

is to avoid that trouble that the Bill has been brought down. It will also prevent Poppy Day from being brought into disrepute. I give an assurance on behalf of the League that whether members of these other organisations are eligible to join the R.S.L. or not, and whether they have been or are members of it, they will always receive prompt attention from the officials of the League when it comes to a question of amelioration. I understand they will be eligible, for the parent Act sets out that—

Such moneys shall, subject to the regulations, be applied by the Trust in its discretion for the benefit of aged and/or invalid sailors, soldiers and nurses eligible for membership of the League, and for widows of soldiers or sailors who fought in the Great War.

The Act does not say they shall be members, only that they shall be eligible for membership. The House need have no fear on this score. The Bill is required, not for the purpose of giving assistance to members of the organisation, but to help aged and invalided sailors and soldiers and the widows of sailors and soldiers who served in the Great War.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

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

House adjourned at 5.22 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Wednesday, 21th October, 1931.

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

QUESTION—LAND SETTLEMENT, ADVANCES.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM asked the Minister for Lands: What are the amounts outstanding for principal and interest in respect of advances made under (a) The Agricultural Bank Act, 1906-1930; (b) The Industries Assistance Act, 1915-1931; (c) The Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act, 1918, and its amendments; (d) The Finance and Development Board Act, 1930; (e) The Group Settlers' Advances Act, 1925; (f) The Wire and Wire Netting Act, 1926?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS replied:

	Principal. £	Interest. £
(a) Outstanding and not due	3,930,096	...
In possession	705,455	282,451
Due and outstanding	797,027	828,982
	£5,433,178	£1,111,433
(b) Outstanding and not due	714,740	...
In possession	394,389	113,723
Due and outstanding	446,051	285,421
	£1,555,780	£349,244
(c) Outstanding and not due	3,077,384	...
In possession	547,559	194,101
Due and outstanding	689,409	622,393
	£4,314,352	£816,494
(d) Capital raised under Act, merged into Bank capital.		
(e) Outstanding and not due	1,086,078	...
In possession	501,698	105,773
Due and outstanding	...	358,310
	£2,487,776	£464,083

(f) Principal and interest due and unpaid—£61,035 19s. 1d

CITY OF PERTH SUPERANNUATION FUND BILL—SELECT COMMITTEE.

Report Presented.

Mr. Lambert brought up the report of the Select Committee.

On motion by Mr. Lambert ordered—that the report and evidence of the Select Committee be printed, and that the Bill, as amended by the Select Committee, be recommitted to a committee of the whole House, and that its consideration be made an order of the day for the next sitting.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

On motion by Mr. Wilson, leave of absence granted to the member for Victoria Park (Mr. Raphael) for one week on the ground of ill health.

BILLS (5)—FIRST READING.

1. Gold Mining Profits Tax Assessment.

2. Gold Mining Profits Tax.

Introduced by the Acting-Premier.

3. Forrest Avenue Closure.

Introduced by the Minister for Lands.

4. Inspection of Machinery Act Amendment.

5. Mine Workers' Relief Act Amendment.

Introduced by the Minister for Mines.

BILL—INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE ACT CONTINUANCE (No. 2).

Read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

RETURN—GOLD MINING RESERVES.

MR. MARSHALL (Murchison) [4.40]:
I move—

That a return be laid on the Table of the House showing the following:—

- (a) the number of gold-mining reserves in existence;
- (b) the area of each and its locality;
- (c) the period such reserve has been in existence;
- (d) the number of reserves which have been renewed and the grounds for renewal;

- (e) the number of reserves which are now in existence by virtue of renewal;
- (f) the nature and amount of work done on any or all reserves;
- (g) the terms and conditions imposed on each reserve now in existence;
- (h) the number of reserves which have lapsed;
- (i) the name and owner of each reserve respectively;
- (j) the number of open reserves in the total number now in existence.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. S. W. Munsie—Hannans) [4.41]: I have no objection to the motion. I would point out, however, that it will take two months to obtain some of the information required by the hon. member.

Hon. C. G. Latham: Get it for next session.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I will get the information as soon as possible, and when it is obtained will lay it on the Table of the House.

Question put and passed.

MOTION—HORSE RACING, BETTING CONTROL.

MR. MARSHALL (Murchison) [4.42]:
I move—

That, in the opinion of this House, immediate steps should be taken to introduce legislation for the purpose of legalising and controlling betting on horse-racing, along the lines of the South Australian Act.

This motion will no doubt meet with a mixed reception. It is breaking new ground as it affects existing legislation, and it may also be argued that the law as it applies to South Australia is as yet only in the experimental stage. I have tried to collect data that would give me a lead as to what other countries are doing, and indicate the general feeling of the populace of other countries with respect to gambling and betting on horse racing. It is remarkable that wherever we look for information upon this all-important subject, we find that the trend of thought is along the lines of strict control. Many years ago gambling was as rife on a per capita basis as it is to-day, if not more so. I have been looking for a lead from the reports of Select Committees and Royal

Commissions appointed by the House of Lords and the House of Commons, to see what has been done in England in this particular matter. Two hundred or three hundred years ago this question was the cause of grave concern to the Parliaments of the day as to how control should be maintained. Strange to relate, just as has happened in our own young country, when one form of speculation was prohibited by law another immediately appeared. Statesmen of those days were puzzled to know what could be done and how it should be done, so that that which was considered to be of an immoral character might be quelled. While I am on that subject of what is moral and what is immoral, I suggest that the whole crux of the position depends upon the point of view, which will always be a matter of contention. For instance, I have not made a wager of any sort in my life either on horse racing, cards or dice.

Mr. Stubbs: We should put you in a museum!

Mr. MARSHALL: Perhaps it is one of the few virtues I possess. Horse racing and gambling do not appeal to me.

Mr. Griffiths: Is that a virtue?

Mr. MARSHALL: Some may think it is.

Hon. C. G. Latham: Is it because you are too poor?

Mr. MARSHALL: Perhaps poverty has compelled me to frame my likes and dislikes in that respect.

Mr. Patrick: I thought poverty often provided the incentive to speculate.

Mr. MARSHALL: People in less comfortable circumstances than those in which I find myself, frequently indulge in gambling. I do not imply that I am a better citizen because I do not bet. I know members of this Chamber and of the general public who like a little wager, and they are none the worse for it. They are good citizens. They bet within their capacity to pay and conduct themselves as well as any other member of the community. They are none the worse off.

The Minister for Employment: Except financially.

Mr. MARSHALL: Perhaps that is so.

The Acting Premier: The Minister for Employment speaks from experience.

Mr. MARSHALL: I have not been with him on a racecourse, so I do not know. I have been on a course twice only in 16 years, and each time it made me feel tired. Bear-

ing in mind the facts as we know them to-day, it will be agreed that something should be done to control what is undoubtedly a dangerous element in our midst. Before I advance arguments in support of that contention, I readily admit that I respect the opinions of those who look upon horse racing and betting as immoral. I agree that, from their point of view, in all probability it is not right for Parliament to associate itself with anything that can be classed as immoral. According to their views, it means converting this institution into an immoral Parliament. But if that argument is to apply, we must consider what Parliament has done in the past and consider what may be regarded as a precedent. If it is immoral, and Parliament, by legalising betting, would degrade itself to the level of a practice that in itself is regarded as degrading, let us consider where that leads us to. Those who advocate prohibition with regard to the liquor traffic will no doubt agree that to achieve prohibition would spell reform and lead to our moral progress. If they agree that a total prohibition upon the sale of alcoholic liquor would constitute a reform, then they must readily admit it is better for Parliament to pass legislation to control the liquor traffic rather than to allow the traffic a free hand, such as is enjoyed by horse racing to-day. If we are to consider the moral effects of the liquor traffic as compared with that of betting, it will be conceded that the liquor traffic is the more immoral or, at any rate, engenders more immorality than betting. If it can be regarded as immoral for Parliament to interfere in the control of horse racing and betting, how much more must it be immoral for Parliament to interfere with the liquor traffic? But Parliament has already done that. Those who contend that it is not right for Parliament to control betting would not suggest that Parliament should not control the liquor traffic any more than they would like to go to Karrakatta. If there is anything that the complex demands of society make necessary, it is that we shall endeavour to control these evils. In various countries, for centuries past, efforts have been made to eradicate the gambling evil, and the experiences of those countries are set out to a large extent in a publication received from England some time ago. Although countries have passed laws to eradicate gambling, they have dismally failed. The first action taken in this respect,

according to the final report of the Royal Commission on Lotteries and Betting, 1932-33, was 400 years back. Attempts then were made to prevent certain games, and the reasons for the actions taken are given. I do not think members will find that the first action taken by the legislators of the Old Country was from the moral standpoint. The move was due to other considerations. Whether it can be said that reasons other than the moral aspect inspired the Parliament of England to legislate against various games, I do not know, but I think so. I think in these days we have departed from the real reason for the passing of the original laws against gambling. Nowadays the action is taken on the score that gambling is immoral, and the object is to achieve a reform. I shall read some extracts from the report of the Royal Commission. Embodied in the report are references to the findings of many other committees and Commissions set up during centuries before we were born, and the object of the inquiries was to consider much the same matters. Under the heading of "Unlawful Games Act, 1541," the report states—

The earliest English legislation as to gambling, namely Acts of 1388, 1409, 1477, and 1541, prohibited the playing of certain games, and as a consequence prohibited gaming in the form of playing at those games for money.

There is no mention there of the games being immoral. The Royal Commission, from whose report I am reading, was the Joint Royal Commission of the House of Lords and the House of Commons, appointed in 1932. The report continues—

The motive behind these laws was the desire to promote archery and other military exercises by preventing men from wasting their time on games.

That was the idea in those days. Evidently their object was to keep the villagers physically fit so that the populace would be materially benefited should hostilities break out with other nations. They were prevented from playing those games in order that they might practise with the bow and arrow, and presumably, with the broad axe.

Mr. F. C. L. Smith: There must have been sleeper-cutters in those days.

Mr. MARSHALL: At any rate, that is what happened then.

Mr. Moloney: We have learnt a lot since then.

Mr. MARSHALL: I do not think so. From a humanitarian point of view, we are worse off than in those days because the member for Subiaco (Mr. Moloney), for instance, would have had a chance of dodging an arrow; but nowadays he has no chance of dodging a .303 bullet. The report continues—

Thus the Act of 1541 prohibited the keeping for gain of a house for playing at games such as bowls or tennis, or games of cards and dice. The Act made it an offence for anyone to play at those games in houses of this description, or for artificers, servants and others to play such games at all, except at Christmas time. Portions of this Act are still in force.

Mr. Sleeman: What! With regard to bowls?

Mr. MARSHALL: At any rate, we have a little more freedom in these days. Then the report says—

In 1621 an Act of the Scottish Parliament prohibited in Scotland the playing of games of cards or dice in inns or (save where the master of the family played) in private houses, and imposed penalties on excessive gambling.

It will be seen that no one was allowed to play these games unless the lord of the manor indulged as well. It seems to me that the original desire to prevent any form of gambling was not on the score of immorality at all, but was based on certain national purposes. It was to keep the villagers physically fit and ever ready for war. Thus the original intention was to prevent certain games in England. As soon as they did that, it was found necessary to turn their attention to lotteries. The report states, under the heading of "Authorised Lotteries (1566 to 1823)"—

During the next three centuries the lottery was the form of wagering that attracted most interest.

Mr. Sleeman: In Scotland?

Mr. MARSHALL: I do not know that they risked money on lotteries there. Let me quote further—

There are records of lotteries being held in different parts of Europe in the 15th and early 16th centuries. The first recorded lottery in England was projected under State auspices in 1566, and drawn in 1569.

Although they prevented ordinary citizens from gambling, the State for its own pur-

poses had no hesitation in running lotteries in 1569. The report continues—

The magnitude of the scheme, and the absence of any suggestion of novelty in the notices of it, make it probable that lotteries were not unknown in England by that date. In the lottery of 1566 there were 400,000 lots, and the prizes were in plate, tapestry, and money. The proceeds were to be "converted towards the reparation of havens and the strength of the Realme and towards such other publique good workes." During the next hundred years many lotteries were promoted for public or semi-public purposes. Thus there were lotteries in aid of the English plantations in Virginia (1612), to finance schemes for bringing fresh water to London (1627 and 1631), to repair the damage done to the fishing fleet by the Spaniards (1640), and for the ransom of English slaves held in Tunis, and for poor and maimed soldiers (1660).

These were all State-controlled lotteries, and it was not until many years afterwards that the State decided they were immoral and unworthy, and so dropped them. This report continues—

From the first, lotteries were the subject of State regulation. Lotteries were not considered to be illegal at common law, and until 1698 there was no statutory prohibition of private lotteries. The basis of State control in the 16th and 17th centuries appears to have been that lotteries were a form of monopoly to be granted by the King, or King-in-Council, by letters patent. All the early lotteries of which there is record appear to have been licensed in this way. At the end of the 17th century, control passed from the King-in-Council to Parliament. An Act of 1698, which is still in force, enacted that all lotteries were common and public nuisances, and all patents and licenses void and against law. Thereafter the only legal lotteries were those authorised by Act of Parliament.

So we start from there. Parliament decided that lotteries were immoral, and thence forward until 1845 constant efforts were made by the Imperial Government to abolish wagering and gaming in all forms. But they failed dismally. Let me quote another extract from the same report—

The earliest statute against lotteries was passed in 1698, during a period when the State was not engaged in promoting lotteries for its own purposes. In later years Parliament, while authorising lotteries for State and certain public purposes, was engaged in suppressing other lotteries, and the sale in this country of chances in foreign lotteries. One reason for this legislation was the desire to prevent competition with the lotteries authorised by Act of Parliament.

I could go on quoting to show that from time to time efforts have been made to prevent gaming. Efforts were made to stop it by legislation, but they all failed. This record continues—

By the middle of the 19th century much of the gaming legislation had ceased to be applicable to the conditions of the times. The Act of 1541 made unlawful, sports which three centuries later were regarded as healthy forms of recreation, while the provisions against excessive gaming were sometimes employed by common informers acting for spiteful motives.

We have them with us to-day also. Even with the aid of common informers, the Imperial Government failed to accomplish its objective. I have only two more paragraphs to read. This is the report, not of one select committee, but of many select committees that sat to consider the subject, inquiring into the ramifications of gaming, and recommending to Parliament what ought to be done to abolish it. Here is a paragraph—

As a result of the situation, select committees to inquire into the subject were appointed in 1844 by the House of Lords and the House of Commons. The Lords Committee recommended that, "The law should henceforth take no cognisance whatever of wagers; that all statutes making it penal should be repealed; and that bets so contracted should be recovered by such means only as the usages and customs of society can enforce for its own protection."

So the Lords Committee contended that it was useless to go on as they were going. The House of Commons Committee recommended—

That the old and obsolete enactments which restrained persons of any degree from playing at certain games, many of which are conducive to health as well as to amusement, should be repealed. The political motive upon which those enactments were founded has long ceased to exist, and even if these laws were expedient when they were passed, which may well be doubted, they ought no longer to remain in force.

So, for centuries back, lotteries, wagering on horse-racing and other contests have been the order of the day in the Old Country, and successive Imperial Governments have failed to give effect to the wishes of those who say the abolition of wagering would be a reform. In order to substantiate my own ideas in regard to this, I suggest we might all accept the opinion of a very able lawyer and judge of England,

the late Mr. Justice McCardie. A Mr. C. F. Shoolbred wrote this book I have in my hand, entitled "The Law on Gambling and Betting," which was published in 1932. To this book Mr. Justice McCardie wrote a foreword, and this is the way in which he concluded—

It may on the whole be better, in the general interest, that a legalised and reasonable indulgence should be allowed in respect of several things now prohibited, rather than that the present state of affairs should continue. We must take human nature as it is. The whole matter is ripe for full and unreserved discussion by the public, the Press and Parliament. Many who reflect on the present state of the law incline to the view that, on the balance, more good than harm will result if sweepstakes, whist drives, and even other forms of lottery are permitted, provided they are carefully regulated and supervised. To lawyer and social observer alike, this volume by Mr. Shoolbred will be of the greatest value. I wish it all success.

That was Mr. Justice McCardie's idea in 1932. Whether his advice was accepted I cannot say, but seemingly Parliament has given it consideration, because I have here a cutting from the latest issue of the "Sunday Times," which published a controversy in regard to betting in England. This is the extract—

An Appeal Court decision in a case brought by bookmakers legalises off-the-course bets with the Totalisator Board's agent. The ruling paves the way for the employment of full-time stipendiary stewards, as in Australia. Lord Hamilton, a member of the Betting Control Board, told the Jockey Club that if the totalisator agency revenue is maintained it would not be difficult to obtain a grant for the payment of stipendiary stewards. Experts say 10 are needed, and the estimated salaries and expenses would total £30,000 a year.

So they have now legalised off-the-course betting in England. I have attempted to get the Act, but unfortunately it has not yet arrived. However, it is very evident that the Imperial Government, after centuries of experience, inquiries and investigation into all forms of gambling and betting, have come to the conclusion that the only possible way of minimising it is by legalising it. The system that applies in this State must be abhorrent to any thinking man. In no possible circumstance can it be argued that it carries a semblance of fairplay or justice. Why is it that, although the law of the land prohibits any form of wagering, either on the racecourse

or off it, or gambling in any form in any place, we find that a privileged few who can afford it are free to go on the racecourse and, under the very eyes of the law, make wagers? Indeed, men are licensed to call the odds right under the eyes of the law. On the other hand, if any individual desires to wager and cannot afford to go to the racecourse, he takes advantage of certain methods illegally—for that matter all betting is illegal in this State—provided for the purpose. But if he is caught, both he and the man who accepts his wager are taken to the police court and fined for an offence against the law. Why should that be? Many people urge the abolition of gambling, which, as I have shown, is impossible, no matter how stringent the law may be. Incidentally, I should be sorry to see the law more stringent than it is, because it would then have the effect of driving underground what is now practised in the open; wagering and other forms of gambling would then be practised in dark alleyways where whole families, including children, could and probably would indulge. And from that, of course, it would in all probability lead to something worse. But we can remedy the evil if only we legalise it and control it. Having granted a man the right to make a wager legally, we could then so penalise those who would attempt it illegally as to make such a practice wholly unlikely. If proper provision were made for legalising betting, we would not have the glaring spectacles that are witnessed to-day. If we penalise betting any further, we run the risk of driving it into secluded spots, and then we may find growing up the evils of dice and card playing, accompanied by what is happening in America, probably even murder. I am concerned about the welfare of the people on the goldfields. They enjoy little in the shape of relaxation. The miner is fond of two things, one is a pot of beer and the other is a little bet. That is about the only relaxation open to him. He lives in a little improvised humpy to which he returns from his work. Probably on the way home he has had a pot of ale. After his midday or evening meal he has nothing to do and nowhere to go other than to walk down the street and back his opinion for the few shillings he has to spare. Surely

to God there is no harm in that! But things are getting so warm on the goldfields that people scarcely dare to look around at a policeman for fear of being charged with insubordination. Whatever argument may be advanced in favour of the non-legalisation of betting in the metropolitan area or in the large towns of the State, it should not be applied to the goldfields people, who should be allowed the privilege of having a bet. They have not the environment that the people of the city enjoy. The people of the coast can visit the river resorts and picture shows, or attend cricket or football matches and picnics.

Mr. Sleeman: Down here they have nothing to bet with.

Mr. MARSHALL: Haven't they? There are in the metropolitan area five racecourses for the gallops and two trotting courses, and I would wager—perhaps I had better say suggest—that it is the public and the punters who keep the racecourses going.

Mr. Thorn: The bookmakers get a bit.

Mr. MARSHALL: But not all. People have money with which to bet, and that is the reason why I wish to have betting legalised. We are told that gambling is wrong because men bet beyond their means. Some people who object to anyone indulging in alcoholic liquor argue that it is wrong for a community to have the right to consume alcohol because it causes intoxication and degradation. How many individuals in the whole community bet beyond their means? I know there have been instances of men embezzling or stealing money in order to attend the races, or to pay bookmakers. I am also aware that men have been locked up for being inebriated. But how many habitual drunkards are there in the community? How many habitual punters are there who exceed the limits of their capacity to pay? If we could obtain statistics, I suppose the numbers would represent an infinitesimal portion of the whole. Alleged reformers would argue that because one man in 5,000 or one man in 10,000 steals money in order to go to the races, the other 9,999 have no right to enjoy the privilege. People say how degrading is drunkenness. That is true, but should we say that because one man has gone to the wall because of lack of will power, the rest of the community should not enjoy the beverages retailed in hotels? To adopt that attitude is not fair. Certainly it is not democratic that, in order to safe-

guard the minority, we should penalise the majority. I understand that my motion has caused some concern amongst those interested in bookmaking, because it advocates the introduction of legislation to legalise betting and horseracing along the lines of the South Australian Act. That is the wording of the motion, but I do not suggest that we should adopt the South Australian Act *holus-bolus*. As a matter of fact it would be impossible to do so. The conditions prevailing in this State are so different from those in South Australia that we could not adopt the legislation of the neighbouring State in its entirety. Nor would I agree to its total adoption; but the South Australian Act would form a particularly good guide for local action to minimise the gambling evil. In South Australia all betting is controlled by a board created under the Act.

Mr. Sleeman: That would not be a bad reform here.

Mr. MARSHALL: I agree with the hon. member. I believe that a board of control here would be no worse than the existing control, but rather that it would be better. The South Australian board has exclusive powers regarding the registration of bookmakers, bookmakers' clerks and bookmakers' agents. The South Australian board has asked for further time to form an appreciation as to how drastically the law affects bookmakers. I consider that the South Australian Act is a little severe in the taxation imposed on bookmakers. That law demands in the first place a two per cent. commission on their turnover. Then a tax is imposed on every bet made—a tax of 1d. on every bet up to and including 10s., and 3d. on every bet in excess of 10s. Then a license must be held by the bookmaker, which costs £1, and also by his agent or his clerk. Over and above all those imposts, the bookmaker is liable to pay income tax and other taxation. On the whole I consider that the South Australian Act betrays a little greediness on the part of the State, because the revenue has profited materially from the introduction of the legislation. While I agree that the State should receive a fair proportion of what is going under the system of legalisation, I still think that those who have been, or still are, engaged in bookmaking should be fairly treated. The South Australian Act has undoubtedly accomplished

considerable good. I do not desire to quote at length from the report. Members can read about it for themselves in an issue of the "West Australian" of a few weeks ago.

Mr. Patrick: Previous to that Act, book-makers were not legalised in South Australia.

Mr. MARSHALL: They are not legalised here.

Mr. Patrick: They are licensed here.

Mr. MARSHALL: But not legalised.

Mr. Patrick: None was previously licensed in South Australia.

Mr. MARSHALL: That is so. The fact that a man holds a license, however, does not place him above the law. Though the W.A.T.C. license a bookmaker, he may be arrested on the course.

Mr. Patrick: But it is not done.

Mr. MARSHALL: That is so. Nor do the authorities go to the Stock Exchange and grab some of the aristocrats to be found there wearing white collars and smoking cigars. Nor do they raid bridge parties.

Hon. C. G. Latham: You assisted to pass the law to tax betting tickets.

Mr. MARSHALL: I did not. What hypocrites we are! We pretend to the public that we are opposed to gambling, and yet we compel those who indulge in betting, which is illegal, to pay special taxation. Like the ostrich, we stick our heads in the sand and imagine that no one can see us. It is hypocritical to continue as we are doing. It would be far better to legalise betting and bring it under proper control. The South Australian figures are illuminating and refute the chief argument advanced against the legalising of betting, namely that it encourages men ultimately to bet beyond their means. The figures show that both on the course and off the course the people who wager on horse-racing are very small bettors. Seemingly each and every one wagers only in proportion to his capacity to pay.

Mr. Hawke: They have to pay first of all.

Mr. MARSHALL: Yes, and apparently they pay everyone else, too. On the whole very few people are gaoled for embezzlement or for stealing money with which to pay bookmakers. I believe that men who have found themselves charged with embezzlement or misappropriation of funds have often blamed horse-racing when the

money has been spent in some other way. The same to an extent applies to drinking. When a medical man fails to find the cause of lack of mentality in an individual, he invariably books it up to over-indulgence in alcoholic liquor. I think both those factors are burdened with a great deal of blame that is not due to them. Illegal spenders of money almost invariably allege, through their lawyers, that unfortunately they went to the races. In some cases, probably, they had been travelling too fast in motor cars. I am now about to quote figures showing how bettors wager—

The report states that during the six months ended June 2 last, members of the public made a total of 5,397,575 bets, 4,564,521 of which were laid on licensed premises. Of this number 4,388,803 were bets of 10s. and under, and 175,718 over 10s.

Altogether, the figures show that both off and on the course the people were particularly careful to bet within the limits of their purses. The report also refers to bookmakers, who, it is stated, since the Act was passed have not enjoyed a great measure of prosperity. Numerous factors, however, govern the bookmaker's profit and loss account. At the moment it would not be safe to accept the figures as being a reliable guide. As we know from our own history, a few years ago, when money was plentiful and everybody was working at a reasonable rate of wages, there was a greater expenditure on betting, and there were more bookmakers in existence, than is the case now. Trade and manufactures having fallen off, naturally some bookmakers must go to the wall. At times, too, it happens that the bookmaker has a run of outs. Numerous factors contribute towards the figures I have quoted. If betting was controlled by a board with a sense of justice, I do not think bookmakers, either on or off the course, would have occasion to fear. The South Australian Act is not all I might desire it to be; for various reasons it could not be applied wholly to this State; but there is much good in it. At all events, it would be a guide to this Parliament. It provides that after payment of all expenses and a recoup of costs incurred by the Treasury, 60 per cent. of the profits shall be paid to the various racing bodies, according to the number of bets made during the year on each course, and that the remaining 40 per cent. shall go to the Government. Moreover, the taxes on tickets are received by the

Government. All the departments concerned are amply remunerated, and the Treasury in particular benefits materially. I do not think my friend who may be the State Treasurer of the future need fear for his job if such a measure is enacted here. Especially so far as the goldfields are concerned, it would be far better to legislate on the lines laid down by Britain and South Australia—in fact, to follow the general trend throughout the world. We should take control of betting as far as possible, with a view to eliminating any immoral aspects, at the same time providing security for those who indulge in betting. The State, I emphasise, would be well paid for its activities. Legalisation in South Australia has been fully justified by results. Our goldfields offer very little in the way of relaxation, and in the main the men there like their little wager. Until recently little notice was taken of betting; one could place a bet without being molested by the police. Since then betting has been visited with persecution. The men on the fields are relegated to their improvised homes after working 44 hours in a rotten environment and after passing a similar number of hours in bed. When awake and not working, they are apparently expected to stop in their camps. That is not reasonable. I have no wish to discriminate between the goldfields and the cities. However, as one who does not gamble and never will gamble, I hold that gambling ought to be legalised. I have heard opponents of the control of gambling argue that such control would tempt youths to bet. May I quote my own case. At the age of ten years I lived in a country where gambling was open and free to anybody and everybody. On the footwalks of the main thoroughfares of the cities there were shops where anyone could walk in, sit down, and play any game. As a child, I have stood in such shops and watched men gambling; and yet I never felt tempted to put on a shilling. I saw large wins made. I do not say the winnings were perpetual, because on the law of averages a person must lose eventually. On the Western Australian goldfields I have stood by a billiard table watching hazard, murrumbidgee and other games being played for hours on end, and I have never had a shilling on.

Mr. Sampson: Why did you stop? Were you not playing with temptation?

Hon. C. G. Latham: You had strength of character.

Mr. MARSHALL: It was not because of strength of character that I refrained from betting. Nothing in the world will make a man bet if he does not want to, and nothing in the world will make a man stop betting if he wants to bet. So long as there is demand, there will be supply. Under present conditions bettors are driven into seclusion, where one cannot see what is going on. On a different aspect, let me say that I have known men to take liquor early in life, and drop it upon having realised, in mature years, the folly of it. The same remark applies to gambling. The other side of the picture is where men take to gambling late in life.

Mr. Hawke: There is a chance for you yet.

Mr. MARSHALL: Late indulgence usually means heavy indulgence, in either gambling or liquor. It is useless to shut our eyes to the fact that we cannot stop gambling any more than our forefathers could. Experiments in that direction have been going on for hundreds of years. I do not say that any corrupt methods are being used in connection with gambling here, but the matter is left open to corruption. If there is harm in gambling, we should take hold of the system and control it, as we do other features of life considered by some sections of the people to be objectionable. Let us control gambling as we control and regulate the liquor trade, and get revenue from it. My appeal is chiefly on behalf of the people of the goldfields, who have little or no other form of recreation than an occasional wager, and who bet only within the limits of their purses. I repeat, my motion does not discriminate between the cities and the goldfields. As one who never bets, I would rather have controlled betting than the state of affairs now prevailing.

On motion by the Acting Premier, debate adjourned.

BILL—BUILDERS' REGISTRATION.

Second Reading.

MR. MOLONEY (Subiaco) [5.38] in moving the second reading said: I am fully seized of the importance of this measure. It provides for the registration of

builders, with certain conditions relating to a specified matter. The most important clause of the Bill is Clause 3. Largely, the Bill is a machinery measure. It has the backing of the Building Trades Executive, which comprises unions such as the bricklayers', plasterers', fibre plaster workers', builders' labourers', plumbers', and others associated with the building trade. However, the measure does not emanate from that quarter. Let me add that it has the support of the architects of Western Australia. The building trade represents one of the greatest secondary industries of this country. We remember that Sydney originated in the manner set out in Phillip's journal dealing with his visit to Botany Bay, which was published in 1789. Sydney Cove was named 146 years ago in honour of Lord Sydney by Governor Phillip. When the Cove was established in 1788, the noise of the woodman's axe was the first sound heard there, and the denizens of the bush, including the native inhabitants, were forced back with the march of civilisation. Now, after that comparatively short period, we find that over £17,000,000 has been expended on buildings in the metropolitan area of Sydney, £200,000 per week was spent on the purchase of materials, and £100,000 per week in wages. Those figures indicate the significance of the progress made in the building industry in Sydney alone.

Hon. C. G. Latham: Will your Bill provide any more employment?

Mr. MOLONEY: As I proceed, I shall point out how, in all probability, the measure will result in the provision of more employment, and the conditions under which the men in the industry will be engaged will be more in accordance with other legislation passed in the interests of the community. The problem of the builder is not new. In Western Australia, as the result of the operations of men of straw in the industry, the legitimate builder has been forced to tender at prices not in the best interests of the people generally.

Mr. Sampson: Will the Bill increase the cost of buildings?

Mr. MOLONEY: No, not in the sense the hon. member has in mind. I will deal with that phase as I proceed. The registration of builders is not sought in the

interests of any one particular section. The aim of the measure, and the basic principle upon which it has been based, is to ensure that those engaged in the industry shall possess the measure of competency that is essential. There is nothing in the Bill that will preclude anyone who is competent from embarking upon the industry. There is nothing in it that will prevent any lad who desires to enter the trade, from passing certain examinations that will not be extremely onerous. If he does so, he will be absorbed in the industry. What the Bill will achieve is that those engaged in the building industry to-day, without having had training fitting them for the work, will be allowed to operate only on small jobs of a value up to £300. Provision is made in the Bill for the appointment of a board that will consist of architects and builders, and there is nothing in it that will compel a registered builder to join the Master Builders and Contractors' Association. If the prospective builder is competent, his application for registration will be granted. Persons who have been engaged in the industry for two years as builders or who have at any time supervised buildings in the capacity of foreman or such like, can also apply to the board for registration, and the board, if satisfied with the competency of the applicants, will be able to waive the necessity for the examination. The instructor of the Technical School will draw up the examination papers and conduct the examinations, with the co-operation of the board. Fortunately, those connected with the trade generally are in accord with the Bill. There has been an agitation in New South Wales for some considerable time in favour of a similar reform. A few months ago a conference was held at which it was decided that steps should again be taken to press for legislation of this description. During the Bavin Government's regime steps were taken with that end in view, but the Government went out of office. Then Mr. Lang was approached but, owing to the momentous issues that confronted him, the Bill was overlooked.

Hon. C. G. Latham: Would he have put such a Bill through?

Mr. MOLONEY: I do not know.

Hon. C. G. Latham: That would be sufficient to condemn it in this State.

Mr. MOLONEY: I know that representations were made to him regarding the matter, but irrespective of whether he was willing to submit the legislation to Parliament or not, he vacated office and naturally could not submit the Bill. Then there was a conference of the Master Builders' Federations in the Eastern States, and the principle was affirmed. It was decided that each State should take steps, through their respective legislatures, to implement the Federation's desires. In Victoria some years ago a Bill of this description was introduced, and, after reaching the second reading stage, it was referred to a select committee. Like many other measures dealt with in that way, it—

Hon. C. G. Latham: —was buried.

Mr. MOLONEY: It was not heard of again. I do not suppose that is peculiar to the Victorian Parliament. South Australia occupies a unique position in the building trade because in that State a system of sub-contracting operates. It is the only State where that condition applies. In Queensland steps were taken along lines similar to those set out in the Bill, and the trade there is pressing for recognition with regard to registration. I place these facts before the House to indicate the attitude in other States, so that members may know what is being done there. With that knowledge, it remains for us to recognise the obligation upon ourselves. It is incumbent upon us to initiate this reform because we are custodians of the interests of the people as a whole. From that standpoint, we must consider the case on its merits. The building trade provides employment for a large number of people who operate to the advantage of the State from the standpoint of the utilisation of local products. Statistics compiled by the master builders and contractors here, furnish some idea of how the trade has assisted local industries over an extended period. They show that 33 per cent. of the expenditure in the trade is in the form of direct wages paid to bricklayers, plasterers, plumbers and other workers engaged in the industry. Then 52 per cent. of the expenditure is in the form of indirect wages paid to merchants for bricks, lime, and other materials placed on the building site. That, of course, would cover the cost of transportation to the job. The remaining 15 per cent. goes in expenditure on imports of requirements such as locks, glass

and other necessities that cannot possibly be obtained in this State. It will be agreed that the building industry is of vital interest to the State because of its use of local materials. The building trade languished during the period of the depression, and considerable difficulty was found in providing opportunities for apprentices, who are the future craftsmen of the nation. I have given that phase much consideration as a member of the Building Trades Apprenticeship Board. I and my colleagues on that body have been confronted with a difficult problem in placing the lads. Apart from a few of the principal builders, those operating in the trade have not been able to provide continuity of work, with the result that it has not been possible to absorb boys under the apprenticeship system. We have now reached a stage when it is desirable to avail ourselves of every avenue of co-operation in order to encourage the employment of apprentices so that we may have craftsmen in the future. If the board be appointed under the Bill, they will be able to co-operate with the members of the Building Trades Apprenticeship Board in the provision of avenues for the absorption of many of our boys, who will be placed under the direction of reputable men, with continuity of work assured. To-day there are very few apprentices in the building trade, and the Apprenticeship Board have operated under most adverse conditions. There are very few apprentices whose interests we have to look after at present. Members of the board were forced to seek provision of materials that the Government refused to make available. I refer more particularly to the Mitchell Government.

Hon. C. G. Latham: Of course, you would.

Mr. MOLONEY: I make that statement without any party bias, for I am prepared to give credit where it is due. I recognise that at that time the financial stringency demanded that certain steps should be taken. I regret that that course was necessary and that it went to the extent of refusing materials necessary for the practical examination of the boys. The late Mr. Alexander, who was a member of the Apprenticeship Board and of the Master Builders and Contractors' Association, went to Mr. Arnott and other contractors and secured bricks, lime and other requisites so

that we could proceed with the examination. I had to plead with the various building trade organisations and craftsmen to get them to do their part for nothing. Now the culminating point has been reached when the trade classes have been closed down because of the paucity in the attendance of boys.

Hon. C. G. Latham: When was that done?

Mr. MOLONEY: Not very long ago.

Hon. C. G. Latham: I should think it has been too long, if they have been stopped.

Mr. MOLONEY: I am glad the Leader of the Opposition realises its import. It is a tragedy that such a state of affairs should prevail, it is deplorable. In 1930 no less than £1,873,000 was expended in the building trade in this State, and to-day we have once more started to improve, to the extent of securing this year an advance on last year's figures to the value of £256,000. So the building trade to-day is becoming vitalised again, but we want to ensure that the youth of this country shall receive proper technical training. The Bill is a step in the right direction, because these men, by being placed on the building trades register, will be able to coalesce an Act in the form of a liaison with the Building Trades Apprenticeship Board. And we shall be able to tell them that they have received the protection of the law, insofar as only men of competence and repute are allowed to come along and be absorbed in the industry. And we can tell them that we may exercise the power we possess to say to any person, "You have to take this lad." One thing that should be at all times in the mind of any person administering any department or authority, is that he must exercise his authority in a practical manner. It is of no use dragooning a man. Instead of dragooning the employees the board has said to them, "We realise your difficulties and we have given you release from your obligation, lifted the onerous restrictions in regard to those lads because we realised that those who had taken the boys were doing the best possible for them under adverse conditions." The master craftsmen have found themselves in competition with so-called builders, sometimes in the shape of the get-rich-quick land-agent type, men who run up jerry buildings for speculative purposes and place them attractively before prospective buyers. And those unfortunate people

have to live in the houses for some time before they realise that they have purchased something which would fall into the category of all that glitters is not gold. There are two types of builders that will come within the provisions of the Bill; one is the man who is doing or erecting large buildings such as are to be seen in the city, while the other is a man doing dwelling houses outside the city, but who is a thoroughly competent builder. They are the competent men to-day who are tendering against men who previously were dealers or greengrocers, and who would not know a doorway from a window on a plan if it were shown to them. Yet in existing circumstances they can get some other tradesman and use him while they themselves pose as the builders of houses. Their desire is, not to do that which is likely to give a fair return to the purchasers, but rather to be able to run up as many buildings as they can, and get people into them on a nominal deposit; and once there, those unfortunate people are compelled to contribute toll to the vendors for years to come; as a matter of fact the buildings never become their own. But we do not desire, nor is there anything in the Bill, to eliminate people speculating in building. All we say is that the person who builds a place shall see to it that there shall be a competent man in charge of the erection of the building, just as there is a competent dentist to be found in charge of other dentists; that there shall be one man fully responsible, the man who controls the work. Some of the so-called builders of to-day very often leave the merchants lamenting, and in almost every instance they evade the obligations placed upon them by the Arbitration Court.

Mr. Wansbrough: Some of them are without character.

Mr. MOLONEY: Their character, possibly, is reflected in their actions. Right through the metropolitan area trades union officials are busily trying to police the various awards of the court. Those officials will never have any trouble with the men that will come under the provisions of this Bill. In many instances men who have no knowledge of the building trade are tendering under privileges, insofar as they are exploiting other men under various guises, as, for instance, not paying them the award rate of wages. If we realise that we are responsible to the community and must preserve the initiative of the people, there are times when

we must step in and check that initiative if it is not functioning in the community's interest. Apart from the failure to pay award wages—decent builders are paying those wages—possibly some of the so-called builders are sufficiently competent to come under the provisions of the Bill. But there is a tribunal to be appointed, a board will be created as custodians of the public interest, and they will see that the buildings erected conform to proper standards. We are no longer living in the days of primitive methods, when bricks were thrown from scaffolding to scaffolding with no provision whatever in the way of supervision. The man who directs this industry is a builder, a man who either makes or breaks as the result of his calculations. It is our right and privilege to see that such a person has his interests preserved. A contract between an architect and a builder presupposes honesty and a good job, but we must remember that there is a fertile field for distrust and mutual irritation. So there are contained in the Bill provisions prescribing that, where work is not done according to specification, where anything is done not in accord with the ethics of the trade, the person responsible shall be brought before that tribunal. From days long gone by until the present time, the tendency has been to legislate for the preservation of competency, whether in the architect, the lawyer, the dentist, or the members of any other profession or trade, even to that of the driver of a motor car. All have to conform to certain standards of efficiency and none may depart from the ethical code laid down for his trade or profession, on pain of being called before the board of control, whether it be the Barristers' Board or the Dental Board. I have brought down the Bill in the interests, not of any one small section of the people, but in the interests of the community. I want members to study the Bill, analyse it, consider the principles contained therein and realise the implications I have mentioned regarding the conduct of many so-called builders. Having done all that, members, I am sure, will realise that the principles involved are very wise. Enactments governing road boards and municipalities ensure that to a certain extent at all events buildings are carried out under conditions that are commensurate with public safety. But there are limitations, notwithstanding the vigilance of the local auth-

orities and their possible competence. So we find a considerable number of influences that are not in the public interest. To some extent this may be due to laxity, but it is even more the result of the limited taxation indulged in by those people. It is not possible for them to police all the various works in progress. We have also to remember that it does not matter how good the architect in charge of a building may be, either from the technical point of view or from the designing point of view; the structure itself in design may appear to be magnificent; there is no fault to find in the technical attention or the efficiency of the architect, but invariably the weakness lies in faulty construction. When the man in charge of the construction is less than competent it is not possible for the building to be in the nature of that which is the ambition of the architect. I have had 30 years' experience in the building trade. I have been an artisan working with my hands, and again I have been the supervisor of some of the largest buildings in the State. In the light of that experience I realise that the Bill is an absolute essential. Some people may say we are, through the Bill, seeking to establish a close preserve. There is nothing in the way of a close preserve or a monopoly contained in the Bill.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. MOLONEY: The trend throughout the world is to give greater consideration to technical training allied to practice. An extract from a German paper published in the local "Builders and Contractors' Journal" states that the trend in Germany is to revert to the old principle of guilds. Any one who has followed the trend of technical training and recognised the efficiency displayed by the German nation through its craftsmen will attach significance to the extract, which read—

Germany returns to Trade Guilds. The halcyon days of Hans Sachs will return to the German artisans with the complete resuscitation of the mediaeval guilds under the terms of the new regulations reorganising all hand-work into a new, corporative State, which have been published in Berlin. All master workmen, journeymen, and apprentices are obliged henceforth to belong to a local guild or corporation. These will in turn be organised in each city into a joint artisans' chamber, and these again into 13 provincial sub-councils. The national groups of each separate trade will be

united in the person of a single national handicraft leader, at whose side will stand a single national journeyman leader. Each guild will determine its own requirements for the award of the title of "master" in its trade, and have its own court of honour for the detection and expulsion of unworthy elements from its ranks. Once a year the headmaster of each guild will be submitted to a vote, which—in line with the new "leadership principle"—will not have the power to replace or displace him, but will serve as a guide to the headmasters and superiors.

I quote that to establish the significance attached to securing competency on the part of those engaged in various industries and to indicate that a person indulging in nefarious practices may be brought to book in an industrial court, a court apart from that which forms part of our arbitration system, one in which tradesmen exercise the right to judge people for questionable transactions in relation to industry. I stated that the Building Trades Executive comprising various organisations were desirous of assisting the master builders and contractors to get this measure enacted. On the 23rd June, 1933, a letter was received by the Secretary of the Building Trades Executive Association from the master builders suggesting a conference. The meeting was held on the 4th July, 1933, and I attended by invitation. All affiliated unions and associations were represented, and it was resolved that a Bill be introduced for the registration of builders. This measure is the outcome of the conference. The trade union movement in Queensland arrogated to itself the right to claim representation on the board, but here the matter was viewed broadly, and it was considered to be the concern entirely of the employers and technicians such as architects to function on the board. I have received a letter from the Secretary of the Building Trades Executive as follows:—

Trades Hall, Perth, 17th October, 1934. I understand that the matter of registration of builders will be proceeded with by yourself. This letter is forwarded to you in order that you may be advised that it is with the full and unanimous support of all our affiliated unions, namely, Operative Plumbers and Sheet Metal Workers' Union; Operative Bricklayers and Rubble Wallers' Union; Operative Plasterers' Society; Sheet Fibrous Plaster Workers' Union, and Builders' Labourers' Union, all of which organisations are affiliated with the Labour movement in this State. Therefore, there should be no opposition from Labour's viewpoint in securing this Bill.

The conditions under which the operatives now in the building trade have been required to labour during the last four years are well known to you and others connected with the trade, and we feel sure that by the registration of builders, sweat work in the form of sub-contract and alleged piecework can be eliminated to a great extent.

We extend to you every good wish on your bringing forward the Bill, and have the utmost confidence in the effect it will have in the event of its being passed. Should you require any further information from the Executive Association, and particularly from individual members, this will be readily given.—E. W. Walsh, Secretary Building Trades Executive Association.

I think the Building Trades Executive should be commended for having viewed the matter from that angle. The good feeling that has characterised the employers and employees throughout the State has averted any industrial upheaval in the building trade. They have combined sanity and commonsense and have not relinquished any right to which they were entitled. As far back as 1921, as a result of organisation, the employees secured a 44-hour week, and in view of the fact that there has been no lick-spitting attitude by the building trades employees, it makes their gesture to assist the builders to secure a stabilisation of the trade worthy of note. Earlier in my remarks I referred to the jerry-builder. Some jerry-builders are sufficiently well versed in building requirements to know what is necessary, but they are quite unscrupulous in the way they carry out their business, and their sole desire is to make a profit, regardless of other considerations. Others—and this applies to those who undertake smaller jobs—are quite unfitted for any work in the building trade, the main reason being that they have made a living in other industries and are merely speculative agents. Their methods are such as do not tend to elevate the trade or to provide a good class of home for the people. While the registration of builders would not bring the millennium, it would have the effect of preventing an incursion into the trade of people who are in no way fitted for it, and would impose on those who did enter the trade a standard of competency, in that it would require them either to furnish proof of competency or sit for the prescribed examination. There is another type of jerry-builder: he is a man who knows the trade. Regarding him, this benefit would accrue from registration

that he would be eligible for registration by virtue of his competency, but after being admitted, his activities would be curbed in that he would be compelled to give a class of work commensurate with the payment made for it, and in the event of his doing shoddy work, he could be haled before the tribunal and his registration could be cancelled. Registration of builders would permit of genuine builders competing on an even footing. It would permit of proper tenders being received for work without the cost being exorbitant. As everyone would have to comply with the regulations it would prevent the using, for instance, of 3 x 2 instead of 4 x 2 timber and such like practices, where there was no architectural supervision. Very few small buildings are constructed under the supervision of an architect. Some critics might argue that architects have to be registered and that this measure goes beyond what is already required of architects. Strictly speaking, the Architects Act is not worth the paper it is written on in so far as protecting the profession is concerned. It gives them status, and also provides for the examination of those who hold the degree of architect. People are not to be prohibited from drawing plans and doing architect's work. All the work that comes within the ambit of an architect can be done by them. Those who comprise the Master Builders and Contractors' Association have entered into an honourable understanding that, although many of the members of that organisation are competent to draw plans, none of them will do so for outside people. No embargo will be placed against any person who is competent to do this class of work, or against anyone who is desirous of building for himself. No embargo will be placed upon any young man who desires to study and pass his examination. Those who would oppose a Bill of this nature would be people of the kind I have indicated. They would oppose it under any conditions. Anything that compelled them to abide by the laws of the land or to subscribe to certain rules, say, affecting the building industry, they would oppose as an innovation, notwithstanding that such innovation would tend to raise the standard of the industry and compel them to live according to its traditions. Both classes of builders would come

within the purview of the Bill, namely, those who tender under an architect, and those who tender without architectural supervision. Anyone may get plans drawn and obtain a price for a job. There will be nothing to prevent a continuance of that practice; until such time as the architects consolidate their position, that will apply. If the Bill is passed, it will be of immense benefit in many ways. It will raise the standard of building. It will provide that a building shall conform to all the standards of hygiene and stability. It will mean that buildings will have a longer life. Premature maintenance will be eliminated. In effect, the Bill will ensure that people get value for their money. It will prevent people from evading their just responsibilities towards those for whom they are working, or to whom they may owe money for the building they are erecting. No building can be seamed, and it will not be possible for Arbitration Court awards to be broken. Some people of no repute or standing may owe money to merchants, who, when they come to get their accounts paid, find the debtors have left the State. That sort of thing has forced the merchants into scrutinising more closely those to whom they give credit. It is essential that the person in charge of a building, whether it be a cottage or a set of offices, and who accepts the responsibility for its erection, should be thoroughly competent to carry out his obligations, and be trusted not to do those things which may not be observable at the time, but may come to light during the later period of maintenance. I would not be a party to anything that would injure the prospects of those workers who desire to make a competence out of the building industry. Evils have been rampant in it. No doubt many of the old-time builders would be lacking in that technical knowledge that would enable them to pass an examination. As a result of their experience, however, they have assimilated a great deal of technique, that no money in the world can buy. Those men would be absorbed in the industry by virtue of their competence and their long association with the trade. Any man who has followed the industry in the country districts may apply for registration by the board.

The Minister for Justice: He will not do so in future.

Mr. MOLONEY: The Bill provides that any person who has been engaged in the industry for two years may apply to the board. No time is stated when a man may make application. If he is competent and can furnish evidence of that fact, there will be nothing to prevent him from being registered under the Act.

The Minister for Justice: From the time the Bill is passed, no one can register except through the board.

Mr. MOLONEY: That is what the Bill is for. If it is passed, no person will be able to operate without registration in the case of a building valued at over £300.

The Minister for Justice: Notwithstanding his technical knowledge?

Mr. MOLONEY: He can always apply for registration. The board may accept him without examination. If there is any ambiguity about the Bill in that respect, the weakness, if any, can be put right in Committee. The line must be drawn somewhere. Is there any profession the members of which have an open go and admission to which is open to anyone? A certain amount of competence must be provided for. If a man possesses the necessary experience, the board may waive examination in his case.

Mr. Cross: The board will have power to refuse admission.

Mr. MOLONEY: That is a brilliant idea.

Mr. Cross: And may refuse a good man.

Mr. MOLONEY: I am glad the hon. member is so solicitous of the interests of good men. If he knows of a good man and will support him in his application, I am sure the board will realise the importance of the influence that is brought to bear, and will help him in his object.

Mr. Needham: Do you refer to political influence?

Mr. MOLONEY: I speak of the influence that would be brought to bear by virtue of the hon. member's ability to discern the competence of the candidate. The Bill aims at ensuring competence on the part of all who are engaged as builders. It will stabilise the industry and will remove any obnoxious features connected with it. It will tend to solve the apprenticeship problem. It will provide for the compulsory registration of all builders, in the interests both of the trade and of the community. It will eliminate incompetence, and provide a high code of ethics in the building trade.

Mr. F. C. L. Smith: That is badly needed.

Mr. MOLONEY: It is not desired to establish a close preserve. Any organisation that is worth its salt must ensure that those who are within its ranks are possessed of the necessary ability to do the work expected of them. The Bricklayers' Union, for instance, takes pride in the competence of its members. They are all submitted to a practical examination on the job, and put through certain questionings. I have acted as examiner, both orally and otherwise, on many occasions. If that sort of thing is necessary in the case of bricklayers, masons or carpenters, how much more is it necessary in the case of a man who is in charge of, say, the erection of the Commonwealth Bank, Shell House, or some other building of importance? The rule of thumb method must be eliminated, and experience and ability must become the dominant factors. It is criminal that an unfitted man should come into the industry. A builder should be a man who is fully capable of carrying out his work. Some people have been able to get away with their incompetence, and have been able to exploit the brains of other men upon whom they have established a certain reputation for themselves.

Mr. Sampson: Does the Bill provide for compulsory apprenticeship?

Mr. MOLONEY: Apprenticeship conditions are not mentioned in the Bill. I pointed out that this is a co-ordinating measure, inasmuch as the board, once brought into being, would act as a liaison between the apprentice and the apprenticeship board specially created for the purpose. The object of the Bill is to ensure that those who enter the industry are men of competency. There is nothing in the Bill about apprenticeship. I only mentioned that feature as a corollary. I am sorry the hon. member has misconstrued my mention of apprenticeship in this connection. I would be the last man in this State to advocate anything that I did not believe would be for the benefit of the State. Without any flamboyancy or desire to force my views down the throats of any person or organisation, but as the result of experience gained, I declare this Bill to be long overdue. It is incumbent upon us to see that the old, loose rivets which characterised the building trade, the slipshod efforts which allowed anyone to come into the industry, should now cease. We should

adopt a method in concert with our general demeanour towards subjects of this nature. Other industries are taking steps to conserve their interests. Master builders and contractors, not only in Western Australia but in the whole of Australia, are to be complimented on having at last realised that they have been standing back from the position that they were entitled to occupy, on having realised that they have allowed others to usurp the functions which should be discharged by the master builders and contractors. It is not proposed that any person should be granted any privilege. For that reason, the gate is open to all who are competent. The facilities are there. The board, when appointed, will be there to discriminate. I am prepared to credit the architects and builders with being imbued with the same desire as animates me. They will function not for the benefit of the Builders and Contractors' Association, or in the interests of the architects, but for the advancement of the State generally. For that reason they will allow only those to come in who have a right to come in. Now to give a brief resume of the Bill: It provides that a person trading as a builder shall be registered. Under Clause 3 no person who is not registered under the measure shall operate as outlined in it. Possibly there may be some who think that a farmer or any other person desirous of erecting a building for himself should be entitled to do so provided he engages competent men. The Bill provides that if a man engages in the business of a builder for profit, he shall come within the ambit of the Bill. The measure allows any private individual to build who desires to do so for himself. The door is open to any man with experience in building, if he can be vouched for as a competent builder. Under the provisions of the measure it is open to any person over 21 years of age to sit for the prescribed examination. The examination papers will be set by the Director of Technical Education. It automatically follows that any person holding the Perth Technical School's certificate for building construction and a general certificate in that regard will be accepted without having to sit for any further examination. These provisions express the feelings of those who comprise the Builders and Contractors' Association and the architectural profession. The principle of the Bill is subscribed to by the Federal

Council of Architects, and the local association of architects also approve of it. In this matter the architects have co-operated with the builders and contractors. Under the Bill it will not be incumbent upon anyone to join the Master Builders and Contractors' Association. All that is necessary is to apply to be registered, and any person who is competent will be accepted. I repeat, there is no need under this Bill for anyone to become part and parcel of the Builders and Contractors' Association. Subclause 2 of Clause 3—

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is not in order in discussing the Bill clause by clause on the second reading. He can discuss the Bill generally on the second reading.

Mr. MOLONEY: I bow to your ruling, Mr. Speaker, and must apologise for transgressing, being perhaps overcome by zeal. Emanating from the source I have previously indicated, there is a proviso that a person shall be allowed to do building work to an amount of £300 without obtaining registration. The reason for that proviso, I think, will be obvious to hon. members. There is no desire to inflict penalties upon people who do renovating or repair work up to that amount. There is no use in being arbitrary; there must be a certain degree of elasticity in such things as this. No doubt the ordinary handyman, or the man desirous of doing a little building, will have achieved sufficient competency to carry out a job up to the value of £300.

Mr. Sampson: Of course there are elements of danger in repair work.

Mr. MOLONEY: That is so, but I do not think there would be any great degree of danger in repair work of a value of not more than £300. Ordinarily danger arises only in connection with underpinning, or removing walls, or erecting pillars or things of that nature. Necessarily, where the element of danger enters, the competent man will be brought in.

Mr. Sampson: He should be.

Mr. MOLONEY: In such circumstances there would, of necessity, be a competent man employed. However, we do not want to be too hard, and therefore the limit of £300 is fixed. Penalties, practically nominal penalties, of £20 and £40 are provided for various offences. The main lever provided by the Bill is not so much the invoking of

the law as the invoking of action on the part of the board. It would have a highly deterrent effect upon people to know that transgression would mean the taking away of their registration. This would operate in the same way as the Licensing Act operates in connection with the liquor trade. I have indicated two clauses as being vital. The remaining clauses are practically machinery clauses. On the matter of fees and expenses I consulted the authorities in order to ensure that, at a later stage, we should not find ourselves baulked by regulations being declared *ultra vires*. I am informed that there is no danger in that respect, the revenue accruing to a private body, not the Crown, and there being no appropriation of revenue (Section 46 as amended by Section 2 of 12 George V., 1921). Having dealt with the general principles of the measure, I leave it to hon. members. Prior to concluding, let me say that I do not bring forward the Bill from any party point of view whatsoever. I do it as one who has been part and parcel of the building trade for many years, as one who recognises the necessity for the Bill. It has been drawn irrespective of the interests of any particular section of the community. I realise that the setting-up of the proposed board will be reflected on the interests of the community generally. I commend the Bill to hon. members. In the event of its reaching the statute-book, it will mark a milestone in deeds consolidating the position of the building industry. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by the Minister for Justice, debate adjourned.

MOTION—MINING RESERVES OR CONCESSIONS.

Debate resumed from the 17th October on the following motion by Mr. Marshall (Murchison):—

That in the opinion of this House the principle of granting reserves or concessions for the purpose of gold mining to any individual, company, or syndicate, is wrong, and should immediately cease; further, that such reserves and concessions now in existence should not be renewed at the expiration of the term for which they were granted.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. S. W. Munsie—Hannans) [8.14]: Let me say at the outset that I hope, in the interests of the State, the motion will not be carried. I desire briefly to deal with one or two remarks made by the mover. He said that when previously there was a suggestion for reservations or concessions to be made by the Government, almost all the members now on this side of the Chamber opposed it. He also stated that the proposal in question was far more liberal than are the present conditions. I candidly admit that I opposed the previous proposal, which was that a company, upon raising a certain amount of money—speaking from memory it was £300,000—should have the right to all abandoned gold mining leases in Western Australia. Naturally I opposed that. To-day, with all the reservations that exist in the State, there are at least 1,000 abandoned gold mines not within the boundaries of either the open or closed reserves. So the present system is nothing like as drastic as that which obtained previously. Another statement made by the hon. member—I think it was merely a wild guess on his part—was in regard to his opposition of the reservation on the Big Bell. He said the reservation was six miles long by three miles wide. The reservation is 2½ miles long and three-quarters of a mile wide, not nearly as large as he suggested.

Mr. J. H. Smith: It is a fairly big reserve.

Mr. Marshall: That is a small one now! It is about the same as a respectable-sized farm in the South-West.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: That is the position.

Mr. Marshall: We will soon have mining leases the size of pastoral leases, comprising a million acres.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: Nothing of the kind. There is no suggestion that any of the reservations are greater in area than provided for in the Act. I shall not be a party to granting any reservation larger than the Act permits. With regard to the Big Bell reservation, I admit that many lion-hearted men endeavoured in the past, to the best of their ability, to make a success of the proposition. On each occasion they failed because of the low values. The Big Bell is a huge low-grade

proposition, and those lion-hearted men also failed partly because of want of capital to erect the right type of machinery to enable them to treat the ore at a profit. The reservation was let, and to date those who held it have spent over £6,000 in boring and developmental work.

Mr. Marshall: In how many years?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: In about 4½ years.

Mr. Marshall: How long was——

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Work commenced on the reservation about 18 months ago. As a matter of fact, no application was ever received for any portion of the Big Bell during the period it was held under reservation and while no work was being done on it.

Mr. Marshall: Yes, there was.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: There was not. It is only since work has been commenced there that grumbling has been indulged in. Only the day before yesterday I received an important communication in connection with the Big Bell. The American Smelter and Refining Company have taken an option over the Big Bell. They are sending a man, who will be here within the next five days, to take charge. He is Mr. Dale L. Pitt, manager of the Gold Mining Company Limited, a British Columbia corporation. He has been transferred to Cue in the capacity of manager. The company has agreed to spend £600 per month on developing work under their 12-months option. Of the three interests that hold the option over the Big Bell, two represent the most important mining concerns in the world. They state quite definitely in the letter that if they can prove the Big Bell on the quantities and samples obtained as the result of borings, and if the lode should average 3½ dwts., they are prepared to provide £2,000,000 to equip and develop the proposition. That is an undertaking never before attempted in Australia.

Mr. Seward: Where will the capital come from?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: America.

Mr. Marshall: Proposals like that are forthcoming every day.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Never before have we had either of these companies interested in Western Australia.

Mr. Marshall: I will give you some samples of the proposals that have been made.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The Rand mines and the South African Gold Corporation have been interested in mining here, and when they provided capital for Wiluna, that was the first time the South African people indicated their interest in gold mining in this State. It was a godsend to Western Australia when we had the advantage of that capital. Without it, Wiluna would still be a small concern.

Mr. Marshall: That was not on their reserves.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Yes.

Mr. Marshall: No, it was not.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I know they had some reserves, too.

Mr. Marshall: Not a fraction of a reserve.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I don't want his fairy tales. The hon. member can have his say later on.

Mr. Marshall: I will have it, too.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: So you can.

Mr. Marshall: I know as much as you do.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: No one disputes the hon. member's knowledge, but I intend to have my say and he can have his. I say they did have some reserves.

Mr. Marshall: That is not so.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I do not want the hon. member to interject all the time.

Mr. Marshall: Then you can have your turn first and I will speak later.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: And when you do, I will show some decency and will not keep on interjecting and interrupting as you are doing.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Regarding the two big concerns interested in reservations in Western Australia, I assert from my experience of the hon. member and his utterances in this Chamber, and more particularly in view of a letter I received from him to-day, that his attitude in this matter is purely one of vindictiveness against Claude de Bernales.

Mr. Marshall: No, it is not.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: His letter to me to-day proves that.

Hon. C. G. Latham: Have you got it there?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: No, it is at my office. The member for Murchison will receive a reply along the same lines as his letter. There need be no mistake about that.

Hon. C. G. Latham: I can imagine he will.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: There are only two big concerns holding reservations of any size in Western Australia. They are the Western Mining Corporation and the Western Machinery Company headed by Mr. de Bernales. The Western Mining Corporation holds both open and closed reserves. The corporation holds huge areas granted as reserves. The concern has seven open reserves. Any man or any company can operate on any part of those reserves, select any section, work on it as long as desired, and take all the gold that can be recovered. On the other hand, if anyone takes a lease and desires to sell it, he must give the Western Mining Corporation the first refusal to buy. Personally, if I were to go out prospecting to-morrow, and chose to go to a new district, the first thing I would do would be to go to the office of the local mining registrar and ask if, in his area, there was any reserve that had been granted to the Western Mining Corporation. If there was such a reserve in the district, that is where I should go to commence prospecting. I would do that because I would know that if successful in finding a big low-grade proposition, there was no limit to the capital behind the company, should I want to sell. That is a big inducement to prospectors because they know that if they find anything, there is capital available if they want to sell. Should they find a small rich show, they are not at any greater disadvantage than they would be on Crown land, so long as they work it themselves. The old prospectors, who carried out their work in the early days and up to 1900, did their work exceptionally well and did not miss many surface outcrops. Throughout the whole of the areas prospected since those days, no important find has been reported to date with an outcrop on the surface. That proves conclusively that the original prospectors did exceptionally good work. I may give mem-

bers some particulars regarding the conditions under which the reservations have been granted to the Western Mining Corporation. Their representatives placed a proposal before the Mitchell Government. Ample capital was available, but certain reservations were wanted. The corporation deposited £10,000 with the Treasury, as evidence of good faith.

Hon. C. G. Latham: Is that the Robinson company?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Yes. The corporation were to spend £15,000 a year in the State and if that amount were spent during the first year, they had the right to withdraw £5,000 of the deposit, leaving the remaining £5,000 with the Treasury as their guarantee of good faith. It is rather interesting to consider the efforts of the corporation, seeing that the member for Murchison (Mr. Marshall), in moving his motion, rather ridiculed the idea of finding anything by means of an aerial survey. I do not know whether anything will be found by that means, but I pay a tribute to the corporation for their gameness in risking their capital in Western Australia in an endeavour to find something by new means. It is appropriate that I should quote an extract from the preface to a pamphlet published by Dr. A. C. D. Rivett on "Debts, Unemployment and Gold." He says—

If we had arranged to pay our indemnity in bricks . . . we should have found the stocks inadequate. Should we have pulled down our houses to supply the bricks? No. We would have opened up new brick fields wherever raw materials were to be found.

That is what the corporation are endeavouring to do. Again, Dr. Rivett says—

At the present time the search for auriferous deposits is in general not being conducted with anything like the thoroughness and scientific care that we bestow upon the attainment of profitable crops of sultanas, oranges, or fat lambs. To some extent prospecting is still done by methods belonging to the 'nineties and earlier. The practice of giving an unemployed man a tent, a pick, and a shovel, and sending him to prospect, is an anachronism. In Western Australia, I understand, intensive effort along the best modern lines is being directed to the discovery of large low-grade deposits. All honour to the men who are responsible for this, and are bringing their mining experience and the skill of the geologists and geophysicists and aviators to bear on the problem. But might there not be sound justification for

greatly increased activities organised on a national basis along lines and over much bigger areas and on a scale beyond anything yet attempted?

As I said when speaking on the Mines Estimates last night, we had already, prior to the issue of that pamphlet, entered into a national scheme over much greater areas than the reservations granted to the Western Mining Corporation. If we expect to get capital invested in Western Australia, we have to give in return some sort of security of tenure to induce the investors to spend money in looking for new fields. That is practically all that we are doing. As a matter of fact, the Western Mining Corporation have seven open reservations on which anybody can go and prospect. They are the big ones, the open reservations. Also they have a number of closed reservations. There are two at Norseman, adjoining the Phoenix Option, one surrounding the old Princess Royal mine, one at Day Dawn surrounding the Great Fingal, one at Jimble Bar and one at Campion, with two in Kimberley with the right to prospect for alluvial gold deposits suitable for dredging or sluicing.

Mr. Sleeman: Who was it got those?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Mr. Claude de Bernales. In regard to those two closed reservations in the North, previous to my being Minister for Mines in the previous Government, a reservation was let to a syndicate, a closed reservation for the purpose of doing experimental work with sluicing and dredging in the North-West. But the holders of the reservation never did any work and so the reserve was cancelled. Twice since then others have come along and secured closed reservations, practically in the same area, for testing by dredging, but nothing was done and the reservations were cancelled. The Western Mining Corporation came to me and asked for a closed reservation for sluicing and dredging on three rivers in the North-West. But those people have not sat down and done nothing. Within a fortnight of getting the reservation they had five experts up there. This company have never yet held a reservation longer than was necessary to examine it, and as soon as they have examined it, if it has not been satisfactory, they have immediately thrown it up. The public can

have it, for the corporation do not want it any more.

Hon. C. G. Latham: What does it cost them to secure a reservation?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Only £5 5s. per annum. Reserves have been abandoned at Parker's Range, Nevoria, in the Southern Cross district, on the Great Victoria and Never Never line of lode. These have been abandoned for some months. At Hope's Hill, on the Corinthian line, a closed reserve was occupied for only 2½ months, while examinations were proceeding. Immediately the examination was concluded, the area was thrown open to the world again. In the same way a number of other reserves have been held, examined and promptly abandoned. I quote this to show that this company do not hold reserves any longer than is necessary to make the examinations. Also at Coolgardie they held a reserve for six months while diamond drilling proceeded on Tindals and the Big Blow lines of lode. Immediately the company had the assays they abandoned the reserves. In regard to the work this company are doing: At Norseman they are actively engaged in testing the Phoenix mine, the old Mararoa, and other properties held under option. Three diamond drill plants are operating, and general development work underground at important points is being carried on. The Phoenix property was unwatered and re-conditioned, and air compressing plants and equipment were also installed. The old Viking mine has been re-opened and equipped with plant, and testing work is proceeding. At the Princess Royal mine, pumping plant is being erected and preparations are proceeding to unwater one of the old shafts to permit of investigation. At the commencement of activities in this district employment was made available to 50 men, and at present the staff and employees total 223 men. In the Cue mining centre the Young Australia mine, held under option, is being tested and developed. At Southern Cross the Pilot mine is being tested in the sulphide zone. At Jimble Bar, lodes are being tested by diamond drilling, and in the Sunny South shaft, sinking, cross-cutting and driving are proceeding to prove the extent and value of the lode in the sulphide zone. At Davyhurst, on the Callion mine, under option, a development

programme has been started to test the lode. At Mount Magnet, on the Morning Star mine, a considerable amount of prospecting and sampling has been conducted on the mine and the adjoining ground. In November a diamond drill will be available and the lodes tested. They have got together a staff from many countries, the best experts it is possible to secure; as good a staff as it would be possible to secure anywhere. I do not know of any other company that, in any branch of industry in the history of Western Australia, have gone to so much expense to get the best brains to assist them in their work as this company have done. They do not care where they get their experts from; if they can get them at all they get them, and so they have the best staff it would be possible to procure in this or any other country. And, on the scientific side, they are employing a good number of young Australians and training them, giving them opportunity to become proficient and to benefit by the knowledge of the qualified officers that have been brought to this country. As for the aerial survey, photographing selected areas has proceeded steadily. The work has been subject to frequent delays in the goldfields areas during the winter months on account of adverse weather. They have surveyed an area of 6,500 miles. The aircraft has flown 500 flying hours on survey, and has also been used to transport members of the technical staff to various localities. The total number of the staff and other employees on the company's pay-roll is 383, and the expenditure by the company to date has been £145,000, which does not include the expenditure on the flying equipment. It is partly capital expenditure on mining equipment, buildings and vehicles for transport. Of that total £57,000 has gone in salaries of wages, while the purchase of mining equipment and stores approximates £20,000. Of the total expenditure, a little over £70,000 has been absolutely lost. Ever since I have had anything to do with the letting of reservations, my object has been to get capital into the country to develop those reservations, including abandoned mines, of which the prospector could not possibly make a success. I think I have succeeded pretty well, at all events with that company, since

they have spent £57,000 in wages and £145,000 all told in less than two years in Western Australia. If that is not in the interests of this State I do not know what is. Now I wish to say a word or two about another gentleman who has a considerable number of reservations. Here again, if ever reservations were justified, this man has justified them within the last 18 months. I wish to stress this point: I do not know of any reservation which Mr. de Bernales has which could be worked by a prospector if that prospector had it. All comprise derelict shows that would cost thousands of pounds to unwater as a preliminary step.

Hon. C. G. Latham: Do closed reserves cover only old mining areas?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Yes. Every reservation that Mr. de Bernales has is a closed one.

Hon. C. G. Latham: Then there could not be much prospecting done there.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: He has no reserve which is not a reserve over an old mine. He is not taking up reservations with a view to testing new areas. Before ever we had the boom in gold, Mr. de Bernales had the foresight to select some of the best prospects in Western Australia with a view to obtaining gold from abandoned mines. If he has succeeded, the more power to him. The monthly expenditure on reservations held by Mr. de Bernales is £11,300. I know that within the last two or three months a great deal of agitation has been fostered against these reservations, fostered by people who, now that the boom is on, realise that they could get capital in London. So they want the shows that Mr. de Bernales is holding, and because they cannot get them they are kicking up a hell of a row. I know some of those who are doing it. During the last 15 months Mr. de Bernales' expenditure in connection with the exercise of options over various properties in this State has amounted to £115,695. He has paid that amount of money to buy out options on reservations that he already held. On top of that, he has purchased machinery since February, 1932, to the value of £160,000; he has spent £20,000 in the purchase of drilling carbons, tools, etc., and another £7,100 on machinery purchased but not yet arrived in the State. This makes a total of £200,995 and that does

not include the £11,300 in monthly expenditure on wages. If a man doing that in the interests of the mining industry in this State is not entitled to some consideration, then God only knows who is. Within the last 15 months he has been responsible for raising capital in London for the development of mining in Western Australia as follows, and I want members to bear in mind that the amounts are sterling:—

	£
Anglo-Australian Gold Development, Limited	400,000
North Kalbarri United Gold Development, Limited	300,000
Southern Cross Gold Development, Limited	360,000
Commonwealth Mining and Finance, Limited	1,000,000
Murchison Gold Development, Limited	450,000
Beryl Gold Corporation, Limited	400,000
Total	£2,910,000

Not one penny-piece of that large sum could have been raised had not Mr. de Bernales had concessions to enable him to offer something in which the money could be invested. In the interests of this State we would be worse than mad if we carried the motion moved by the hon. member. If the price of gold remains at the present level, I believe that within the next 12 months there will be as great a boom in Western Australia as there was in 1896-97. I am not quite sure that the gold boom in Western Australia at present is not almost equal to that of the nineties. I am not concerned about the boom, but I do wish to see capital introduced into the State for the employment of my fellow men. Mr. de Bernales is responsible for the employment of over 200 wages men at present, exclusive of his staff, and his latest flotation, the Beryl Gold Corporation Ltd., I undertake to say, will result in 500 men being employed at Ravenshorpe inside the next twelve months. If he had not held a reservation over mines regarded as old and derelict so that they could be tested out by the Anglo-Australian Gold Development Company to ascertain whether there were values below the old workings or below water level, Ravenshorpe would still have been the deserted village it was previous to Mr. de Bernales and his company going there. I have no brief for Mr. de Bernales or for the Western Mining Corporation. I do not care who the man

is; if he can convince me that he has a genuine proposition that will attract capital and provide employment in the State, I will grant him a reservation, provided it is possible to do so. By so doing I believe I shall be acting in the interests of the State, and particularly in the interests of the workers of the State. That being so, I shall continue to follow the course that I have adopted right through the piece. I am aware that during the last four or five months I have let some reservations on fairly flimsy information, but I have always been careful to ensure that they were reservations over workings that had been idle for more than 20 years. Notwithstanding the boom in gold, there were shows that had lain idle for 20 years with never an application for a lease or a prospecting area within miles of them, and yet immediately I let a reservation, four or five men pegged out leases and complained because they could not get the leases. The reservation in question has been granted for six months or 12 months as a maximum. If capital is not introduced for the working of the mine, the reservation will not be granted for a day longer. Several reservations I have refused to renew because the applicants informed me that they could get capital but failed to do so. Whenever parties prove their bona fides, as the Western Mining Corporation and the Western Mining and Machinery Company have done, they will always receive reservations or concessions from me in the interests of the industry and of the State. I hope that the motion will be defeated.

MR. F. C. L. SMITH (Brown Hill-Ivanhoe) [8.50]: After the very effective address delivered by the Minister, I do not think that much argument is needed from me to justify the granting of reservations. Still, I do not wish to cast a silent vote. I intend to oppose the motion, and desire to give reasons for my attitude. The motion objects to the principle of letting reservations. The question of the conditions under which reservations are let is not raised in the motion. Yet the mover said he did not mind a few reservations being let. Apparently he objected to the number and possibly to the area of the concessions, not to the principle of letting them. Under the motion, we are called upon to discuss the principle. If the principle is justified in relation to some con-

cessions, it must be justified in relation to all. I fully appreciate the value of the prospector to the goldmining industry. The State is indebted to those men who have gone into the wilderness, often at the risk of their lives, and have discovered and opened up mines that have tended to the progressive development of the country. After the prospector has discovered a show, what does he look for? The first thing he wants is someone to put money into the mine in order to develop it. He looks for someone to take an option over it; he needs capital to be invested in a speculative concern. Mines have been discovered in this State with sufficient gold on the surface to provide capital to sink the necessary shafts and provide the machinery for development, but I venture to say that any prospector who found a mine of that description would be rushing around for a capitalist to put money into the venture for fear that the gold showing on the surface would cut out before a great depth had been reached. If the surface indications and such development as the prospector has done promise average possibilities, again he looks for someone to take an option over the show. He has to find someone to invest capital in the proposition, in order to develop it. Mines cannot be developed without capital. Last night we were discussing the goldmining industry under the Mines Estimates, and we realised that it was a matter for congratulation that the production had shown such a vast improvement in the last few years. Each year more gold is being produced, and there is increased activity in the industry. We also congratulated ourselves on the high price of gold. It must be remembered however, that the value of the industry as a factor in the progressive development of the State has not been so much in the amount of gold produced as in the amount of capital the industry has attracted to the State because of the gold being found. Everyone who knows anything about the industry recognises that it has cost over £6 per ounce to produce gold in this State. The amount of capital invested in this speculative industry has been greater than the value of the gold produced. We regard the industry as one of great value also because of the large number of men employed. According to the report of the Mines Department 10,690 men are employed in the gold-mining industry. Mining is the profession of all those men. In it they seek their livelihood.

They do not want opportunities to go out prospecting. They want work of which they have a knowledge, work for which they are well fitted, work in which they can earn a much larger wage than in any other industry. They are looking for the expansion of the industry to ensure the continuance of their present jobs or to give opportunities for other jobs if their present work cuts out. If the opportunity is broadening all the time, work is being provided in the industry for other men on account of the new mines being opened up. The large increase in the number of men employed this year compared with the previous year and the year before is undoubtedly due to the opportunities that have been opened up in the industry by reason of the capital that has been put into it. We know how capital has been attracted to it, despite the fact that the industry is a speculative one. We know how exaggerated are some of the propositions that are put upon the market. People enter into those speculations well knowing the risks they run. Men go upon a racecourse and back horses knowing that all are not triers. Men put their money into mining shares knowing that if there are some prizes there are many blanks. Numbers of people are willing to speculate. It is necessary to give them some reasonable prospect of getting a return for the capital they invest in the industry. We must consider that fact, and the desirability of continuing to attract capital to the industry. Gold was found in this State about 50 years before the boom started. Its auriferous area has been well prospected. As the Minister has pointed out no big mine has been found since about 1900. This indicates how well the country was prospected by the early pioneers. In every part of the State prior to the present revival, there were abandoned mines, which had been tried as speculative propositions and proved to be failures. That is the situation we have to offer mining speculators. The State possesses a vast auriferous area containing many possibilities. There may be new discoveries although the State has been thoroughly prospected. There may be many abandoned mines scattered throughout the auriferous area. Having regard for these conditions we must make the proposition as attractive and spectacular as possible. We must make it more attractive to-day than we were compelled to make it at the time

when new discoveries were being made every day and every week.

Mr. Marshall: Gold is worth over £8 an ounce to-day.

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: That is of no use unless gold is being won. We have in this State no new territory to offer which one can say has not been prospected but is being newly developed, and is a piece of country that has just been discovered. Every yard of our auriferous areas has been prospected for gold. There may be some fortuitous find still awaiting us, and prospecting ought to be encouraged. We must consider the larger interest, the interest of those to whom mining is their profession, and who work in the mines. Take for instance the men on the Golden Mile who are earning 30s. or 35s. a shift. Those men do not want to go prospecting. They could have done so years ago. What they want is an opportunity to exercise their calling in the industry. To provide those opportunities we must attract capital, and to do that we must make the proposition alluring enough to induce it to come here. I may not agree with all the conditions that appertain to these concessions. I am not called upon to discuss them, but to discuss the principle involved. I agree with the Minister for Mines. I am satisfied that the granting of these concessions has been a big factor in bringing capital into the industry. From that point of view that is more important to our progressive development and to the alleviation of the economic conditions under which every other industry is suffering to-day, than is the amount of gold the industry is producing. The name of Mr. de Bernales has been raised on this motion. The member for Murchison reflected upon his standing in the mining world, and upon his capabilities for attracting capital. I have a letter I received from London not long ago, dated the 8th August. This friend says—

London is marvellous and is a never-ending place of interest and study. It is full of money, and huge loans or flotations from a half to five-million are floated nearly any day. Claude de Bernales' last big float was over-subscribed eleven times in two hours, and the shares are now at 2s. 6d., premium for 10s. shares. Mining is booming here, and anything with likely prospects can easily be floated if put in right hands.

The most important factor in attracting capital is that the proposition be put in the

right hands. Mr. de Bernales' success in floating mines and attracting capital to our gold mining industry, his interest in that industry, his work on behalf of it, and his reputation in connection with it, will bear comparison with the qualifications of any other investor or seeker after capital. I oppose the motion, and am in favour of the principle that has been adopted by the Minister in granting these concessions. Seeing how well this State has been prospected, and how well all promising surface lodes have been worked, I feel that we must make the proposition sufficiently attractive or we shall not get the capital we desire.

HON. J. CUNNINGHAM (Kalgoorlie) [9.10]: I congratulate the Minister on the effective reply he made to the member for Murchison (Mr. Marshall). I disagree with the member for Brown Hill-Ivanhoe (Mr. F. C. L. Smith) in some of the remarks he made.

Mr. Marshall: He has been astray all through. He knows nothing about the subject.

Hon. J. CUNNINGHAM: I refer to his statement about certain individuals who are responsible for inducing capital to come into the industry. I am not concerned with Mr. de Bernales, nor with the member for Murchison, but I am concerned about those who invest their money in the industry. Apart from the provisions of the Mines Regulation Act and the Mining Act dealing with the granting or refusing of reservations, the matter is really one for the individual who is prepared to invest his money in the development of our mines. Quite apart from the present value of gold, namely £8 16s. 7d. an ounce, compared with the previous value of £4 4s. 11½d. an ounce, our concern is for the development of the industry. It is paradoxical that whilst gold is soaring in value other industries are drooping, to the extent that those engaged in them are working for an income that falls below the cost of production. Notwithstanding this the member for Murchison, now that people are prepared to put money into the industry, complained about the Minister granting these reservations under the Mining Act.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The member for Murchison must realise that members are not allowed to read newspapers in the House at this time.

Mr. Marshall: It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that I am the only member to whom exception is taken in this respect.

Mr. SPEAKER: There have been others.

Hon. J. CUNNINGHAM: A large area of auriferous country has been neglected for a number of years. Within the last 12 months people who are interested in obtaining capital for its development have been retarded by the Mines Department. When applications have been lodged for reservations, notifications have been sent throughout the auriferous areas of the State, with the result that people who are known as prospectors in those areas get in early and peg out a number of old leases which have not been worked for 20 years. When the applications for the reservations have been reviewed by the Minister, the applicants find themselves high and dry, as a result of the action of the people for whom the member for Murchison now stands, and who have picked the eyes out of the country. These people have not a shilling of their own. They have known the country for 20 years, and have done nothing with it. Notwithstanding this they have stepped right in front of others who have the cash to put into the industry, and who have shown a desire to develop those areas. The hon. member discredits the claims of those who are prepared to develop the country in favour of others who have picked the eyes out of it, but have no capital with which to engage upon development. So much for the member for Murchison. He knows that to be true. That is all he is advocating. He wants rights given to the individual who has sat down for a number of years without putting a penny into the country and who now finds that other people are prepared to put in money. That is the position as I know it, and as Mr. Marshall, the member for Murchison, knows it. I congratulate the Minister on the stand he has taken. He is prepared to give every investor an opportunity to prove his bona fides by putting up the cash necessary to develop the mining reservations which have been granted. I am glad to support the Minister in developing the mining industry of Western Australia. I do not want to associate myself with people who are squatters on leases. Those are the people who are championed by the member for

Murchison. I am prepared to support miners who will put in money. Mr. Marshall and his friends—

Mr. Marshall: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I ask you whether the member for Kalgoorlie is in order in mentioning me by name.

Mr. SPEAKER: He certainly is not.

Hon. J. CUNNINGHAM: I shall mention the member for Murchison. The member for Murchison comes along here as a champion of the interests of the small owners of this State.

Mr. Marshall: I am pleased that you are here representing the big owners of this State. The people of Kalgoorlie are particularly proud of you!

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The member for Kalgoorlie had better discuss the motion, and not the member for Murchison.

Hon. J. CUNNINGHAM: I am discussing the motion, Sir. May I be permitted to draw your attention to the fact that the motion was tabled by the member for Murchison.

Mr. SPEAKER: That does not give you the right to discuss the hon. member.

Hon. J. CUNNINGHAM: I bow to your direction, Mr. Speaker, but, after all, it is hard to dissociate the member for Murchison from the motion, for there is a possibility that the hon. member may be associated with prospectors and small owners as against the capitalists with whom I am associated. However, I am prepared to let the member for Murchison have the honour of representing the small owners. In point of fact, there are no small owners. The member for Murchison cannot mention any small owner he represents, simply for that reason. There are on the goldfields numerous miners who hold miners' rights, but they are not in a position to develop any property. They have not even yet taken out leases. In fact, if they pegged out leases, they would not be in a position to prospect them. I remember within the last few weeks the member for Murchison being desirous of becoming a prospector, but he had not sufficient cash to carry on the business. Therefore he has not yet taken up a prospecting area. Now he comes here and wants to teach the Minister for Mines his business. In addition, the hon. member is desirous of interpre-

ting the Mining Act, not the Mines Regulation Act, to this Chamber. I want to know what is his trouble. There are areas of ground which have now been applied for as mining reservations, and upon which for the last 20 years not a peg has been put in. The member for Murchison went there and walked about in a pair of shorts, apparently with a view to doing a little dryblowing; but it got too hot for him, and the blowflies were too numerous, and so he returned to Parliament House, without having produced a pennyweight of gold.

Mr. SPEAKER: I again draw the hon. member's attention to the fact that the member for Murchison is not under discussion.

Hon. J. CUNNINGHAM: The member for Murchison has not made application for a mining reservation either. So far as I am concerned—and I represent a gold mining constituency—I want to see opportunities given to people who are prepared to put in capital for developing those areas for which they make application. I dismiss the observations, the reservations, the eloquence, and the importunities tendered to this House by the member for Murchison. Boiled down, those things mean nothing to me. I want to see opportunities given to people, under the laws of this State, to put capital into our mining industry for the benefit of Western Australia.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. M. F. Troy—Mt. Magnet) [9.24]: I must confess that I never at any time was much in favour of reservations in the mining industry. When the question of providing reservations with a view to geophysical prospecting was under consideration, I was not in favour of it.

Hon. C. G. Latham: You opposed it.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I was not in favour of it. However, I was permitted to investigate the principle of the proposition, and after investigating it I found that it was not of any disadvantage to any prospector or any person in the mining industry. The geophysical reservations provided that the persons to whom they were reserved should be able to carry on geophysical prospecting, but that they were not to interfere with the operations of any prospector. Any prospector was to be at liberty to enter upon the geophysical areas

and to carry on mining operations there. The only right possessed by the person who secured the reservation was the first option of purchase if a prospector desired to sell. I regarded the possible purchaser as an advantage, and so I could see no reason why I should oppose the geophysical reservations. I hope the mining reservations were given with discretion. I realise the advantage to this country of getting capital introduced. We need it badly. We need to have our people employed. But I do not want to see every man in this country a wage earner. I want still to encourage that large body of men in this country who confine their operations to prospecting. In my opinion, those men are the most independent and—

Mr. Marshall: Most self-sacrificing.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: —most self-contained people in this country. I know of no other body of men—and I have been associated with them for many years—who want from the community so little, except perhaps the pastoralists. Those two bodies of men can go together. The pastoralists do not bother Governments much, and the prospectors do not bother Governments either. The prospector works his show independently. He continues in his work frequently without any reward, always comes up with a smile, and never has a grouch. There are people in other industries who regard themselves as a sort of Government investment, who consider that they must be maintained there, and kept there by the community. But not this body of men. They take their chance. They look for very little help, and get very little help; and they are the type we want to encourage in Western Australia. On the Murchison, with the exception of Meekatharra, for the last 20 years the mining industry has been maintained almost entirely by the prospector. If he had not maintained the industry there, the industry would not be existing to-day. Take a place like Youanmi, which was abandoned years ago. The State battery was maintained there by the prospectors. At Sandstone the industry, abandoned by the companies, has been maintained by the prospectors. That has been done by the prospectors after the companies had abandoned the leases. I want this very fine class of men to be considered. Under the prospecting scheme of the Minister for Mines, let us continue to send men

out into the country and teach them to be self-reliant and independent. Such men we ought to encourage. Therefore I do hope such reservations as are approved by the Minister will be given cautiously and the fine body of reliable, independent prospectors retained and encouraged in Western Australia. In my own electorate, Hill 60 Mine, now sold to a company, was abandoned 30 years ago by another company, and thereupon taken up by prospectors, who developed it and equipped it. In the case of many old mines on the Murchison prospectors have from time to time gone in and got a crushing, and gone in again and again, and have not abandoned the industry. Certainly they have not been able to obtain the returns that a company could get by large expenditure of capital; but, to their credit, they have stuck to the industry, and but for them the mining industry in the back country of Western Australia would never have survived.

Mr. Marshall: And there would have been no capital coming into the State.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I feel sure that with the Minister the matter is in good hands. The Minister brought the prospecting proposition to Cabinet. It was the Minister's scheme that was adopted by Cabinet. The Minister is responsible for sending one thousand prospectors out into the country. I may say that when Mr. Scaddan, as Minister for Mines, visited Leonora, I asked him to break up the unemployment camps and get the men out into the country. How better can you make men independent and self-reliant than by sending them out prospecting? At Payne's Find, which has been abandoned for the last 10 years, there is now a bigger population than before, and they are all prospecting. I came across two young men who had found a good show. Other prospectors had been using the reef as a fireplace for years. These young men, in scraping away the ashes, discovered gold. They had been sent out prospecting under the scheme of the Minister for Mines; and they are well on their feet to-day. In prospecting men develop reliable and independent characteristics. They become industrious and full of initiative. The Minister is very enthusiastic in his desire to promote the interests of the mining industry and has done good work. I do not want his enthusiasm to lead him into any errors in granting concessions, and it is in that respect

only that I ask him to satisfy himself. I am sure he will do that. I feel sure, too, that he will do everything to encourage the prospectors, and that is what I am concerned about. I do not want to see men always employed on wages. That is the last thing I would desire.

Mr. Marshall: Some of your colleagues sitting behind me do not agree with you. Some want them to be slaves all their lives.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I want this fine body of men who are out prospecting throughout the auriferous areas to reap a reward for their services. I know some of them have made a rise during the year, and good luck to them. Some have secured rewards in my electorate. I am going to urge that they get their opportunities. I admire men who are prepared to go out into the back country and take risks. Many of them may live on kangaroo and damper, and do not make any noise about it. They do not talk about their standard of living; they are prepared to work their shows and accept risks.

Mr. Patrick: They would not desire to work for wages.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: Of course not. Such men are the salt of the earth, and we must encourage them. I have confidence in the Minister who will do all that is necessary, but I hope that, having regard to enthusiasm, he will be cautious in all the circumstances so that nothing will be done to discourage the fine body of men on whose behalf I speak.

HON. C. G. LATHAM (York) [9.31]: There does not appear to be any great harm in granting reservations in the mining areas, except in respect of the closed reserves. The Minister referred to one company that had undertaken to spend £15,000 a year. The conditions the Minister indicated suggested that they were closed reservations.

The Minister for Mines: No, both open and closed reservations.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I did not know that any closed reservations had been granted. In the Mitchell Government's time the policy was that the reserves should be open, that prospectors should be permitted to work on any portion of the reserves, and if they discovered anything of value they had to give the company holding the reservation the first refusal to buy. That appears to me to be quite reasonable. It

may be necessary where old shows are concerned, respecting which information is available at the Mines Department, for protection to be accorded any company desirous of working the shows. If it were left open for a prospector to squat on such a show, doing only so much work as was requisite, with the object of selling it, that would not be reasonable. I do not think that was ever intended. Bearing in mind the enthusiasm of the Minister regarding these reservations, I do not know how he will be able to make provision for sending out any more young men under his prospecting scheme.

The Minister for Mines: They have the whole area open to them; not one-ninetieth of the area is embraced in the closed reserves.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I do not know what the area may be; we are ignorant on the point. It would be a good idea if the Minister supplied the House annually with a list of these reservations so that we might know the actual position. The people in the city have an interest in mining. If they have not, I would be intensely surprised.

The Minister for Mines: I will give you all that information when I furnish the return to the member for Murchison.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I feel a good deal of sympathy for the member for Murchison (Mr. Marshall) regarding this matter. With the Minister for Lands, I want to see every encouragement given to the prospectors.

The Minister for Mines: Do you not think that the present Government have given them more encouragement than your Government did?

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I do not know exactly what you have done.

The Minister for Mines: What better encouragement could they have than to be sent out under my scheme?

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I do not know how many men are out.

The Minister for Mines: There are 1,000 out to-day.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I do not know that there are.

The Minister for Mines: I do.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: It would be worth while if we could find out where these 1,000 men actually are. A lot of them went out ill equipped for what they had to do. They were men raw from the city. A few of

them were able to go out with old prospectors, and they had some chance. Many of those who went out had no hope of succeeding, except in association with old prospectors.

The Minister for Mines: They produced 15,000 tons of ore.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I want the prospectors to have a reasonable chance and nothing should be done to prevent them from going out. The whole of the State should be available for prospecting. It is different in a centre like Kalgoorlie where intensive mining is carried on. It is not the same on the Murchison and on the north-eastern goldfields, through Leonora and such centres. It is exceedingly disheartening for men who go out to prospect to find that they are prevented from reaping the benefit of their work. Such a man often has no idea that he is on a reserve until he finds out that he is trespassing. I am glad the member for Murchison has moved the motion, and I shall support him because I am not anxious for large areas to be held up indefinitely.

The Minister for Justice: You would not deny the right to continue the principle of granting reservations.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: No. I would be prepared to leave the matter in the hands of the Minister to grant reservations, but not on a wholesale scale.

The Minister for Justice: Of course not.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: Do not let us get away with the idea that we must grant reservations before we can attract capital. The price of gold to-day will in itself attract capital, so long as we do not do anything to discourage it. We have large auriferous belts in Western Australia and I was somewhat concerned when the Minister referred to the reservations in the north. A lot of money has been picked up as the result of alluvial prospecting in the Marble Bar and Nullagine districts.

The Minister for Mines: None of the reserves is within 300 miles of Nullagine or Marble Bar.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: The Minister did not say where they were, and did not give the House any information.

The Minister for Mines: You will get that when I furnish the information in the return required by the member for Murchison.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: Then let us postpone the consideration of this motion until

we have that return. I am getting interested in this matter because I want to see the prospectors permitted to work on the alluvial patches.

The Minister for Justice: He would be game who would hunt prospectors off an alluvial patch.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I am concerned in view of what the Minister said.

The Minister for Mines: There is no question of hunting prospectors off—but there is not a solitary prospector there.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: Can a prospector go there and work the alluvial patches?

The Minister for Mines: Not on the closed reserve.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I meant the two reserves the Minister referred to.

The Minister for Mines: They are dredging propositions.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: Prospectors may desire to go there.

The Minister for Mines: They can go there and prospect.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: What the Minister suggests is that the prospectors can go there, pick up what they can, and make off with it. I realise that it may be difficult for prospectors to stay in such country, seeing that they must have water supplies and so forth. I would not like anything done to discourage alluvial prospecting and certainly the prospectors should not be barred. I want the Minister to know that I am not here to support closed reservations, although I know there may be reasons for granting them occasionally in order to protect companies that have invested capital.

Mr. F. C. L. Smith: Did your Government grant any closed reservations?

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I am not sure. The principle we adopted was that prospectors should be permitted to go on all reservations, and if they found gold and wished to dispose of their area, the first refusal should be given to the people holding the reservations. I do not say that policy was always rigidly adhered to, but that was the definite policy. Circumstances may have arisen that necessitated a departure from that attitude. I did not desire to hold up the Mining Estimates when they were before members, but now the motion has been placed before the House, I want it made quite clear that I do not, as a general policy, hold with wholesale reservations.

MR. SLEEMAN (Fremantle) [9.40]: I do not say I shall support the motion moved by the member for Murchison (Mr. Marshall), for I shall reserve my decision until I hear his reply. There is much justification for the attitude he has adopted. Large areas should not be granted to certain people and held up for long periods. Two years ago I was in the electorate represented by the Minister for Lands and visited a township where I lived for a number of years as a boy. Much to my surprise, I found that the whole area was held up by Mr. de Bernales. I do not know the gentleman, although I have heard a lot about him. From what I saw I was satisfied that the principle was wrong. The area there had been held up for a considerable time. There was one prospector working in the middle of the reserve, but he had been there before the reserve was granted and he could not be put off. There was a lot of ill-feeling about the matter at the time. I am open to correction, but I understand there has been practically nothing done on the reservation since then. I made inquiries while in the district with a view to ascertaining whether there were conditions that had to be fulfilled and had been neglected. A camp was pointed out to me and I was told that a man was supposed to be there and to do certain work.

The Minister for Lands: There are between 30 and 40 men there now.

Mr. SLEEMAN: It was not so then.

The Minister for Lands: No, it was not so for a long time.

Mr. SLEEMAN: Up to a little time back, nothing had been done on the reservation. That is wrong. When the Minister for Mines was speaking, he said that prospectors could go and work on those reserves. In the electorate of the Minister for Lands, there is the Morning Star Mine that had been worked for many years longer than any of the shows at Lennonville. It was supposed to be no good, but the prospectors went back and proved that the mine was still worth having. As a matter of fact, attempts have been made to float a new company to work the mine.

Hon. C. G. Latham: The difficulty with many of the old shows is in regard to the unwatering.

Mr. SLEEMAN: Yes, but even so, there is a lot still left above water. There is this difference. In the area that is held up by

Mr. de Bernales one man only is working, whereas just a few miles away at Magnet every dump and hole have men working in them. To my mind, the Lennonville district was richer even than Magnet. Where there was no reservation, men were working, but at Lennonville the whole of the district was held up. A peculiar thing happened while I was there. A man came to the township. He said he knew me as a boy and that he had returned to take over a show. He found he could not do so because de Bernales had held up the whole district. He told me he had been farming but had been starved off his property. I think he had the wreck of his farm with him in the shape of a motor truck, two drums of petrol and some provisions. He had decided to leave his farm and return to prospecting. He was a man who would make good anywhere, if given a chance. All that district was held up for some considerable time, owing to that very large reservation. The Minister for Lands says there are now 20 or 30 men there. I am glad to hear that. However, I agree with the member for Murchison that too large an area or too long a period should not be granted.

The Minister for Mines: There has not been one let for more than 12 months.

Mr. SLEEMAN: But if the lessee can go on renewing it from 12 months to 12 months, it is not right. The previous Government granted the reservation I complain of, but I say it is wrong for any Government to give a reservation over too large an area or for too long a period.

MR. STUBBS (Wagin) [9.47]: The only reason actuating me in saying anything on the motion is that I wish to point out that in one area with which I am conversant there has been for the last 20 years scarcely a man engaged on a number of mines which, 25 or 30 years ago, were worked profitably. I refer to Ravensthorpe, where there are many mines which, I am told, were once worked profitably down to the 200-ft. or 250-ft. level. However, when water was struck at those levels, most of the men interested distributed the profits, leaving nothing for reserves. Then, when war broke out, a large number of the men in the industry down there enlisted, and it was not until three years ago that reservations were applied for by the very man who has been so severely criticised by the

member for Murchison—I think, without justification. He applied for and secured under option from the Mines Department, a number of old, abandoned shows and took them to London in an endeavour to raise capital. I presume he did not raise that capital without reserving to himself either some cash or some shares, which he was justly entitled to receive. It may be news to the House that during the last 12 months that man, through the agency of people associated with him, has spent £30,000 in diamond drilling in the district, and has now developed the properties to an extent that justifies him in saying they are going to spend £200,000 there during the next year or two. I believe they have the necessary cash in London; I have that definitely from Mr. de Bernales' agent, and I am told the mine has an actual cash value exceeding £200,000. Is it not better to let these reservations to men of the pluck and enterprise of Mr. de Bernales, if they can induce the London people to find the necessary money for investment in Western Australia? If the member for Murchison can convince me that the granting of that reservation to Mr. de Bernales was unjustified, I shall begin to believe I know nothing at all about business. I ask the House to vote against the motion, because, in my judgment, if we had half a dozen more men of the stamp of Mr. de Bernales, it would be a jolly good thing for Western Australia.

Mr. SAMPSON: I move—

That the debate be adjourned.

Motion put and negatived.

MR. SAMPSON (Swan) [9.51]: I am not going to say I support the member for Murchison in his criticism of Mr. de Bernales, but no doubt that hon. member has put up a case calling for consideration. I move an amendment—

That all words from "wrong," inclusive, be struck out, and the following inserted in lieu:—"open to abuse and, except in special circumstances, should not be granted."

I hope the reasonableness of the amendment will appeal to the Minister.

The Minister for Justice: That is what he is there for—to see that there is no abuse.

Mr. SAMPSON: The motion declares that the principle is wrong and should immediately cease. Then, perhaps, it is too sweeping. The amendment should meet the circumstances, for it gives opportunity to treat the question on its merits, and does not make it mandatory.

Amendment (that the words be struck out) put, and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	..	..	..	20
Noes	..	..	..	10
				—
Majority for	..	..	..	10
				—

AYES.

Mr. Clothier	Mr. Needham
Mr. Coverley	Mr. Patrick
Mr. Cross	Mr. Rodoreda
Mr. Griffiths	Mr. Sampson
Mr. Hawke	Mr. F. C. L. Smith
Mr. Hegney	Mr. Troy
Mr. Kenneally	Mr. Willcock
Mr. McCallum	Mr. Wise
Mr. Moloney	Mr. Withers
Mr. Munsie	Mr. Wilson

(Teller.)

NOES.

Mr. Ferguson	Mr. Seward
Mr. McDonald	Mr. Sleeman
Mr. McLarty	Mr. Stubbs
Mr. Marshall	Mr. Warner
Mr. North	Mr. J. H. Smith

(Teller.)

PAIR.

AYE.	No.
Mr. Collier	Mr. Latham

Amendment thus passed.

Amendment (that the proposed words be inserted) put and negatived.

MR. MARSHALL (Murchison—in reply) [10.0]: I regret that so much heat should have been engendered over the motion. Further I regret that everyone who spoke on the motion, including the Minister, stressed emphatically a desire on my part to prevent capital from coming into the State. I wish to tell the Minister, the members for Wagin, Brown Hill-Ivanhoe and Kalgoorlie, that I have struggled as a worker in the industry, and as a member of Parliament to assist to get money into the country, more so than they have done, and have put more into the industry than most of them.

Mr. F. C. L. Smith: Always paramount.

Mr. MARSHALL: I have no difficulty in being paramount to the hon. member. I wish to know what utterance of mine in moving the motion caused members to

gather that I desired to prevent capital from coming into the country. Where did I mention it? If they read "Hansard"—

Mr. Stubbs: You were pretty rough on Claude de Bernales.

Mr. MARSHALL: And I shall be rougher on him yet. The hon. member knows the good side of the gentleman. I have another picture to paint, but I do not want to paint it. I hope the member for Wagin will not provoke me to do so. I did not want to mention the name of Mr. de Bernales, even when moving the motion, and refrained from doing so until the Minister prompted it. I do not want to mention his name now, but I could paint a very ghastly picture of the ambitions of that gentleman.

Mr. Hawke: We had better have them.

Mr. MARSHALL: This is not a matter for jest or hilarity, as members on the bench behind me seem to be treating it. Seemingly, members on the bench behind me have a habit of making a jest of everything. There are men who have battled for decades, made sacrifices, the like of which those members have never made and never will make, and have been deprived of the right to continue in the occupation they have followed for a lifetime.

Mr. Hawke: We should know all about this man so that we can adjust the matter properly.

Mr. MARSHALL: The man referred to does not appear in the argument and should not.

Mr. Hawke: The other side have introduced him.

Mr. MARSHALL: I am not going to do it. That individual is merely the head of a company. The Minister said he did this and that, but what he did was done with other people's money, not his own. If I could get hold of the money he had, I would handle it in no uncertain fashion, and would probably be instrumental in introducing as much capital into the country. That is not the point. I do not wish to have anything more to say about Mr. Claude de Bernales. I wish to be informed when I made a statement that could be the most elastic imagination be construed as a desire on my part to prevent capital from coming into the country. If the Minister obeyed the direction in the motion as amended, provided it be passed, and no more reservations were

granted, it would be no more detrimental to foreign capital coming into the State than will be the Bill that the Acting-Premier proposes to introduce to-morrow. That will be commented upon by investors in foreign countries, and considered more seriously than anything regarding reservations, because that measure will touch their pockets directly. So far I have heard no comment about that measure.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is not in order in commenting upon it.

Mr. MARSHALL: I desired to draw a comparison and to do no more. I have been accused by practically every speaker on the motion, of having made statements and done things detrimental to foreign investors. I have done nothing of the sort. I will never do anything that will be detrimental to investors. I want them and their capital to come to this State, but not to the detriment of citizens of a lifetime. The Minister for Lands truly described the prospectors. He knows them as well as I do. Men have entered the mining industry and worked until they accumulated a cheque. Then they went out prospecting and lost. They sacrificed all the good things of life, living on kangaroo and damper, considering them luxuries. After losing their savings on prospecting, they went back to the industry, worked until they accumulated another cheque, and went out again. Once more they missed, and so it has continued. Some of those men have not seen the city for years. Now they are to get out of the industry. Why? The Minister quoted one reserve he had granted, a closed reserve on one of the rivers in the North-West. I said I agreed there were few. But this is the principle to which I want the House to agree. The Minister spoke about persons doing legitimate and bona fide prospecting. What about the reserves on which legitimate prospecting is not done? Take the Big Bell: That is a reserve that has interested me for a long time. The Minister painted quite a good picture about it. I admit that he knows more about the area than I do. All that I can do is to go to the property in a motor car and gauge the distance with my eye, which is not an easy matter. The Minister gets his figures from a survey made by departmental officials, and considers that he has made a good point because he was accurate and I was not. Let me give the his-

tory of the Big Bell. Previous to that reserve having been granted at all, the Government assisted a certain individual to bore on a pound-for-pound basis. For goodness sake let members not ask the name of the individual; it was not Claude de Bernales. In the process of boring the person who then held the property discovered that the dip of the lode was so sharp that before he had bored far, the dip would carry the lode outside the boundary. Say the lode was dipping sharply to the east and the boundary was only a couple of hundred feet away, the lode was sure to pass out of the boundary after a few feet of boring. He applied for a reserve, and the Minister gave the dimensions of it, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles by $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles. That man ceased boring when the Government stopped helping him. He went to England. He told either the Minister or the Minister's predecessor that if he could hold that reserve for a certain period, he could return within 12 months with £500,000 for the development of the leases. That was as good a fairy tale as the Minister told us concerning the company that is coming here with £2,000,000. My judgment is based on facts; the Minister's judgment is based on things that have yet to be realised. These leases were held out of activity for approximately four years. Not a thing was done upon them all that time. With the price of gold rising, men would naturally have prospected that area. If the company in question had £500,000 to spend why were those reserves kept in idleness? If the capital was available, why was it not brought out here?

The Minister for Mines: The sum of £6,000 has been spent on the Big Bell within the last 12 months.

Mr. MARSHALL: The reserve was held for four years and not a thing was done upon it. Boring has been carried on there for two years. The Minister says that £6,000 has been spent there. That is an average of £1,000 per annum on the part of a company which six years ago promised half a million pounds. God forbid that the Minister should lend a kindly ear to all the elaborate tales that are poured into it every day. The individual in question has been protected by the Government for six years!

The Minister for Mines: They have not had the leases for six years. Be truthful.

Mr. MARSHALL: Approximately six years have passed since the Big Bell was taken over.

The Minister for Mines: The first reserve was made by the Government.

Mr. MARSHALL: The area was left in idleness until the Government of the day assisted this man on the pound-for-pound basis. He had held the leases long before that. The Minister now says that certain people are prepared to spend two millions of money.

The Minister for Mines: If the 12 months option pans out at 3½ dwts., the company are prepared to spend £2,000,000.

Mr. MARSHALL: I can guarantee the weights. The Minister knows how the price of gold has increased, and how this has brought about an influx of people to the goldfields. If he is genuine and conscientious, should he not be fair enough to say to those people, "Select what you want from this reserve immediately, and I will let the rest of it go to those who are prepared to prospect it." Would there be anything wrong with that, and would the company have anything to growl at? The money that has been spent by the Government in this area has come out of the pockets of the taxpayers. No doubt the spinner of the first yarn will get a rake-off. He has done practically nothing to the leases, except what he was assisted in doing out of the pockets of the taxpayers. He pulls out and the people with £2,000,000 come in, leaving him his rake-off. Why should he get anything? Does the Minister support the policy of jobbing in land? If mining leases are to be exploited, leave that to the taxpayers, who have stuck to the industry so long. I would not have moved this motion if I had thought that any statement of mine would be detrimental to the welfare of the industry. I say to the Minister, "Do all you can for those bona fide people who are willing to develop the country, but do not tie up large areas and debar genuine prospectors from seeing what it is worth." I am sorry that members representing the goldfields should question the bona fides of genuine and respectable prospectors, and charge them with having squatted on leases for the exploitation of investors. I resent that statement. It is certainly not being done on the Murchison. The member for Brown Hill-Ivanhoe said that the whole of the State had been thor-

oughly prospected, and that there was little hope of any future development. Both he and the Minister admitted that these companies are only exploiting old workings that they are not doing bona fide prospecting work, and are not going out into the maiden country on the reserves. They are only boring on the main ore channels. And so, if the old bona fide prospector is to be locked out, it is a ten to one wager that the companies, with all their wealth, will do nothing more than exploit the main ore channels of the district, keeping the prospectors out while that is being done. The rest of the country will, in those circumstances, remain virgin.

Mr. Stubbs: Who developed Wiluna? Prospectors?

Mr. MARSHALL: I must give the history of Wiluna again. I am sorry the hon. member interjecting was not here when I gave it previously. If the companies or the men who hold up the reserves and, according to the Minister, have so much money, would put on prospecting parties while boring the well-known, established ore channels, I would not have such a growl. I would say they were doing bona fide prospecting work and attempting to develop the country, and so I could not raise any objection. But they are not doing that. They are locking up the reserves. They are locking up country which they will never attempt to prospect. I want to tell the member for Brown Hill-Ivanhoe (Mr. F. C. L. Smith) that right in the main ore channel of the Meekatharra belt—withstanding all the wonderful prospecting done in years gone by—men have camped, kicked footballs, played cricket, walked, talked, run and jumped over a lease sold recently for £15,000 cash. There are mines all round that lease, and yet it was missed. I refer to the Lady Shenton lease, sold for £15,000 only a few days ago. That is prospecting for you! I agree that probably all the outcrop that might be discovered by walking over country and napping has been discovered; but who that is now out prospecting is going to costeen and cross-cut? These companies are not doing that part of the work. They are not doing legitimate prospecting. On any reserve there may be found old workings of some well-known mine. I agree with the member for Brown Hill-Ivanhoe that such country is no good to a prospector. I do not want it for the prospector,

and never have asked for it on behalf of the prospector. Let the companies have it. But why cannot they take up leases, get all the country they want in leases? The Minister for Mines should see that that is done. I have been asked about Wiluna. When moving the motion I mentioned that the Wiluna company never had a reserve, never.

The Minister for Mines: A fairly large area was protected while it was being bored.

Mr. MARSHALL: The company bought a group of leases, about 25 leases. Those were their property. Only those leases were protected while the company were boring. That is an entirely different matter from what is going on to-day. The reservations extend around old workings for miles. The Day Dawn reservation, recently granted, extends for 2½ miles around the old Fingall mine. It takes in the Fingall mine. What do the company want it for? There are 2½ miles of country locked up, and all for the sake of developing the old Fingall mine. I put it to the Minister, is it fair that with gold at £8 12s. per ounce these concessions should be granted? Comparatively speaking, the Minister is entirely wrong. I quoted a case to him, and have another case to quote, one in the electorate of the Minister for Lands. When speaking either on this motion or on the Mines Estimates, I explained to the Chamber that there are hundreds of men on the fields who have no tenure whatever, and rightly so. Why should I be permitted to walk out into the country and, without having a look at it, go straight to the mining registrar and get a prospecting area for 10s., or alternatively get a lease for £1 per acre? How ridiculous! It is only natural to go out prospecting without any security of title. But immediately I get indications which I think warrant the taking up of country, I get a lease. That is how the Minister is wrong in saying that when he grants a reserve, everybody wants it. As regards the reserve he granted recently around the old Fingall mine, I can quote the man's name. The Minister knows him. He is Mr. Sam Bastian, a well known identity around Fingall and Cue; a fine citizen, a good respectable man—none better on the Murchison. He has had bad luck. He has seen days of prosperity, when he made money. He came down to Perth for the good of his health, as mining men should do

if they have the money. He found that his investments here were not too profitable; so he sold his orchard or farm, went back and put every penny into the Fingall mine and lost every penny. He was prospecting under the conditions which I have just enunciated, without any title. He got indications, and went to the registrar and made application for a prospecting area. The application was accepted, and in due course he went along to get it granted by the warden. Having made the application, he knew the date on which it would be heard. When he went into the court, the warden said to him, "I am sorry, but I have received instructions from the Minister for Mines that no more P.A. leases are to be granted as reserves." There were 17 others besides Mr. Bastian doing the self-same thing, prospecting that country. Mr. Bastian had just got indications. Now, the Minister will say that the area was abandoned. It was not abandoned.

The Minister for Mines: I said nothing of the kind. Do not put words into my mouth.

Mr. MARSHALL: Then I withdraw. But the Minister has repeatedly said, "When I grant a reserve, everybody wants it."

The Minister for Mines: Of course. I repeat it.

Mr. MARSHALL: In this case, if the Minister said it, he was wrong.

The Minister for Mines: I did not say it in every case.

Mr. MARSHALL: Did the Minister say it in other similar cases? He has deprived these men of the opportunity to prospect that area, and all that the companies will do—

The Minister for Mines: They are doing it now. They are examining it in the day-time.

Mr. MARSHALL: I want to know about this from the Minister. What they should do is to keep off the Fingal and sink another main shaft, which would cost money. That is not work for the prospector, but for men or companies with money. What I object to is that, instead of getting this concession, the concern could have taken up as many 24-acre leases as they liked, just as any bona fide prospector does. Where did the money come from for the development of the Golden Mile? Were there any reservations in those days? Of course, there were not. The price of gold

then was £3 17s. 10d. or £4 4s. 11d. In those days investors did not seek reserves. They made their investments, and some were very bad ones. Throughout the North Coolgardie goldfields, mine after mine was floated on the basis of 24-acre leases, with gold at £4 an ounce. Now I am told, in effect, that we must grant pastoral leases instead of mining lease, and that if I dare challenge the system I shall prevent the investment of capital. I disagree with that contention entirely. Money flowed into this State in the early history of the goldmining industry, without any reserves being granted. I can quote another instance at Meekatharra to prove that money has been available on the basis of the ordinary leases granted under the Act, with no request for reservations whatever. Areas spread over a distance of five miles are under option there, without any suggestion of reservations, or of anyone asking for them.

The Minister for Mines: That is not correct; they did ask for them.

Mr. MARSHALL: They did not want reservations, because the money was available.

The Minister for Mines: They wanted reservations, or they would not have asked for them.

Mr. MARSHALL: The Minister's statement proves my argument. They asked for them; the Minister refused them; the money was available. If everyone concerned were compelled to accept the same conditions as prospectors, they could take up as many 24-acre leases as they liked, and the money would be available just the same.

Mr. Hawke: It might mean getting it more quickly!

Mr. MARSHALL: That is so. The position of the companies with huge capital is different from that of the ordinary prospector who must take up his prospecting area or ordinary lease. Western Australia receives no royalty at all from the production of gold. With the prospectors, all their requirements are to be found within the State. They have to pay £1 for every acre they hold, and every penny they have is expended within the State. They are compelled to pay a higher price for leases than the investors who live outside the State. The foreign investors receive special treatment, and have available to

them large reserves, which they do not intend to prospect apart from the established ore channel. It is the abuse of the system that has given rise to resentment. Reserves between Day Dawn and Cue have been held for four years and manned by three men for three weeks. One man was prospecting on an area there and the warden, who happened to be playing golf in the vicinity, saw him and asked what he was doing. When told by the man that he was prospecting, the warden ordered him off, telling him at the same time that he was working on a reserve. I will cite another instance. Three young men named Scott, Morton and Weeks were working at Jonesville, and they had two friends working on the State Battery who were not doing very well in view of the wages cut and the loss of the district allowance. These three young fellows had a very good show, known as "The Swan Bitter," which is now under option for £20,000. They told the two friends who were working on the State Battery to leave their work, get a conveyance, and load up with six months' tucker. They were sent to Hacks Mine, where they continued prospecting for upwards of five months. When they decided they had found sufficient indications of gold, they resolved to apply for a lease. When they went to the Mining Registrar's office, and stated where they were working, the reply they got was, "Good God Almighty, you are on a reserve." They were told to get off, or else they would run the risk of being prosecuted for trespassing. Investors to-day should do as their predecessors did. They should comply with the provisions of the Mining Act, avail themselves of what they require under that Act, and pay a reasonable rental to the State.

Mr. Patrick: There are the labour conditions to be complied with.

Mr. MARSHALL: But they cannot be enforced on the reservations, as they can on a 24-acre lease. The bona fide prospectors look for new propositions, but no wealthy company in my electorate is doing that class of work. All that they do is to exploit the well-known and old-established ore channels, and yet they keep miles of country locked up, although they have no intention whatever of prospecting it. Regarding the remarks of the member for Brown Hill-Ivanhoe (Mr. F. C. L. Smith)

respecting my references to certain matters mentioned by the Minister, one cannot advance a single argument in opposition if a company puts down £15,000 in proof of bona fides, and actually prospects the area held. On the other hand, if the Minister desires to continue these reservations in order to encourage the investment of capital, let him continue to do so, but I do not think it is necessary. These companies should take their chances, just as individual prospectors do. As the member for Kalgoorlie (Hon. J. Cunningham) said, I have not applied for any reservations. It would be against my principles to do so, and I would not attempt to make such an application. That is more than the member for Kalgoorlie can say for himself. I have little more to add in reply. Wiluna and other centres on the goldfields, particularly in the early days, were exploited with foreign capital. Even "wild cats" were developed with foreign capital, and the money was absolutely wasted. In those days, no one asked for reservations and no one would do so to-day if it had not been for the precedent established long ago. But for that, no one would have thought of doing so. Had the system been squelched at the inception, there would not be this difficulty to-day, and we would have had just as much money invested in the industry as formerly. As to the position at Wiluna, those interested in the proposition assisted the Minister for Mines and others 12 months before in approaching the Federal Government with a request for the payment of a grant of £1 per ounce on the price prevailing then for gold. His argument was that if the Federal Government would concede another £1 per ounce on gold he could almost guarantee an influx of foreign capital into the mining industry. He never thought of asking for reserves. They got the £1 per ounce on gold, and Wiluna started upwards. Gold was then only £4 4s. 11d. per ounce. Now we are told it is necessary to give huge areas to encourage capital for investment in the industry. In the name of God, where does that argument come in? That these people have expended a large amount of capital, no one denies, but if the reserves had never been granted we should still have got the capital for development. I appeal to the Minister to remember that by his policy he is unintentionally persecuting a large number of men. Those men we sent out at 15s. per week

were never given transport, but had to be under obligation to others for it. Mostly they were taken to known deposits close to the railway. Much of the trouble is caused by known deposits, for those are the deposits that attract those who desire reserves, and so the 15s. per week man is being squeezed out. I should be one of the first in an army on the march to prevent any interference with the investment of capital in the industry, but the circumstances of to-day warrant a change of programme. The price of gold—£8 12s. per ounce, and still rising—is doing more to bring capital into this country than all the reservations the Minister can grant. The Minister knows quite well that money is flowing into the industry without any talk of reservations. But there is the prevailing influence, following from a precedent set years ago and which has prevailed right along. The Minister mentioned a letter. The Minister and I will thrash that out. I am not ashamed to show the Chamber what I wrote, and I guarantee every line of it can be proved, from the time I was a child in the industry. We have had hundreds of pounds owing to the Mines Department for leases. Forfeiture has been recommended, fines imposed, but never paid. In conclusion I repeat that these reserves are not in the best interests of the State. They do not induce capital to anything like the extent suggested by the Minister, and they are prejudicial to the welfare of the State. I will leave it at that. I still refuse to believe that the Minister's contention, as against mine, is correct.

Mr. SPEAKER: An amendment was moved that certain words be struck out. The House did that, but refused to insert other words in their place. That leaves only a part of the motion, carrying no sense whatever, and so I do not propose to put the question.

House adjourned at 10.45 p.m.
