures and, estimating that the well-farmed land in practically every district would give an average return, and allowing for a certain acreage being cut for hay and the fact that there was a partial failure in some districts, I said we would probably get 15 million bushels. I was credited with having stated that the season's yield would be 16 million bushels; I did not say anything of the sort. I said I had reasonable grounds for stating that the yield would probably reach 15 million bushels. The figures supplied to-day are within 250,000 bushels of what I all along maintained we would be likely to get. The result may be somewhat disappointing, because we desired to make a big forward move in our production this year, but considering the area of land cleared, the noticeable areas of well-farmed fallow and the new lands being cleared, I see no reason why next season we should not reach the goal which we have been encouraging farmers to strive for, namely a production of 25 million bushels. Regarding the fruit industry, members will have noticed in the Press that the Federal Government have shown great activity in promoting conferences in Melbourne to form organisations for many branches of primary production. I do not wish to be unkind, but there is a Federal election pending.

Mr. Davies: The Federal Government are the best friends the farmer ever had.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: The hon. member is entitled to his opinion. A conference was recently held to form a Federal advisory council for the fruitgrowing industry, more particularly in regard to fresh, dried, canned and citrus fruits. It was proposed that there should be 24 members drawn from the various State advisory boards. Each State was supposed to have a local advisory board consisting of a Federal representative, a State representative and eight representatives of the producers. A similar organisation was proposed for the meat industry. There was to be a ministerial meat council and an Australian meat council and a State advisory meat board, the last named very much on the same lines as the fruit council. Another organisation was proposed for the dairy industry consisting of a ministerial dairy council, an Australian dairy council, and State advisory dairy boards. These matters have been referred to the producers through their organisations so that they can consider the merits of these proposals and the advisableness of joining up with the other States.

Mr. A. Thomson: They should be consulted.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: They are going to be consulted. The fruit-growers, for instance, are to be consulted at

the annual conference which is to be held in Bridgetown on the 28th and 29th November. If our affairs, which may be regarded as our own domestic concerns, are to be controlled from Melbourne and centralised there, our experience regarding the Australian Wheat Board must be remembered.

Mr. A. Thomson: Enough said!

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: That board controlled the whole of the wheat production and it was anything but satisfactory. That was emphasised when we controlled our wheat ourselves for we then showed that, relatively speaking, we greatly improved our position. It was much more expeditiously and satisfactorily administered under our own control.

Hon. M. F. Troy: The Federal people only interfere to get kudos for themselves. They want to secure the advantage.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: The time is ripe for us to control our own affairs in this connection.

Hon. M. F. Troy: The Federal people are merely out for self interest and for the kudos they can get.

Mr. Angelo: It is another effect of the East on our domestic affairs.

Mr. Pickering: In many cases it may have the effect of stimulating us to proceed.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: I am not objecting to the position from that standpoint, but I am sounding a note of warning to the fruitgrowers and to pastoralists as to what our experience has been under the control of the Australian Wheat Board from Melbourne. I am indicating how, when we were able to control our own affairs, after breaking away from the Eastern board we have relatively speaking secured greater satisfaction.

Mr. Broun interjected.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Would the member for Beverley like to see, under the proposed advisory board, Ministers continually running backwards and forwards on the train to and from the Eastern States? Does he wish to see half a dozen representatives of various interests in Western Australia who will be on the central organisation in Melbourne, having to go from time to time to sit on the meat council, the fruit council, and the dairy council? For the information of hon. members. I will refer to fruit production. The total number of cases of fresh fruit exported from Western Australia for the year ended 30th June, 1922, was 269,292. These were sent away in 62 individual shipments, 59 of which went from Fremantle. Three shipments went from Albany, with a total of 81,317 cases of apples, and 2,203 cases of pears. The destination of the total production will be interesting to hon. members. We shipped to London 162,743 cases of apples, 2 cases of grapes, 2,232 cases of pears, 12,127 cases of oranges, 5 cases of plums, one case of peaches, 39 cases of lemons, and one case of apricots, making a total of 177,150 cases. To Manchester we sent 32,335 cases of apples and 7

cases of grapes, making a total of 32,342 cases. To Hull 15,000 cases of apples were despatched, and to Colombo 3,245 cases of apples, 2 cases of grapes, and 453 cases of pears, making a total of 3,700 cases. To Mauritius we sent 151 cases of apples; and to Manila 130 cases of apples and 37 cases of pears. To Hong Kong, 250 cases of apples and 62 cases of pears were despatched. We sent to Batavia 6,991 cases of apples, 3,460 cases of grapes, 173 cases of pears, 829 cases of oranges, 56 cases of plums, 3 cases of peaches, one case of lemons, and half a case of passion fruit, making a total of 11,515 cases. To Singapore, 13,678 cases of apples, 1,810 cases of grapes, 174 cases of pears, 49 cases of oranges, 60 cases of plums, and 31 cases of lemons were despatched, totalling 16,249 cases. To Sourabaya 7,031 cases of apples, 3,606 cases of grapes, 273 cases of pears, 776 cases of oranges, 7 cases of peaches, and one case of lemons were exported, making a total of 11,694 cases. We also sent to Bandeong 400 cases of apples, 200 cases of grapes, 25 cases of pears; while to Samarang we sent 355 cases of apples, and 30 cases of oranges.

Mr. A. Thomson: What prices were received for the fruit?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Our trade to the Near East has been a highly remunerative one for the grower. The whole of our grape shipments have been to the Near East with the exception of a few which were probably for use on the steamers going to London.

Hon. M. F. Troy: Were all the grapes we sold for export sent to the Near East?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Yes, with the exception of a very few sent to London, Manchester, and Colombo. As to the apples which were sent overseas, the result has been disappointing to the growers, and, in fact, they experienced a loss.

Member: Was there a glut?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Some say the failure was due to the unsatisfactory refrigerating arrangements.

Mr. Angelo: There was also the trouble with brown heart.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: These things are receiving the attention of the Government, and are being investigated. The Government recognise the disabilities under which the fruit-growing industry is labouring at the present time. In fact it has laboured under disabilities since 1914. The Government intend to go into the whole question with a view to arriving at some decision regarding improved facilities.

Mr. Angelo: Here, or in London?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Whatever can be done by the Government to improve the handling and storage facilities for fruit will be done. We propose to make provision in that direction at Fremantle. I mention Fremantle, not as the only port, but in order to indicate what has to be done.

Mr. Money: There are other ports as well.

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: The member for Bunbury may be actuated in the interests of his own port.

Mr. Pickering: He is quite disinterested!

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: We cannot provide facilities in the first instance anywhere else than at the port to which the boats will go.

Mr. Money: You will not get them elsewhere, unless you try to induce them to go to other ports, by providing the necessary facilities.

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Will the hon. member say that those facilities, which must be provided where the ships will go, could be provided at any other port than Fremantle at the present time? Fremantle is the port of call for all mail steamers, and for all boats which go to the Near East, where we are developing such a big trade. Does the hon. member say that those facilities should not be provided first at the port of Fremantle?

Mr. Money: Yes; mail boats go to Hobart for fruit, because facilities have been provided.

Mr. A. Thomson: They have to go there for the fruit.

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: These boats come here to fill up, and will take 3,000 or 4,000 cases.

Mr. Money: The fact remains that the mail boats go to Hobart for fruit.

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: The North-West boats will not go anywhere else than Fremantle, for they trade between Singapore and Fremantle. I doubt, if the hon. member could provide 10,000 cases of fruit, whether the Singapore boats would go to Bunbury?

Mr. Money: Why not? They used to go there.

Mr. Angelo: They used to go to Bunbury for timber in the past.

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: I trust that the boats will go there in the future.

Mr. Money: There seems to be no great effort to provide facilities there for the shipments.

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: The Government intend to make provision for those facilities, and we recognise that the harbour equipment at Fremantle or any other port cannot be complete until the most modern facilities for handling and cold storage are provided. Provision will be made for cold storage so that perishables can be taken from the holds of ships straight into cold storage alongside the wharf. We must look to the time when we will be engaged in the butter export trade, and when that time arrives we will be able to handle the goods more expeditiously and satisfactorily at Fremantle, and at other ports as well. We have also to make provision at Fremantle for the cold storage of products from the Wyndham Freezing Works. We impose restrictions on the importations of cattle on the hoof from South Australia and

Victoria, but when beef was fairly high in price here, and it was much lower in price in the Eastern States, traders imported a lot of frozen meat from Melbourne and it was sold for consumption in the metropolitan area.

Mr. Angelo: And on the goldfields.

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: If the public can eat frozen meat from the Eastern States, then they can eat our own product from Wyndham if it is brought down here.

Mr. Angelo: Why do you not have it chilled?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: I will deal with that aspect later on.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Before tea I was dealing with the provision of cold storage. When meat was at a relatively high price in the local markets and a low price in the Eastern States, considerable quantities of frozen meat were imported, particularly from Victoria, and taken into consumption here. If we had proper cold storage on the Fremantle wharf we could use our own frozen meat at such time. The Wyndham killing season begins in April and so, given shipping accommodation, we could have meat down from Wyndham as early as May. May, June and July are the months when local supplies are insufficient for the metropolitan markets. Wyndham could supply the deficiency and save the necessity for importing from the East. Then the Wyndham meat would be well out of the way by the time we required the cold storage for the annual fruit crop. The export fruit season begins in mid February, and the main export trade occurs in March, continuing till the middle of April. If we had cold storage on the Fremantle wharf the fruit could be brought forward regularly instead of, as at present, in rushes. On advice being received that a boat will be here on a given date, there is a tremendous rush down in the orchards, special trains are put on, and the harvest reaches here all in a heap, so to speak. Cold storage at Fremantle would obviate the necessity for special trains and save the loss incurred in sending along a couple of thousand cases more than the boat can take. That surplus has to be removed from the wharf, and most frequently is a good deal knocked about in the removal. Sooner or later we shall require cold storage for the export of butter. That cold storage ought to have pride of place on the Fremantle wharf, for perishable products should be subjected to as little handling as possible, and should be capable of being quickly removed from the cold storage to the refrigerating space on the steamer.

Mr. A. Thomson: Great care should be exercised in the loading also.

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Those who have to handle the produce should be urged to use elaborate care.

Mr. A. Thomson: They are very careless in loading the stuff on to the boats.

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE : I agree with that. However, that is the position. We require cold storage for a rapidly expanding trade. The most modern facilities should be provided on the Fremantle wharf. Now a word or two in regard to the vermin branch of the department. During the period 1919-21 the department made a vigorous attempt to exterminate vermin on abandoned agricultural bank holdings and in the worst breeding places on Crown lands.

Mr. Harrison : That is in respect of rabbits?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE : Yes, at that particular time the rabbits were very bad. During that period we used in our own poison carts in the worst infested places on Crown lands 6,724 tins of poison.

Hon. M. F. Troy : How many rabbits did you kill?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE : Since that time there has been a marked diminution in the pest, although unfortunately it is now increasing once more.

Hon. T. Walker : That diminution happens periodically, apart altogether from precautions.

Mr. Mann : During dry seasons.

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE : While the department used 6,724 tins of poison and supplied poison free to vermin boards, those boards took only 4,444 tins of poison, and I guarantee that a considerable number of those tins still remain in the various road board offices. However, during 1921-22 the vermin boards did a little better than did the department; whereas we used 3,000 tins of poison, the vermin boards used 4,070 tins. It is because of the 1919-21 campaign that the rabbits have decreased in number, and it is on account of the scarcity of the rabbits that the dingoes to-day are becoming a greater nuisance than before.

Hon. M. F. Troy : I think it is vice versa; the dingoes were following the rabbits.

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE : To an extent that is true. Now that the rabbits have decreased, the dingoes are turning their attention to the sheep. The Pastoralists' Association and the Primary Producers' Association have appealed to the Government to make a further campaign against both rabbits and dingoes. I am not altogether satisfied with what the vermin boards have been doing. When the Vermin Act was passed and the boards given control over the destruction of vermin in their respective districts, it was thought that in their own interests they would be much more vigorous. I want to show what has been done by the vermin boards. There are numerous road boards which have not formed themselves into vermin boards. Of the road boards which I am about to name all except the last are outside the No. 1 or barrier fence: Wyndham, North Kimberley, Hall's Creek, Broome, Wiluna, Lawlers, Mount Margaret, Leonora-Malcolm, Menzies, Westonia, Yilgarn-Southern Cross, Coolgardie, Kalgoorlie, Kanowna, Norseman, Broad Arrow, and lastly Murchison. Numer-

ous complaints are being received with regard to dingoes. These road boards should form themselves into vermin boards and manage their own affairs in that connection. Out of all the road districts which have formed themselves into vermin boards, only 63 per cent. are striking rates, and the total amount of rates raised by boards between the No. 1 and No. 3 fences is £12,269. Of that amount no less than 55 per cent. has been spent in administrative charges, such as salaries of secretaries, and no real destruction work has been done. A nominal rate was struck and a secretary was appointed. That is not a fair thing for the boards on the outer fringe, which are energetically carrying out destruction, and so bearing practically the whole of the burden of protecting vermin boards nearer the coast. Of the £12,269 raised, 55 per cent. having gone in administration, 25 per cent. was spent in paying dingo bonuses, additional to the amount paid by the Government, 15 per cent. went in rabbit destruction, including salaries of inspectors, and 5 per cent. went in payment for destruction of other vermin. The position is not fair, and the Government are considering very seriously whether the Agricultural Department shall use their powers and strike rates, or whether we shall ask Parliament to amend the Act so as to make it compulsory for every vermin board in the State to strike a flat rate for a pooling fund, say a slight fraction of one penny, thus making districts which are doing nothing to-day do something to help others. The technical officers of the Department spend almost the whole of their time in the country. With the growing development of the State, particularly as regards group settlements in the South-West and the renewed activities in land settlement and land clearing, there is a very wide field for the energies of those officers.

Mr. MONEY (Bunbury) [7.51] : One feels somewhat diffident in speaking on the subject of agriculture. There is no division on these Estimates equally important, because there is no other division that creates wealth.

Hon. P. Collier : Oh, yes.

Mr. O'Loughlen : What about mining?

Mr. MONEY : The other divisions may represent conversion of assets, but this one represents creation of wealth. Probably the importance of the Minister's statement consists more in what has been left unsaid than in what was said. I have much pleasure in alluding to the fruit expert's statement in the Agricultural Department's report referring to export of fruit. Mr. Wickens appreciates the necessity for profitable fruit culture in order that there may be successful fruit culture. For the past 12 months fruit export has been anything but profitable. If I draw attention to the lack of export facilities at Fremantle in this connection, it is not necessarily because I want those facilities at Bunbury. However, the cost of production to-day is so great that the fruit grower cannot carry on his business profitably, and so can-

not continue it. Therefore when I heard the Minister say that cold storage was contemplated at Fremantle, and that it would be used for fruit export and also for chilled beef, and that that was all the Government could do, I thought it a very poor "all" indeed. Are we to continue the practice of the past two years of hauling fruit past its natural port, an extra 120 miles to Fremantle, and are we not to say a word in favour of providing facilities at the natural port? The difference amounts to 20 per cent. of the freight, or almost the difference between profit and loss. We know what difference a shilling per case makes in freight. In the face of an election the rate has been reduced from 6s. to 5s. per case. What is the good of having a port in name if there are no facilities for export? It is up to the Minister for Agriculture to take in hand seriously the question of turning the fruit industry into a profitable one, and of using every possible effort to cut down the cost of production. The matter of the extra 1s. in railway freight is the disheartening burden which our fruitgrowers have to bear. At present export can only be via Fremantle.

The Minister for Agriculture: Because the boats call there.

Mr. MONEY: And the boats call there because it is the only place where there are the facilities of a first class port. Why should not Albany be provided with the facilities of a first class port?

The Minister for Agriculture: Albany has cold storage.

Mr. MONEY: A Royal Commission has told the people of this State that it is impossible to succeed on the land unless one recognises natural zones and natural ports. In 1911 every party in this Chamber promised that the outports should have the full facilities to which their zones entitled them. What has been done at any port except Fremantle? If we are going to keep our immigrants here, we must show them how they can produce profitably. That is the gist of the whole question. Let us have a normal cost of production in Western Australia, and even then we shall be under the biggest handicap of any producing country in the world—the handicap of 12,000 miles to our markets. Every other handicap should be removed if possible. No assistance is given to the fruitgrower. What is the use of parading before him the fact that last year's export of fruit amounted to 500,000 cases? He knows that, and to his sorrow, for he exported the fruit at a loss. What is being done to turn that loss into a profit if we do not earnestly consider the necessity for decreasing his mileage to market? The prices in London for fruit are not bad: 11s. and 12s. per case represents a good price per lb. If the cost of production were somewhat as in pre-war times, and if the freight were about 2s. 6d., and if export facilities were provided at the natural port, the price would be a payable one to-day. Unless the cost of production can be decreased, the fruit industry cannot prosper and cannot continue. I hope the Minister for Agriculture

will consider whether what he has described as "all" he can do is really all that can be done. He says, "We have done all we possibly can." I say that that "all" is too little. It is the duty of this House, if we are to get people here, to do all it can to enable those people to carry on production in a prosperous way. Nothing will aid production more than to give facilities to the producer. The Minister wants criticism which will be helpful. I will offer some. I was interested last year in the effort which was made to keep Western Australia supplied with potatoes during the whole of the year. I was one of the many who, during the glut, went to the expense of trying to supply this commodity all the year round, but the result, as many know, was not as successful as it might have been. The potatoes did not keep. Those who put by their potatoes last year are not doing so this year, but they are exporting to Sydney and to Adelaide at the present time at prices which are remunerative to the grower and which are giving the utmost satisfaction to those big cities taking the potatoes. This is an important development in production in the South-West of this State. It is as important as any development I know.

Mr. Pickering: You cannot always do it.

Mr. MONEY: I am under the impression that we can, if we produce and regularly supply those markets. It is within my knowledge that recently as many as 70 orders from Sydney for Western Australian potatoes had to be turned down. There is a period in the year when there are no potatoes in Australia which are equal to those produced in Western Australia, and these are worth between £3 and £4 a ton more than any other potato grown in Australia. Every effort therefore should be made by the Minister to encourage that trade with the Eastern States, particularly in the month of November. I am not sure, but I think we can export during the latter end of October, the whole of November and early in December. The matter is a very important one and every effort should be made to develop this new trade. I am interested in the statement which was published that live cattle are being sent down as far as Yarloop. It has been said that those cattle are the means of disseminating tick in that part of the South-West. We must bear in mind that the dairy herds are increasing, and the owners of those herds are becoming alarmed. I have mentioned the matter to the Minister.

The Minister for Agriculture: They have been going down there for the last 25 years.

Mr. MONEY: I have had complaints from dairymen down there who fear the spread of the tick amongst their herds.

The Minister for Agriculture: The cattle are not going down there now.

Mr. MONEY: I am glad to hear that, because the dairy industry is one that is becoming of some importance and we do not want to take any risks. If Bunbury and Brunswick and other localities are content to take frozen meat there is no reason why Yarloop and other surrounding places should not also take it.

Mr. Underwood: If the tick had been able to live in those parts it would have been there 25 years ago.

Mr. MONEY: If the hon. member had attended the conference down there he would have known all about it.

Mr. Underwood: If the tick could live there it would soon be in the herds.

Mr. MONEY: The hon. member does not know what tick can do once it becomes acclimatised.

Mr. Latham: It lives all right in cows in the agricultural areas.

Mr. MONEY: I would like also to emphasise the fact that I do not hear quite as much as I would like to from the Minister for Agriculture regarding the progress of the group settlements in the South-West.

The Minister for Agriculture: They are controlled by the Agricultural Bank. Do not confuse the Agricultural Bank with the Agricultural Department.

Mr. MONEY: I do not like that reply. We are asked to vote £58,000 for administration of the Department of Agriculture.

The Minister for Agriculture interjected.

Mr. MONEY: Of course if the settlers in the group settlements have not yet reached the development stage, that is the answer. Nothing would have been more interesting than to be told something about the progress these group settlers are making. There are some who have been there a few years. If a settler is going in for dairying, we know the number of cows that he must have in order to become successful, and it would have been pleasing to me if I could have given some illustration of the work these people are doing, how many cows they have and something about their balance sheets and whether profits are being shown.

Mr. A. Thomson: Important, all of it.

The Minister for Agriculture: Very important after 12 months' operations!

Mr. MONEY: I am speaking of those who have been settled in those areas for a couple of years. We should also know whether they are being directed to follow proper methods. I am under the impression also with reference to mixed farming, that it is essential that the "gentleman who pays the rent" should become an important factor towards assisting to establish the success of new settlers in this State:

Mr. Underwood: Do you mean sheep?

Mr. MONEY: I will excuse the representative of the North-West for his want of knowledge. We notice that the Agent General is very active in this matter and is under the impression that good business can be done in the export of pork. I feel certain that if something tangible be done for these settlers, and there be proper systematising of effort, the result will be satisfactory. There should be an opportunity of breeding sows and also as an important addition, a run of poultry. I know of people in this State who for the past two years have been making over £20 a week out of poultry.

Mr. A. Thomson: I know of people who live on poultry all the year round.

Mr. Harrison: You can only be successful there by showing enthusiasm.

Mr. MONEY: I am merely mentioning these matters because one does feel it is necessary to give every possible assistance in this direction. I am going to mention two other factors which are detrimental to production in this State. There are herds of 30 and 40 head, the owners of which are unable to do anything with their butter fat, because of the absence of roads to sidings. There are dozens of such cases, and if we do desire to increase production we should consider these things which are working against production. It is no good settling people on the land unless we can show them that they can produce at a profit. It is due to the Minister for Agriculture to take these matters into consideration. It is his duty to point out to the House just as much as I am doing, that these defects must be remedied before we can expect to reach a stage of prosperity. It is no use talking. We are expected to do something. The Minister has the power to do something, but we who are merely private members can only raise a voice in protest. I have never heard the Minister say anything at all about the absence of road communication, nor even to the question of drainage which is one of such great importance to the South-West. The Minister does not say much on these matters although he is aware of the difficulties which exist just as others are aware of them. He knows that half of our production is lost every year through want of ordinary drainage, yet no one has ever heard him bring the matter before the House. It should be iterated and reiterated that production cannot go on because there are no drains. If we want to double our production, let us follow this simple principle of agriculture, and for Heaven's sake let us be sincere in our efforts to produce more and remove those obstacles which have been such a drawback to the producer. There is a certain amount of co-operation with the railway service which will lead to more success, but it is not costing the Government anything. It is merely co-ordination and help from the Railway Department. It is only fooling the people to settle them on the land and then to make it impossible for them to get to a railway. They can produce nothing on many of the areas in the South-West in the present water-logged state of those areas. This has been known for very many years. It is taught to our boys in their elementary agriculture course, but the Minister ignores it. We should be ashamed that this state of affairs continues year after year.

Hon. P. Collier: And the Government do not seem to care a jot about it.

Mr. MONEY: We must be prepared to remove these disabilities or we may as well drop the idea of developing the South-West. We must remove the handicap of distance from markets by providing facilities. We want roads which will be passable at all seasons of the year. We want drainage and particularly main drains. My experience is that every £1 spent on drainage means an

enhanced value of £3; without it a property is of no use. The Premier recognises that the development of the South-West depends upon the facilities provided.

Mr. Wilson: And the cost of clearing must be reduced.

Mr. MONEY: It is essential that our methods of clearing be improved. Our methods are the antiquated methods of 30 or 40 years ago.

Mr. Underwood: The trouble is they are not following the methods of 30 or 40 years ago.

Mr. MONEY: If our present methods are not so good, we have reason to feel ashamed.

Mr. Wilson: The cost of clearing is three times as great as it used to be.

Mr. MONEY: I feel sorry for the Minister. His troubles are great. I would be glad if the Minister would acknowledge the need for proper harbour facilities at Geraldton, Bunbury and Albany in order that the producers might succeed.

Mr. Underwood: Where would you put the harbour at Bunbury?

Mr. MONEY: If the hon. member had exerted himself in that connection, he might have obviated a lot of trouble. There are many people in this world engaged in trying to rectify the mistakes of the past. That has been my lot. There need be no fear for the South-West. No district in Australia is equal to it. It has a rainfall of 30 inches a year; it produces herbage regularly and drought is unknown. There is no other country which can grow lucerne without irrigation as can the South-West. There is no need for any pessimism or half-hearted measures in undertaking the development of this portion of Western Australia.

Mr. A. THOMSON (Katanning) [8.20]: I congratulate the Minister on the excellent work he and his department are doing—not that they might not do more—but we must admit that the reorganisation effected by the present Minister has been beneficial to the agricultural industry. It was a wise move to put Mr. Sutton in the position of Director of Agriculture, because we have a practical man at the head of the industry to which the State is looking to retrieve its financial position. Agriculture is the basis of the Premier's scheme. The member for Bunbury urged the need for drainage in the South-West. Some of the departmental officers could be profitably employed in instructing farmers in the agricultural districts that drainage would be desirable. We would get better results if farmers paid more attention to drainage.

Mr. Harrison: That is a mere bagatelle.

Mr. A. THOMSON: Crops on water-logged land will not give the results that crops on properly drained land will give. In the Old Country I saw farmers draining their land on which oats were growing. If it pays them to do it, a system of drainage here would be beneficial. I am entirely in accord with the member for Bunbury when he says the outports must have their natural

trade. This State is looking for business overseas. There is ample room in the Home land for all the surplus produce of Western Australia. I strongly object to fruit being hauled from the Great Southern all the way to Fremantle for shipment when we have a port only 30 to 50 miles distant from the orchards where the fruit is grown. Facilities should be provided to encourage ships to call at the outports. The day is not far distant when shipowners will be anxious for such business and it will pay them to have their boats calling at Bunbury, Albany, and possibly Busselton for the profitable freight offered by fruit. Mr. Booth, secretary of the Mt. Barker Co-operative Fruitgrowers', stated that the net returns which fruit-growers received for their apples shipped to London last year was 1s. per case. The net cost of producing those apples was 4s. to 6s. per case. The producers of apples last year were faced with very serious loss. It should be a function of Government to see that producers have cheap and ready facilities to ship their products, especially when they have to compete with the products of other countries.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Do not you think the Government do that?

Mr. A. THOMSON: No.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: All Governments do that.

Mr. A. THOMSON: Our Government drag everything to Fremantle for a start.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: No, they do not.

Mr. A. THOMSON: They do.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You have to take the produce to the ports where the ships call.

Mr. A. THOMSON: We have certain facilities at Albany, but we know that in the past the ships have been controlled from the Eastern States. To illustrate the cosmopolitanism of the London market, I was walking past a shop near Drury Lane, and was attracted by a case of Western Australian apples. I remarked to the shopkeeper, "I see you have Western Australian apples." He replied, "Yes, governor; they are the best on the market." In a shop measuring about 14 feet x 20 feet, there were apples from Western Australia, tomatoes and bananas from Teneriffe, oranges and apricots from Spain, lemons from Portugal, potatoes and cucumbers from Holland, and local products. There is an unlimited market in London for Western Australian products, provided we are prepared to send only our best. This is one direction in which the Department of Agriculture might lend great assistance. We are establishing group settlements in the South-West. I was astounded to hear the Minister say in reply to the member for Bunbury, "Do not confuse the Agricultural Bank with the Agricultural Department."

The Minister for Agriculture: A very sensible sort of statement.

Mr. A. THOMSON: Such statements should not be made.

The Minister for Agriculture: Why?

Mr. A. THOMSON: If the scheme propounded by the Premier is going to be successful, there must be co-ordination between the Agricultural Bank, the Agricultural Department, and the Lands Department.

The Minister for Agriculture: So there will be when the occasion arises.

Mr. A. THOMSON: The occasion has arisen. It is essential in the initial stages for these three departments to be co-ordinated.

The Minister for Agriculture: You think that officers should go down and watch the felling of trees?

Mr. A. THOMSON: I am not suggesting that. Part of the Premier's scheme is to establish dairying, and certain clearing has to be done. It has been indicated that certain fruit trees will be planted. Is it not essential that the inexperienced men on whom we are spending public money should receive direction and tuition from the officers of the Government?

The Minister for Agriculture: When that time comes, the hon. member can rest assured it will be done.

Mr. A. THOMSON: The time is present now. In dealing with fruit trees, these settlers will have to be directed as to the proper kind of trees they should buy. As an illustration, I will draw the attention of the Committee to what the Eastern States are suffering from to-day in relation to their canned fruit. Californian fruit is sold in London before it is picked. Purchasers are prepared to take it on delivery. There is no questioning or quibbling about the matter. The fruit that comes from Australia, however, is bought subject to inspection. When I was in London, I saw fruit opened for inspection. It must be realised that in sending forward products, we must cater for what London requires. It is not what we think is all right; it is what the London consumers demand. It is estimated that in Great Britain on a hot day 150,000 cases of fruit are consumed. California sends approximately two million cases of fruit to the London markets every year. Their fruit is of one standard, and one grade. Big firms like Lyons', and others in London, who employ 20,000 people, have raised catering to a high art, and the first question they ask any seller of Australian canned fruit is: "How many pieces are there in your tins?" To most people here, it does not matter whether there are five, 10, or 12 pieces, but it is a matter of vital importance to those people who are large buyers of fruit in England. They must know exactly how many pieces are in the tin. I have kept particulars of the results of the inspection of the Australian fruit.

The Colonial Secretary: The fruit is all graded in the East, now.

Mr. A. THOMSON: This fruit to which I refer was graded under Government supervision. I was in London when a shipment was opened up, and I was invited to go

along to witness it. I hoped that I would be able to assist from the Australian point of view to make them realise what we could produce. I can assure the Committee that Australia is losing anything from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d. per dozen on her canned fruits.

The Colonial Secretary: The tins are very uniform to-day.

Mr. A. THOMSON: I do not say it offensively, but I think the Minister should interject about things he knows.

Hon. P. Collier: He would be silent altogether then.

Mr. A. THOMSON: The people who are handling Australian fruit were present when these tins were opened and the fruit was by no means uniform.

The Colonial Secretary: If they say that, they are not telling the truth.

Mr. A. THOMSON: Had the Minister been in London when I was there, he would have seen for himself that statements made regarding our fruit are truthful. I make the statement, knowing it to be correct, that our fruit is not in such a satisfactory position. I will support the statements which were made by this particular firm regarding the shipment of fruit to which I have drawn attention. The report says—

The "Hobson's Bay" pears are the worst so far examined, and make us wonder what sort of a story we can put up to buyers when the time is ready to make sales. The whole fruit is so unreliable, that the prices ultimately realised will depend entirely on the luck in opening samples in front of buyers.

The Colonial Secretary: What year was that?

Mr. A. THOMSON: That refers to 1922. I have the whole details here.

Mr. O'Loughlen: How did they compare with the Californian fruit regarding the number of pieces in the tin?

Mr. A. THOMSON: Unfortunately for Australia, uniform grading and colour have been secured in connection with the Californian fruit. The taste of the Australian fruit is quite all right but it is not uniform in colour. On that point the firm, reporting on one tin opened, says—

Six halves, fruit unsightly, four pieces green, two pieces soft and frayed, one piece blemished, can of fruit disappointing. This is the sort of comment that goes right through the report.

Mr. O'Loughlen: How many pieces are in our tins?

Mr. A. THOMSON: They range from six and nine to 11.

Mr. O'Loughlen: What is the position regarding the Californian tins?

Mr. A. THOMSON: They have a uniform standard.

The Colonial Secretary: Are the variations confined to one class of fruit?

Mr. A. THOMSON: The particulars I refer to deal mostly with peaches, but there are also one or two tins of pears.

The Colonial Secretary: I believe they are dealing with their canned fruits in the Eastern States with grading machines.

Mr. A. THOMSON: Unfortunately, they have a lot to learn yet. Here is another extract from the report—

Peaches still very disappointing, and absolutely impossible to guarantee to buyers an even run of fruit per can, particularly on account of colour which seems to permeate right through the pack irrespective of the actual canner.

Mr. Wilson: Perhaps the firm has an interest in American fruit.

Mr. A. THOMSON: No, the person whose report I am quoting is anxious to push Australian goods. These tins were opened in front of an officer from Australia House and I can verify the statements he has made.

Mr. Teesdale: There was a complimentary reference to the New South Wales fruit last month.

Mr. A. THOMSON: My point is that we are establishing the group settlements and encouraging the growing of fruit trees. It is most essential to provide every safeguard so that care shall be taken to see that the right types of fruit trees are planted, particularly if we are going in for the export trade. That does not apply only to apples but to all fruit which ultimately will be canned. If the State is to progress as we hope it will, the time will come when we will have to go in for fruit canning.

Mr. Money: We will have a surplus of stone fruit this year.

Mr. A. THOMSON: In bringing this matter before the Minister I am not doing so in a carping critical mood regarding his department. I recognise that his officers are giving the State good service, but I want to impress upon him the necessity for starting off along the lines I have indicated, from the very outset. It is an important matter and it will mean the ultimate saving to the State and the settlers of many thousands of pounds a year.

The Minister for Agriculture: The Director of Education is visiting the group settlements to-day.

Mr. A. THOMSON: I regret the Government are not making provision for dehydration. I have great faith in the future of that system in connection with our products. It is to be regretted that there are periods in Western Australia when we have gluts of fruit, potatoes and other products. Unfortunately, potato growers have lost large sums of money because of this fact. I consider that part and parcel of our immigration and development scheme should be dehydration, because we want to stabilise our market. It would be of assistance to the State if we had a system by which, when these periodical gluts were experienced, the surplus products could be taken and dealt with. As it is now, those surpluses are lost.

Mr. Teesdale: De Garis showed us the way in this matter.

Mr. A. THOMSON: I do not suggest that this provision should be made so that the market might be rigged. The producer should get a remunerative price for his produce. There is a large market for dehydrated products. On the ship by which I returned to Western

Australia, we consumed 30 tons of potatoes and two men were employed constantly peeling them. Such a large consignment of potatoes takes up a considerable amount of space. If the Government could go to the shipping companies and tell them that we can produce a dehydrated line which will save them space and supply an article equal to the fresh vegetable, I am sure there would be a great opening for us. I commend that suggestion to the Government. We could also produce other articles for use in connection with the dehydration scheme from which great benefit would be derived. It will mean keeping up the price of products so that the producer will get a reasonable return. In the past, the producer has lost anything from 1s. to 1s. 6d. when he should have been making pounds in return for his labour. All that is lost to the producer is a distinct loss to the State. Serious attention should be given to the subject of dehydration. The Premier in his policy speech said it was his intention to put 10,000 acres under viticulture. The consumption of raisins and sultanas in Great Britain is estimated at from 230,000 to 250,000 tons per annum; so we have there an unlimited market. At Katanning a committee was appointed to inquire into the possibilities of viticulture. That committee inspected at Woodanilling the vineyards of Messrs. Trimming Bros. In their report the committee stated that the vineyard consists of 11 acres, the vines varying in age from two to 19 years. Mr. Trimming had no hesitation in recommending currant and sultana growing as a profitable occupation. The area for one man should be not less than 10 acres. Before leaving, the party were shown in its virgin state, land best suited for viticulture. It is York gum and jam country, the soil being of a chocolate brown colour and friable, with yellow clay subsoil. It is on this class of soil that most of Mr. Trimming's vineyard is planted, but this does not exclude the lighter soils, for portion of the vineyard is planted in sandy ironstone rubble, sheoak country, and the returns from those vines, three years old, are equal to those of vines planted on the heavier soil. Mr. Trimming was of opinion that the vines on the lighter soil would not maintain their output. Also he thought it was far better to start planting on virgin country rather than on country already cultivated. Manure was used in his vineyard for the first time last year, and then only in the nature of an experiment. Only 2 cwt. of super and a sprinkling of sulphate of ammonia was used on two rows of vines. The experiment was successful. Mr. Cailles, the district fruit inspector, quoted several instances where a heavy dressing of manure, up to 8 cwt. per acre, had been used with satisfactory results. The question of aspect came up for consideration, and it was generally agreed that the north-east is the best aspect, but as Mr. Trimming's vineyard has the worst possible aspect, south-west, the question apparently is not of serious import. The layout of a vineyard recommended is as follows:—All rows to run north and south. Rows

to be 15ft. apart with 10ft. between vines, thus giving 150 sq. ft. for the root system. Under these measurements the number of vines per acre is 300. Between vines fence posts are placed through which are run two or three plain wires, the lower one being to train the arms of the vines and the top one to prevent the vines blowing about when in bloom. The method of drying is simple and inexpensive: frames 8ft. x 2ft. 6in., across which is fastened large mesh wire netting to hold the grapes, are placed at the head of the rows to be picked; when filled they are stacked one above the other with about 2½ inches between, a few sheets of iron placed on top and allowed to remain there for three weeks. Mr. Trimming was most emphatic that there was ample drying weather. The currants are placed in boxes, allowed to sweat for a fortnight, taken out, put through a stemming machine and then through an ordinary wheat grader. From there they are packed in boxes of 66lbs. and sent to market. This procedure applies to currants and sultanas, with the exception that sultanas are dipped in caustic lye as soon as they are picked, and are not allowed to sweat. The yield last year from the older portion of that vineyard was 27½ cwt. of dried currants per acre. Two acres of sultanas just into their third year yielded 5 cwt. of dried fruit per acre. The percentage of dried fruit obtained from green is about 25 per cent., but varies up to 40 per cent. The keynote of this vineyard is one of simple method, and is highly commended to all beginners. The approximate cost per acre to purchase, clear, posts and wire, plants and planting, would be about £10, made up as follows:—Purchase £3, clearing £2, posts and wire £2, plants and planting £3. The committee, in a summary of their report, state that currant and sultana growing can be successfully carried on in the Great Southern, that there is plenty of land suitable for the purpose, and that a man with a little knowledge of agriculture would be able to do all the initial work and, with supervision, plant the vines; and, given ordinary intelligence, with all the information available, could count on a reasonable amount of success.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: What has been the result of the big vineyard planted at Katanning some years ago?

Mr. A. THOMSON: Very satisfactory.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Where is it to-day?

Mr. A. THOMSON: I will explain why it is not there to-day. The family who had the vineyard were opposed to supplying liquor, and so ceased the cultivation of the vines. That vineyard produced the finest port wine in Australia, showing that the Katanning district is eminently suited to vine cultivation. Such land can be purchased at £3 per acre to-day. Taking currants on the basis of 3½d. per lb., the lowest price at which they have been sold on the London market, the return would be £44 18s. 4d. per acre. So there are great possibilities in viticulture. If the Agricul-

tural Department have not to-day a viticultural expert, the sooner they get one the better. The member for Bunbury said that people in his electorate were making £20 per week out of eggs. In my district plenty of people who had to go on the I.A.B. for necessities refused to ask for sustenance, because they were making quite sufficient by the sale of eggs, poultry and butter to carry them on. There is in England an excellent market for eggs. To-day England is importing eggs even from Russia, to say nothing of Denmark and Holland. If we are going to send eggs to England, they should reach London in September and October, and again in March and April. The average price is from 1s. 8d. to 2s. 3d. per dozen. I have dealt with several profitable avenues to which the Premier, with the assistance of the Agricultural Department, can direct the energies of our settlers. It is not of very much use for the bulk of our settlers to produce articles for the Western Australian market, because we shall very soon overtake local consumption.

The Premier: Please God, we shall.

Mr. A. THOMSON: In view of the large number of settlers we are putting on virgin country, I suggest to the Premier and to the Minister for Agriculture that we should not wait, but should take steps to co-ordinate the Agricultural Bank, the Lands Department and the Agricultural Department; because on those three, coupled with the energy of the settlers on the land, and the quality of the land, depends the success or failure of the scheme which the Premier has put into being for Western Australia. I support the Vote, believing that this is one of the departments which cannot be curtailed. In my opinion, it is a department on which more money will have to be spent in the future, and which will yield to the State ample results and great benefits.

Mr. ANGELO (Gascoyne) [9.1]: The Minister for Agriculture and the permanent head of the Agricultural Department take credit for the fact that they have kept within their vote. That certainly is something when one considers the other departments. The Agricultural Department's vote last year was for £59,883. Only £58,947 was spent, showing a surplus of £990. This year the Minister for Agriculture is asking for £525 less, making a total saving on last year's Estimates of £1,434. Like the member for Katanning I think this is the only department whose expenditure should not be curtailed. The department have not only the spending of the £58,000, but the work of advising and assisting immigrants and settlers, upon which function of this department will depend the success of soldier settlement and the huge migration scheme of the Premier. Certainly it is the function of the Repatriation Department to place the soldiers on the land. The Lands Department are placing new immigrants on the land in the South-West; but it will depend upon the help, encouragement, advice, and

sympathy of the Agricultural Department, whether a success will be made of the migration scheme and other land settlement. The failure of that migration scheme might necessitate our going cap in hand to the Federal Government, as a "poor relation" State. With the exception of timber, mining, and pearl shelling, the Agricultural Department have all the say in every industry of Western Australia—apple raising, sheep raising, farming, wheat growing, fruit growing, dairying, and wine production. The department should be properly and efficiently manned to carry out all its important functions.

Hon. P. Collier: You are growling because the department spent a few hundred pounds less than the amount voted.

Mr. ANGELO: Probably the amount could have been judiciously spent.

Hon. P. Collier: It could have been wasted, thrown away, and then you would have been satisfied because the full vote was spent.

Mr. ANGELO: Two years ago this important department was under the control of a Minister in another House, the present Minister for Education. The Honorary Minister associated with the department was also a member of the other House. This House, as regards the Treasury Bench, had then practically no say in the administration of the Agricultural Department. Therefore I am pleased that the affairs of the department are now in the hands of a Minister here, himself an agriculturist, whose sympathy will be with the producers. The department is largely a department of advice, and therefore it is necessary that it should include the best experts obtainable to assist the settlers. About 20 experts are attached to the department, but when we consider the salaries paid to some of these gentlemen we cannot look to them for very much knowledge. I do not for one moment wish to say they are not good men; but if they are good men, they should certainly be paid salaries more compatible with the information they are supposed to supply. Take our irrigation expert. In other parts of the world an irrigation expert has a great deal to do with the development of huge tracts of land, being not only an expert in irrigation, but also an engineer who helps to lay out irrigation colonies and gives advice to people embarking upon irrigation schemes. Our chief irrigationist receives £528 per annum. Our dairy expert, upon whom we depend to make dairying one of the greatest industries in the State, is paid £504 a year. Our sheep and wool expert receives £384. That is the salary paid to a man who should be travelling round the various stations and giving advice as to how to improve the breed where he finds the stud sheep not up to the quality they should be. Why, a shearer makes more in five months' shearing!

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The wool expert does a bit of organising for your organisation, too.

Mr. ANGELO: Have we the men that we should have as experts? The poultry expert gets £240 a year.

Hon. P. Collier: It is light employment.

Mr. ANGELO: He cannot be much of an expert if he is satisfied with £240 a year.

Mr. O'Loughlin: What do the fruit inspectors get?

Mr. ANGELO: The Chief Fruit Inspector gets £504 a year. The poultry expert should be thoroughly experienced, and ought to be able to advise us how to get rid of such a pest as stickfast flea.

Hon. P. Collier: Look at our noble selves. We get only four hundred, and we are experts all round.

Mr. ANGELO: If we cannot afford to pay the best experts obtainable, we should endeavour to borrow such experts from some other country having the men with the last thing in their particular lines of knowledge. A very good example of this has just occurred through the good offices of the member for Roebourne, who succeeded in having the cotton expert, Mr. Dan. Jones, brought to this State. Mr. Jones has been loaned to us by the Queensland Government, and he has given a good filip to what we all hope will prove a very important industry here. I am glad to know that the policy of appointing a Director of Agriculture has resulted very satisfactorily. It ensures continuity of policy, which did not exist before. Ministers come and go, but we hope the permanent head will continue in his office.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The policy will be as laid down by the Government.

Mr. ANGELO: A good deal has been said about fruit export. I am indeed pleased to hear from the Minister that the Government have at last decided to erect cool storage works on the Fremantle wharves. Years ago I urged in this House the necessity for cool storage works as part and parcel of the harbour facilities. In the same way as cranes and goods sheds were erected for the benefit of certain classes of users, so we must have cool storage right on the wharf before such exports as fruit, butter, and frozen meat can be safely and profitably undertaken. As soon as the cool storage works are established, it will be possible, I hope, to start the Carnarvon meat works, because we shall have a depot in which frozen meat can be held until the big over-sea ships come and take it away. The works are going to be a big help to our fruit industry, but they are not the only facility required for a fruit export trade. Something more is necessary—a receiving depot in England; and the establishment of this should be undertaken, not by Western Australia alone, but by all the States working in conjunction. Here I should like to read the views of Sir John Taverner, who under two regimes was Minister for Agriculture in Victoria—under the Irvine Government and also under the Turner Government. For nine years he was a Victorian Agent-General, and so was able to see for himself the difficulties with which

Australian exporters have to contend. In an interview given to a Bunbury paper Sir John Taverner says—

While I was in London I continued my interest in the primary industries, and looked around to see through what avenues the producers' interests could best be served on that side of the world. I found one of the greatest disabilities that we were forced to labour under in London was the unnecessary handling and exposure of our fruit, which brought about deterioration, seriously affecting the grower. Starting from the ship, I found that, after arrival in London from Australia, the fruit was taken out of the hold, where the temperature was about 35 degrees, and placed into a store with a temperature running up to 80 degrees. You can imagine the effect that would have on the fruit. That serious position of affairs has affected the interests of our producers, for a large quantity of fruit has not reached the market in the condition it should. The next movement of the fruit was from the shed to the railway truck, where it was drawn down Commercial Road, and thence loaded on to lorries and vans and carted to Covent Garden. After sale the process was practically repeated on the fruit being sent to different points of its distribution. I took evidence from the principal distributors in London; large firms like Barker's, Whiteley's, Harrod's, and Fry's, and I pointed out to them that the solution of this trouble, which was so seriously affecting us, would be the erection of an Australian depot on the Thames for the reception and distribution of Australian fruit. I had been to Germany at the wish of Mr. Lloyd George, who was then President of the Board of Trade, and had reported to him the conditions that obtained in Hamburg in connection with the handling of fruit. There the steamer ran alongside the wharf, and the fruit was placed in nearby stores without suffering anything by handling or serious jump in temperature. The fruit was there graded and catalogued, exactly as they do wool. Samples were sent to the city, the catalogues having been circulated some days before. The merchants attended at the "Rotunda," where the samples were, and bought their fruit, securing delivery through the depot. The great advantage was that the fruit was delivered from that depot, where it had been kept in fine condition, and distributed as required by the different parts. Thus the fruit was marketed under the best conditions, and all this handling and exposure had been done away with.

There we have the opinion of a gentleman who knows both sides of the business, that of the growers in Australia and that of the distributors in England, and he says that we shall never be able to get a satisfactory sale for our fruit until we have cool storage not only at Fremantle but also in London. The Minister had something to say about the Federal Government

controlling our fruit and he warned the Committee that he was not in favour of this being carried on. It is only right to again quote Sir John Taverner because he was for so long Minister for Agriculture in Victoria. He says—

I feel very strongly on the point that State Governments should take a strong hand in keeping the Federal authorities outside the sphere of influence and to prevent them interfering with the agricultural industries of the respective States. I think the producing industry is essentially a domestic one, demanding that close sympathy and consideration that you can only get from a State which is more immediately concerned with the interests of the people and the producers than a large automatic Government machine such as the Federal one is. They have their functions in the larger planes of the developing of Australia generally, but they must keep out of domestic channels, where more sympathy is expected in promoting the interests of the growers.

I was pleased to hear the Minister mention the good service that the State steamer "Kangaroo" had carried on by introducing our fruit and other products to Singapore. The trips of that vessel to the Dutch Indies and to Singapore have already greatly increased the trade in livestock with those markets which are geographically ours. Some people contend we should leave this to other lines, but unless we have a boat like the "Kangaroo" acting as policeman, I am afraid that the freights will jump up immediately and stop any chance of the trade being enlarged. We know that the Commonwealth Government has lately come into this trade, but if we want to get that which geographically we should have, we require to have our own ships. The Commonwealth boats at the present time are charging freight on flour from Fremantle to Singapore at the same rate as they are charging from Sydney and Melbourne. I repeat that we shall never get that advantage which should be ours unless we have our own vessels to carry our produce. I strongly support the member for Bunbury (Mr. Money) in the claims he made on behalf of that port. Sir John Taverner, on the occasion of his visit to the State, and after spending a fortnight in the South-West, expressed himself in these terms—

I find that the growers are handicapped with long rail haulage to Fremantle. What does appear to me to be strange is that, with the natural facilities that the port of Bunbury possesses, this handicap should be allowed to continue and embarrass the industry. So satisfied am I as to the prospects and potentialities of the district, and the natural facilities that the port of Bunbury possesses, that the firm I represent (The Fruit and Produce Exchange of Great Britain, Limited) intend establishing in Bunbury, and doing all we possibly can to promote the advancement and development of this port—

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Was that speech made after visiting the Mayor's parlour?

Mr. ANGELO: No; the visit to the Mayor's parlour was made at the last moment, and we were there only ten minutes. Sir John Taverner concluded—

—by providing growers with the best and quickest possible means of getting their fruit to the English markets.

It is a strange thing that the fruit-growers of the South-West have from time to time, and for many years past, been promised that a boat should call at Bunbury for their produce. After Sir John Taverner returned to Melbourne and put the matter personally before the authorities, a boat was secured, for the first time, for the purpose of loading fruit at Bunbury. Unfortunately arrangements had been so far advanced that he could not get a boat until fairly late in the season, but we understand that the Federal authorities have promised that as many boats as may be wanted will be available next year, at the right times. So it is not a question of boats not wanting to call at Bunbury; they will call if the growers stick together and declare that they will ship their fruit from that port.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Are you sure that this is not merely an election promise?

Mr. ANGELO: That may have something to do with it, but I doubt it. I do not think it will be long before a private firm will be prepared to provide cool storage facilities at Bunbury. The question crops up, however, as to whether it will be advisable to give a monopoly of this kind to a private firm. I support the contention of the member for Bunbury that the Government should not only provide these facilities at Fremantle, but also give Bunbury that which is its just due. The South-West fruit industry should have Bunbury as its port. I hope the Government will see their way clear to provide additional agricultural education for our boys, as was suggested last night. Many of our lads are trained as engineers, etc., and we find them afterwards drifting away from the State as there are no jobs for them here. We are losing their services, whereas, if we could educate more of our youth to be first-class farmers, agriculture, which means so much to the State, would thus be encouraged. Amongst the functions of the Agricultural Department is that of sheep raising. It is satisfactory to know that the number of sheep in the State is increasing, and I believe that with judicious administration our flocks will be doubled within the next 10 years. Mr. Higham, a leading farmer of England, whom some hon. members met when he was over here with Major Belcher, after having been in the State for a time, expressed the opinion that we in Australia should encourage to the utmost our wool growing industry. He said that we should pay more attention to wool growing than to the growing of fruit, wheat, or anything else, for the reason that

other parts of the world could grow fruit and wheat, but that Australian wool was becoming recognised as one of the finest that could be produced anywhere.

Mr. Money: And by further development we can double its production.

Mr. ANGELO: Mr. Higham said, also, that he could not understand why we allowed our wool to go to England to be sold, because it was good enough to be sold here. He said that the buyers should come out here to purchase it. "They want it," he continued, "and they should come here to buy it. You should never lose sight of it, and you should know exactly what the buyers are doing." That was the advice of a man who has been a successful farmer and business man. I am pleased to be able to record that the local wool sales of a few weeks ago were remarkably successful. The pastoralists can be congratulated on the excellent results of the sales and the prices obtained. In connection with the advancement of the sheep breeding industry, the Premier has a proposal now before him in connection with the flotation of a company in London for the stocking and developing of 32,000,000 acres on the Upper Gascoyne. The company do not want very much from the Government beyond the guarantee of a few years' interest on debentures, half by the State, and half by the Commonwealth. I trust that the Government will be able to see their way to do this. The Government will not lose anything; as a matter of fact they will gain by the increased traffic on the railways, and the results that will follow from the taxation which will become payable by the new settlers. When cool storage works are established at Fremantle, a big fillip will be given to cattle growing and sheep raising in the North. The price that the people of the metropolitan area are paying for meat at the present time is ridiculously high. This is not the fault of the pastoralists; they are getting only a fair thing. It is not the fault of the retail butchers; they are not making too much money. It is due to the operations of a few middlemen. The establishment of cool storage works will have a big effect in stabilising the price of beef and mutton. Beef can be brought from Kimberley and mutton from Carnarvon and sold in the metropolitan area. I cannot see why we cannot be supplied with chilled meat instead of frozen meat. Chilled meat is carried from Argentine to England, a journey of 14 days by the boats now used. Here we can get beef from Kimberley in seven days and mutton from Carnarvon in two days, and there is no reason why we should not have chilled meat sold in the metropolitan area. With proper facilities and machinery, we should be able to get beef and mutton for consumption in Perth at a little over one-half of the present price without the pastoralist suffering in any way. I am pleased that the Minister mentioned the dingo nest. During my recent visit to the Gascoyne district I heard serious complaints from

numbers of pastoralists about the ravages of the dingoes and not only the dingoes, but the domestic dogs which have been allowed to run wild. They are probably worse in many instances than the dingoes. I had hoped the Government would establish a board consisting of pastoralists, farmers and Government nominees.

Hon. P. Collier: A majority members of your association?

Mr. ANGELO: No.

Mr. Latham: We would be very glad if there were.

Hon. P. Collier: I hope you are not slipping back.

Mr. ANGELO: This is a pest which directly affects the pastoralists and farmers and, if a board is to be established to deal with it, those two interests should be represented. I suggest a board consisting of three pastoralists, three farmers and three Government nominees, the pastoralists finding one-third of the cost, the farmers one-third and the Government one-third.

Hon. P. Collier: You are letting the Government down lightly.

Mr. ANGELO: The Government are doing more than that now. It would mean that the board would control the whole of the destruction and would be able to declare the policy. It should be a national policy extending throughout the State, not as it is today, one board paying probably £5 for the destruction of dingoes and another board paying only 10s. We shall never get rid of the dingoes while that policy continues.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: We shall not want any Government shortly. We shall have all boards.

Mr. ANGELO: I do not know that we shall be any worse off for that. We know the Government platform is very wide, and another board will only make it wider.

Hon. P. Collier: Another little board won't make any difference.

Mr. ANGELO: Our slogan has been "produce" and I want the department to do all it can in this direction. The department should not be niggardly in securing the best men obtainable. I want to see the department well manned, and we must not stint a few pounds. If efficiently manned and properly administered, we can safely rely on the department to safeguard the future of the State.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You have forgotten something, bananas and peanuts.

Mr. ANGELO: They come under the North-West Department.

Mr. DAVIES (Guildford) [9.35]: The Minister referred to the educational value of the department and the work performed by the State farms at Chapman and Merredin. I had an opportunity to visit the Merredin State Farm, and the work I saw was of exceptional value. I hope that enterprise will be extended. It was the second occasion on which I had visited a State farm. Two years ago, when the Minister took a party to the Ajana district, I saw the work of the Chapman State Farm. I was keenly disappointed

with the work there at that time. The place seemed to be absolutely deserted and the buildings were in a very dilapidated condition.

[Mr. Angelo took the Chair.]

Hon. W. C. Angwin: They should have come under the I.A.B.

Mr. DAVIES: That condition was due to the cheeseparing policy of the Government.

Hon. P. Collier: They are the only two farms not on the I.A.B.

Mr. DAVIES: The conditions there have since been very much improved. I was impressed with the enthusiasm displayed by the employees of the Merredin State Farm and the whole of the farmers who attended that field day. I hope the Government will extend the State farm system.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You should go on an off day, not on a show day.

Mr. DAVIES: What I saw at Merredin did not grow in a day or a week. It must have entailed months of labour. The staff must have applied themselves with energy and intelligence to produce such results. Another very pleasing feature was the large attendance of farmers, which showed that the work of the State farm was appreciated.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I suppose they expressed the wish that they could get the same amount of money to expend on their own farms.

Mr. DAVIES: I do not know how much has been expended on the State farms.

Mr. Latham: Not very much, anyhow.

Mr. DAVIES: The State has a very good officer in the Director of Agriculture, Mr. Sutton. He is a very live man. On the evening after the field day, he delivered a lecture and was listened to with close attention. It would be a good thing if all State enterprises could be made equally valuable to the State. I can understand the enthusiasm of the member for Gascoyne in regard to the State steamer running on the North coast and the protection it affords to the public. This should be a good augury of what may be expected when the question arises as to disposing of the State steamers. The Leader of the Opposition should derive a degree of comfort from the knowledge that members, apart from those of socialistic tendencies, maintain that these State enterprises must be kept going. I hope the Minister for Agriculture will extend his energies in the direction of starting a State experimental farm for cotton growing. A few days ago I had the pleasure of taking Mr. Jones through the Swan Valley. He is trying to infuse into the people of the State some idea of the white wealth of the world. The Minister might bring into being, without great expense to the State, a number of experimental cotton plots. These could be established without starting a farm. There are people who would be prepared to undertake the cultivation of small plots if subsidised by the Government. I hope the experiments in cotton growing will prove a big success.

The Minister for Agriculture: That comes under the North-West Department.

Mr. DAVIES: I am informed that cotton is grown in America in a latitude similar to ours, though the same sharp frosts are not experienced there, and that it would be possible to profitably grow cotton in these latitudes. Experiments, however, are necessary and we cannot ask the people to undertake experiments unless they are subsidised by the Government.

The Minister for Agriculture: Good old Government!

Mr. DAVIES: If the Government do as much for the cotton growers as they have done for the wheat growers and as they expect to do for the fruit growers they will be spending money wisely.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The only trouble is they have not got the money.

Mr. DAVIES: There is some money here yet. The hon. member does not think that we are on the verge of bankruptcy.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: What I think and what I say are two different things.

Mr. DAVIES: Then the hon. member does not say what he thinks. The work performed by the handful of people in Western Australia has been truly wonderful.

Mr. Latham: They have produced a lot of wealth.

Mr. DAVIES: Yes, much more than they can conveniently consume. If other sections of Australia performed an equal amount of work Australia would be an even better country than it is to-day. I regret very much the Minister's reference to the national wheat pool. He was rather ungenerous in his reference to the Federal Government showing much activity to form other pools.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Compared with the State wheat pool it was very poor.

The Minister for Agriculture: I said we were capable of looking after our own domestic concerns.

Mr. DAVIES: That is all right now that the war is over, but the Minister and his friends were very glad to get the assistance of the people of Australia during the war.

Mr. Latham: Don't you talk too much about the sale of wheat by the Commonwealth Government!

Mr. DAVIES: I will say what I think regarding the efforts of the Commonwealth Government on behalf of the primary producers. I am referring to what the Minister said when he suggested that what the Federal Government are doing is due to the elections. These pools have been commenced because of the parlous condition of several industries to-day, and irrespective of whether a Federal election was in progress or not they would have been established.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: They only guaranteed the position through the banks in conjunction with the State.

Mr. Latham: Yes, for a very valuable product.

Mr. DAVIES: And that is everything. I have heard members sitting on the cross

benches endeavouring to belittle the guarantee of the people of Australia.

Mr. PICKERING: Whom did you hear say anything of the sort??

Mr. Latham: Give us an instance!

Mr. DAVIES: I have not kept a note of all that I have heard, but it riles me when I hear responsible members of the House referring to the work of the national Government along these lines.

Mr. Pickering: Nothing was said along the lines you suggest.

Mr. DAVIES: We should give the national Government credit for what they have done.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: There was not much credit in selling wheat to England as they did.

Hon. P. Collier: They robbed Australian farmers of millions of money.

Mr. Latham: Yes, they robbed the farmers of over five millions.

Mr. DAVIES: I do not know that that is a fact. If it cannot be answered, the hon. member will have a point to use during the Federal elections. I want to place on record my delight at the enthusiasm shown by the primary producers in their work. They are applying themselves to their task with enthusiasm and, notwithstanding what one or two members in this Chamber may say regarding the National Government, the farmers are appreciative.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I think we belittle the State Government regarding what they have done and put too much stress on what the Federal Government have done.

Mr. DAVIES: When I refer to the National Government of Australia, I mean the Federal Government and do not speak of it as representative of one political party. When I was visiting the agricultural districts a little while ago I was particularly struck with the energy with which the people on the land were applying themselves to their task. I have been bred in an industrial area and I can view quite dispassionately the difference between the industrial world and the world of the primary producer. In the one case, we have indifference, charges of going slow, of not co-operating with the employers, and so forth. As I saw the work of the farming community at Merredin recently, everyone, from the father to the children, seemed to take a deep interest in his own particular work. Whether it is due to the fact that they are their own employers or not, the fact remains that they are bringing enthusiasm into play that, were it present in the industrial world, would be of advantage to the State. I urge the Government to do their utmost to foster the group settlement system and to extend the agricultural, horticultural and viticultural industries of Western Australia. If there is one thing more than another that will produce a contented population in Western Australia, it is to make as many people as possible their own employers. I am pleased, in conclusion, to record my appreciation of the services rendered to the State by Mr. Sutton as Director of Agriculture.

Mr. PICKERING (Sussex) [9.50]: I wish to place on record my appreciation of the services of the officers of the Agricultural Department.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Do not say too much along those lines.

Mr. PICKERING: I am going to say what I think on that point. We have had inferential aspersions cast on officers of the department and there is no justification for them.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: There has not been anything of that sort.

Mr. PICKERING: There were remarks that if these officers were what they were presumed to be, they should be receiving better pay and if they were not worthy of getting that pay, they should not be employed. What inference can be drawn from those remarks? I draw the inference that the suggestion is that the officers are not fit for their duties.

Mr. Latham: No one else drew that inference.

Mr. PICKERING: The member for York (Mr. Latham) can explain his attitude later on. If one reads with care the reports furnished by the officers of the Agricultural Department, one must be impressed by the grasp they have of the whole situation. The member for Bunbury (Mr. Money) dealt extensively with the fruitgrowing industry and made an interesting statement. There are one or two points, however, that he overlooked. In to-day's "West Australian" there is a leading article that was devoted to the fruitgrowing industry. There are certain statements contained in the article which are worthy of being repeated now. The article states—

At the beginning of the present season, fruitgrowers were threatened with a grave crisis. Exports of jam, which in 1920-21 were valued at £550,000, fell last year to £164,000. At the present moment one firm in Tasmania alone has its store practically full of last season's pulp, the carryover approximating 30,000 tons. A bumper crop is expected in the present season, and it has been estimated by a competent authority that in January next Australia will produce sufficient apricots to meet the normal demand for two years.

Then the leader goes on to state—

Sir Henry Jones has declared that more fruit is being produced than the world can assimilate, and the Prime Minister and others have urged the curtailment of the industry. But such counsel is a gospel of despair.

Further on it is stated—

The Advisory Council will entirely fail to justify its existence if it has no better advice for the grower than the curtailment of production. The problems which it is called upon to solve are the improvement of the quality of the output, the cheapening of the costs of production, manufacture, and transport, the adoption of less

wasteful marketing methods, and the opening up of new markets. Recently a trial shipment of oranges were sent from Australia to the New York market, with successful results.

Later on it says—

Not by the retrogressive policy of limitation of production, but by the improvement in the quality of fruits produced, and in the grading, packing, transportation and marketing of the product, will be found the salvation of the fruitgrowing industry. This can be secured, if secured at all, only by a national organisation.

Mr. Money: That has reference to soft fruits.

Mr. PICKERING: I would also draw attention to the report by Mr. G. W. Wickens, the Officer in charge of the Fruit Industry, which says—

The success of the fruit industry in Western Australia depends upon the growers being able to place their produce on overseas markets at profitable prices. The local market cannot absorb all the fruit now grown in the State at a price which will recoup orchardists for their labour and expenditure, and shipments overseas are essential. Western Australia has been engaged in the fruit export trade for a number of years, and this year a record was established in the number of cases sent away.

Then details of the fruit exported are given for the different years, showing that in 1922 we exported 269,241 cases. This is the important part to which I desire hon. members to listen—

With reference to this year's shipments of apples to London, the growers have experienced two disabilities; one being much lower prices than have been received for many years, and the other, high cost of placing the fruit on the market. As a matter of fact, prices received for fruit in London this year are practically the same as before the war, when times were normal, but the cost of producing and marketing is very much higher than it was then, and the returns, as published in the Press, for fruit which arrived by the later boats leaves very little to the grower after expenses have been paid. For some reason which has not yet been satisfactorily explained, the apples, in many instances, appeared to have carried badly, and the cables told of "Brown Heart" and "suffocation," terms which are comparatively new in the fruit export trade.

These statements come from authoritative sources and attention should be paid to them. Further, the conditions regarding the landing of fruit on the London market require attention. There is just cause for complaint as to the condition of fruit landed in the London markets. In Busselton I met a captain who had been in charge of a ship that had been engaged in the fruit carrying trade, and he informed me that half the trouble was due

to the way the fruit was put into the ship. As it is, tiers are made with the cases from the bottom and they are used as steps for the men to carry other cases up to the higher rows. It stands to reason that men walking over fruit cases in the way I have indicated will adversely affect the fruit in the boxes which are used as steps. There is also the problem of maintaining a proper temperature in the ship's holds and that is one that requires close investigation. There is urgent necessity for dealing with this particular phase of the business. The member for Bunbury has pointed out that, in order to make a success of the fruitgrowing industry, the charges in connection with the marketing of consignments should be reduced. We do not find the State timber mills straining any effort to turn out fruit cases at a price lower than those charged by the combine that exists in connection with the timber industry. The State Sawmills should be able to provide growers with cheaper cases. It is not right to increase the weight of fruit cases in the way that we have seen of late. At one time the weight was fixed at 51lbs., later it was raised to 56lbs., and now it is 60lbs. All this increase in weight means an increase in freight. Then there is the charge of 1/4d. per case for inspection. All these imposts on the industry tend to keep it back. I do not wish to prolong a discussion on the fruit industry, but I have many fruit growers in my electorate and it is my duty to see that their interests are conserved. Turning to the position on the London market, I have here an extract from the "Daily News," dated the 25th May, 1922, which states—

London may lose its position as the chief fruit importing centre if the Port of London authority does not attend to the serious complaints of importers. Mr. A. B. Cartwright, of the Fruit Trades' Federation, writes to the "Daily News" that "conditions are 100 per cent. worse than in pre-war days and deliveries from vessels discharging in the Thames are disgracefully slow and irregular." If the Port of London authority undertook the delivery direct from the ship to the sellers, the saving of time, money and waste would be a considerable item, and the big percentage of pilferage and broken cases would cease to be a charge upon merchant and grower.

It shows also that two or three shipments have arrived in London and that it has taken from three to four weeks to put the fruit on the market. This merely emphasises the wide room there is for improvement there. The attention of the Agent General should be drawn to the state of affairs in London with a view to securing some alteration. It is because of the excessive charges, the excessive inspection fees, and so on, that a difficulty is experienced in connection with the fruitgrowing industry, and if on top of all these hampering influences, there is to be the unsatisfactory position at the London end, I do not know what we can expect. Sir Henry Jones has shown that

there is over-production and some have gone to the extent of suggesting that the industry should be curtailed. It is time we took advantage of every channel to assist the fruitgrowing industry and give the growers an opportunity of handling their fruit more satisfactorily. They should be relieved of every handicap possible.

The Premier: We are doing that.

Mr. PICKERING: You have not done anything of the sort, and it will not be done until the fruit is exported from the port nearest at hand.

The Premier: That is available to you now. You can export fruit from Bunbury, Busselton or wherever you like.

Mr. PICKERING: That cannot be done unless there are facilities for handling.

The Premier: We are providing facilities at Fremantle but ships can go elsewhere as well.

Mr. PICKERING: It is interesting to read the report of the dairy expert and of the chief inspector of stock, who points to a gradual improvement. He says that until we get proper pastures we cannot expect the best results. We are entering upon the development of the State on a group settlement basis, and we have to make sure of markets for the settlers. The main market must lie through the dairying industry. We should not rush cows on to the group settlers until they have the necessary pastures. The report urges that proper pastures should be established at the earliest practicable date. The Premier says he has put down more pastures in that district than anywhere else.

The Premier: No, I said I had put down more in the State.

Mr. PICKERING: Where have you done that? Can you tell me?

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The Lord save me from my friends!

Mr. PICKERING: There should be more experimental plots. We have only to turn to the report of the irrigation expert on the experiment with bottle brush country at Albany. Without any ulterior motive, I give every credit to Mr. Vaughan for the way in which he is carrying out that experiment. I hope the success achieved will be maintained. The main market for the group settlers must be dairying and hogs. This report shows that we are lagging far behind in that direction. It must be borne in mind that we in the South-West cannot look to the wheat areas to give us off at a price below that which they can realise elsewhere. It should be part of the province of the Agricultural Department to endeavour to induce the growth of crops which will take the place of the waste products of wheat.

Mr. Harrison: They cannot successfully carry on dairying without such crops.

Mr. PICKERING: Every experiment should be made on the country on which we are settling newcomers.

Hon. P. Collier: In the early days, down at Busselton, they fed the pigs on figs.

Mr. PICKERING: They do so still. The trouble is that the fig tree is of such a slow growth. On page 13 of this report, the poultry expert draws attention to the market for young stock in Java and Singapore.

Hon. P. Collier: I do not think we should allow the export of live poultry until we first supply local requirements.

Mr. PICKERING: If there is a market in the Near East, it will serve to add to the success of the group settlements. Our own shortage will be speedily overcome, after which there will be these markets in the Near East. I am glad to note that the butter factory at Busselton—

Mr. Underwood: Where is Busselton?

Mr. PICKERING: I hope the hon. member will not ask me to give an account of the last evening he spent at the Esplanade Hotel, Busselton. The Busselton butter factory turned out 11,858 lbs. of butter less last year than in the previous year. This was due to the railway strike.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Did that knock off numbers of suppliers?

Mr. PICKERING: Yes. Of course, you you know all about it.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You do not know much about the butter factory.

Mr. PICKERING: Do I not? On a previous occasion I brought under the notice of the Minister the necessity for increased refrigerating plant in that factory.

Hon. P. Collier: And of course he has taken no notice of it.

Mr. PICKERING: Yes, he has, but I regret to say the power is viewed by the officer in charge of the factory as still being inadequate. It is a great pity that when the work was being undertaken, it was not done to the full limit. It will not improve the position to any great degree until the refrigerating power is increased. I hope that not too much inducement will be held out to group settlers to enter upon potato growing, at least not beyond our own local requirements. It is going to be difficult to get rid of our general crop in a normal year. We have more than sufficient potato growers to meet the small demand in the Eastern States. Last year an experiment with potatoes was made in the Fremantle freezing works. It was an absolute failure, due to the fact that it was not even cold storage. The potatoes were simply put in there and left. They developed diseases, and had to be dumped in the sea. The success of dehydration has not yet been fully demonstrated. At Kendenup it is only in its experimental stage. I hope it will prove all that Mr. de Garis claims for it. I do not know where there is to be found a market for dehydrated commodities. It would take a lot to convince me that dehydrated vegetables are better than fresh vegetables. It is equivalent to saying that chilled meat is better than fresh meat. While we can supply the Perth markets with fresh meat. I hope we shall continue to do so.

Hon. P. Collier. It is all tinned meat down Busselton way.

Mr. PICKERING: There is more mutton and wool in the agricultural areas than in the pastoral areas.

Mr. Money: There is more everything.

Mr. PICKERING: So there is. And every year will show an increase in that regard. The South-West is at last coming into its own. Until quite recently, Busselton has been under a cloud. Farmers down there could not get any advances from the Agricultural Bank. One heard all sorts of aspersions cast on the inhabitants of Busselton.

Hon. P. Collier: Dear, delightful, sleepy old Busselton.

Mr. PICKERING: Yes, we were told they lived to about 90. However, when I go to Busselton now, and see the real Busselton, it gives me heart to do all I can to direct further attention and consideration to its requirements.

Hon. P. Collier: That is due to the energetic representation of recent years.

Mr. PICKERING: I should like to take some small credit. I trust my representation of that district has not been to its detriment. I hope the efforts I have put forward have gone some way towards helping prosperity in that town and district. I commend the department for the work done during the past year. The reorganisation which has taken place has yielded good results, and I hope the officers under the control of the Minister will be afforded every encouragement to persevere in the excellent work which they have been doing.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (North-East Fremantle [10.16]: For a start I must confess that I do not know much about agriculture. Therefore I shall not offer either the Minister or his expert officers any advice as to how their work should be carried out. The experts, in particular, are bound to benefit from the speeches made here to-night. I greatly regret that the member for Sussex blames the railway strike for the decrease in butter production at Busselton. It is strange that out of the numerous butter factories in Western Australia, Busselton alone should have a decrease. The railway strike should have affected factories situated elsewhere, in greater or lesser degree. The Director of Agriculture, referring to this subject, states—

Butter and Bacon Factories.—Despite the disabilities of low prices, the output for the year showed an increase, estimated at 24 per cent. over the previous year, some factories showing an increase up to 62 per cent., whilst in others there was a slight decrease; the factories at Bunbury, Narrogin, Northam and Gnowangerup doing particularly well. The large amount of butter made on the farms this year was higher than formerly, rendering it difficult to keep factory expenses down. Two new factories commenced operations

this year, namely Geraldton butter and bacon factory at Geraldton, and Macfarlane's butter factory, Harvey . . . State Butter Factories.—The output of butter at the State butter factories shows a slight decrease compared with previous years, which was in part attributable to the foregoing reasons. The railway strike in January, 1921, and the new scale of freights and railway regulations, dealt the Busselton butter factory a very severe blow, resulting in a loss, owing to its geographical position, of 100 suppliers (vide manager's report).

It appears that the Busselton butter factory is in the wrong position, that the factory is not well situated geographically for the dairy farmers in the district. Therefore I give the Minister just one piece of advice, that he should consider whether it would not be well to shift the factory to some site more suitable to the dairy farmers.

The Minister for Agriculture: The dairy farmers should take the factory over themselves.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: One cannot expect people to take over a losing proposition. The Busselton butter factory is apparently the only one that was a losing proposition during the year. The member for Sussex in his speech did not refer to that fact. He did not tell the Committee that the reason for the shortage in the output was that the factory is in the wrong place. As regards certain remarks made this evening, I do not believe that any Government, no matter what its political faith, would leave undone anything they possibly could do to provide the best means of transport and the cheapest method of transit for the purpose of bringing our produce to market. I know the difficulties. It is but recently that various Federal members of Parliament, some representing the south-western portion of this State, made representations to the Federal Government, during the time the Federal authorities were controlling shipping, which they are not doing to-day. It was then arranged that steamers should call at certain ports here for the express purpose of taking away fruit. Hon. members here who represent the fruit growing districts are aware that the steamers did not arrive, and that the fruit could not be sent away until it was too late. That was not the fault of the present Government of Western Australia. They made representations, and got the Federal members to assist them. This happened not long ago. There are only a certain number of ships with refrigerated space trading between Australia and London. The Eastern ports, naturally, have the first offer of the refrigerated space, with the result that steamers fill up there if they can possibly do so. This State will continue to be under that disability until our exports are sufficiently large to enable us to fill all the refrigerated space of steamers. It is useless to blame the Government in that connection. All Governments here have experienced the same difficulty. One writes

and telegraphs to Melbourne, and gets promises and promises, but the promises never bear fruit. Remarks have been made that preference has been shown to Fremantle. Let me say that neither the Government nor anyone else, except the company owning a steamer, can control the port to which the steamer goes.

Mr. Money: It was not the shipping companies who wanted to leave Albany.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I was not in public life then. The German steamers first came into Fremantle, and the other companies thought it necessary to go there also in order to get the trade.

Mr. Money: The other companies came to Fremantle because Fremantle was given the best shipping facilities.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The Fremantle facilities then were not as good as the Bunbury facilities are to-day. Fremantle had then merely the open river. Fremantle Harbour is the cheapest ever constructed in Western Australia.

The Minister for Agriculture: Fruit is shipped from Albany to-day.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Yes, because of the cool storage there. Fremantle did not growl about the provision of cool storage at Albany, because Fremantle recognised that it was necessary to have cool storage in a district growing a great deal of fruit. Fremantle members like to see all the ports in Western Australia prosper, and no Fremantle member, since I have been here, has ever used his influence or vote to debar improvements from being carried out at any other port. However, the development of Fremantle cannot be checked; one might as well try to stop the tide. All this jealousy should be wiped out. The more Bunbury, Albany, and other ports develop, the better for Fremantle. The southern portion of the State will require new harbours, because that portion will not rail its products up hill to this end of the State when it can roll its goods down hill to sea ports near at hand. Eventually we shall have all the big steamers coming to Fremantle, and small steamers trading to the outports for the purpose of feeding those large steamers. Hon. members must realise that this State cannot dip a bucket into the sea and pull up sovereigns. We can only expend for a period more than the revenue which we receive. We have been doing that for a few years now, but it cannot go on. It is idle to talk of this work, that work, and the other work to be done by the Government, because we know the Government have not the money. Undoubtedly this State wants further development—roads, railways, water supplies, and agricultural development; but we are not in a financial position to supply all those requirements straight away. It is our duty to assist any Government in power to carry on the affairs of this State to the best possible advantage without running the State into debt.

Mr. Money: We cannot afford not to do these things you have mentioned.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: We can only go to a certain extent, and if we find ourselves at the end of our tether we shall be in a bad way. All those things have to be done, but they will take time. The State has done and is doing wonders considering its population. No other State has done as much as Western Australia during so short a period of development.

Mr. LATHAM (York) [10.30]: On behalf of the agriculturists I desire to say that we appreciate what the department are doing at their experimental farms in the State. The exhibition we had at Merredin the other day was an eye-opener. We saw crops which went 15 bushels where the rainfall had been only 7 inches. This shows that the department are doing something to safeguard us against dry seasons which at any time we may be subjected to. I have no wish to tender advice to the Minister but I do consider it a pity that this Chamber has not the information that was placed before the visitors to the State farm on a recent field day and that that information is not distributed throughout the agricultural areas. I know that the Minister will declare that lack of funds prevents this being done. On this subject it may be apropos to mention here that we should consider the advisableness of publishing an agricultural gazette. I am sure it would be self-supporting though at the outset some expenditure would be involved in its production.

Hon. P. Collier: We had one some years ago.

Mr. LATHAM: We require it more than ever at the present time.

Hon. P. Collier: What about your official organ?

Mr. LATHAM: Do you mean the "Worker"?

Hon. P. Collier: No the "Primary Producer."

Mr. LATHAM: That is a useful paper, but it does not go far enough. I appeal to the Minister to consider the advisableness of starting an agricultural gazette which would prove of benefit to the State. We are receiving to-day valuable information from the experts of the department and this information should be circulated through the medium of a journal. The agricultural areas are on the point of extending sheep raising, and we know that there are very few farmers in the wheat districts who can cull their sheep. Valuable information is being given to these people by the sheep expert, Mr. McCallum.

Hon. P. Collier: He is only a half-time officer. In the other half he is occupied organising for the "Primary Producer."

Mr. LATHAM: I have not heard of that.

Hon. P. Collier: You do not read the "Primary Producer," or you would have found that out.

Mr. LATHAM: I am pleased to hear that the Minister intends to deal with the dingo pest in a manner which will be satisfactory to the State. I would also urge him to con-

sider the question of exterminating rabbits which, to-day, are increasing more rapidly than ever before. Some steps will have to be taken to insist upon land holders keeping rabbits down in their areas, while the Government will also have to do something similar in respect to Crown lands. We do not want a repetition of the experience of the Eastern States of some years ago. The suggestion that the rabbit proof fences should be removed should not receive a moment's consideration, and if at any time pressure should be brought to bear on the Minister in this direction, I hope he will stand up against it. Recently I saw inside the No. 2 fence that the crops had not been touched, while half a mile away on the other side, there were big patches which had been eaten right down, showing that the fence was of service to that part of the State. Regarding the Peel estate I had the opportunity recently of seeing what the Government were doing there. I was led to believe that a lot of people from Home had settled there. These people should receive the best advice as to the manner of systematically working the land. Whatever the cost may be, it will be money well spent. There should be small experimental plots to show what can be produced and the method of producing.

Hon. P. Collier: There is an expert there now.

Mr. LATHAM: But he does not seem to have got hold of things properly. It appeared to me that there was no system in the method of cultivation. Of course, it is only a new place, but we should safeguard ourselves against any waste of money, whether that waste be on the part of the settler or the department.

Hon. P. Collier: There has been spent there already no less than £120,000.

Mr. LATHAM: It is going to be worth that.

Hon. P. Collier: I think so too.

Mr. LATHAM: I believe we are getting value for every penny spent there.

Mr. Money: And it will be an illustration of what it will be possible to do in many other similar centres.

Hon. P. Collier: That is why there should be the best possible advice given.

Mr. LATHAM: Regarding what the member for Guildford (Mr. Davies) said as to what the Commonwealth Government had done for the wheat growers of the State, I happened to pick up a paper recently and noticed that a question was asked by Sir Newton Moore in the House of Commons regarding the price at which Australian wheat was sold to the Imperial Government on the London market, and the price at which purchases were made from other countries. The answer given was that the price paid to Australia was 3s. 1d. per bushel less than that given for wheat from any other part of the world. If the member for Guildford holds that up as an example of what the Commonwealth Government were able to do for us in this regard, we may well say, "Save us from our friends."

Mr. Money: But we could not have shifted it ourselves.

The Minister for Agriculture: It is all very well to be wise after the event.

Mr. LATHAM: I appreciate very much the work which was carried out by the State in the handling of the pool last season. On the subject of pools attention may be drawn to the fact that the Commonwealth has not yet settled up the 1916-17 pool. The State can do very much better than that and give the farmer a better deal. I do not like to hear the Commonwealth Government being held up as such great friends of the State when they do business or these lines. I congratulate the Minister on the work he has done, and I trust that next year he will have a bigger sum of money at his disposal for the development of the industry which he controls.

Mr. HARRISON (Avon) [10.40]: The Director of Agriculture ought to be regarded as the technical head of the department rather than the clerical head. In fact, it is essential that all the professional men attached to the department should be relieved as much as possible of their clerical duties. The Minister stated in his speech that he would like to hear the views of those members who visited Merredin a little while back. Although the year has been anything but a good one from the standpoint of the State generally, it has been a most successful year from the experimental point of view, especially at Merredin. The State is indebted to Mr. Sutton to a greater extent than we can possibly realise in connection with the growth of certain varieties of wheat which varieties are now stabilised and are true to type. In my opinion—and I have expressed this view through the columns of the "West Australian"—settlers now growing wheat between Burracoppin and Southern Cross have a better fighting chance than those settlers who, 25 years ago, settled east of Tammin. I am satisfied that the production of wheat and oats has placed farming in these areas on a basis far and away superior to anything we could have expected a few years ago. Any farmer who is contemplating a departure in the working of his farm would be well advised, before wasting time and capital, to pay a visit to the experimental farm at Merredin or Chapman and ascertain if such work has already been undertaken by experts. Quite a lot of farmers who contemplate changing the variety of their wheat, or their methods of cultivation, or who are confronted with some problems, would probably find that experts had already undertaken investigations which would prove most valuable to them. I am pleased to note many of the matters in the agricultural report. One aspect I wish to refer to, because it follows on what I suggested some years ago when speaking on the Estimates, and that is with regard to the Denmark farm and pure bred stock. It is now intended to take up the Jersey breed for dairy purposes. Nothing could prove of greater value to the dairy industry than herd-testing wherever dairying is made the first line of

production. In yesterday's "West Australian" was an article giving the record of a cow which I would like to compare with the record of our own cattle. This particular cow, named Melba XV., belongs to a herd called the Darbalar milking Shorthorns. It is from a stud farm in New South Wales. This cow produced in nine months a milk yield equal to 22,597½ lbs. with an average test of 4 per cent. totalling 988,197 lbs. of butter fat. The highest we have is a cow belonging to Mr. Goyder at Roelands, which, in an equal period, produced 568½ lbs. of butter fat. This cow is approximately equal to the average of the New South Wales stud herd to which I have referred and, as it is the premier cow of Western Australia, we still have a long way to go to get on equal terms with the best cow in New South Wales.

Hon. P. Collier: What age was that cow?

Mr. HARRISON: Four years.

Mr. Mann: Was that due to the feeding?

Mr. HARRISON: Partly so; the details of the feeding are given. On the average of that particular dairy, our best cow showed very well. The cow mentioned lowest in our list produced 294 lbs. There are 14 cows mentioned in the annual report of the Royal Agricultural Society of New South Wales, and the range was from 564 down to 447 lbs. Our average is not bad, but we have a long way to go before we reach a champion beast. There were about 14 beasts ahead of Mr. Goyder's cow and our highest was about the average of the New South Wales dairy. Herd-testing is a greater educational factor for dairy farmers than anything else.

Hon. P. Collier: Are our dairy experts dealing with the matter in the districts?

Mr. HARRISON: Yes.

Hon. P. Collier: How far are they going?

Mr. HARRISON: Tests have been taken at Doodlakine.

Hon. P. Collier: Your town must have been singled out.

Mr. HARRISON: Not that I am aware of. Tests are carried out wherever they are asked for.

Mr. Mann: Dowerin produces good butter.

Mr. HARRISON: Then the hon. member should get the experts to test the stock. Going through the agricultural societies' shows one can notice the advancement being made as a result of the expert advice given to farmers.

Hon. P. Collier: Do not you think these expert officers should lecture to the thousands of people at show time?

Mr. HARRISON: Very often they do.

Hon. P. Collier: But not at our show here.

Mr. HARRISON: During show week the lectures were given in Perth. Why does the Leader of the Opposition try to pull my leg by asking these questions about lectures?

Hon. P. Collier: Is not the attention of the people at such a time taken up with lectures on fat women, when it ought to be lectures by departmental experts?

Mr. HARRISON: I do not think we are giving sufficient attention to the developing

of the cotton industry. In Lancashire they are doing all they can to stimulate the production of cotton throughout the Empire because of the decreased yields in America and Egypt. In Western Australia we have the soil and the climatic conditions for the development of a cotton wealth which will not be equalled except by our wool wealth. It is worth the expenditure of a few thousand pounds to see where we are in respect of cotton. The sooner we get to work the better, while the Commonwealth Government are willing to guarantee the price for seed cotton. It is well worth our while to jump right in. After listening to Mr. Jones' lectures, I am convinced that ratoon cotton can be grown in Western Australia. If it should prove that we have to grow cotton as an annual in various parts, if there is a chance of the ratoon plant being likely to injure the cotton, we can deal with it when the trouble arises. But till that trouble arises, why not take advantage of our climate and of the cleanliness of our soil to do what we can? On the Education Vote last night I said that cotton seed should be distributed amongst our country schools. The magnitude of the wealth that can be produced renders it worth while taking the matter in hand.

Item—Sheep and wool inspector, £384:

Hon. P. COLLIER: I hate having to complain about the action of members of the Primary Producers' Association, but the ramifications of that body are so many, and the influence of some of its prominent representatives so great, that one cannot allow their actions to pass without comment. I impress on the Minister the necessity for keeping strictly apart the work of the departmental officers—who, as such, can be under no political organisation—from the efforts of political organisation. I have here the report of a meeting held in the Geraldton district, at which the fact that Mr. McCallum, an officer of the department, the sheep and wool inspector, was to give an address to the farmers, led to a fairly large attendance. When farmers turn up to hear a technical lecture, it is entirely wrong that a political organiser should butt in and deliver an organising speech an hour in length, slang-waving in villianous misrepresentation all and sundry. It is altogether undesirable that officers of the department should be thus associated with the organisers of a political body. On the other hand, such organisers should not attempt to take advantage of the drawing power of a departmental lecturer to secure an audience. The "Primary Producer" in its report says that at a meeting of the Mullewa branch, held in the agricultural hall on the 24th, only formal business was transacted to permit of addresses being given by Mr. Manners, the organiser, and Mr. McCallum, the sheep and wool expert. If the organiser in his address had confined himself to questions relating to agriculture generally, there might not be so much objec-

tion to it. But he did not do that. After dealing generally with the need for the farmers to organise in order to protect their interests and welfare, after strongly urging upon them the need for "one big union" of farmers—

Mr. A. Thomson: You are not opposed to that, are you?

Hon. P. COLLIER: Certainly not. The organiser went on to say—

He claimed that the association had been responsible for land reductions and the establishment of the Industries Assistance Board, which had been such a boon to farmers.

Mr. Teesdale: Was that said by Mr. McCallum, the wool expert?

Hon. P. COLLIER: No; by Mr. Manners, the paid organiser. If he were a union man, he would be called a paid agitator. However, belonging to this association, he is an organiser, or a representative of the association. He claimed that his association was to be credited with the establishment of the Industries Assistance Board, which had been such a boon to the farmers—entirely ignoring the fact that the board was established and the Industries Assistance Act introduced by the Labour Government. That was said by this man who goes around the country attempting to mislead the farmers. Unable to secure an audience for himself, he gets it through the agency of an expert Government adviser.

Member: It might be the other way about.

Hon. P. COLLIER: No. The farmers would travel miles to hear an expert on matters affecting their welfare, but not to hear a blithering idiot like Manners, whom they know. The expert gets the audience, and then Manners inflicts this kind of stuff upon that audience—

The Labour Party claimed credit for the establishment of this institution, but he had no hesitation in saying that had it not been for the late Mr. Stanistreet, who was then the general secretary of the association, and who worked night and day to bring it about, it would probably not be in existence to-day.

Mr. Munsie: Mr. Stanistreet circularised the farmers, when the I.A.B. was first established, advising them not to have anything to do with it.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Manners goes on to say—

During the recent elections Mr. Collier, speaking in the town hall at Geraldton, made capital out of it on the plea that his party had been responsible for it, and many farmers had thereby been gulled into supporting the Labour candidate.

Mr. Manners was present in the Geraldton Town Hall on the night when I, as he says, attempted to make capital; but he preserved a very discreet silence throughout my speech and after it. He did not question my right to claim for the Labour Party the establishment of the I.A.B. He waited a fortnight

to make a reply, which does not say much for the veracity of this individual. The report continues—

The association had, moreover, been the means of securing reductions, through the repricing of conditional purchase lands, to the extent of £207,000—

This reckless prevaricator makes a statement like that, well knowing, or having every reason to know, that the Act which brought about the repricing of land was introduced by the Labour Government.

Hon. M. F. Troy: You should say "reckless hired prevaricator."

Hon. P. COLLIER: A paid prevaricator. I do not mind his statements. He can go around the country saying anything he likes, but I object to his being accompanied by a Government official while engaged in spreading broadcast these unscrupulous lies. He also claims that his association secured—

reductions in insurance premiums, and many other advantages that the farmer would not otherwise have enjoyed. Mr. Manners referred to the wool, skin, and hide employees' strike at Fremantle some time ago, when the action of 150 men lost to this State two wool sales and held up a large quantity of wool until the wool market collapsed. By the action of these men the wool growers lost £1,400,000.

Mr. Willcock: What about the big firms who bought the wool at a low price and resold it?

Hon. P. COLLIER: I wish to show the nature of the propaganda the man is carrying on. It is purely political propaganda from beginning to end. I gather that he is one of the men who go round the country spying for a suitable seat, for a nest at the expense of some hon. member on the cross benches, no doubt; though I should imagine no member need fear a man of this calibre.

In addition to that, the demurrage on the railways was £4,000, which, however, was reduced by half through the efforts of the president of the association.

See the influence of the president. As soon as the president raises his finger, the demurrage is wiped out.

Mr. A. Thomson: You know that that was a justifiable reduction, don't you?

Hon. P. COLLIER: I do not know.

Mr. A. Thomson: It was approved in this House.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I do not know that, but I do know this, that there is something wrong if the State has a Commissioner of Railways who unjustifiably imposes charges amounting to £4,000—

Mr. A. Thomson: That is what happened.

Hon. P. COLLIER: —and if those charges cannot be removed except by extreme pressure applied by a deputation.

Mr. A. Thomson: The deputation put the case before the Commissioner, and he did not know—

Hon. P. COLLIER: It is rather a strange thing if after representations had been made

to him by way of correspondence and by his officials, the Commissioner was not aware of every phase of the subject when he gave his decision, prior to being waited upon by the deputation, which was successful in obtaining a remission of £4,000.

Then, again, they had brought about decentralisation in regard to the business of the Agricultural Bank and I.A.B., which were now establishing branches and local boards in the country districts. It will be the duty of these boards—

Let hon. members observe that as far back as July this man knew all about the appointment of those local boards, and the functions they were to discharge. He was then in possession of information which members of this House only received last week.

The Premier: No.

Hon. P. COLLIER: That is what he says. The Premier: No one asked for decentralisation.

Mr. A. Thomson: Decentralisation was the Premier's policy.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Manners continues— It will be the duty of these boards to inspect and report on properties—

Mr. Manners knew all about the functions of these boards in July last.

held by farmers who have been assisted by the I.A.B., and who, for one reason or another, have not been able to make good, and to put them on the right track. In some places men had been struggling along on inferior land, and where it is found their properties are not suitable for wheat-growing, or that they are over capitalised, steps will be taken to give them a fresh start.

He knows all about it. Last week we were told it was only a matter of investigating and offering advice to the Industries Assistance Board! Now we see that it does not stop there, according to this organiser. He said in July last, that certain things would be done, and that the settlers would be given a fresh start. According to this man, the recommendations of the local boards are to be carried out; it does not matter what the statutory board may have to say on the matter. We now see that the decisions of the local boards are the ones that will be observed. Then Mr. Manners went on to refer to the wheat pool, and matters connected with that movement, and on this point the report states—

Mr. Manners condemned the action of the State Opposition Leader and other members of Parliament, in connection with fixing the price of wheat for home consumption, which had not been fair to the farmer.

Hon. M. F. Troy: Nothing ever is!

Hon. P. COLLIER: That is so.

Mr. Piesse: But this gentleman is an organiser.

Hon. M. F. Troy: What does that interjection mean?

Hon. P. COLLIER: Mr. Manners said—

In many cases they did not make their wants known to their Parliamentary representatives as they should—

My word, were they to do that, how long and late we would have to sit!—

—the consequence being that these men very often had to guess their requirements, with the result that they did not adequately represent the farmers, whose views they were more or less ignorant of.

The Minister for Agriculture: He is after a seat all right.

Hon. P. COLLIER: These words satisfy me as to what he is after. I have no doubt that members of the Country Party have read this speech, and, in consequence, they have brightened up their knowledge regarding the farmers' requirements. Thus it is that we have had a flood of expert knowledge on this vote.

Mr. Latham: This is the first I have known of that report.

Mr. Mann: Do you not read your own paper?

Mr. Latham: The Leader of the Opposition always does that for us.

Hon. P. COLLIER: The report proceeds—

Mr. Manners concluded his address by giving some interesting details relating to the power of organisation, and made a very strong appeal to those present to do all in their power to increase the membership of the branch, and make it a real live concern. That is very sound advice. Then the report goes on to say—

After Mr. McCallum had addressed the meeting, and both speakers had satisfactorily answered a number of questions put to them, Mr. Carson moved a vote of thanks which was carried with acclamation. What I complain about is the combination and association of officers of the department with a political organisation.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: It puts the officer in an unenviable position.

Hon. P. COLLIER: It is not fair to the officer of the department at all.

Mr. Piesse: What did he speak about?

Hon. P. COLLIER: There is nothing in the report to show what he spoke about.

Mr. Willcock: He would give a lecture on wool.

Mr. Latham: He would not speak on political subjects.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I should say not. No rational farmer would attend a meeting to listen to Manners. Thus it will be seen the fact that Mr. McCallum was to deliver a lecture was responsible for the attendance, and then this interloper butts in and gets rid of his lying propaganda.

Hon. M. F. Troy: Yes, and McCallum has to speak after him.

Hon. P. COLLIER: No such action was ever taken in the days of the Labour Government, as an inducement to join the "one big union." This sort of thing is quite wrong. I hope the Minister for Agriculture

will see that if Mr. McCallum, or any of his other officers are to address meetings in the country, those meetings will be held entirely free from political or organising interests associated with the primary producers. It is entirely wrong. If an Inspector of Mines were to call a meeting on the goldfields, and the A.W.U. organiser were to step in and indulge in an hour's discourse, occupying a column and a half in the newspaper, of purely political propaganda of the kind to which I refer, I wonder what would be said by members sitting on the Ministerial side of the House. They would be justified in complaining, and I hope Government officers in the course of their duty—I am not complaining about Mr. McCallum as an individual, for I have never seen him, and know nothing about him—will not figure in association with representatives of a purely political organisation.

Mr. Teesdale: We must realise that it may not have been possible to secure another hall that night. Such an incident happened in my own case.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Mr. Manners should have been silent if an officer of the Agricultural Department was there. He should have allowed Mr. McCallum to deliver his lecture. That would have been more discreet. After Mr. McCallum had spoken, those persons who did not desire to stay and listen to Mr. Manners could have left the room. In those circumstances, they would not have had to listen to all this blather.

Mr. A. Thomson: That is a matter of opinion.

Hon. P. COLLIER: But the fact remains that the settlers had to wait for an hour before Mr. McCallum could carry out his duties.

Mr. Teesdale: It is very derogatory to the position which a Government officer should take.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Certainly, particularly as he had to sit and listen to this political propaganda.

Mr. Teesdale: The principle involved is an important one.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Yes. It is necessary that we should draw attention to this state of affairs. I hope the Minister will see that a stop is put to this sort of thing. There is a tendency nowadays for administrative affairs and this political organisation to be mixed up. That is entirely wrong. Such was never done in the past; it was never attempted during the years Labour occupied the Treasury Benches. The principle is wrong and should be scotched at the outset. This is only another bit of evidence of what has been going on. Such an incident should not be allowed to occur again. If Mr. Manners wants to get in propaganda work, let him do it, without interfering with the work of a Government officer.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: I assure the Leader of the Opposition that the officers of the department have been given distinct and emphatic instructions not to as-

sociate themselves in any way during the performance of their duties with any gathering of a political nature. In some circumstances technical officers, such as the sheep and dairy experts, might be asked to attend meetings at the request of organisations, but they have been given distinctly to understand that there must be nothing of a political nature, and that such meetings must not be used for organising purposes.

Hon. P. Collier: If Mr. McCallum had spoken first and the meeting had cared to listen to the organiser afterwards, there would have been no objection.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: The instructions are definite that no officer shall associate with any meeting of a political nature.

Hon. M. F. TROY: I am glad to hear the Minister's statement. The gentleman referred to by the Leader of the Opposition has on several occasions been associated with officers of the department during his propaganda stunts. I believe the meeting referred to by the Leader of the Opposition was advertised by the Government on behalf of Mr. McCallum. The hire of the hall was paid for by the Government on behalf of Mr. McCallum.

The Minister for Agriculture: We do not pay for halls.

Hon. M. F. Troy: Was not the Mullewa hall paid for?

The Minister for Agriculture: No.

Hon. M. F. TROY: The meeting was advertised in the Press and the advertisement was paid for by the Government, and then this individual comes along and is made the star man. The wool expert had to follow him. Such a practice has never before been indulged in in this State. Apart from the statements of the organiser, which are absolutely untrue, his association with Mr. McCallum is not in the best interests of the department. I commend the Minister for his remarks. We have never used the visits of Government officers as a draw to get a public meeting at which to expound our politics. I travel frequently in my electorate with inspectors of mines and geologists, and I am always careful to refrain from expressing any political opinions. I do not think the Minister was responsible, but his officers would be well advised to strictly obey the instructions issued by the Minister.

Item, Rabbit and other vermin eradication and upkeep of rabbit-proof fence, including wages, £24,500:

Mr. CORBOY: I should like to have a statement of the cost of maintaining the rabbit-proof fence. It is included in this item together with other costs. During my election campaign 18 months ago, I travelled about 200 miles down the fence and 200 miles back. During the whole trip we did not see one rabbit on the east side of the fence. We saw plenty on the west side. If the cost of maintaining the fence is considerable, it could well be done away with, seeing that the rabbits appear to be on the

west side of the fence. There is no reason why we should fence the rabbits off from the Eastern States. It is a foolish policy. If the fence could be removed without a great deal of cost, the material might be made available for farmers to fence their own blocks. This would be wiser than spending a considerable sum annually to maintain a fence which is serving no useful purpose.

Hon. M. F. TROY: I take a very different stand from the member for Yilgarn. I disagree with the proposition so often put forward by politicians and the Press that this fence should be removed. It would not be economical to remove it, as much of the wire would be of little value. To roll up the wire and distribute it would damage it too much. The fence is serving a very useful purpose. The member for Yilgarn is probably not aware that the fence has kept thousands of dogs on the eastern side of the pastoral areas, and has afforded great protection to hundreds of people engaged in sheep raising. I am not satisfied that all the rabbits are on the western side of the fence.

Mr. Corboy: We did not see one on the eastern side during our 400 miles trip.

Hon. M. F. TROY: I admit there are too many on the western side, but I have known occasions when there were millions on the eastern side and when the country was eaten out as bare as the floor, whereas on the western side there was very good feed for the stock. The fence has checked periodical waves of rabbits.

Mr. Harrison: Quite right.

Hon. M. F. TROY: One night in 1917 I travelled between Warriedar and Yalgoo in a motor car. This district is inside the fence, and at almost every yard rabbits crossed the road in front of the car. They were so numerous in the vicinity of Thundelarra station that the trees were ringbarked. Yet 12 months later there was not a rabbit to be seen in that country. Where they disappeared, I do not know. There is no doubt that the fence does serve as a check for these waves of rabbits, and it would not be at all wise to remove it. We read statements in the Press of the wilful waste of money on this fence. The fence is a big check to the depredations of other pests which would become a great menace to pastoralists and farmers. Nothing could be gained by pulling up the fence.

Vote put and passed.

Department of Colonial Secretary (Hon. R. S. Sampson, Minister).

Vote—Office of Colonial Secretary, £12,777:

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. S. Sampson—Swan) [11.30]: The subjects submitted under this department are of wide range. For the whole of the activities under the Colonial Secretary and Minister for Public Health, including the business undertakings and trading concerns, the expenditure for 1921–22 was £533,957. The estimated expenditure for

this year is £482,705, being a reduction of £51,252 on last year's expenditure, and less than the expenditure for 1920-21 by £79,189. The revenue collected in 1921-22 was £173,784. The revenue estimated for the current year is £169,180, being less than that of last year by £4,604. The decrease is due to the fact that a considerable amount of non-recurring revenue was collected last year. Excluding the Medical and Health Department, operations of the Colonial Secretary's Department were conducted last year at an expenditure that was less than the aggregate amount voted by over £4,000. It may be noted that in the Colonial Secretary's head office is included the expenses of the correspondence despatch office, costing £3,011. The operations of this office resulted in a net saving to the Government of postages of over £18,000 for the year. Mr. Pickering, the officer in charge, has effected this great saving.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: As much as £18,000 in the year?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes. That was saved by the operations of the correspondence despatch office. It is calculated on the basis of 4d. per letter or package conveyed from one point to another. Operations in connection with the Aborigines Department extend to areas south of parallel 25 South. A saving estimated at not less than £1,500 per annum will result from the closing as from 1st July last of the Carrollup native settlement and the transfer of natives thence to the Moore River. Last year's operations in connection with the Fisheries Department were conducted at a cost of £200 less than the estimate. This year a further saving of £800 is anticipated. The revenue last year exceeded the estimate by £2,500, due to the additional income from the royalty on opossum skins. It is expected that this year the amount will considerably exceed last year's figures, for the price of skins is very high. In respect of Friendly Societies and Registry, last year the expenditure exceeded the Vote by something over £900, due almost entirely to increased expenses of the Arbitration Court, which has now been transferred to the control of the Crown Law Department. Under the heading of Gaols, substantial economies have been effected as the result of the general revision of the whole of the administrative system. Notwithstanding this saving, there has been no reduction whatever in the scale of dietary, clothing, bedding and other requirements. The prisoners are made quite comfortable, and the work being done by them has an excellent reformatory effect. In many cases it will result in giving them a brighter outlook on life when they are released, in addition to making their stay in the penitentiary of advantage to them.

Hon. M. F. Troy: One would think the prisoners were guests of the institution!

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The question whether imprisoning a man is a good thing has to be determined, but if he be given useful work, it can only have the result of developing his good qualities and making of him a better citizen. In the Harbour and Lights Department the expenditure last year exceeded the estimate but only to a slight extent, less than £100. This too, notwithstanding the expense of handling cargo at North-West jetties was greater than had been expected. Increased activities are

expected at North-West ports during the coming year. The services throughout are being adequately maintained. In respect of immigration, the numbers of immigrants who received financial assistance towards cost of passages were as follows: 2,317 men, 855 women, 539 children under 12 years of age, or a total of 3,711, being an increase of 1,048 over the preceding year's figures. Expenditure under the heading "Inspection of liquor" comprises the salaries and expenses of two inspectors, who are engaged on the work indicated, toward which the Licensed Victuallers' Association contribute £350. The Labour Bureau has done very good work. Last year 9,849 persons applied for employment, and the number of engagements was 6,684; and 3,253 workers were advanced railway fares to enable them to proceed to employment in the country. The Lunacy Department's expenditure last year was less than the vote by £5,077; and that expenditure was less than the previous year's by £7,681. The amount provided for the current year is £1,938 less than last year's expenditure. It is gratifying to add that the dietary has been improved, in accordance with a recommendation of the Board of Visitors, to an extent which will involve an additional cost of some £900. Hon. members will recollect that the Royal Commission which sat last year made certain recommendations, and I understand that these have been complied with at all events to the extent indicated. Special consideration has been given to various suggestions of the Royal Commission, and plans for the establishment of a reception home, and for extension of the accommodation for mental patients, are being considered. So far a site for the proposed reception home and convalescent home has not been approved. Whether the site shall be on the Swan River, or at Claremont, or at West Subiaco, is yet undecided. There is, however, a Class "A" reserve at Claremont which we consider eminently suitable, at least from the standpoint of those likely to use the homes. If hon. members approve, that reserve may be taken over for this purpose. On the other hand, there is at West Subiaco a block of sufficient size which may be decided upon.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I hope you will never put the homes there. That would be against the advice of all the experts.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I quite agree with the hon. member. I myself would like to see the convalescent home and reception home established on the bank of the Swan, or at least within view of the river, the passing craft, and the ever-changing scene will have a soothing effect, so I am advised, on those who are mentally deranged, or whose mentality is threatened.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The Subiaco site is too close to the present asylum.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: That also is a difficulty, as I realised when walking over the site. It does seem to me that if a person is threatened with insanity, or feels that he is not quite normal mentally, the mere sight of the Hospital for Insane might have a very prejudicial effect upon him. The operations of the Observatory are being conducted within the limits of the vote. The expenditure provided for is sufficient only to meet bare essentials. I believe that hon. members are desirous that

the Observatory should be maintained. It provides certain services for the State. As regards State children and out-door relief, last year's expenditure exceeded the vote by £3,100. This was due to the fact that insufficient provision had been made for monetary aid to women with children dependent upon them. The amount provided this year exceeds the expenditure of last year by £1,904. I acknowledge that the amount is high as compared with corresponding expenditure in the Eastern States. However, I think hon. members will not find fault if sympathetic consideration is given to those in distress, more especially as regards the rendering of monetary aid to women who have the responsibility of children and have no breadwinner, or a breadwinner not fully able to maintain the family. It is agreed that pecuniary aid is preferable in such cases to providing rations. I think that it will be agreed that a woman so circumstanced can do more with the money representing the value of the rations, than the rations themselves would represent to her. I think I may, in all justice, pay a tribute to the work of the officers of the State Children and Charities Department, which is very difficult work indeed. I do not know whether it is entirely in good taste for me to offer this eulogy of their work, but even my short occupancy of this position has enabled me to realise that the officers in question are very earnest and very sympathetic, and act as they consider best in the interests of the distressed.

Hon. P. Collier: They are very good officers.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Reference may be made here to the Salvation Army institution for mentally deficient boys. The term used at the Salvation Army home is not "mentally deficient boys," but "backward boys," which I think very much preferable. The parents of the children naturally prefer to hear them spoken of as backward rather than mentally deficient. There is a good deal of influence that may be described as unspoken, and, therefore, I think it is time that "backward" should generally replace "mentally deficient" in this connection. The point is a small one, perhaps, but it shows that those conducting the Salvation Army home are sincerely desirous of doing their utmost to promote the welfare of their charges.

Hon. P. Collier: But the Salvation Army home is not confined to backward boys, is it?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: No. There is a section of backward boys, a section of reformatory boys, and another section of boys whose parents are unable to give them a home, or who have lost their parents. It is a splendid institution. I had the pleasure of visiting it recently, and was glad to see the way the lads are treated, and also the general conduct of the institution and the improvements which have been effected in the grounds. The boys are being taught useful occupations. The State Children and Charities Department is doing good work in the matter of arranging voluntary adoptions of State children. As hon. members may know, there are as a rule a number of babies on hand in the department. If there is a childless home desirous of adopting a child, and if the home is such as to meet with the approval of the departmental officers, then that home no longer remains childless, but gains all the advantages

to be derived from the presence of a little one in the family circle. That work is being done, and very well done by the department. Last year the number of adoptions arranged by the department was 566. I think that is a fine effort indeed.

Mr. Mann: Were they mostly orphans?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes, or children whose mothers were single women, or children whose mothers had died and the State had to look after them.

Mr. Mann: Are they usually adopted?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Frequently they are. No disinclination need be felt in adopting the child born of a single girl. Personally, I believe that such a child is almost as certain to grow up to be a useful man or woman as the child born in wedlock. However, I do not intend to discuss that aspect any further, beyond to say that in practically all the cases in which the department have secured the adoption of children, the arrangements have been satisfactory to all concerned. The money paid to the various orphanages for the maintenance of children amounted last year to £17,752. The amount paid to women on whom children are dependent was £44,304. There are 688 cases now on the books, necessitating payments to the extent of over £45,000 per annum. The rate of the maximum payment per person was increased from 8s. to 9s. per week in December, 1920, and that rate is still being paid. Over 600 State children are boarded out, the cost last year amounting to £14,764. The receiving depot at Mount Lawley is being maintained and calls on the department are made for rations, out-door relief, boat passages and rail fares of indigents to hospitals and sundry incidental expenses. The expenditure at the Cave House last year, was within the vote and a decrease is provided in this year's Estimates. The State dairy farm at Claremont exceeded the Estimates by £90.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The Caves House does not come under these Estimates.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes, it is under my department.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: But it does not appear in these Estimates.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes, it does. Splendid work has been done in connection with the Yalingup Cave House. It is one of the finest institutions that can be visited in Western Australia.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: But it is not in these Estimates.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: If that is so, I will not deal further with the subject. As to the State hotels—

The CHAIRMAN: I cannot allow the Minister to discuss the State hotels either. They do not appear in these Estimates.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Apart from the trading concerns controlled by my department, I have briefly referred to each section coming under my control. It is a department of great ramifications. It deals with matters ranging from State children to State ferries and from matters relating to dry docks, to those concerning State hotels and the inspection of liquors. There is no need to say anything further on the vote. Beneficial work is being carried out by the Charities Department, the Hospital

for the Insane and the other branches as well, and I submit the Estimates with confidence to the Committee.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (North-East Fremantle) [11-55]: I have no desire to say a great deal in connection with the Estimates but I was pleased to hear the Minister remark that the Messengers' Exchange had saved the State £18,000 last year. I would like to remind the Minister that this was another of the re-organisations carried out by the Labour Government.

The Premier: We kept it going.

Mr. Money: I suggested it to you.

Mr. Munzie: You would not have thought of it but for the Labour Ministry.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: To give credit to the man to whom it is due, the suggestion for this was received from Mr. Neville, the present Secretary of the North-West Department.

Mr. Money: Yes, I talked to him about it.

The Colonial Secretary: I was not aware of what you say. I referred to Mr. Pickering because he has done such good work there.

Hon. P. Collier: That is not our Pickering, is it?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: References appeared in the Press since the House last met, as to whether it was a wise move to shift the aborigines from the southern districts to the Midland area. That has been done by the Colonial Secretary's Department. There was a settlement at Katanning and I am informed that it was fairly satisfactory. As soon as it was arranged, however, it was found necessary to remove the aborigines to the Midland district.

The Colonial Secretary: It was ascertained that the climate would suit them better. That, I understand, was the reason.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: A large expenditure was incurred at Katanning, only to open up another settlement in the Midland district. The aborigines were brought from various parts of the State and I should think that those coming from the southern districts would prefer to live in their own part of the State rather than go elsewhere.

The Colonial Secretary: Every convenience is provided for them at the Moore River settlement.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I notice that the Minister said that there was an increased expenditure in connection with the Harbour and Lights Department owing to the increased cost of working cargo.

The Colonial Secretary: Yes, on the North-West jetties.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: On referring to the Estimates I find that the vote last year was £1,920 and the expenditure £1,758. This indicates that there was no increase in that direction. On the contrary, the vote was £162 less than the expenditure. If there was an increase, there must be an error in those figures. As to the Labour Bureau, during last year the Government, by way of loans for fares, were called upon to assist those who found difficulty in securing employment in the metropolitan area and other districts. At present people who have obtained employment in the country experience difficulty in getting assistance of this description.

The Premier: Not at all.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Various young people have seen me when they had employment to go to but not the money to pay their railway fares.

The Premier: They could come to me.

Hon. P. Collier: The office is getting pretty tight.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I rang up the office, but could not get tickets for them. People assisted in this way sign a statement that they will repay the money, and the great majority of them do repay it. It is much better to thus assist people to go into the country, where there is work, than to have them walking about the streets of Perth and Fremantle.

The Premier: If they come to me, I will put them through.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: We cannot bother the Premier on every occasion.

The Premier: Well, Shapcott will see to them.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: But certain instructions have been given to the officer of the department.

The Premier: He must have fixed instructions.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The system was that when a man had employment to go to, he would give an order on his employer and the amount of the fare would be advanced. I know of instances where advances of this kind have been refused.

The Premier: Very few cases.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Still there are some. Three nights ago there was an instance which is still fresh in the mind of the Premier, but I was referring to other cases. The Premier has often told us he wants to get people into the country where there is work: yet when they get work and have not the money to pay their fares, the department refuse to advance it, notwithstanding that in most instances the money is refunded.

The Premier: We have received refunds after five years.

Hon. P. Collier: The great majority of these people are honest.

The Premier: Yes, if you give them a fair deal.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I have always maintained that we had good officers in the department.

Hon. P. Collier: It is a good sympathetic department.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: It is a difficult department to administer. The Minister referred to the South Australian system. Unfortunately we in Western Australia have not the benefit of large endowments by wealthy people such as South Australia has received.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—Aborigines (Southern portion) £5,684.

Progress reported.

BILL—CLOSER SETTLEMENT.

Council's Message.

Message from the Council received and read notifying its decision that the Closer Settlement Bill was out of order, inasmuch as it was an amendment to the Constitution Act and pur-

ported to alter the constitution of the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly, and therefore it required a special certificate to the effect that the Bill had passed its second and third readings by an absolute majority of the total number of the members of the Legislative Assembly. As the Bill contained no such certificate the Council, under the terms of Standing Order No. 180, was precluded from proceeding with the Bill.

Hon. P. Collier: They are Solons, are not they?

House adjourned at 12.9 a.m. (Thursday).

Legislative Council,

Thursday, 16th November, 1922.

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

QUESTION—MACHINERY INSPECTION.

Hon. E. H. HARRIS asked the Minister for Education: 1, Has the motion, carried in the Legislative Council on the 8th November, 1922, disallowing amended machinery inspection regulations and the making of fresh regulations, the clear meaning of which was placed on the motion by the Minister for Education when he objected to the cutting down of the revenues of the Inspection of Machinery Department by 30 per cent., been interpreted by that department to mean an instruction to reduce every fee enumerated in the disallowed regulations by not less than 30 per cent.? 2, Will the amended rates be retrospective from the original date of the proclamation of the regulations, i.e., 3rd July, 1922, or the date of the amended regulations, i.e., 19th September, 1922? 3, Will the Minister provide that when the regulations have been finally agreed to, they shall be framed into schedules, and by an amending Bill be added to "The Inspection of Machinery Act, 1921," and passed during this session of Parliament?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: 1, So far as is practicable effect will be given to the resolution of the Council in this matter. 2, No. 3, No.

QUESTION—CLOSER SETTLEMENT BILL.

Message to the Assembly.

Hon. J. DUFFELL (without notice) asked the Minister for Education: 1, Is the message sent from this House to another place relating to the fate of the Closer Settlement Bill in accordance with the usual procedure of this Chamber, and was it sent along as the result of the resolution carried in this Chamber? 2, Are the reasons given in the message the reasons why that Bill was rejected by this Chamber?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: I have nothing to do with the sending of such messages to another place, and so I do not know that my opinion on the question is of any value.

Hon. J. DUFFELL: It is usually when anything is done in this Chamber for the Minister to move that it be transmitted by message to another place. But the message which has been sent to another place in this instance was out of order, because it does not give the real reasons.

The PRESIDENT: The hon. member cannot make a speech. He has asked his question, and the Minister has replied to it.

Hon. J. DUFFELL: Well, my reply to the Minister is that when anything is done in this Chamber, it is usual for him to move that it be transmitted by message to the Assembly and its concurrence desired therein.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: There are occasions when it is my duty to move that a message be sent to another place. But many messages are sent to another place without a motion from me. I know nothing whatever about the message in this instance. It has nothing to do with me. I did not move that any message be sent. The President is the person who controls our procedure, and his opinion on the point may be of value.

Hon. J. DUFFELL: Well, I ask your ruling, Mr. President, as to whether the message I have referred to is in order; whether it is in order when a Bill is rejected by this Chamber to send a message to another place?

The PRESIDENT: Yes, I think the message was quite in order. I signed it.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

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

BILL—PENSIONERS (RATES EXEMPTION).

Report of Committee adopted.