

of coal and the condition of the coal-mines as it does in the goldmining industry. The coal industry always seems to have been at the bottom end of the Mines Department. More attention appears to have been paid to gold than to coal until the last couple of years, during which we have discovered how useful coal is.

I want to see complete unanimity in the field and the conditions under which the men work brought into line with those in other places in the Eastern States of which we have read and which some of us have seen. There is only one way in which that can be done, and that is by the Government paying attention to it. The segregation of the miners here from the Miners' Federation in the Eastern States was a wonderful lead to the Government here to take control of the industry and direct its destiny as we desire.

On motion by Hon. A. R. G. Hawke, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 6.9 p.m.

Legislative Council.

Tuesday, 22nd August, 1950.

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

QUESTION.

EDUCATION.

As to Hilton Park School.

Hon. E. M. DAVIES asked the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What is the reason for the delay in opening the Hilton Park school?
- (2) Is he in a position to advise when this school will be opened?
- (3) To what standard will children be accepted?
- (4) Is he satisfied that the school building is capable of accommodating the children in the district?
- (5) If not, will he advise if additions are to be made?

The MINISTER replied:

- (1) Shortage of materials.
- (2) Early next month, it is hoped.
- (3) Standard 2.
- (4) From the information available, yes.
- (5) Arrangements will be made to increase the accommodation if necessary.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Seventh Day.

Debate resumed from the 16th August.

HON. L. A. LOGAN (Midland) [4.35]: Before dealing with the motion moved by Mr. Jones I would like to welcome to this House the four new members. That number, I think, constitutes a record for the Legislative Council. I have endeavoured to find out how long ago it is since we had four new members at one time in this House, but it seems that it is so long ago that no-one can remember. The age of the present members here is somewhat unique inasmuch as with the present young members the average age must be considerably less than it has been. This, I think, is all to the good. Naturally we need one or two of the older hands to curb the impetuosity of youth, but at the same time, we must have youth in order to progress.

I am hopeful that now we have some younger blood in the Chamber we will have some vim put into our proceedings, and, as someone said the other day, something controversial introduced. I hope that can be brought about without our being disorderly. I wish to bring before the notice of the Government that, in my opinion, not sufficient regard is paid to the intelligence of the present members of both Houses, particularly in respect of the areas which they represent. I say that because on many occasions private members have put suggestions to the Government, and, although they have known their suggestions have been correct and would have worked out all right, the Government has turned a deaf ear. I do not know where the Government gets the impression that it has all the brains in Parliament.

Hon. G. Bennetts: Some officials do not think they have the brains.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I am not referring to Hon. C. H. Simpson, Minister for Transport, because he is a new Minister, and I know, from the attitude he has adopted, that he is helpful to members and will listen to reason. But I am afraid that in the past Cabinet has been under the impression that it has had all the brains. I can point to many cases where the member of a district, by personal contact, knew just what the position was, and what was required. Although members have expressed their ideas and opinions, the Government has said, "Very good," and then conveniently forgotten about them. In this State we have 80 members of Parliament, yet we have to bring a man from the Eastern States to tell us about meat. If the 80 members in this State have not got a formula worked out which would cover the meat question, I am certain that Mr. Kelly, after three days in this State, could not work one out either.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: It was a Country Party Minister who got him here.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Yes, but at the request of the Government; not at the request of a Country Party Minister. I suggest that in the future some little notice, at least, be taken of members of Parliament in this State. We are put here for a purpose, namely, to represent the interests which we serve. If we are not capable of doing that, put us out and put in someone else who can, but do not go out of the State and ask someone to come here to give an answer in three days to something he does not really understand!

Hon. G. Fraser: Have you got a formula yet?

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: There is only one formula, and that is to wipe out control. I say that advisedly, because we cannot completely control a commodity by going only half way along the line. With regard to meat, we have the problem of dealing with two items, one of which is controlled and the other is not. The carcass is under control and the wool that comes off the carcass is not controlled. How can anybody work that out?

Hon. G. Fraser: Control the lot.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: That is impossible. The only way is to get rid of control and return to the open market system. If that were done things would find their own level, and that is the only basis on which we can work to overcome this problem.

Hon. G. Fraser: What happened when we returned to the open market system with houses? All prices went up to the sky.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: But we have got somewhere under that system. Mr. Fraser keeps interjecting, but I would advise him that before this House lifted the control from the sales of houses there was not one house for sale, unless it was sold on the black market. Today, every time one looks at a newspaper one finds houses for sale.

Hon. G. Fraser: At a cost of about £3,500 or more.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: But they are for sale, and people were paying more than £3,500 for them when they were sold on the black market.

Hon. G. Fraser: A price of £3,500 for a £700 house.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: And on the black market it would probably have brought £5,000. By taking control from the sales of homes we have opened up an avenue that was not there before. I did not intend to speak on housing, but as Mr. Fraser has brought up the subject I will point out a fallacy in regard to our Government and some of its departments.

When the Minister for Housing was at Donnybrook the other day a deputation asked him if it would not be possible to build houses with Donnybrook stone. The answer was, "I will investigate the position." Just imagine that! There must be thousands of tons of Donnybrook stone in this city alone. The A.M.P. building is a good example of a large structure built from this material and that building is still standing. Yet, the Minister's answer is, "I will investigate the position." I raise that point because over the last three years we have hammered for Geraldton to be brought into the stone area. In the Geraldton district there is excellent building stone available and as Geraldton celebrates its centenary next month I would remind members that a number of buildings erected at the beginning of the century, from this stone, are still standing. Therefore, I cannot see any reason why a department should say, "We will examine the position."

Hon. E. H. Gray: Where would you get the stone-masons from?

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I will tell the hon. member where we can obtain stone-masons. Thousands of immigrants are coming into this country and if there are not a number of stone-masons among them then there is something wrong. However, I know for a fact that there are stone-masons among our immigrants. The Immigration Department having brought them here should be able to put them on to participate in work such as they had been doing on the Continent. Most of these stone-masons are tradesmen and in their home countries have been brought up to use stone in their buildings. If they could do it there, then such work could be carried out here.

Hon. G. Bennetts: Has the Government made any inquiries?

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: If the Government has not made any inquiries, then it should do so immediately. These men would be much more happy doing work that they have been accustomed to instead of using picks and shovels or wasting time somewhere else. I make that suggestion because I think it is time we did something instead of everlastingly saying, "We will investigate the position." Surely after all this time we know just what the position is, so let us go ahead and do something. If we do not, then the housing problem will be with us for a good many years to come. The same thing applies to hospitals. All over the State at present there is a clamour for hospitals and I tell the House that if any other area, or areas, come into the picture and obtain a priority over those already granted, then I will not answer for the actions of people in Geraldton because I think it would mean a civil war.

Hon. G. Fraser: Do not threaten us.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I do not like making threats but that is what it will mean because the people in the district are getting hostile and will become even more so if we have any more instances like that applying to Pinjarra.

Hon. G. Fraser: That did not come from a Labour man.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I know it did not, but I only mention it in passing. During Mr. Cunningham's remarks the other day he had a lot to say about vermin and mentioned the grasshopper plague. As the aerial baiting of this plague took place in portion of my district last year, I have endeavoured to follow it up and see what results were accomplished. I have with me a cutting which may be of interest to members and I think it will confirm the evidence and the ideas that the Department of Agriculture and the Government have tried to put into practice. This is a cutting from the "Midland Advocate" of Saturday, the 10th August. It is as follows:—

Evidence that man may have finally found a method for controlling one of his most elusive enemies—the grasshopper—is offered in the August "Reader's Digest" in an article by Ben Funk, condensed from the "Denver Post."

Do not mix him up with the "commo" whom the authorities caught up with the other day. It goes on—

Funk reports that in the winter of 1948-49 entomologists found grasshopper eggs in ominous numbers in the notorious nesting grounds of Wyoming and Montana, U.S. They recalled that swarms bred in this region in 1937 devastated hundreds of miles of crop lands, destroying crops worth 250,000,000 dollars. Their timetable warned them it was time again for another of the regularly recurring plagues.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's grasshopper control division took charge of an aerial war against the grasshoppers.

A fleet of 38 aircraft took to the air in June last year to spread two deadly insect poisons—chlordane and toxaphene. These are so effective that a half pound mixed with 100 pounds of flake bran kill every grasshopper on 10 badly infested acres. On one 25 minute flight, 1,470 acres were sprayed, and 128,000,000 grasshoppers killed.

They did not say how they worked that out but I guess they counted the legs and divided by four. The extract continues—

A pilot could make 10 flights daily. By mid-August 2,896,000 acres had been sprayed at a cost of 65 cents (or 5s. 9d.) an acre.

That price should be remembered because I understand that the experiment at Mingenew last year cost about 8s. an acre. But, we must appreciate that it does not take a plague of grasshoppers long to do more than 8s. worth of damage to an acre of ground.

Hon. J. G. Hislop: Are not those drugs highly toxic to man?

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Yes, but they are carrying out this work in the United States and I see no reason why it should not be done here.

Hon. J. M. A. Cunningham: As to their being toxic, only half a lb. per acre is used.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I will not read any more of the cutting but that gives members some idea of what can be done by aerial spraying over such a large area. I know that our own department is very anxious to try the fogging machines and that it likes the method of ploughing the ground, but that cannot be done over a large area and in such quick time as can be accomplished by aerial spraying. I do not know whether the helicopter would be a better means of spreading the bait than the ordinary aeroplane. I think it would but the 8s. would probably become 18s. an acre and would make the work too costly. But, something must be done and done quickly because we realise just what damage grasshoppers can do. I understand that at present they are working into some areas and now is the time to stop them and not wait until after the damage is done.

Hon. G. Bennetts: They have already invaded the Southern Cross districts.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I understand they have and it is all the more reason why we should get on with the job immediately. Another question is that of main roads. Over the last fortnight this has become a topic of conversation from one end of the State to the other and, I think, rightly so. When we come to consider that year after year successive Governments and local road boards have been spending money and using plant on the same roads, we realise that the method employed has been to grade first from the outside to the inside of the road, then from the inside to the outside and later on gravelling the formation—only to see it washed out by rain or blown away by the wind—it must be patent that year by year there has been so much expense of money, time and work and yet we are still without proper roads. Of the money that the State received under the provisions of the Federal Aid Road Agreement we find that in 1948-49, 85 per cent. of the funds were allocated to the Main Roads Department and 15 per cent. to local authorities.

As there are something like 127 road boards in Western Australia, members can imagine how much each received. In

1949-50 the percentage allocations were 82 per cent. to the department and 18 per cent. to the road boards. It is all quite wrong. It is time there was some adequate reorganisation. Under the Main Roads Department's operations we are getting about 100 miles of bitumen surfacing carried out on the roads each year. Just fancy that in a State like Western Australia! At the present rate of progress, our grandchildren's grandchildren will not have bituminised roads to travel over. If some reorganisation were carried out that would enable local authorities themselves to carry out the bituminising of roads in their areas and each did 10 miles or so per annum, we would be getting somewhere, and people who have battled for years over corrugated roads would reap some advantage.

Hon. G. Bennetts: What we want is another war, and then they will rush the roads through!

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: We do not want that sort of remedy. We find that after three years of agitation there is £151,000 still lying in the plant pool. Had that money been allocated to local authorities during the last few years they could have purchased plant, and the aggregate amount of £1,750,000 lying to the credit of the State under the Federal Aid Road Agreement would not now be unexpended. Most decidedly a large measure of reorganisation is called for. Two years ago I offered the suggestion that the amount then in the plant pool, which totalled £162,000, should be divided into two and part set aside for boards likely to participate in the pool. I knew at that stage that the local authorities in the northern areas were opposed to it. Of the amount to be allocated, one-third should, I proposed, be given to the boards each year over a period of three years, which would have enabled those concerned to go ahead with their operations. However, my suggestion was regarded as a good idea—but nothing was done about it.

Had my proposal been followed up, local authorities could have bought the necessary plant much more cheaply than is possible today, and the roads would be much more satisfactory than they are now. I suggest to the Minister that he submit the proposal to the Government that there should be a reorganisation of the Main Roads Department with a view to securing greater activity in the bituminising of roads throughout the State. In my opinion, the attention of the Main Roads Department should first be devoted to the northern and inaccessible areas where the local authorities are not in a position to carry out the work.

Hon. G. Bennetts: Do not let them take any plant from Kalgoorlie!

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: They can leave Kalgoorlie alone. At that centre the authorities have adequate plant to enable the local jobs to be carried out properly. I agree that we should retain the engineers we have in the Main Roads Department, but let them function in a consultative capacity only. If something along these lines were done, we would not hear so much growling as we do in the country areas today.

I commend Mr. Jones for the excellent idea he advanced when moving the adoption of the Address-in-reply in his advocacy of improving the status of the Agricultural Department. Since he opened up the subject, the Farmers' Union and other organisations have followed suit and have advocated something along the same lines. When we realise just what the Agricultural Department covers in the multiplicity of its operations, the importance of its work must be apparent. Something like 90 per cent. of the State revenue is derived from the land by means of primary production, and in those circumstances it is essential that the department should be adequately equipped to carry out its huge task.

In the area from Perth to Geraldton the department has not one man who knows anything about diseases affecting stock or animal husbandry in general. At Geraldton there were two officers of the department at one time, but they were purely wheat men and knew nothing at all about diseases of stock. One of those officers has been transferred from the district. I can give an instance of a man coming to the Agricultural Department's office in Geraldton with the announcement that his sheep were dying. He wanted to get some advice. The officer knew nothing about the diseases of sheep and so he had to telephone through to Perth, describe the symptoms to the officials here and then advise the farmer what he should do. That farmer had to return to his farm 60 miles away and carry out the experiments suggested to him. That is all wrong.

Hon. E. H. Gray: What is required is an increase in the veterinary staff.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: That is what we want. It is obvious that we must build up the department. We should not send men on to virgin country without giving them adequate information upon which to work. When they open up new areas, they should know the principles upon which they should operate in that particular type of country. If that were done, we could expect new settlers to do some good. If a man is expected to go on to light land areas and to earn a living there, it is necessary for him to have some heavy country to work in conjunction with the remainder of his holding. If the information I suggest were avail-

able, I think a lot of the light country could be opened up and men would make a living on their holdings there within two years.

We have heard it said that it takes two generations to develop a farm in the South-West. That may be true as applied to that part of the State, but in the areas I have in mind the settler could make a farm within two years. All that is necessary to accomplish that end is the man and the necessary materials. I am sure that we could settle a lot more land in that part of the State in a shorter time than would be possible elsewhere, and we would help to augment the production that is so necessary today. By that means we could even help in providing greater meat supplies. Before we can accomplish anything along those lines, we must first have the experts to give the necessary advice and then we must have the materials with which to carry out the work.

A new branch of the Agricultural Department deals with soil conservation and is under the direction of Mr. Burvill. I rang him up and asked if he could send one of his officers to my district and he replied, "I am 15 months behind in dealing with requests for men to go to various areas." More men are required and more materials with which they can carry out their work. The plant at their disposal at present is practically non-existent. Until that branch is properly equipped, we will not be able to deal adequately with the situation, and we shall be losing soil that otherwise would be saved.

We certainly do not wish to reach the stage when we have to admit that the soil is lost to production. We should use every endeavour to prevent that result. The only way that can be accomplished is to have a larger staff of trained men and to provide them with the necessary materials with which to carry out this all-essential work. Next I would like to deal with Mr. Gray's statements respecting flour production in this State. I know that is one of his hobby horses, but in the course of his remarks he seemed to imply that the wheat farmers had not been playing the game.

Hon. G. Fraser: Not growing the proper types of wheat.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: The farmers have been playing the game. Let members have regard to the real position and they will appreciate that it is the Agricultural Department that breeds the wheat in the first place. Then it is recommended to the farmer, and the farmer grows it. He grows it only on the recommendation of the department.

Hon. E. H. Gray: I wish they all did that.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: We were asked why Western Australian growers did not do the same as those in New South Wales. We find, on looking up the records, that Bencubbin was one of the most prolific wheats grown in Western Australia. In New South Wales 50 per cent. of the wheat grown was Bencubbin. I do not know, therefore, why Mr. Gray says we should do the same as New South Wales. Those are the figures. For 1948-49, the latest year for which figures are available, 30.4 per cent. of the wheat grown in this State was Bencubbin, and 25.5 per cent. was Bungulla. Glucub grown amounted to 17.1 per cent. Since then, that quantity has been reduced and the production of wheats with high protein content and of good flour quality has increased, such as the Gabo, Eureka and Koorda varieties.

I managed to obtain the figures relating to the last crop competitions conducted by the Royal Agricultural Society, and baking strength was allowed for in the percentages in that competition. There were 25 to 30 varieties, but Gabo was the only wheat that received the full quota of 30 points. The nearest was Eureka, with 28 points. Kondut obtained 29 points at one stage. I can assure Mr. Gray that if he goes into districts which have had a good dry year, he will probably obtain wheat of good baking quality, irrespective of variety.

To say that we have to eliminate the f.a.q. system and introduce the grading system to get good flour is bunkum. We can grow good wheat in an area this year—wheat of good baking quality—and next year it will be no good at all because of seasonal conditions. To indicate that all wheat in this State is not bad—

Hon. E. H. Gray: I did not say it was.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I shall read of a report by a mill manager. This appeared in the "Geraldton Guardian" of Thursday, the 3rd August—

It was also gratifying to hear from the mill superintendent (Mr. S. Wilton) that the wheat received during the past season was of good milling quality and was producing flour of excellent baking properties.

So it it is not all as bad as it could be.

Hon. N. E. Baxter: That was taken out of ordinary bulk bins?

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Yes.

Hon. E. H. Gray: In Geraldton only.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: A quarter of the wheat grown in the State goes into Geraldton.

Hon. G. Fraser: It might be the good quarter.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Of course it is. I would not represent the province if that were not so. We must find some other means of improving flour rather than by the grading system. It is possible to give one variety of flour to 50 different bakers and get 50 different loaves of bread.

Hon. G. Bennetts: Too right!

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: You would not have the same loaf, would you!

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: That is just smartness. Fifty different varieties, if the hon. member wishes to be precise.

Hon. Sir Charles Latham: Qualities.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Yes. We have three bakers in Geraldton. One is particularly good. I would not like to say what the others are. I do not propose to mention any names. So much for bread. I think I have given Mr. Gray enough to prove that the wheatgrower is not to blame. He is producing the wheat recommended by the department.

Hon. G. Fraser: How much Gluclub is grown in your area?

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Not very much.

Hon. G. Fraser: That is the reason.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: There was only 17.1 per cent. in the whole State. That has been reduced to 13 per cent. or 14 per cent. When Gluclub was sent to England for trials, although one or two bakers said it was no use, another said it was of excellent baking quality. If members look up the reports they will find that is correct. One man said it was excellent.

Hon. G. Fraser: For biscuits.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: No, for bread. It depends on the area in which the wheat is grown; that is what it amounts to. The seasonal conditions have an effect. We were told that we were being deluded by Mr. Tadman. I think Mr. Gray has been deluded by Dr. Kent-Jones. Mr. Tadman is one of the leading British agriculturists, whose word is surely as good as that of Dr. Kent-Jones. He warned the Australian farmer not to relinquish the f.a.o. standard. So there we have a difference of opinion. I saw a film on the baking of bread and its testing, and the first thing I remember was Mr. Gray's remarks on bread. What he explained in his speech was shown in the film, and I appreciated the information that had been given to us beforehand. I have been told that what I propose to speak about now is a controversial subject and that in mentioning it I may be standing on somebody's corns. I refer to s.p. betting.

Hon. G. Fraser: Have you got a solution?

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I hope so.

Hon. G. Bennetts: They had a Royal Commission on that.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I know that, too.

Hon. G. Fraser: You are a better man than Gunga Din.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I am not opposed to betting but I am opposed to any Government's carrying on the farce that has been perpetrated by this Government and other Governments in the past—the farce of taking men to court and fining them under the Traffic Act. The sooner the Government cleans up this matter, the better. If one goes down St. George's terrace at 5 o'clock, one can see a queue from one end of the street to the other. Is not that traffic obstruction? Yet a few people can go around a quiet corner, with nobody else about, and one man can be there receiving bets, and he is taken before the court and fined for stopping the traffic. It is plain stupidity.

If it is illegal to bet, let us fine people for betting. If not, let them go. Over the air, and particularly from the A.B.C., there are sessions devoted to racing, especially on Saturday afternoons. Every newspaper contains information about races. And yet it is declared illegal to bet. Dr. Hislop referred to beer, or to alcoholic liquor. That is bad enough on its own. When it is combined with betting on Saturday afternoons, it is all the worse. My opinion is that hotel keepers are somewhat to blame for the present state of affairs. I may be told off for saying this, but I think it is the truth.

I know that when efforts have been made to legalise starting-price betting shops, hotel keepers have walked in and stopped it for the simple reason that such legalisation would take away the Saturday afternoon bar trade. Outside every hotel there is starting-price betting. The hotel proprietor knows it and knows that he secures trade as a result of s.p. betting. I know ladies who, a few years ago, thought people who bet were of a low type. Betting was a crime in their eyes. Today, because of the newspaper advertisements and the propaganda which is put over the air, those same ladies are having their half-crown bets and listening to the results of the races over the wireless. I am not opposed to betting, but this stupid control should be ended. Nobody would go to Collie or Kalgoorlie and put people on the mat there for betting.

Hon. G. Bennetts: They are fining them every week at Kalgoorlie.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: They are not doing so at Collie. Why should they do it anywhere else?

Hon. J. M. A. Cunningham: They are not fining them for betting but for obstruction.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: The Government should take a firm stand and do the right thing. The sooner these people are taken off the street and put under some other law—

Hon. G. Bennetts: In shops.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Yes, where betting could be controlled. The sooner that can be done the better. We have a problem that has to be faced and I object strongly to the present farcical situation.

Hon. N. E. Baxter: Why not introduce the tote system which is in operation in New Zealand?

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I do not know whether we could do that here. We have a wide area to cover. New Zealand is a smaller place.

Hon. N. E. Baxter: Provision could be made for country areas.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: There is another matter I want to mention. I read in the newspaper the other day that a magistrate had told a certain convicted person to get out of town and go into the country. This is no joking matter. Why should we have to put up with convicts from the city? We have women and children on their own on farms in big areas in the country and yet we find magistrates sending fellows like this into those areas.

Hon. J. A. Dimmitt: It is hoped that the good example set by you folk will convert them.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: We do not want them. Any magistrate making decisions of that kind should be told what the position is—that we do not want these convicted persons. It should not be in the power of magistrates to send men like that into the country. The women and children to whom I have referred are unguarded. In the city there are crowds of people and there are policemen to keep an eye on matters. How can we expect one man with an area of a 50-mile radius to be able to do the same? I hope that no more of this kind of magisterial action will take place. I want to speak now about our water supply.

Hon. G. Fraser: If you talk about water it will rain.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: If it does not rain this week at Geraldton, restrictions will have to be imposed next week. I do not know whether Governments have realised the seriousness of the water supply position in the country.

Hon. A. L. Loton: They cannot turn it on.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: No, but the Government can do something to help. We have been battling for years for an adequate water supply at Geraldton but still nothing has been done. We had a few bores put down, but one collapsed the other day and that is the reason that restrictions will have to be imposed.

Hon. R. M. Forrest: We have no water at all up my way.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: The hon. member's district has a scheme going up his way; but, like ours, its advent is slow. When I spoke two years ago on this subject, I said that in view of the tremendous number of immigrants coming into the country the water supply would be inadequate and we would have to put them on the coast and let them drink sea water. That is what will come to pass. I am not one who subscribes to the idea that a comprehensive water scheme should be extended into our area. I do not think that Mundaring is big enough to carry the scheme it is serving at present. We must look for some alternative.

I make no apology for harping on this question. It is time a start was made on a comprehensive water scheme for the Midland area. The engineers have already reported on it and the Government has the necessary information. I sincerely trust that a start will soon be made so that the area from Ballidu to Geraldton may be assured of supplies of water. Mention has been made of the Murchison river. If we could get the first flush of water away and dam up the fresh water, and divert the last flow, it might provide a good supply.

Sufficient experimental work has not been done in investigating these problems. Two dam sites were recently found in the one day within a 25-mile radius of Geraldton, an area that has never been properly examined in the past. One of them is a particularly good dam site. I hope we do not have to wait until the present comprehensive water scheme is finished before a move is made to implement the scheme to which I have just referred. Plans should be drawn up and money secured from the Commonwealth in order that the job might proceed.

Hon. G. Bennetts: What about conserving water from rivers such as the Ashburton?

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: From the 23rd September to the 1st October, Geraldton will be celebrating its centenary and I would suggest that this House go into recess for that week, that a bus be hired and that all members of this Chamber be taken through the Midland district, where they could see some very good country and participate in celebrations such as they will never see again.

Hon. H. C. Strickland: What about accommodation?

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: There is plenty of open beach, and the climate is the best in the State at this time of the year. If members took the opportunity of being present at those celebrations, the proceedings would be given an added dignity.

Hon. G. Bennetts: They could then proceed to take part in the Kalgoorlie celebrations.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I realise that other members representing the North-West will say "why not go further," and I agree with them, but first we should do as I have suggested.

HON. H. S. W. PARKER (Suburban) [5.18]: I did not intend to speak to the Address-in-reply, but, in view of some of the remarks made this afternoon, I feel constrained to do so. I take this opportunity of expressing regret that we no longer have with us Mr. Daffen, who showed promise of making an excellent member. However, through the fortunes of war, he is not among us for the time being, but I sincerely trust that in the future he will again be a member either of this House or another place.

It is a matter of great regret, also, that we have lost some of our older members, who were with us here for so many years, and who, in their prime, were a tower of strength to the debates in this Chamber. I refer to the late Mr. C. F. Baxter, and to Mr. Thomson and Mr. Miles who, for so many years, were part and parcel of this House and did excellent work for the State as a whole. I congratulate our new members and hope they will appreciate that this is a House of review where members are expected to exercise their own consciences and are not expected to be purely party men nor to go all out, each for his own province at the expense of other provinces.

We, in this Upper House, must take an overall view of the State and, by helping one province, help all, although it must be appreciated that there are certain problems, peculiar to some provinces, that require special attention. I regretted, this afternoon, hearing remarks made at the expense of one province and in favour of another. That is quite wrong. I feel that members who are elected as supporters of a Government should do something to support that Government, but this afternoon the only remarks made have been in condemnation of the Government. The inference was that there have been no brains in the Cabinet during the past three years.

Hon. L. A. Logan: You should get it straight.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: It was said or implied that there were infinitely more brains in the head of Mr. Logan than in the head of any member of the Cabinet.

Hon. L. A. Logan: I said that Cabinet did not have all the brains.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: I am glad the hon. member interjected, because if he did not mean what I think and have suggested he meant, why did he want to say it at all? Obviously ten persons in Cabinet cannot have all the brains of 30 members in this House. I do not know

why the hon. member made his remarks unless he desired to give the impression conveyed in the inference I drew. At all events, he went on to complain of everything the Government had or had not done during the past three years, and most of his complaints dealt with agriculture, of which, no doubt, he is competent to speak. I would point out that the Honorary Minister for Agriculture is a member of the Country Party and was elected by the caucus of that Party to be a Minister. After three years they re-elected him—I think rightly so—and he has proved to be conscientious and has worked hard, but this afternoon everything he has done or allegedly left undone has been criticised.

Hon. L. A. Logan: You were not listening to what I said.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: I am sorry if I misunderstood the hon. member, but he stated that the Government had not secured the services of any veterinary officers and that consequently someone had to go a considerable distance and telegraph to Perth for the services of such an officer. That is a matter that comes under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture, and one about which the Minister and Cabinet have exercised their minds considerably. The fact is that it is impossible to get veterinary officers. Various schemes have been put forward.

It has been suggested that we should send students over to the universities in the Eastern States, at the expense of this State, because it is not possible to start a veterinary school here, as the necessary finance and teachers are not available. I have discussed this matter of veterinary officers and have been informed that the other States are in the same position. We found that if we sent young men to the Eastern States at our expense they received such lucrative offers that they never returned here. That is something about which the hon. member says he is not criticising the Government.

Hon. G. Fraser: This is just one Government supporter to another.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: I would like to point out to members who pretend to support the Government, that they should do so.

Hon. L. A. Logan: I was supporting the Government.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: If the hon. member conferred with his own Minister he would find that everything possible had been done, but he went further and said that if something was not done soon he did not know what would happen to the electors, and would not care to say. I think all the electors will do is to elect members who are willing to be helpful. We know very well the state of our hospitals—

Hon. G. Bennetts: They are worse now than they have ever been.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: Until we can get more labour and greater production of materials we cannot improve the position of our hospitals as we would like to. No member of the present Government is happy about the hospital position, but it is not being helpful for any member to say that all sorts of things are going to happen with regard to the electors. I would like to hear some constructive criticism, instead of just the cry that nothing has been done.

Another complaint had reference to water and there, again, it was said that nothing had been done. The Minister for Works, over the last three years, was a member of the Country Party and he was again elected, yet members in this House complain that nothing has been done by the Government. Of course it is hoped that there will be an improvement in many directions. Complaints have been made about price fixing, which comes within the province of the Attorney General, as Minister for Prices. I do not know whether the position in Queensland, where the price of meat has been controlled, is satisfactory, but in that State legislation was brought down to force the farmer to sell.

Hon. A. L. Loton: Would you bring in the same law here, if you could?

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: No, I do not agree with it at all.

Hon. E. M. Heenan: Do you agree with price fixing?

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: Up to a point. Early this year a large quantity of frozen mutton and lamb, the best that Australia could produce, was imported into this State. It was bought at the time of year when the best mutton and lamb is produced in Victoria. That mutton and lamb was placed on the market here because it was known that there would be a shortage during the early portion of this year, as there will be every year. No-one can blame the farmer for not selling at a fixed price when he has had to hand feed his stock, but I think it would be better if members supporting the Government helped it to find a solution, instead of complaining of what has been done.

Hon. L. A. Logan: I only asked what had been done.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: I regret that the hon. member has not brought these matters up before his Minister at a meeting of Caucus. Has he no confidence in his own Minister? Surely he does not expect the Minister to walk round and ask each individual member what his views are.

Hon. L. A. Logan: I do not know who the particular Minister is.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: All I know is that he was re-elected by the hon. member's Caucus.

Hon. N. E. Baxter: Cabinet is in full agreement with any suggestion he makes.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: I would remind members that for three years prior to the general elections there were five members of each party in the Cabinet, and, if a Cabinet decision was made, quite obviously the majority ruled, otherwise Cabinet could not have existed. It is also obvious that one cannot get ten men to agree on any ten subjects because there is always some divergence of opinion. It is quite apparent that Cabinet acts on the best available advice.

It has been suggested that we should not have sought the advice of Mr. Kelly. I do not know, but I feel sure that the Honorary Minister for Agriculture agreed to the suggestion. If he did not, and did not like it, there was only one thing for him to do and that was to say, "I cannot agree." That is the only thing he can do if he cannot agree with his fellow Cabinet members, but there is no suggestion that the Honorary Minister is at loggerheads with his colleagues over the appointment of Mr. Kelly. Why growl about that?

Again, there have been many complaints that the main roads are in bad condition. I daresay they are. They are bad in many places and becoming worse mainly because of the unfortunate fact that we are forced to cart wheat by road. In the past the Government did not like the idea of carting wheat by road and paying the subsidy as a result. However, owing to the railways failing to cart the wheat it was essential that it be transported to the port for export, and the only solution was road haulage. Also, main roads are a State affair and not a parochial provincial affair. It is quite true that the main roads are filled in one week and then raked off the next week. They are not waterproof roads and they require a great deal of material and plant for maintenance, and I can only assume that such plant is not available.

The Government is only too anxious to have good and well-maintained main roads throughout the State. We exist on the farmer and primary producer and therefore must assist him in every possible way. I am sure that the Honorary Minister for Agriculture and the Minister for Works and Water Supply will do all they can to help, but there are limitations to what they can do. There are also many difficulties. For example, one cannot obtain sufficient steel, pipes and various other commodities because every now and again the steel works are held up in the Eastern States. Also, there is a great shortage of labour. During the time that I had the privilege of being a Minister every effort was made to obtain steel and other

materials from oversea. Then came the shortage of shipping and after that difficulty was overcome we were confronted with the problem that the ships were not turning round fast enough. Difficulty after difficulty arose, sometimes through evil influences but also as a result of factors over which one had no control.

I congratulate Mr. Simpson on having obtained his portfolio as Minister for Transport and I feel sure the State will benefit from his efforts to promote the welfare of the country. I hope that he will receive continual and helpful support from all members. I take this opportunity also of congratulating Mr. Strickland who showed clearly from his remarks that he was all out to help the North-West and its development by private enterprise. I know that the party he supports does not altogether agree with that principle in certain instances, but it is pleasing to see that he appreciates that private enterprise is so essential for the development of the North. I hope that he will prove of great assistance in assuring the future of the North-West together with the help of other members of that province. I support the motion.

HON. A. L. LOTON (South) [5.36]: I will not be accused of being parochial because my opening remarks will deal with water. I think that every hon. member, including those representing metropolitan provinces, has spoken on this question and I therefore wish to quote something which I think will be of interest to them. This newspaper cutting reads:—

Poor Flow of Water.

Weirs Below Last Year's Levels.

The August intake of water into Canning Dam and Mundaring Weir has been disappointing and water levels this year are far below those of last year.

At 8 a.m. yesterday at Canning Dam, 14,939,000,000 gallons were impounded and the level was 18ft. 1in. below the crest of the 210ft. retaining wall. The intake since August 1 was only 420,000,000 gallons with the level rising 1ft. 7in. At 8 a.m. on August 18 last year, 18,186,000,000 gallons were impounded and the level was only 7ft. 1in. from the top of the wall.

At Mundaring Weir the level still has to rise 13ft. before the water will overflow the new 103ft. retaining wall. At 8 a.m. yesterday the weir held 3,050,000,000 gallons. Since August the level had risen only 1ft. 9½in. and the storage had increased by 307,000,000 gallons. On August 18, 1949, the weir held 4,412,000,000 gallons and the level was only 1ft. 3in. below the crest of the 100ft. retaining wall.

That statement fully sums up the water position throughout the whole of the State today. There is no doubt that from Carnarvon to Albany the water supply position is acute except in isolated places where early May rains, resulting from a thunderstorm, relieved the situation to a certain extent. Further, it was noted last year that the metropolitan area on several occasions had to be rationed with its water supplies. That mostly occurred following days when the temperature reached the century or near century mark and when the consumption of water was extremely great. The figures of the inflow and outflow of water as published on page 36 in the report of the Public Works and Water Supply Department for the year 1948-1949 are extremely interesting. The figures are as follows:—

Calendar Year.	Total inflow into reservoir.	Total overflow and waste through scour pipe, etc.
1945	38,810	34,673
1946	46,370	43,928
1947	16,640	13,602
1948	11,617	7,597

The Minister for Transport: That would be in thousands of gallons.

Hon. A. L. LOTON: Yes. It is rather unfortunate that the figures for last year are not available because they would fit exceedingly well into the list I have quoted. The figures for the inflow and outflow must cause a good deal of concern to all those people residing in the districts served by that scheme, right up as far as Kalgoorlie. As Mundaring Weir is not yet full we must expect that Kalgoorlie will suffer the same fate as it did last year when, I believe, the mines' water supplies had to be rationed.

Hon. G. Bennetts: They had to go on to salt water.

Hon. A. L. LOTON: That is not much good for machines and is certainly no good for drinking. The market gardens at York and those districts between Northam and Kalgoorlie must all draw their supplies from Mundaring. It was hoped that after the completion of the work on the Mundaring Weir retaining wall those districts that had reservoirs of any consequence could draw on Mundaring during the winter months, and relieve the strain on the pipe-line during the summer months by drawing on their own reserves.

The tank at Naremben has a capacity of 21,000,000 gallons of which 15,000,000 gallons are roofed, and the one at Kondinin is reputed to hold 8,000,000 gallons. However, ever since the latter was put down I understand that although it is able to hold such a quantity of water it never reaches that mark because even in the winter months the water seeps through the reservoir walls. No doubt that fault will be rectified. I also hope that the

water supply to be taken to within seven miles of Corrigin will eventually reach the townsite itself. When these large dams become full during the winter months, to be drawn upon during the summer, they will certainly relieve the situation. It must be expected that with the inflow of migrants increasing the population, and the installation of sewerage schemes by many local authorities, the amount of water drawn from Mundaring Weir will indeed be great. I am quite certain that as soon as water supplies become adequate many local authorities will insist on the installation of sewerage systems in their particular areas.

What I am leading up to is this: At present we have three large reservoirs—Mundaring, Canning, which is connected with Mundaring and supplies the metropolitan area, and the Wellington Dam—to serve all the towns under the contemplated Great Southern towns comprehensive scheme. This means that the whole of the agricultural areas are dependent on the three main sources of supply and there is a risk of our finding ourselves after a few years in the same position as we are in at this moment. We have a town like Narrogin, which, at the end of last season, finished up with some millions of gallons of water in the local reservoir, but it was practically unfit for human consumption and even that fluid—I shall not call it water—was rationed.

I do not wish to be parochial, but I want to point out the difficulties being suffered by these people who, notwithstanding the inadequacy of the supply, still have to pay the full amount of water rates. Pingelly is getting its water from the Hotham River nine miles away. We had a deputation to the Minister recently and he was surprised at the information given to him. I understand that that scheme was installed in 1904 and almost from the outset I believe it has not been a success. One wonders whether proper consideration was given to these schemes before they were put down.

The dam at Narrogin was placed in a jam tree hollow bounded on two sides by red gum country, and we know that such country is not good run-off country. After some years part of the area was bituminised to give a good run-off, but only once in the last 10 years has that dam been full. Then, as the level falls in the summer, the water becomes tainted and contains a high percentage of salinity. I think this experience is common throughout the State. Dams have been installed in good holding country in creek beds, but, after a few years, the salt has come up and the water is almost unfit for use. In the Wagin area I believe that not one of the original dams put down by Mr. Durack on the Ben Ord Estate is in use today.

In the eastern part of the agricultural areas—I am referring particularly to the electorate of Roe—there are huge rock outcrops. Whether nature provided them especially for the conservation of water, I do not know, but they are certainly useful and in some cases have been used for the impounding of water. Mr. Seward, when member for Pingelly, was keen on rock catchments, and it was largely owing to his enthusiasm that we have such a list of schemes constructed. Amongst those mentioned in the annual report of the department are—

Holt Rock—New circular reinforced concrete tank 250,000 gallon capacity, completed January, 1949.

Purta Rock—New circular reinforced concrete tank 250,000 gallon capacity, completed May, 1949.

I might add that this tank has since been duplicated by the provision of a second tank giving a capacity of 500,000 gallons in all.

Sugg Rock—Enlarged existing excavated tank to 1,000,000 gallon capacity, roof and rock drains inlets and by-wash, completed June, 1949.

South Newdegate—New 1,500,000 gallon excavated tank complete with inlets, by-wash and drains, completed December, 1948.

Lake Biddy—New 3,000,000 gallon excavated tank, with inlet by-wash and four miles of drains, completed March, 1949.

Further down, at Dingo Rock, seven miles from Lake Grace, a start has been made with the construction of a scheme to impound 10,000,000 gallons of water. This has almost been completed and will make all the difference to the settlers in that area because, since 1944, they have had to cart water year after year from places as far westward as Collie; that is, drinking water, not water for stock.

Let me now give a list of the rocks in that territory of not less than 40 acres extent where the water has not been impounded, starting from Bruce Rock and extending down to Mt. Madden—Jilakin, Mt. Walker, Mt. Gramphorne, Muntadgin, Glenelg, South Glenelg, Mt. Hampton, The Humps, Mt. Arrowsmith, Camelpeaks, Wagerlin, Pingaring, Graham Rock, Bald, Murray Wheeler (towards the Rabbit Proof Fence), Emu, Varley and Mt. Madden.

There is one other to which I must make special reference. King Rock, with an area of 200 acres of solid rock has been aptly named. Over 1,500,000 gallons of water are impounded there. It has been computed by the Works Department that one inch of rainfall per acre of rock catchment yields 11,000 to 12,000 gallons of water. This gives a fair indication of the quantity of water that is being wasted;

I say wasted, because the water, if not impounded, seeps into the ground and serves little useful purpose. Far better would it be if that water were conserved for the use of man.

I suppose that if one checked up on the rock catchments in other parts of the State, they would be found to be just as numerous. I am hopeful that now the department has started work on conserving water in these circular or underground tanks, it will, after completing the first tank, duplicate it. Big plant is not required for work of this sort; given a trained staff with transport and materials such as cement and iron and steel rods, little more is required.

Hon. G. Bennetts: Are those catchments on farming areas?

Hon. A. L. LOTON: Yes, but there are not many farmers who could afford to buy the material and thus profit from the presence of these rock catchments. At Dingo Rock, the catchment adjoins one man's property, and that farmer has been able to help the department to carry out its scheme. I make no apology for dwelling on this matter of water supply. It is vital that every drop that can possibly be impounded in the agricultural areas should be conserved. In some parts we find that the topsoil is being eroded by the running water, some of which could have been impounded. Our duty is to provide for its being impounded.

In connection with the northern comprehensive scheme, millions of gallons of water from Gingin Brook ran to waste in April and May of this year. I learned from Mr. Logan and Mr. Jones and others that a survey has been made, but how much further the department will get with that scheme, I do not know. Admittedly the shortage of materials has created a serious difficulty and the prospects are that the difficulty will continue. With the threat of war confronting the world, other countries are not likely to supply us with materials which we need and which they probably require just as much.

It is unfortunate that the threat of war should cut off the supply of materials necessary for urgent national work. The Government has been importing large quantities of cement, but apparently there is still insufficient, in combination with local supplies, to meet requirements. Whether conditions will improve during the next 12 or 18 months, time alone will show. We can only hope that world problems will be straightened out and that cement and steel in ample quantities will be available for such work.

I am now going to turn to the agricultural colleges. Members may recall that on the 16th June, 1949, I asked the Honorary Minister for Agriculture the following questions on this subject:—

(1) Has the Government set up a committee to make recommendations with a view to bringing about a more beneficial standard of education at the various agricultural colleges?

(2) If such a committee has been set up, who are the members of the committee?

(3) Will the report and recommendations be tabled at the completion of the inquiry?

The Honorary Minister replied:—

(1) Yes.

(2) Professor E. J. Underwood, Chairman; Professor R. G. Cameron; Mr. M. McK. Clark; Mr. W. Southern; Mr. Edmondson; Mr. Worner; Mr. Wilson; Mr. Russell; Mr. W. Nunn, Secretary.

(3) It will be at least 12 months before a report will be available. Consideration will then be given to full publicity to the findings of the committee.

About 15 months later—on the 9th August of this year—I asked the Honorary Minister for Agriculture the following questions:—

(1) Has the report of the committee appointed by the Government to make recommendations on the standard of education at agricultural colleges been received by the Minister concerned?

(2) If the report has not been received, when is it anticipated that such report will be received?

(3) Will the report and recommendations of the committee be tabled after the report is received?

The Honorary Minister replied as follows:—

(1) No.

(2) No definite date.

(3) Will receive consideration when a report is received.

An explanation of that was given, in which the Honorary Minister seems to have lost touch with the reason for the setting up of the committee in the first place. The original committee was established after a talk with the Deputy Premier and Minister for Education. I was rather surprised to hear the Honorary Minister for Agriculture give this explanation the other night. Unfortunately he went away the same evening and I have to speak now when he is not here. This is the explanation:—

There is no definite date for this report. This committee:—

The PRESIDENT: Order! Is the hon. member reading from "Hansard" of this session?

Hon. A. L. LOTON: Yes.

The PRESIDENT: I am afraid he is not in order.

Hon. A. L. LOTON: There is no other place in the records of the House where there is a copy of the Minister's report, because it is not recorded in the minutes of our proceedings.

The PRESIDENT: I am sorry. The hon. member may refer to it without reading it.

Hon. A. L. LOTON: I was reading this from "Hansard" because it was not available anywhere else. The Honorary Minister, when he made his reply, said he would give consideration to it, but the two schools—those at Denmark and Narrogin—which the committee was really set up to investigate, come under the control of the Minister for Education. It seems remarkable to me that the Honorary Minister for Agriculture, who has not control over these schools, should be the one to decide whether members should be allowed to peruse the report.

The proposition was originally put to the Minister to try to bring about some better training for the boys attending these two schools. The quota at Denmark is 40. A new school building was opened there about four years ago by, I think, Mr. Tonkin, or if it was not he, it was some other Minister in the last Labour Government. That school has been built near the road approach to Denmark. There was no area sufficiently large for use as a playing field, so they had to encroach on a small portion of the grounds of the Denmark Research Station.

There are no buildings on the property outside of the school buildings. The boys have to do all their practical work at the Denmark Research Station. In many cases they have to drive over the bridge across the river to get to the milking sheds and the piggery. There are no sheep at all on that property. Therefore, the boys' training is confined almost entirely to pig-raising and dairying. That is one of the subjects on which this committee was to make recommendations. The point was as to whether the research station should be shifted from alongside the school, and the buildings, stock, paddocks, pastures, etc., become part and parcel of the agricultural college. The main problem for which the research station was set up, was the combating of the Denmark wasting disease; and that has been overcome. However, nothing came of that point.

The other matter concerned the Narrogin school, where there are 80 boys on the roll. Each year 40 go out and another 40 come in. At this stage they had only a nondescript breed of sheep there, and some pigs and cattle. Of the number of boys—this was three years ago—that had gone from Narrogin and Denmark to Muresk, which is a higher-grade school—it is necessary to have Junior certificate to go to Muresk—only three completed the term at Muresk. Some of us, farmers

and others interested in the two schools, wanted to know just where the link between the two agricultural schools, under the control of the Minister for Education, and Muresk, which was under the control of the Honorary Minister for Agriculture, broke.

Hon. G. Fraser: Was it the fault of the boys or the department?

Hon. A. L. LOTON: I do not know. We were hoping that this committee would make investigations and recommendations so that if it was any lack of policy at one or other of the schools, it could be remedied. But time has gone on so that it is now two years since we first talked about it.

Hon. G. Fraser: It seems remarkable that the result is only three out of 80.

Hon. A. L. LOTON: No, that is the number of boys from Denmark and Narrogin who continued on. Only a small percentage goes on to further study. At that stage only three of them had completed the course at Muresk. There must have been some reason for that, but I was not able to find out what it was. Neither of the Ministers knew the reason, and there did not seem to be any explanation at that stage. It has been remarked that the Department of Agriculture is short of trained officers. Surely Muresk, where the boys can go through all sorts of courses, should be the training ground from which the Department of Agriculture should get its recruits. But we find that on the 30th June, 1939, the number of veterinary officers employed by the Department of Agriculture was eight, and on the 30th June, 1950, the number was still eight.

Hon. E. H. Gray: There are plenty more available.

Hon. A. L. LOTON: I am glad to hear the hon. member say that because it is in direct contradiction to what Mr. Parker has told us. I know there has been a shortage of these officers, and I admit that we have lost many good men to the Eastern States and overseas because of the more attractive salaries paid. I think Muresk Agricultural College should be a recruiting ground for the Department of Agriculture in many cases, particularly as there has been an increase in the farming pursuits of the department, the area that is under cultivation and the number of trial plots for trying out the various soil analyses throughout the State.

We find that as far out as Lake King the department has trial plots, and at Lake Grace it was remarkable last year to see what the application of 3lb. of zinc per acre had on wheat. It made the difference between growing crops and growing nothing at all. Various other elements, such as sulphate of copper, were tried out in other plots, in some with success and in

others, 20 or 30 miles away where one would expect to get the same results, without the same success. That work can all be done by junior officers under the control of one senior man.

It does not take a supervisor a great deal of time if he has someone under his control who is doing the work efficiently, but where the senior officer has to do all the ground-work and attend to the various stages of the experiment, it is impossible to get the best results. As Mr. Logan said, in the northern areas, where an officer has to contact his senior in Perth to get advice, many of the young fellows would have a fair working knowledge of general stock, and it would be their duty to contact the senior officers.

Hon. G. Fraser: Would the figure of eight be by accident or design?

Hon. A. L. LOTON: During the dates I have mentioned there was a time, on the 31st December, 1945, when the department had only six veterinary officers—and I was speaking then only of veterinary officers. So, we went from eight in 1939 to six in 1945 and up to eight again in 1950. We can say, therefore, that from 1939 to 1950 the figure has been almost static, but the number of new problems that have confronted the farmer over that period has not remained static.

Hon. G. Fraser: Do you think there ought to be an increase on that figure?

Hon. A. L. LOTON: I think Mr. Fraser is trying to help me make my speech as I have, in the past, helped him to make his. I think we should have four times that number; and even then we would not have too many veterinary officers.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I suggest that the hon. member address the Chair.

Hon. A. L. LOTON: Yes. Then we have the soil conservation officers who come under the control of Mr. Burvill. No doubt, in due course, their tasks will be dealt with in this debate. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion.

On motion by Hon. E. M. Heenan, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 6.15 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Tuesday, 22nd August, 1950.

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

QUESTIONS.

STATE HOUSING COMMISSION.

(a) *As to Permit to Build Furniture Factory.*

Mr. GRAHAM asked the Honorary Minister for Housing:

(1) Does he know that permission was granted to Mr. H. A. Hawkins to erect a large furniture factory in Beaufort-street, Inglewood?

(2) Is he aware that this man was the endorsed L.C.L. candidate for Middle Swan at the last elections?

(3) When was application made for the erection of the structure?

(4) On what date was approval granted?

(5) What are the reasons for the issue of the permit?

(6) What is the area of the building?