

hundreds of copies; in some session a slight amendment may be made and, if Mr. Nicholson's suggestion were adopted, the Government Printer would have to scrap all the copies in stock and reprint the Act as amended. This would involve enormous expense. I take it the intention is that when the Licensing Act has to be reprinted on account of stocks being exhausted, the Government Printer shall then incorporate in the reprint any amendments that have been made.

The Minister for Education: That is the intention.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: That is a move in the direction of economy and is all we can desire.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: I quite concur in the desire for economy, but we already have the Statutes Compilation Act of 1905, 12. Under that Act the responsibility was placed, not upon the Clerk of Parliaments, but upon the Attorney General, the head of the Department. That is where the responsibility should be placed.

Hon. A. Lovekin: Nearly every measure we pass contains a clause directing the embodying of amendments in future reprints.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: Quite so. The Statutes Compilation Act provides—

From and after the passing of this Act, whenever both Houses of Parliament shall, by resolution, direct the compilation with its amendments of any Act in force in the State, it shall be the duty of the Attorney General, so soon as may be possible after the termination of the session in which such resolution shall have been passed, to prepare a compilation embodying all the provisions of such Act, and the amendments thereof, omitting all those portions of the text of such Act which have been repealed or altered by subsequent Acts and inserting in the proper places all words or sections substituted for or added to the text of the original Act by such subsequent Acts, with marginal reference notes citing section and Act; and he shall add to such compilation an appendix showing the Acts and sections of Acts comprised therein.

Hon. A. Lovekin: That is quite different from this.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: But I question whether the measure before us may not lead to some mistakes. There is that possibility, and it is a most serious thing for the amendment of statutes to be placed on the shoulders of the Clerk of Parliaments. It should not be imposed on that officer while there is a head of a department responsible for such a matter. I see no necessity for the Bill in its present form.

Hon. A. Lovekin: Is not this the distinction, where you want a compilation the Attorney General shall do it, but where you want a reprint the Clerk of Parliaments can do it?

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: The whole object of a compilation is to embody amendments, and that should be done in a proper manner by the responsible head of the department

concerned. I suggest to the Leader of the House that he allow progress to be reported.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: There is a good deal in what Mr. Nicholson says, but there is also a great difference between the Act he has quoted and the Bill before the House. The latter is merely for reprints, while the former refers to consolidation. Moreover, a consolidating measure would be the outcome of a resolution of Parliament. This Bill aims at consolidation, but merely says that a reprint shall embody all amendments. I cannot agree that the Clerk of Parliaments is not able to perform such a task. As head of the Department of Justice I do not wish to shirk any responsibility, and therefore am prepared to report progress so that I may obtain advice as to whether this clause can be amended in a manner satisfactory to hon. members.

Progress reported.

House adjourned at 5.19 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Tuesday, 11th September, 1923.

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

QUESTION—E. H. HAMEL, RETIREMENT.

Mr. HUGHES asked the Premier: 1, Is it a fact that Mr. E. H. Hamel, a lithographic draftsman, was retired from the Public Service in 1911 as incompetent? 2, If so, was he called upon to retire after the provisions of Section 56 of the Public Service Act had been complied with, viz., (a) that the permanent head had reported to the Commissioner that Mr. Hamel was unfit to discharge or incapable of discharging his duties efficiently, (b) and that after receiving the report of the permanent head the Commissioner had inquired whether and deter-

mined that the officer was incapable of discharging or unfit to discharge the duties of his office? 3, If the answer to (2) is in the affirmative, is it the Premier's intention to place the reports on the Table of the House? 4, If the answer to (2) is in the negative, why were the provisions of the Act not complied with?

The PREMIER replied: The matters referred to in the questions asked by the hon. member have previously been before the House and have been inquired into by a select committee. The Government will, if requested, lay on the Table of the House the personal file of E. H. Hamel, which deals with the matters referred to and contains the report of the select committee.

BILL—ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER AGREEMENT AMENDMENT (No. 2).

Second Reading.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS (Hon. J. Scaddan—Albany) [4.36] in moving the second reading said: This Bill is to all intents and purposes the same as the Bill which was withdrawn because of an objectionable and unnecessary paragraph. The paragraph in question having been deleted, I now move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

BILL—REDISTRIBUTION OF SEATS.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the 4th September.

Mr. TEESDALE (Roebourne) [4.41]: I would have preferred not to speak on this Bill at all, because I got such a very rough reception whenever I ventured even to sneeze or cough during the debate so far. To judge by the remarks of the member for Mt. Magnet (Hon. M. F. Troy), that gentleman wishes me off the landscape rather than merely out of this House. I shall, however, try to disarm his hostile attitude and to make a few connected remarks.

Mr. Underwood: More or less logical.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. TEESDALE: The member for Geraldton (Mr. Willcock) was quite disturbed and upset at the idea of anyone on this side of the House being concerned about the Bill. I can assure that member, who has also addressed himself to the measure, that if certain members on this side were to speak on the Bill they would make a much better case than some members opposite. I would have hon. members on the other side know that

over here there are also members with grievances, as well as the member for Murchison (Mr. Marshall) and others who have dealt with the subject very fully.

Mr. Corboy: We have heard a lot of dummies.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. TEESDALE: I would ask those hon. members opposite who are so vitriolic in their strictures on the Bill to recognise that others besides themselves have grievances.

Mr. Corboy: But surely you have no grievance.

Mr. TEESDALE: There is a seat called Perth, and a seat called West Perth, and one called Nelson. There are also such seats as Leederville and Menzies. Have the holders of those seats no grievances?

Mr. Corboy: They are not airing them, anyway.

Mr. TEESDALE: If they did get up and take exception, on the ground of their individual grievances, to something that is in the interests of the State, how long would this debate last? Have we nothing to consider but the trials and tribulations of that one little electorate, the Murchison? The member for Mt. Magnet put up a very poor case indeed. He beat the question of that one electorate to a frazzle; it is frayed at the edges, and in such a state that one may expect to see the hon. member adorned with a halo before long. He has never had so much limelight before.

Mr. Corboy: You would sooner have your immunity than his halo.

Mr. TEESDALE: Why have we heard so much about the injustice to that particular electorate?

Mr. Willcock: Because it is a scandal.

Mr. Corboy: What injustice has been done to Perth?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. TEESDALE: When I first entered this House I was easily confused by interjections, but it is different now. Hon. members opposite are wasting their time if they think they are going to upset me in any way. Formerly I used to go "up the pole" at the slightest interruption, but now I am not "taking any" at all. Since those days we have had two elections, and during those elections I went through such a lot that I am now absolutely proof against anything the Opposition can do.

Mr. Corboy: There was an election on Saturday which must have pleased you.

Mr. TEESDALE: During the elections we have been accustomed to the vernacular, but if we attempted to use the vernacular here the Speaker would fetch us up with a round turn. One of our members was invited by hon. members opposite to hop off his perch. I am quite certain that if that hon. member did hop off his perch, such an old campaigner as he would make no trouble about his grievance; but if he did think it worth while to voice his grievance, I am sure he would put up a much better case than a certain member on the other side. I wish he were able to hop off

his perch and give the public his opinion of the Bill. He would show the public that it is not such an unjust one as has been made out. He would show the public that although perhaps a little injustice is being done to him, he would overlook that matter because the measure is something of value to the State at large. He would sink his personal grievance in the interests of the State.

Mr. Lutey: He would tear you to shreds.

Mr. TEESDALE: Never before have I heard so much squealing as there has been over this Bill. It is true I have never taken much interest in a Redistribution of Seats Bill before, but certainly I shall watch what takes place about 10 years hence—probably I shall be in the Old Men's Home—to see the hash our friends opposite will then make of a similar Bill.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You will get a fair one from us.

Mr. TEESDALE: Some members have complained of injustice at the hands of the Commissioners. I am reminded that one of the very few compliments the Press ever paid me was in relation to the same thing. When I won my election, the newspaper, referring to an earlier contest that I had lost, said I was not like some others; I did not go running about the country with my finger in my mouth, squealing like a stuck pig, but that I had waited until another seat was being contested when I went in and won it. Why do not members opposite take the present position more philosophically, look out for somebody else's seat, and go along and grab it? I only wish I could take part in this debate in the manner in which I should like.

Mr. Hughes: You are gagged.

Mr. TEESDALE: No, but I feel I ought not to say too much about it, because my own seat is very safe. Still, I should like to call attention to a few things. When it is all finished up, members opposite know in their hearts that the Bill suits them better than it suits any other party.

Mr. Corboy: It is likely you would support it if it were so!

Mr. TEESDALE: You know that the Bill suits your crowd better than it suits any other party.

Mr. Hughes: Absolute rot!

Mr. TEESDALE: I wish you had more grievances than you have. I should like to see the personnel of those seats opposite changed a good deal, but under the Bill I see no chance of that coming about. I can even see one of the same party, I do not say the same man, getting back for the Murchison. If the Bill had been juggled to provide a fair chance for a Nationalist winning that seat, I could understand all this fuss. I am sorry it should have been found necessary to impute motives to the Commissioners. That could well have been left out because, after all, those three gentlemen are men of repute. Suppose they had been members of Parliament, nobody here would have dared attribute dishonest motives to them. One of the Commissioners occupies what is, perhaps, the highest

position in the State, and the other two are men of probity, filling responsible posts in the Public Service. It shows a pretty poor spirit on the part of hon. members when they attack the Commissioners. To the best of their ability the Commissioners have done what Parliament asked them to do. It may be they have got slightly different results from those which a Commission of members would have got, but nobody could hope to frame a Bill and fix boundaries to suit everybody. Imagine, if the Bill were sent back to the Commissioners, what a nice time we should have in this House lopping off a bit here and adding a bit there! The Commissioners have done their best and have honestly carried out the instructions given them by this House. If there be too much talk about those instructions, too much pressure brought to bear, it would be a fine idea for the Premier to call for the names of those members who approached the Chief Electoral Officer during the time the boundaries were being adjusted.

Mr. Underwood: The member for East Perth knows the names.

Mr. Corboy: We gave the name of one man the other day.

Mr. TEESDALE: I think it would be found either that the member who said he knew the boundaries a month before they were published had perverted the truth, or that there was nothing at all in his statement.

Mr. Wilson: Well, move to that effect, and we will support you.

Mr. TEESDALE: It is easy to imagine that such an inquiry would elicit some painful evidence for members opposite. A great deal of material has been made out of the state of the rolls. We have been told an exhaustive canvass ought to have been made. Had that been done by the electoral officers, some members would have objected violently, since no provision is made for any interference with the rolls. The department were asked to purify the rolls, and they have done wonders in that direction. One member said the figures for the Mount Magnet, Cue, and Murchison electorates were lower than they should be. Unless some light be thrown on that statement, the public might think there is something in it. The Commonwealth rolls are continually being pointed to as perfect, and the question is asked, why do we not do as well as the Commonwealth?

Mr. McCallum: The boundaries of the Commonwealth divisions are different from those of the State electorates.

Mr. TEESDALE: To give an idea of the accuracy of the figures, I wish to refer to two censuses. In June, 1923, according to the Commonwealth figures, Cue had 548 electors, the State figures being 605. On the same date Magnet, on the Commonwealth figures had 1,018 electors, as against 999 according to the State figures.

Hon. M. F. Troy: But the boundaries are different.

Mr. TEESDALE: On the same date Murchison had 951 electors according to the Com-

Commonwealth figures, while the State figures were 1,050. So, for the three electorates the Federal figures totalled 2,519, and those of the State 2,654, or difference of 135. So much for the contention that the numbers for Murchison, Magnet and Cue are much lower than they ought to be. The Commonwealth elections of 1922 were contested on those figures.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Your figures are wrong.

Mr. TEESDALE: My figures are unchallengeable.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: In the Murchison there are 998 electors, to start with.

Mr. TEESDALE: The Commonwealth figures for the Murchison are 951, and the State figures 1,050. That was at 30th June, 1923.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: No, the election was contested on the last roll.

Mr. TEESDALE: I will produce the official figures.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I have a copy.

Mr. TEESDALE: A great deal has been said about the remissness of the department in not cleaning up the rolls. As a matter of fact the department has cleaned up the rolls, as I will prove by a few figures. When the Electoral Districts Bill was passed, the numbers of electors in the electorates enumerated did not coincide with the figures arrived at by the Commissioners. Naturally, the figures are only approximate. It was impossible for the Premier, at the time he spoke, to know what the figures actually were. Let us see what was done by the department: at the time of the election of 1921 the population was 164,658 persons: in June, 1921, it was 173,964; in June, 1922, it had risen to 178,010; in December, 1922, it was down to 177,478; while in May, 1923, the total was 172,922. Although 21,000 names were purged from the roll between January, 1923, and May, 1923, the total enrolments at May, 1923, were 172,922, or 4,556 less than the total in the preceding December.

Hon. M. F. Troy: The people are running away from the State.

Mr. TEESDALE: This shows that during the first five months of 1923 the average monthly number of fresh enrolments was 3,499. These figures are exclusive of alterations of addresses. It shows that something has been done, despite the contention of members opposite that the department has done nothing.

Mr. Wilson: It has been done by the people themselves.

Mr. TEESDALE: The department displayed posters at every railway station, at all schools and Government buildings, and at municipal and road board offices.

Mr. Marshall: Where did you get all this information?

Mr. TEESDALE: At Boan Bros., on the third floor. They are selling everything very cheap there. During the time the department was supposed to be sitting down doing no-

thing, they sent out 5,000 large posters all over the State, and they sent also 25,000 dodgers. And, as showing what zealous up-to-date officials they are, instead of putting a twopenny stamp on each of those posters, they sent them out through the outwards correspondence branch. It would be wrong on the part of the Electoral Department to work in face of the arrangements made for the public to enrol themselves, to interfere with those arrangements. Our friends opposite would be the first to question any action of that description. A good deal of material has been made out of the newly constituted electorate of Plantagenet. I listened very closely to all that was said by members opposite about this electorate.

Mr. Corboy: Everything was said on your side of the House.

Mr. TEESDALE: I asked myself whether there was anything in that Plantagenet business and I decided to make a few inquiries. Having done so, I came to the conclusion that I need not have worried myself a bit about it. Hon. members opposite, with great glee, spoke of the thousand electors that were in the interesting township of Kendenup. I was able to find that there were only 110 of them on the Albany roll. But let me draw their attention to the fact that the new electorate of Plantagenet includes such "tin-pot" places as Mt. Barker, Cranbrook, Tenterden, Broome Hill, and Gnowangerup. Therefore there is not so much ground for the complaint made by members opposite. We know that Mt. Barker and Tenterden and Cranbrook are very important places. I had almost forgotten Ongerup, which is also included. Considerable attention has also been given to the electorate of Murchison, and from what has been said one would think that a fearful injustice had been done. I cannot see what there is to complain about. It has not lost anything. It will lose a member, but the new seat will return another of the same creed. I do not think the solicitude shown by hon. members opposite was for the way-backer; it was for their own little difficulties. Let us see what wonderful claims Murchison has on the sympathies of the House. I have almost lost my eyesight in trying to locate some of the electors. I have a map here and I will ask hon. members to follow me while I go over some of the boundaries that are shown on it. I want hon. members to note particularly the green line. From this mark (indicated) to the boundary (indicated) which is the boundary of the Murchison, the distance is 560 miles. Let that sink well into the minds of members opposite. The other way the distance is 50 miles. I have had the distances confirmed by a well known map compiler. How many people do you think there are in this huge tract of country, this desert so graphically depicted by hon. members opposite?

Hon. M. F. Troy: As many as there are in Roetourne.

Mr. TEESDALE: Actually five people in that area! We can imagine the member for Murchison (Mr. Marshall) turning over the stumps and looking into the hollow logs to try and locate those five people. Imagine it too with the temperature at 116 and the hon. member going around with his water bag. Then when he has finished that little contract we can imagine him proceeding along another direction the distance of which is 175 miles by 560 miles and finding 15 more electors.

Hon. M. F. Troy: How do you know?

Mr. TEESDALE: I will swear to it by the census, and the hon. member, I am sure, will take my word for it.

Hon. M. F. Troy: Oh no.

Mr. TEESDALE: This huge trackless waste contains 20 people in its area of 560 miles by 220 miles. Twenty people who have to be found! And some of them may be people who have bolted from town and for whom the police are looking!

Mr. Wilson interjected.

Mr. TEESDALE: I did not hear Harry Lauder so I cannot interpret what my friend has said. We heard members opposite speak of the terrible difficulties in regard to transport on the Murchison. Do you know, Mr. Speaker, that in the area I have described, which contains 15 people, I can travel through it without finding one.

Mr. Hughes: You represent only 200.

Mr. TEESDALE: One member speaks about the transport difficulties of the Murchison and everyone else has to repeat the same argument. No one except the member for Mt. Magnet has been in the Northern electorates. He went with others from Port Hedland to Marble Bar and some of them were so much pushed for time that they never took off their clothes. Others bought suits of clothes from a Chinese at Cossack and had the same suits on when they returned. The Murchison district is not hard to get around; there are splendid facilities there for travelling. The hon. member can do the whole of the electorate in a motor car, especially as the roads are like bowling greens. It is very different in my electorate where, in a drought, I have to get round in a buggy drawn by four camels, and I assure members that it is rather painful when the temperature is 116 in the shade. I do not think that in any electorate in the State has so much attention been paid to community of interests as in the Murchison. If there has been any ear-marking for Labour, it has been done in that electorate. There may be one or two small squatters in the electorate, but the fact remains that a solid labour vote will be found to exist there. This electorate of Murchison has more railway stations in it than any other in the State, with the exception perhaps of Swan Federal seat. This inaccessible district, this desert that we hear so much about, has no fewer than 19 railway stations, and possessing that number, we can imagine how easy it would be to get into touch with a majority of the electors who would always be found about the blacksmiths'

shops or the spot lager saloons in the vicinity of those stations. I have not a single railway station in my electorate.

Hon. M. F. Troy: You do not deserve one.

Mr. TEESDALE: All I have is a miserable tramway that runs off the line about three times a month, and costs the Government perhaps £20,000 for compensation to my electors. Nineteen railway stations in the Murchison electorate and 1,976 electors easily accessible! This will give an idea of the difficulty that is likely to be experienced in getting into touch with the electors. Out of a possible 2,250, there are 1,976 that can be hived like bees without any trouble. That leaves 274 electors to find, and half of them are around Peak Hill. At all events we know where there are 20 of the 274 electors. It is too ridiculous for words to talk about the Murchison being in the same difficulties regarding transport as a North-West seat. In Mt. Magnet there are 310 electors, and in Day Dawn 142. At Cue there are 436 electors. In Meekatharra there are 744 electors, whom one can get hold of before lunch.

Hon. M. F. Troy: Where did you get those figures?

Mr. TEESDALE: What does it matter. I will guarantee these figures. At Sandstone there are 108 electors. The member for Mt. Magnet (Hon. M. F. Troy) stated here that he would guarantee to put a thousand men on the roll in the Murchison electorate.

Hon. M. F. Troy: Not a thousand men.

Mr. TEESDALE: Since the 1921 election, 361 names have gone off the roll. In March, 1921, there were 1,976 names on the roll, and in June, 1923, there were 1,675 names.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: There is no man living who could give you that information.

Hon. M. F. Troy: It is of no value.

Mr. TEESDALE: It is obtained from the Federal rolls.

Hon. M. F. Troy: Ah!

Mr. TEESDALE: Is the hon. member going to belittle the Federal roll?

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Yes.

Mr. TEESDALE: When it suits the hon. member it is his fetish.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: No man can give you that information.

Mr. TEESDALE: He has held up the Commonwealth or Federal roll as being something that is perfect. He now says that no man living can give that information. Here is the Commonwealth roll signed by the electoral officer, and these are the figures.

Mr. Chesson: It would not matter if it was signed by you. There has been no canvass.

Mr. TEESDALE: It would not have the same weight if it were signed by me.

Mr. Chesson: It has no weight now.

Mr. TEESDALE: It is regrettable that misstatements have been made on this matter.

Mr. Chesson: They are not misstatements.

Mr. TEESDALE: They are made by men who are necessarily irritated because their seats will have gone. Possibly I would be irritated, too, if I had to look for another

seat. They must, however, appreciate the position of members on this side of the House. We have the same right to make a fuss, and to question the honesty of the Commissioners, but no one has heard us do so. Members on this side accept the vicissitudes of public life with that philosophy that may be looked for in them. They will not be found squealing. Even the member for Nelson would never have brought forward the petition if his electors had not forced him to do so. He was prepared to say, "Right ho! this is hard luck for me, but I will stand up for constitutional government and look for a fresh seat elsewhere."

Mr. J. H. Smith: I have not the protection you have.

Mr. TEESDALE: Some members were so lost to all sense of decency that they inferred that I knew something about this matter before it was made public. To any member who will say that, I give the lie direct. I never heard a single word or heard the matter discussed in any shape or form until the now notorious caucus meeting took place, where everything was fixed up. I did hear someone say casually, "They are not touching your seat, Teesy." There was not much discussion at the meeting.

Mr. Lambert: That is all you wanted to hear.

Mr. TEESDALE: It can scarcely be called a caucus meeting. I heard it said in a casual way, "You are all right." Members can thus see that there was not much in this wonderful caucus meeting. I ask them to be a little more generous, and not accuse either the Commissioners or members on this side of the sort of thing they have accused them of. They know there are no grounds for the accusations. During the time the boundaries were being adjusted every document in connection with the matter was locked up for the night in the Chief Justice's safe, and not seen until the next morning.

Hon. M. F. Troy: How do you know that?

Mr. TEESDALE: I went down to the office of the Chief Electoral Officer, for I wanted to find out if certain members had been there for information. He was, however, too loyal to tell me anything.

The Premier: That was since the map was hung on the wall.

Mr. TEESDALE: Yes. How could I say these things if these events had not occurred since? The charges, therefore, fall as flat as ditchwater. Of course this happened since the Bill was brought down. I trust the member for Mt. Magnet does not want me to repeat the statement. I will swear to it. I said to the Chief Electoral Officer, "Is it possible that any member could get any information from you that would justify the statements that have been made in the Legislative Assembly?" He replied, "It is not possible. Every single document was locked up in the Chief Justice's safe every night."

Mr. Richardson: That was after the map was hung up.

Mr. TEESDALE: Yes. This was yesterday morning.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Did he tell you I had seen him?

Mr. TEESDALE: And yet members opposite accuse a man in the way they have done.

Hon. M. F. Troy: You are very indignant.

Mr. TEESDALE: Yesterday morning I tried to find out if the member for Mt. Magnet, the member for Cue, or the member for Murchison had been at the Electoral Office to endeavour to get information as to the boundaries.

Hon. M. F. Troy: I beg your pardon. Do you accuse me of trying to find out something beforehand?

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member said he was trying to find out if certain members had done so.

Mr. TEESDALE: I have more respect for members than to suggest anything wrong.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Did they tell you I had been there?

Mr. TEESDALE: I know that the member for Mt. Magnet could not object to me trying to get some artillery for him to have a go at. I did try, but they were too loyal at that office. I could not get any information from them. No man should reflect on the probity of the Chief Justice in the matter. Does anyone think the Chief Justice sets no value upon his position? Is it not to be supposed that he has some sense of duty?

Mr. Lambert: I rise to a point of order. Is the hon. member right under our Standing Orders in discussing the probity of the Chief Justice?

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is not discussing it. He is only asking a question.

Mr. Wilson: No one has ever challenged his probity.

Mr. TEESDALE: The member for Coolgardie (Mr. Lambert) darts in and out of the House so often that he catches only half what a member may be saying, and therefore misunderstands him altogether.

Mr. Lambert: I would point out—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member must resume his seat.

Mr. TEESDALE: No one in the Electoral Department has anything to fear. If I thought so I would call attention to it. No one there has anything to fear in regard to the boundaries of the new electorates. I should like to bell the cat which goes about town telling yarns to members opposite, upon which they publicly make these statements. I wonder who told the member for Yilgarn (Mr. Corboy) what he told us. He said he was asked for a member's name and replied, "Never mind." If he had thought there was anything in it he would have minded, and we would then have found out who the man was.

Mr. Corboy: I rise to a point of order. I never made any such remark, and I request that the statement be withdrawn.

Hon. M. F. Troy: He will say anything this afternoon. He is wound up.

Mr. Corboy: The hon. member said that in answer to a question I stated I had refused to give the name of a certain member. I never made any such statement.

Mr. SPEAKER: If the member for Yilgarn objects, the member for Roebourne will have to withdraw the statement.

Mr. TEESDALE: I should like your ruling, Mr. Speaker. If I know that a thing is correct, what is the procedure? Must I withdraw the statement? I know it is correct.

Mr. Corboy: The remark was not made by me, but by some other member. You are under a misapprehension.

Mr. Lambert: He should withdraw it. It is an insult.

Mr. SPEAKER: The member for Roebourne has heard what the member for Coolgardie has said.

Mr. Munsie: He was told it was Mr. Cornell who made the statement.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The member for Roebourne must withdraw the statement.

Mr. TEESDALE: I will withdraw the statement, but I must say that a member very close to the member for Yilgarn said it.

Mr. Corboy: I make no secret as to who said it. It was Mr. Cornell.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. Munsie: He was told that a dozen times.

Mr. TEESDALE: I am sure that a member opposite said, when asked for another member's name, "Never mind about his name." I am not making this statement without some ground for it. A member opposite did say it. I could have sworn it was the member for Yilgarn, but if it was not, I am sorry I mentioned his name. It was the member for Boulder (Hon. P. Collier).

Hon. M. F. Troy: The member for Boulder said, "Cornell."

Mr. TEESDALE: He said another member had the whole plan before it was published. He said, "Cornell, Cornell." The other statement was, "What is his name?" and an hon. member said, "Never mind." I am sorry if I have made a mistake.

Hon. M. F. Troy: You have made a number of mistakes.

Mr. TEESDALE: Only one.

Hon. M. F. Troy: Your speech is a mistake.

Mr. TEESDALE: I would not have made it but that I wanted to give members opposite an opportunity to speak on this measure. I know that the member for Kalgoorlie (Mr. Cunningham) has some heavy artillery to lead out. I would not like the debate to close without members opposite giving us all they know upon the matter. Let it not be said afterwards that the gag has been applied and that no opportunity was given them to have their say.

Mr. Corboy: You know the Premier told you to get the adjournment.

Mr. TEESDALE: I could not help thinking hard when I looked up "Hansard," and saw

the emphasis placed by members opposite on the suggestion that two or three office boys could have adjusted these boundaries. It is an extraordinary thing, but we have had three of the cleverest men in the city let loose on this Bill, with very painful results, it must be admitted, to some members. We can imagine what would have happened if three office boys had been allowed to do this work.

Mr. Hughes: It would not have made much difference.

Mr. TEESDALE: I do not see anything here for us to be jubilant about. In fact, we might as well wear sack cloth and ashes. Members opposite are making all the fuss. I am sorry any reflection has been made on certain people. I particularly regret that the Leader of the Opposition, a man who is generally looked upon as one of the fairest members of the House, should have made the remark he did. He put forward two alternatives—one a very unpleasant one—to the effect that the Commission either deliberately did certain things or they were too ignorant to carry out their duties. Those are not exactly the words used, but the inference is there. It is a great pity that the outside world should hear that members of this Chamber have no confidence in the Chief Justice. Those appointed on the Commission were really good men and I feel that much fuss has been made about a very small matter. Possibly there may be this in it: that it would not look well if the Bill went through without some such talk and it was thought that if they got something into the Murchison "Morning Post" and the Magnet "Mercury," it would look well. I think that has a good deal to do with it.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (North-East Fremantle) [5.31]: After the latest comic opera speech—

Hon. M. F. Troy: After the wild west show.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: —the position of the Bill may be considered much stronger! No doubt the member for Roebourne (Mr. Teesdale) thinks he has looked through the Bill purely in the interests of the State. He has forgotten for the time being that there is a little spot called Roebourne.

Mr. Teesdale: I am not allowed to forget it.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: There is no man in Roebourne who is worth eight times the political power of a man in North-East Fremantle.

The Premier: Did you think that regarding your own Bill?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Yes, and when the Bill came forward, too. The member for Roebourne referred to the judge and regretted that hon. members had no confidence in His Honour.

Mr. Teesdale: I did not say that.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: You said hon. members had no confidence in the judge.

Mr. Teesdale: I said I hoped members had confidence in him.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: You can have it that way if you like.

Mr. Teesdale: It sounds worse the way you put it.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: When the Electoral Districts Act was first before the House, I raised the question of the appointment of a judge on the Commission. I said then that judges of the Supreme Court should be kept clear of politics. The Premier agreed with my contention, but did not suggest anyone else. It is wrong to appoint any judge in connection with electoral matters. I desire to openly state that I saw Mr. Cooke, the Chief Electoral Officer, concerning reports made in the precincts of this Chamber relating to the Redistribution of Seats Bill. By interjection, I asked the member for Roebourne if Mr. Cooke had told him that I had been there. Certain reports were current regarding boundaries fixed in connection with the redistribution of seats and definite opinions were given under that heading. Having been connected with one or two Commissions and knowing that on a previous occasion portion of the report of one with which I was concerned had been published before the report itself had been finalised, I asked Mr. Cooke whether any of his papers had been left about his office. I made that inquiry to see if anyone could have got hold of the information in that way. This information leaked out about the time the Commission's report was handed to the Governor. Mr. Cooke told me that papers had not been left around the office. I did not discuss the question of boundaries, nor was the subject mentioned. I merely asked him about the one point, because I know the possibility of information leaking out if papers are left around.

Mr. Teesdale: I asked about it, too.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Such information should not appear in the papers before the report is dealt with. I remember one occasion, Mr. Speaker, when you kept certain secret papers locked in your own office; yet their contents were published in the Press before the inquiry was completed.

Mr. Stubbs: Did you say that a member of this Chamber had information about the boundaries?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I did not say a member of this Chamber; I said that it had been stated within the precincts of the House.

Hon. M. F. Troy: And that was correct, too.

Mr. Underwood: You are not asserting that we tampered with the Commission?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Not at all. The hon. member knows full well the danger of having papers left about one's office. Consequently I asked Mr. Cooke these questions in order to make sure on that point. It puts a Royal Commission in an awkward position when information leaks out concerning their report before it is presented to the Governor.

Mr. Underwood: You do not accuse hon. members on this side of the House of anything.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I do not accuse hon. members at all. The member for Roebourne said a lot about the purification of the rolls. He referred to certain subsidiary rolls used in the last Federal election affecting the Cue and Murchison electorates. I have examined each roll, including the supplementary rolls on which the last election was fought. Those rolls are available to any hon. member at Parliament House. I find it is useless to take any single subdivision. Taking my own district as an example, the subdivision of East Fremantle includes a large area from the Fremantle electoral district. One cannot possibly take the numbers from that roll unless Fremantle is included with East Fremantle. When I dealt with the Cue boundaries, I took in all the districts affected and I found that there were 761 more voters on the roll for the last Federal election than the approximate number mentioned by the Commissioners in their report. There was a total of 8,196; that shows that we must take the whole area in order to get an approximate idea of the numbers.

Mr. Teesdale: I referred to the census figures.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I am dealing with the last Federal electoral rolls dated December, 1922. The hon. member contends those figures are wrong. If they are wrong, it shows the position regarding the rolls.

Mr. Teesdale: I took the figures from the Commonwealth returns.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I took mine from the subdivisional rolls.

Mr. Teesdale: I took each district.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I have shown the difference between the numbers on the rolls and those referred to in the Commission's report. In the central goldfields districts the number on the roll for this year, as mentioned by the Commission, is 1,264 less than the number on the Federal rolls. I am surprised that the hon. member should put up such a strong argument to encourage the Commonwealth Government to keep back a little more of the subsidy we are entitled to under the per capita payment of 25s. The Premier has pointed out repeatedly that the basis on which we are paid by the Commonwealth is wrong and that there are considerably more people in Western Australia than the Commonwealth give credit for. Every month they have to increase the total number to make up the difference in the population and the Premier tells us that that accounts for the difference between the figures and the increase in population. On that basis we are losing every month. The member for Roebourne went on to say that the Electoral Department has been engaged in purifying the rolls. The department has been doing that so far as the funds at its disposal will allow and so far as its directions have gone. We asked the Premier to make a thorough canvass.

The Premier: A canvass is no good.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Yes it is. We asked the Premier to make that canvass be-

fore the Redistribution of Seats Bill was dealt with.

The Premier: We have compulsory enrolment and that should be sufficient.

Mr. Teesdale: Is that a failure?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: To some extent. The Premier was asked to find the money necessary to make a proper canvass.

The Premier: I say the canvass is no good.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: And I say it is good. The rolls have been purified by striking off names only. In my electorate, people who have been living in the one house for 20 years have had their names struck off, while those of the sons and daughters have been allowed to remain. I have made a canvass of part of my electorate and to date I have found 1,140 persons whose names were not on the roll.

The Premier: Give us a list and we will prosecute them.

Mr. Teesdale: Some 21,000 have been struck off.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Persons living for over 20 years in my electorate have had their names removed from the Assembly roll, although their names appear on the West Province roll.

Mr. Heron: That is purifying the rolls all right.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Hon. members should realise this position. I have not concluded my inquiries, but that is the result to-day.

Mr. Underwood: It is an indication that the people do not appreciate the franchise.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Not altogether.

Mr. Underwood: When they get the franchise they will not vote.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I will give the House one instance. I went to one house and I told the people their names were not on the roll. The husband informed his wife and she replied, "It strikes me that the department keep a staff to put our names on the roll after they have struck us off."

Mr. Teesdale: It works out at fifty-fifty.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I have put on between 600 and 700 names myself in my electorate. Those are new names, not alterations.

The Minister for Mines: There must be some explanation for that.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I do not know what it is.

Mr. Munsie: It shows that the rolls were not in order on the 30th June last.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I mention this point to show that the rolls are not purified from the standpoint of seeing that people are on the rolls, but only regarding people struck off the rolls. Repeatedly have we been told that the metropolitan area is largely increasing in population. This being so, it is very strange that between 30th June, 1922, and May, 1923—when one could scarcely get a house of any sort down there—the population of the Fremantle district decreased by 1,171, according to the figures presented to us.

The Minister for Mines: That is, comparing one roll with the other.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: And all the rest of the metropolitan area outside the three Fremantles has shown an increase of only 40 persons in 11 months! Of course hon. members know that that is not actually so.

Mr. Underwood: Does not that apply all round?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: No, not in the same proportion. Some districts have increased in steeper ratio than have others. Take the northern portion of the State. On the 30th September, 1913, there were up there 5,551 electors on the roll. We agreed to give them three seats north of the Tropic of Capricorn, or four seats in all. On the 24th May, 1923, the population up there was 3,635, or a reduction of 1,916. Yet the four seats are retained. I do not think it fair that there should be so great a distinction between persons entitled to vote. There should be more equality.

The Premier: You would have one vote one value.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I believe in that principle. In May last, Gascoyne had 1,057 electors as against 1,771 in 1913. Kimberley has now 1,271, whereas in 1913 the number was 1,293. Pilbara has now 720. In 1913 Pilbara had 1,091.

Mr. Teesdale: You are going a long way back. Why 1913?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: That was the year of the earlier Bill referred to by the Premier. Roebourne to-day has 587 electors, whereas in 1913 they totalled 1,396. These are the figures supplied by the Electoral Department. Now let us take the outer mining districts, with which the hon. member has been dealing. The Commissioners give them four seats.

Mr. Underwood: No, the House gave them four seats when the House referred the boundaries to the Commissioners.

Mr. Munsie: No, the House gave them five seats.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: According to the Commissioners' report, the total enrolment of the four outer mining districts is 7,441. I will admit that the Commissioners' hands were tied. We tried to give them greater liberty; and I am confident that if the Commissioners had had more liberty the electors would have got a fairer deal.

The Premier: It was much the same under your Bill.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: No, there was greater equality of voting under that Bill. Let us make a comparison: This House by a majority of two gave the North-West four seats for 3,635 electors; in other words, the Murchison, adjoining Pilbara and Roebourne, as compared with the northern seats has electors in the proportion of slightly over two to one. Is that fair?

The Premier: It is the same as under your Bill.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: No, it would not be the same, because the population has

shifted a good deal since then. In the Electoral Districts Bill the Premier was not fair in respect of equality of voting. I have always looked upon the member for Roebourne (Mr. Teesdale) as a man strong in patriotism. In the past, even if I wanted to, I would not dare say anything derogatory to the State, because the hon. member, if he heard it, would be very quick to retort. Yet to-day he referred to the Murchison as a desert.

Mr. Teesdale: In that I was only following the professor's statement.

Mr. Chesson: The Murchison contains the best pastoral land in Australia.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: When last I was in England I endeavoured to impress on a school teacher that children ought to be taught there is no desert in Australia, not even along the Trans-Australian railway.

Mr. Underwood: About 300 miles of that route is desert.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: No, not a mile of it. If the hon. member had ever seen a desert he would know the difference.

Mr. Underwood: It is the only desert I have seen.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: There are green pastures right along the route. Yet the hon. member says there are deserts within the State!

Mr. Teesdale: And you know it!

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: That is the hon. member's classification.

Mr. Mullany: What he said was that there were very few people there. He did not use the word "desert."

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Yes he did, repeatedly. The North-West Railway League are trying to impress the people of Great Britain with the importance of that part of the State. They have told the people of England that the land there is suitable for dairying, and they are endeavouring to induce the people of England to put their money into the railway. Now the member for Roebourne declares that a large portion of that district is desert. Why did not the hon. member tell the Premier that before the Premier approached the Prime Minister last week?

Mr. Teesdale: You know well that if we could get the population there the proposition would be a good one.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I know what the hon. member said, and I am not going to let his statement pass without sticking up for the country. There is no desert there. Again, the hon. member concluded that the representation of those districts should be based on the number of railway stations.

Mr. Teesdale: That would disabuse any conception of a desert, for they have 19 railway stations.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I have but one in my electorate.

The Premier: And that is used chiefly to take people to the races.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Let me remind the hon. member that there is no port in the district to which he refers. I tell him also that it is almost as easy to get to Roebourne as to get to the Murchison.

Mr. Teesdale: You know that is wrong. You ought to be ashamed of yourself for saying it.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I know I am right. By sea it might take a few days longer, but by aeroplane it means a few hours less.

Mr. Teesdale: The aeroplanes are confined to the coast. They are of no use to the back country.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: But the hon. member has said that in his electorate there are no people outback, not one to the square mile. However, I still think there is no desert there.

Mr. Richardson: Did the hon. member say there was a desert there?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Yes, repeatedly.

Mr. Hughes: And he said the people there were escaped criminals.

Mr. Teesdale: I object to that, and I demand a withdrawal.

Mr. Hughes: You said they had run away from the police.

Mr. SPEAKER: The member for East Perth must withdraw the statement.

Mr. Hughes: Must I withdraw, when I distinctly heard the member for Roebourne make the statement?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, the hon. member has taken exception to it.

Mr. Corboy: He is now ashamed of it.

Mr. Hughes: I withdraw.

Mr. Teesdale: I said they might be fugitives from justice, not that they were criminals.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: If fugitives from justice, the last place they would go to would be a desert; they would go where they could get something to eat.

Mr. Underwood: If you were to see it in a drought, you would agree that it is a desert.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is not much in the Bill about deserts.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: But so much has been said about the Murchison, and the member for Roebourne tried to show that, being a desert, the electorate was not entitled to much consideration. Probably that was why he used the word "desert." I have no doubt the hon. member is already sorry for having used it.

Mr. Teesdale: I was unwise in my choice of the word.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I object to the Bill on the ground that it gives the metropolitan area insufficient representation.

Mr. A. Thomson: Oh, help!

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: It is not fair or just that broad acres should be given such a distinction. Even supposing the rolls are correct, the metropolitan area with 83,748 electors is to have only 15 representatives in this House.

Mr. A. Thomson: Who keeps them?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The worker in the metropolitan area does his fair share to facilitate production in the country districts.

Mr. A. Thomson: That is questionable.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: He does as much as the hon. member.

Mr. A. Thomson: Probably more.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: It is too late to revert to the age when the tillers of land attempted to make for themselves those goods that could be better provided by men devoting the whole of their time to manufactures.

Mr. A. Thomson: The country districts carry the metropolitan area.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: But for the country districts the metropolitan area would not be in existence. It must not, however, be forgotten that the metropolitan area is a very important part of the State. The work carried on in the metropolitan area assists production in the country. Some people prefer the country life, but they do not reside in the country to be philanthropists or to build up the metropolitan area.

Mr. A. Thomson: They carry the metropolitan area on their backs, all the same.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: No, they are assisted by those who remain in the metropolitan area. The metropolitan resident who makes boots is assisting the agriculturist who wears them; the metropolitan resident who makes ploughs is assisting the agriculturist who uses them. But for these metropolitan residents, the production of the country would be very different from what it is.

Mr. A. Thomson: How long could the metropolitan area keep the country districts going?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I maintain that there should be something approaching equality in the value of votes and the metropolitan area should have a larger number of seats than is proposed. The mean total of electors necessary in the agricultural districts is only 2,906, compared with 5,583 in the metropolitan area. The disparity is altogether too great. Last year I said there was no necessity to increase the number of members for the agricultural area, and I am still of the same opinion. The number of electors for the 21 seats at that time was under 3,000 each—approximately one elector for every two electors in the metropolitan area.

Mr. A. Thomson: You know very well they are not all agriculturists.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Thus they have better representation than they are entitled to. It would have been beneficial for the State if the Premier had fixed the quota so that the goldfields area would have received greater representation. This Bill will do us more harm as a gold producing State than any other measure could have done. It is the worst advertisement this State has ever had.

The Premier: Your Bill would have been much worse.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: It would not have been worse, because the population of the goldfields at that time was much larger. I tried to explain that point just now when dealing with the population of the North-West. The population in 1913 was so distributed that it made all the difference to the

scheme of redistributing the seats. The Premier should remember the conditions that then obtained. This Bill will not give fair or just representation to the districts entitled to it. What a nice advertisement this measure will be for the mining industry! When the money lender becomes aware of this measure, and we say to him, "There is a possibility of certain mines in the Murchison proving successful if you will only put your money into them," his reply will be, "No; your own Government have announced that the district is going down. They have practically said it is not a fit place in which to invest our money."

The Premier: Details of the gold returns are forwarded to London every month.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The Premier cannot deny that this measure will be a bad advertisement for the mining industry.

The Premier: You would have given the goldfields two seats.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The Premier has given the Murchison only one seat.

The Premier: Your Bill provided for redistribution every five years, and was worse than this measure.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The Bill should be withdrawn.

The Premier: Put up the divisions you proposed previously.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: No person in Fremantle would have divided that district as the Commissioners propose it should be divided.

The Premier: You talk about one vote, one value, and then you want to put 20 different values on a vote.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I said I believe in one vote one value, but we have departed from that principle. The trouble is that the difference in the quotas is too great.

The Minister for Mines: If you are going to add to the metropolitan representation, you must deduct from the country and goldfields.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I say there was no necessity to increase the representation of the agricultural districts.

Mr. A. Thomson: It has not been increased.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Every district in the agricultural area had fewer than 3,000 electors, and the metropolitan constituencies averaged about 6,000. Thus the voting power of the country was two to one. The difference to-day is too great. I would prefer the Federal subdivisions based on the principle of one elector one vote.

The Minister for Mines: What sort of a Murchison district would you have then?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I believe in human beings and not broad acres having the vote. However, we have to take the position as we find it. Fremantle, situated as it is at the very door of Perth, has been divided in such a way as no person in Fremantle would have suggested.

The Premier: Tell us where it is wrong.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I told the Premier before. A Commission undertaking the responsibility of altering the electoral boundaries ought to have some knowledge of the

areas with which they are dealing. Why should three men sit down with a map before them and divide the State according to the map? We know they have been in a few areas.

Mr. Teesdale: They made eight trips.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: They went to the goldfields.

Mr. Teesdale: And they had the registrar with them.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: He knew very little about it, because he had been in Perth for many years. When I saw how the Commission proposed to divide the Fremantle district, I said, "If this is what they have done at the very door of Perth, what must be the result in the country." The Commission started in the wrong way.

Mr. Teesdale: It shows how fair the Commission have been.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: From a political point of view, this measure will probably operate more favourably for Labour than does the existing Act.

Mr. Teesdale: You know it.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: But I want fair play for the State, and this Bill does not give fair play to the State.

Mr. Teesdale: That should absolve the Commissioners from any imputation.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Has any imputation been cast upon the Commissioners from this side of the House?

Mr. Teesdale: Yes; wait until "Hansard" comes out.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Does the hon. member infer that any one would say the Chief Justice for political purposes would do something to bring discredit upon himself?

Mr. Teesdale: You know what your leader said. The alternatives were equally unpleasant.

Mr. Munsie: What he said was correct.

Mr. Teesdale: There you are; it is being backed up.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The Commissioners' hands were tied by the Electoral Districts Act, a measure that was passed by only one or two votes. I must inform the member for Roebourne (Mr. Teesdale), however, that there was one man on the Commission I would not trust. It was not the Chief Justice and not the Chief Electoral Officer.

The Premier: You have no right to say that.

Mr. Teesdale: Why deny what I said?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The Premier does not know what I know, or he would not have made that remark. The other man is political.

The Premier: Which man?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The other one; I am not mentioning names. I know for a fact that what I have stated is correct. I hope members will not agree to the Bill.

The Premier: Then what do you want?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I want a fair deal. I want to see some of the outlying districts receiving fair consideration: I want to see the people in the metropolitan area getting

fairer representation than is proposed; and I do not want to see other people getting more than they are entitled to.

The Premier: The goldfields are being treated much better than the agricultural districts.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: They are not being treated so well when one considers their distance from the metropolitan area.

The Premier: You can leave Kalgoorlie at night and be in Perth on the following morning.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: And one can travel to Northam in a couple of hours. One can travel from Northam to Perth in the morning, and return to Northam at night. People go to Northam for a night's enjoyment and return on the following morning.

The Colonial Secretary: You should not mention those things.

The Minister for Works: It is a very serious thing to say.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I know they do it.

The Premier: Have you been there?

The Minister for Mines: You are referring to a trotting meeting, of course.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I consider that Northam should be treated as a metropolitan constituency and have the same quota. There should be no difference in favour of Murray-Wellington or Swan.

The Premier: You would strangle agriculture.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I would not. Northam is a town just as much as Perth, Fremantle, or Midland Junction. It is a town whose inhabitants live on the farmers surrounding it and are no more entitled to special consideration than are the people living in Perth or Fremantle.

The Premier: Northam is only one.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: What about the others surrounding it?

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The discrepancy in the numbers of people in the various electorates is too great. I hope the Government will withdraw the Bill. It is advisable to let matters continue as they are for the present, and bring down a Bill giving the Commissioners greater powers in dividing the various electorates.

The Premier: Your Bill was a long way worse.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: No. I do not want to go back to that question. The number of electors in the various electorates at the time that Bill was introduced was very different.

The Premier: The Bill was intended to stand for all time.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I admit that alterations have been made, but they have not made the same difference to the electorates. The figures I quoted were taken from the official return. I do not say whether they are right or wrong. Even in the four North-West seats there were 1,916 more voters on the 1st September, 1913, at the time the Bill

was introduced, than there were on the roll from which this Bill was framed. Even in that part of the State there is a great difference in the number of voters. This applies to the whole State. There were more people on the goldfields in those days.

The Premier: I wish they were there to-day.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The Bill was framed on a fairer basis according to the numbers on the roll than the present Bill provides in the case of the metropolitan area.

Mr. Davies: Under that Bill the electorates would be altered from time to time.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Yes, by the Commissioners. They were allowed to go one-fifth above or one-fifth below the quota. The State is now divided into areas. At the time the other Bill was introduced there were only two districts, that north of the tropic of Capricorn, and that to the south of it.

The Premier: That was unfair to the scattered districts.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: No. It was much nearer equal representation than is the case at present. I know there is a difficulty in giving equal representation in this State. It is so situated to-day that it will be almost impossible to give an equal number of votes to each electorate. A large number of districts would have no representation at all. The discrepancy between the two, however, is too great. The voter in Roebourne has more than ten times the voting power of the voter in Perth. If we take population, the metropolitan area is entitled to more representation than it has at present. Even if we take the present population that is the case.

Mr. Underwood: Will you not take what you can get?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: There are in the metropolitan area more than two electors to one in the country districts.

Mr. Pickering: Not in your electorate.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Yes. Since the roll came out on the 30th June last I have found no less than 1,140 electors in my electorate who are not on the roll.

The Premier: Nearly all of them have gone.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Not at all.

The Premier: There are no more houses in your electorate.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Yes. There are no empty houses. During the last six months no fewer than 663 electors have been struck off the rolls for Fremantle, which is only a small place.

The Premier: The electors are always changing about.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: In North-East Fremantle, which covers a much larger area than Fremantle, and in which there is more building going on and much more expansion than in any other part of Fremantle, 520 names have been struck off the roll. There are people who have been living there for 20

years whose names have been struck off. One lady has lived in the same house for 29 years, and yet her name is not on the roll. In other cases people have resided there for four or five years. Their names are still on the West Province roll, but they have been struck off the Assembly roll. This shows that closer scrutiny of the rolls is required. A proper roll should be prepared from which a redistribution of seats could be arranged. A new Bill should then be brought down in accordance with the number of electors in each electorate, and after a proper canvass has been made. The Leader of the Opposition pointed out that this could be done with very little expense. It is the first thing that should have been done. When a person builds a house he first puts in his foundation. The Government, however, have started to put up a structure that has no foundation.

The Premier: Not at all.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Yes.

The Colonial Secretary: What would it cost to verify the rolls in the Murchison?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Not a great deal, if the police were told off to do the work. A mistake has been made through the neglect of the Government to give the Commissioners a proper foundation on which to start.

The Colonial Secretary: Might not statements be made that certain electorates had been carelessly treated?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: There will always be complaints.

The Colonial Secretary: This is a definite attempt to give fair representation.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: When I went out to canvass my electorate in order to test the position of the roll, I did not anticipate getting more than 500 names. I knew that a large number of names had been struck off, but I found that 1,140 were not on the rolls. I have not yet finished the work, because I could not go on with it and attend to my political duties at the same time.

The Premier: We will give you leave of absence.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The redistribution that is now before us indicates that the population of the State is going down.

The Premier: We have 172,000 voters. That is not bad.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: If the number turns out to be 190,000, the figures are bad. That would bear out the Premier's contention that there are more people in the State than the Commonwealth figures indicate. The Commissioners were not placed in a position to approximate the number of electors in each district. Everyone will agree that during the last 12 months the population of the metropolitan area has increased, and yet the rolls show a decrease of over 1,100 voters.

The Premier: We have compulsory enrolment.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I am taking into account both of the rolls submitted by the departments.

The Premier: Have you taken into consideration the votes cut out in South Fremantle?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Yes. Very few are cut out in that district. I am taking the total enrolment on the 24th May, 1923. It would be difficult for anyone to frame a redistribution of seats for this State to give satisfaction to everyone, but I think it could be done better if more liberty were given to the Commissioners to establish greater equality of voting power between the various districts.

Mr. UNDERWOOD (Pilbara) [7.40]: I may be said to be looking at this question as a spectator, as the Bill indicates that my electorate will not be altered. The saying that the onlooker sees most of the game is probably correct. I never have been sure whether it is in my personal interests to be elected to this House or not, and I have not much prejudice with respect to my own or any other electorate. The arguments put forward by various speakers in regard to the roll not being up to date carry no weight. Every speaker has referred to the number of people who should be on his roll. If that applies all round it comes out quite even; we are all in the same boat. I think the numbers given for my electorate are about right. There are something like 25 per cent. of people on the roll who should not be on it, and about 25 per cent. left off who should be on it.

Mr. Clydesdale: That does not apply to the metropolitan area.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: It applies to the electorate of every member who has spoken. If the electorates are all alike, what is the matter with the Commission? They have arrived at what is nearly the correct thing. After all, every other member has in his electorate people who are not on the roll. We are all alike, then. What is the complaint? My experience is that before we had compulsory enrolment—coercion is now wanted in every respect, repeating the tyranny of past centuries—we had a good roll in Pilbara. The police, wardens, and registrars used to try to get people on the roll and to strike off those who had left. So soon as the coercion Act was passed, providing fine and punishment for not being on the roll, the Pilbara roll became not nearly so good. Those who most strongly complain about the state of the rolls are those who most strongly favour compulsory enrolment. It is a privilege to be on the electoral roll and cast one's vote, and the vote of the man or the woman who does not realise that this is a privilege is not wanted, is of no use in the government of the country. The condition of the rolls today is largely due to the Act which this Parliament passed—and which I opposed—providing for compulsory enrolment. As to the present distribution of seats, every member who has spoken on the Bill has admitted that a redistribution is necessary. But there is

such a thing as admitting that with one's tongue in one's cheek, and not agreeing to any proposition that is put up. There was a man who said he was to be convinced if he was wrong, but he would like to see the man who could convince him. That is about the position we have arrived at in regard to redistribution. And there is something else in it. I believe this redistribution does suit at least 30 out of the 50 members of this House. If we had a secret ballot on this Bill, without party politics, I am absolutely certain what the result would be.

Mr. Cunningham: The Bill would be tossed out.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: But some people want the Bill to become an Act, and also want the advantage of having opposed it and of having pointed out that those who passed it were doing something dishonest, something under the lap, something for their own personal advantage. We have heard the member for East Perth (Mr. Hughes) say that the members of the Ministry and the supporters of the Ministry have secured "cushy" seats. He suggested that members on this side of the House had tampered with the Royal Commission.

Mr. Hughes: On a point of order, I never suggested any such thing. I ask the hon. member to withdraw that statement.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has taken exception to your statement, Mr. Underwood, and has asked for a withdrawal.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: That is pretty hard, Mr. Speaker, after what the hon. member said. However, he did not suggest that; I withdraw. He did say that members of the Government and the supporters of the Government had got "cushy" seats. He also said that members on the Government side of the House knew how the redistribution was going. I will not say what he suggested in making that remark, but those were his words.

Mr. Hughes: On a point of order, those were not my words, and I must ask that the hon. member withdraw them.

Mr. SPEAKER: What words does the member for East Perth take exception to?

Mr. Hughes: That I said members knew how the redistribution was going.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: He did say it, Sir.

Mr. Munzie: He did not say it at all. He said, "Some members."

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Some members on the Government side of the House. I am coming to the point. The member for East Perth said, and repeated, "I knew to a house the boundaries of my electorate."

Mr. Hughes: I said I had got the boundaries second-hand. Why don't you tell the truth?

Mr. UNDERWOOD: The hon. member said he knew the boundaries of his new electorate, and I asked him, by way of interjection, how he knew them. He repeated his statement. I then suggested that, having been connected with the clerks' union, he had got the information from the clerks. I do not want to be misunderstood on that interjection.

Mr. Hughes: I was never in the same union with the clerks, never in my life.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: I do not want it to be thought that for a single moment I suggested that the clerks would give away a single thing that they had been sworn to keep secret.

Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. UNDERWOOD: I absolutely and positively disbelieve the statement of the member for East Perth. I do not believe his statement. But if I am wrong, if he did get the information, then I say he did not get it from the Royal Commissioners or any one of them. If he did get it, he got it from some of the clerks. Further, I have never tried to get anything under the lap; but if I had got any information that I was not entitled to get, I most certainly would not "skite" about it.

Mr. Hughes: I got my information here.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: I certainly would not come into this Chamber and say that I had got something I was not entitled to get.

Mr. Hughes: It was common property. It was all round the place. You could have heard it in the corridor just as I did.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Possibly I could hear it in the corridor. Possibly I take more notice of some things I hear in the corridor than I take of definite statements made by the hon. member in this Chamber. Perhaps one of the reasons why people will not enrol, or after having been enrolled will not take the trouble to go to the poll, is that some members belittle Parliament by making such statements as those made by the member for East Perth.

Mr. Hughes: By changing their politics. That is the trouble. It is the like of you who belittle Parliament by your changes of policy.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Another section who have a good deal to gain from the passage of this Bill are the Country Party. They say they will gain. Possibly they will. One can never tell what members the electors will return. The Country Party say they are entitled to gain five seats. With the member for North-East Fremantle (Hon. W. C. Angwin) I say that the people who have a complaint against this Bill are the residents of the metropolitan area. Any member representing a metropolitan constituency who votes against this Bill, which gives the metropolitan area three additional seats, is not correctly representing the people.

Mr. Corboy: You say that metropolitan residents have a grievance, and yet that their representatives would be wrong in voting against the Bill.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: They have a grievance. They are offered 15 seats instead of 12, and they will not accept 15.

The Premier: Any metropolitan member who votes against the Bill need not stand for a metropolitan seat.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: A member of the Country Party, speaking in the corridor, said that the Nationalists were doing all right, having got three extra seats in the metro-

politan area. I reminded that hon. member that only a few years ago out of the 13 seats, including Swan, Labour held 11.

Mr. Corboy: And Labour will do so again.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Quite probably.

Mr. Heron: We will hold the lot next time.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Yes; possibly get a grand slam. But it is utterly absurd for the Country Party to suggest that the Nationalists have got something because of the increase in the number of metropolitan seats. Metropolitan electors vote according to the good government or bad government, in their opinion, that they are getting from the Treasury bench.

Mr. Corboy: Is that another example of the sweet harmony which prevails on your side?

Mr. UNDERWOOD: There is no harmony on my side. I do not know exactly whether I have a side. I stated at the outset that I was a sort of spectator, not only in regard to this Bill but in regard to Parliament, a spectator looking on and seeing, as is said, most of the game. This Bill offers the agricultural districts two extra seats, representing a big pull against the metropolitan area. Here we find the metropolitan area offered three extra seats, the agricultural districts offered two extra seats and growling.

The Premier: The area is offered that, not any party.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Yes, the area which returns Country Party men.

Mr. Pickering: And will do so.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: And may do so. Then there are the areas which return Labour representatives. I am speaking of parties as they are to-day in this House. If the Country Party and the metropolitan members turn the Bill down, they will make the biggest mistake that I can possibly see them making.

The Premier: I am very glad to hear you say that. I hope hon. members are listening.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: The Premier tried to correct me on the point of areas as against parties. The Bill is being considered not from the standpoint of areas, but on party lines.

The Premier: It was not drafted on party lines.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: I know that, but it is being considered by the various parties from the standpoint of how many seats they may lose or gain for their particular section.

Mr. Pickering: Your party is not interested.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: That is why I am able to analyse the whole position without prejudice.

Mr. Chesson: You view it through your own spectacles.

Mr. Mann: But you put up a good case just the same.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: I can view the position without any personal prejudice. I am not going to pull chestnuts out of the fire for any particular party.

Mr. Pickering: There is no reason why you should.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: If the Labour Party members are not satisfied and the Country Party members are not satisfied, then I will go to the Opposition side of the House and vote against the Bill in the hope of throwing it out, so that when the next Government come along they may endeavour to bring forward a better measure. I trust the Bill will be agreed to, but I say emphatically that I will not pull any chestnuts out of the fire for various party interests.

The Premier: Hear, hear!

Mr. UNDERWOOD: If it should come to that point, I shall vote against the Bill.

The Premier: Now what has East Perth got to say?

On motion by Mr. Mullany, debate adjourned.

BILL—INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE ACT CONTINUANCE.

Second Reading.

Order of the Day read for the resumption of the debate.

Question put and passed.

In Committee, etc.

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

ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1923-24.

In Committee of Supply.

Resumed from 6th September; Mr. Stubbs in the Chair.

Premier's Department (Hon. Sir James Mitchell, Minister).

Vote—Public Service Commissioner, £2,647:

Mr. HUGHES: I asked certain questions to-day but the Premier did not see fit to answer them. He gave evasive replies which did not represent an answer at all.

The Premier: I did not give an evasive answer at all.

Mr. HUGHES: Yes, you did.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. HUGHES: I do not know that it could be called a reply at all. The matter refers to an ex-civil servant and the Government.

The Premier: That has been finally settled.

Mr. HUGHES: The last court of appeal has been exhausted by the ex-civil servant. I refer to Mr. E. H. Hamel, who was a lithographic draftsman in the employ of the Government.

The Premier: That does not come under these Estimates.

Mr. HUGHES: He is an ex-public servant and I take it I can discuss matters connected

with the Public Service Commissioner and civil servants under this Vote.

The Premier: No, you cannot.

Hon. M. F. Troy: Yes, he can. You are trying to bluff him.

Mr. HUGHES: Am I in order, Mr. Chairman?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr. HUGHES: In 1899 Mr. Hamel was temporarily employed as a lithographic draftsman. His permanent head considered he was a surplus officer, and under the provisions of the Public Service Act Mr. Hamel was retired. In 1904 the Government advertised for a draftsman and inserted advertisements in newspapers in the Eastern States. Among others, Mr. Hamel sent in his application and he was successful. The strange feature about this case is that, notwithstanding that only five years previously Mr. Hamel's chief officer had made a disparaging report upon his qualifications as a lithographic draftsman, he was successful with his application and was brought from the Eastern States to resume his work. That is conclusive proof that the department was satisfied Mr. Hamel was a competent officer. In 1909 the Public Service Commissioner wrote to the Under Secretary for Lands, as permanent head of the branch to which Mr. Hamel was attached, saying it had been decided to retire Mr. Hamel as a surplus officer because there was not sufficient work in that branch to warrant the retention of his services. Mr. Hamel became an excess officer, and under the provisions of the Public Service Act, an excess officer can be transferred to another department or else be retired. It is the practice in all civil services that when a man becomes an excess officer, if there is a vacancy in another branch of the service to which that officer can be transferred, he is transferred rather than retired. Under the Federal Public Service Act, it is mandatory upon the Commissioner to transfer a man to a vacancy rather than to retire him. Under our State Act the Public Service Commissioner is allowed to retire a man at his own discretion. Before the Commissioner is able to retire an officer, he must have a certificate from his permanent head that the officer is incompetent. When he receives that report the Public Service Commissioner is required to investigate the matter for himself and arrive at the decision as to whether or not the officer is competent. That is the only safeguard the civil servant has, because if it were not for that, a civil servant, having fallen foul of the head of his department, would find himself retired without redress. In Mr. Hamel's case he was called upon to retire. Subsequently it was ascertained that the provisions of the law had not been complied with. The necessary examination prescribed by the Act had not been made. Notwithstanding that, Mr. Hamel launched legal proceedings against the Government for wrongful dismissal. He was not able to proceed with his case because he had not the money with which to fight the Government. It is another in-

stance of legal rights being one thing and getting those rights complied with quite another thing. Many of us have legal rights but we cannot enforce them and we have to suffer in silence.

The Minister for Works: Mr. Hamel did not suffer in silence.

Mr. HUGHES: No. As he could not prosecute his claim Mr. Hamel, acting upon legal advice, agreed to a settlement. After agreeing to a complete settlement of the whole matter, the Public Service Commissioner—I do not know whether he received more information or whether his conscience pricked him—discovered that there might have been a miscarriage of justice.

The Minister for Works: Who was the Public Service Commissioner?

Mr. HUGHES: The late Mr. Jull. It was he who retired Mr. Hamel. Mr. Jull addressed a minute to the then Premier, the late Hon. Frank Wilson, and pointed out that there might have been a miscarriage of justice because the provisions of the Act had not been complied with.

The Premier: Where did you get that from?

Mr. HUGHES: From the report of the select committee to which you referred me.

The Premier: The select committee dealt with the case exhaustively.

Mr. HUGHES: They did not. Apparently Mr. Wilson was satisfied that there might be something in the contention, and he reopened the whole matter and instructed the Public Service Commissioner to make a full inquiry. Mr. Wilson did what he could to make the Public Service Commissioner comply with the provisions of the Act. The Public Service Commissioner made a further inquiry and reported to the Government. What Mr. Hamel has been asking for is a copy of that report. Even if there were no legal remedy and the man had no legal right to demand a copy of that report, surely it is not too much to ask that he be furnished with a copy of the report of his departmental head regarding his qualifications. Mr. Hamel has never been able to secure a copy of the report, and if Mr. Wilson considered that there was a possibility of a miscarriage of justice, surely it is not too much to ask that Mr. Hamel should be allowed to have a copy of the Public Service Commissioner's report.

The Minister for Works: How long ago was that?

Mr. HUGHES: The case was re-opened in 1910. The Public Service Commissioner put up a minute to the Premier, the late Hon. Frank Wilson, saying that there might have been a miscarriage of justice.

The Minister for Works: The Scaddan Government were in power for five or six years after that.

Mr. HUGHES: They appointed a select committee.

The CHAIRMAN: What relation has the matter to the present Public Service Commissioner? Has it been brought under his notice?

Mr. HUGHES: Yes, repeatedly.

The CHAIRMAN: Under the notice of the present Public Service Commissioner?

Mr. HUGHES: I cannot say that definitely.

The Premier: I will say it has been before him.

The CHAIRMAN: Then the hon. member is in order.

The Premier: Some 200 or 300 people applying for reports have been before him. This case has been before the House, and been referred to a select committee.

Mr. HUGHES: If an injustice has been done, surely it is never too late to put it right.

The Premier: Mr. Hamel had a select committee of this House.

Mr. HUGHES: And the select committee were satisfied that he should have had a copy of the Public Service Commissioner's report. Not only was that the opinion of the select committee, but it is the opinion of the Crown Solicitor also.

The Minister for Works: What was the result of the inquiries made by the Scaddan Government?

Mr. HUGHES: The select committee did not come to a decision as to whether there had been a breach of the Public Service Act. In a résumé they said that Section 56 of the Act had not been complied with. Had the provisions of the law been complied with, the late Hon. Frank Wilson would never have agreed to a re-opening of the case.

The Minister for Works: What was the decision of the select committee appointed when the Scaddan Government were in power?

Mr. HUGHES: The late Hon. Frank Wilson instructed the Public Service Commissioner to comply with the Act and make an inquiry. The Public Service Commissioner made the inquiry, but Mr. Hamel was not furnished with a copy of the Public Service Commissioner's report.

The Minister for Works: I expect it was confidential.

Mr. HUGHES: If before the officer was retired, a report had been made under Section 56, the officer would have been entitled to a copy of the report, particularly if it were an adverse report.

Mr. Davies: He got a select committee subsequently?

Mr. HUGHES: Yes, from the Scaddan Government. When it was proposed to retire Mr. Hamel, the Public Service Commissioner said there was a vacancy in the Lands Department to which he could be transferred. However, owing to the opposition of officers of the Lands Department, that transference was not made. That is a nice state of affairs!

The Colonial Secretary: What is your deduction from that?

Mr. HUGHES: From practical experience I could draw lots of deductions. It does not indicate whether the man was good or bad; it simply means that the chief officer in the department may not have liked the man's politics.

The Premier: Nonsense!

Mr. HUGHES: The Premier knows that politics is an important factor in the Public Service.

The Colonial Secretary: They may not have liked the way he parted his hair.

Mr. HUGHES: The Premier knows that politics is very important to a public servant when it comes to promotion.

The Premier: No, I do not know.

Mr. HUGHES: Well, I do, after 15 years experience.

Mr. Pickering: You must have had bad luck.

Mr. HUGHES: No, I got on all right in the service, but I would have done much better if my politics had been different.

The Premier: I do not believe it for a moment.

Mr. HUGHES: You do not know the facts.

The Premier: What have politics to do with administration?

Mr. HUGHES: A lot. Right through the service you see good men, and wonder why they are not higher up the ladder.

The Colonial Secretary: You blame politics. It might be for some other reason.

Mr. HUGHES: I know that if a public servant is militant against the Government, he gets a black mark. He is marked out as a man not to be promoted.

The Minister for Works: Have you seen the black book?

Mr. HUGHES: In practice, yes; I have seen inferior men promoted over their superiors.

The Minister for Works: You might not be able to judge of their qualifications as well as could the higher officers.

Mr. HUGHES: The Minister knows that politics play an important part in the service. The permanent head may not have liked Hamel's politics, or his religion, or his appearance, and so he may not have wanted Hamel in his department. But no public servant has a right to say that his department shall be exclusive. If the Commissioner thought Mr. Hamel ought to have gone into the Lands Department, he should have brushed those objections aside. What sort of a Public Service shall we get if we allow a man to be kept out on such grounds?

The Premier: I know that once a man gets in, he stays there in any circumstances.

Mr. HUGHES: What sort of a service shall we have if a little coterie of men can say that a certain man is not to come into their department? Does that tend to the efficiency of the service.

The Minister for Works: The same thing applies to some unions, does it not?

Mr. HUGHES: No. I understand that the British Medical Association, the Barristers Board, and unions like those are very particular about taking in new members, and put every obstacle in the way of those who want to get in.

Mr. Corboy: And you are forgetting the architects.

Mr. HUGHES: I do not know much about them, but certainly some organisations are most exclusive.

The Colonial Secretary: I suppose they are justified sometimes, unions and all.

The CHAIRMAN: There are no unions in the Estimates.

Mr. HUGHES: It is monstrous that after the Commissioner had decided that this man should go into the Lands Department, one or two officers should successfully protest against his transfer.

The Minister for Works: He may not have been suited to the work.

Mr. HUGHES: That was for the Commissioner, not the departmental officers, to determine. The fact that the Commissioner wanted to transfer him is proof that the Commissioner was satisfied as to his qualifications.

The Minister for Works: Perhaps the Commissioner was seeking the line of least resistance.

The Premier: I am sure Mr. Jull would not do that.

Mr. HUGHES: Mr. Hamel has been trying to get a copy of the Public Service Commissioner's report in order to see whether, after inquiry, the Commissioner thought an injustice had been done. Surely a man whose retirement has been inquired into is entitled to see the report. The worst criminal is tried and a decision is given.

The Colonial Secretary: What do you suggest ought to be done?

Mr. HUGHES: That Mr. Hamel be given a copy of the report and be told whether the Public Service Commissioner arrived at a decision as to whether or not there had been a miscarriage of justice.

The Colonial Secretary: Is Mr. Hamel still here?

Mr. HUGHES: Yes, and is still trying to get a copy of the report.

The Minister for Works: Did he get compensation when retired?

Mr. HUGHES: He got a small sum. He had not the money to fight a law suit, and so he had to take the compensation offered. That closed his legal rights. But, two months afterwards, the Public Service Commissioner said there might have been a miscarriage of justice, and the late Hon. Frank Wilson re-opened the whole case, appointing the Public Service Commissioner to inquire and report. Surely Mr. Hamel is entitled to a copy of that report, and to know why the select committee arrived at certain conclusions.

The Premier: What right have you to question the findings of a select committee?

Mr. HUGHES: I have as much right as anybody else to discuss a select committee's report.

The Premier: But not years afterwards.

Mr. HUGHES: It is never too late to right a wrong. The very fact that the man has been unable to get the report in the past should not prevent his getting it now. The

select committee did not inquire into the result of the Public Service Commissioner's finding. What is the objection to telling Hamel the decision?

The Premier: You have no right to say the select committee did not have it before them.

Mr. HUGHES: Well, they did not mention it in their report.

Mr. Davies: What was Mr. Hamel doing that he did not see it was put before the select committee?

Mr. HUGHES: That does not alter the case. If the inquiry was to ascertain whether an injustice had been done, the Commissioner should have given a decision. Surely we do not want to get back to the days of "not proven" verdicts. Such verdicts are given in boxing in America to-day, but in no other place that I know of. I am merely asking for a mite of justice. Why do not the Government give it to Hamel?

The Premier: I should like to paste the whole of the papers over the walls of the Chamber. This is not the time to discuss it.

Mr. HUGHES: If this is not the time, when is?

The Premier: You should move in the House for the papers.

Mr. HUGHES: And if the Premier does not wish to make them available, he has the numbers to vote that way.

The Premier: You can have the papers if Hamel wants them.

Mr. HUGHES: Why not give him a copy of the report and the finding?

The Premier: The House can have the file.

Mr. HUGHES: Is not Hamel entitled to the finding?

The Premier: I do not know.

Mr. HUGHES: I shall accept the Premier's offer to table the papers and I hope that the finding of the Public Service Commissioner will be included.

Hon. M. F. TROY: There are complaints as to the method by which appointments are being made to the Public Service. I always understood that before anyone was admitted to the Public Service, he had to pass an examination. A large number of youths are entering the service without passing any examination whatever.

The Premier: That is not so.

Hon. M. F. TROY: I have complaints that it is so. Such a practice lends itself to favouritism. I do not say the Public Service Commissioner would lend himself to favouritism. I know Mr. Simpson and consider him a very honourable man, but influence might be brought to bear. There is a good deal of jealousy regarding appointments, and I strongly object to any appointments being made unless the appointees have passed the examination. If a young man told me he desired to enter the service, I should strongly advise him not to do so. A promising young lawyer in the city told me a few nights ago—"You were the first man to give me a lift

in life; you helped me to get into the Public Service, but you advised me not to stay there. Your advice was to strike out for myself and I have done so." The Public Service is all right for a start, but when a man reaches the £200 or £300 mark there is little chance of promotion until someone dies, and then another man having the ear of the Minister might get the appointment. This sort of thing leads to discontent and dissatisfaction. Still, a good many men do seek the service, and we should insist on the principle that any man entering the service must first qualify.

The Premier: That is done.

Hon. M. F. TROY: It is not.

The Minister for Works: Or else they show they have a certain standard of education.

Hon. M. F. TROY: The Public Service Commissioner is only human and, if approached by persons of influence, might be inclined to appoint certain boys. If the Premier makes inquiries, he will find that such appointments have been made. I do not say they are permanent appointments.

The Premier: Oh, you mean messengers?

Hon. M. F. TROY: Temporary appointments have a tendency to become permanent. A cause of complaint is the number of men who gain promotion over other officers just as well equipped intellectually, because of the former having the ear of a Minister.

The Minister for Works: That is a mistake.

Hon. M. F. TROY: I know of clerks and typists who have been personally attending on a Minister, have made themselves agreeable and become companions of the Minister, and other jobs have been found for them. Departments have been created for mere typists, who have thus made their way far above men under whom they served years ago. I know a lot of them. It is remarkable how Ministers are influenced by the men who become their clerks and typists. It is a weakness on the part of Ministers.

The Minister for Works: The Minister does not put them into those jobs. It may have been so a few years ago, but it is not so to-day.

Hon. M. F. TROY: I do not blame the Public Service Commissioner; Ministers are entirely responsible. In the interests of the service this sort of thing should cease.

Mr. MUNSIE: I was a member of the select committee that inquired into the removal of E. H. Hamel from the Public Service. I take it from the interjections of the Premier that he is not averse to laying the papers on the Table.

The Premier: Not if Mr. Hamel wants them.

Mr. MUNSIE: Evidently he does want them or he would not have asked the member for East Perth to mention the matter. I do not wish to deal with the case beyond saying that if an inquiry was held by the Public Service Commissioner and Hamel de-

sires to have the report, he should get it. I take it the member for East Perth will move for the tabling of the papers.

The PREMIER: I have no objection to the papers being tabled, but when a personal file is asked for, the member asking for it should satisfy the House as to his reason for requesting it. I do object to a case of this description being brought before the House time and time again. In 1913 a select committee consisting of Messrs. Lander, Harper, Munsie, B. J. Stubbs and Wisdom inquired into Hamel's case and reported. I felt a good deal of sympathy for this man because it was a mistake to bring him back a second time if his services were not wanted. He proposed to go to court, but his case was inquired into by the select committee who reported—

Your committee are of opinion that a great deal too much consideration has been shown Mr. Hamel, as his acceptance of three months' salary in full settlement of his claim, when his case was before the court, should have finally settled the matter.

That is signed "Titus Lander, Chairman." I did have a good deal of sympathy for this man, but he has evidently made up his mind that his case shall never be settled so long as he can get a member to bring it up in this House. I do not think anything more can be done. In reply to the member for Mount Magnet (Hon. M. F. Troy), young men are admitted to the service after examination. They may be taken on temporarily, but they have to pass an examination before being admitted to the service.

Hon. M. F. Troy: They may be kept on temporarily for years.

The PREMIER: Not the boys entering the service, though any temporary clerk, after having been employed for five years, may apply to be made permanent. Nowadays there are no pensions and this does not mean very much. The greatest care is exercised in appointing youths to the service. Perhaps too much consideration is given to the mere examination.

Hon. M. F. Troy: A new department to control the group settlements has been created, with Mr. McCay as secretary.

Mr. Mann: I am very glad of that. McCay got it on merit.

The PREMIER: It is very easy to say that the man who has got a job should not have it and that somebody else should have it.

Hon. M. F. TROY: My complaint is that juniors in the service are placed above the heads of seniors. I do not say that some juniors are not more competent than seniors, but there is such a thing as overlooking not only the seniority but the ability of men who are older in the service than others.

Mr. Mann: What about merit?

Hon. M. F. TROY: In this case it is a question of alleged merit only. An officer makes himself agreeable to a Minister and he

gets promotion. I do not say that he does not possess merit, but there may be others in the service quite capable of doing the work. There is considerable discontent amongst the officers. Mr. McCay may be a very capable officer, but because he has obtained the ear of the Minister he goes ahead. I would not be surprised if a big department ultimately grew out of this group settlement scheme.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I have not seen any of the cases mentioned by the member for Mt. Magnet. Civil servants are to-day better protected and looked after than ever before. It is the Public Service Commissioner who decides how things shall go.

Mr. PICKERING: I have been associated with the group settlement scheme since its inception. The officer in charge of it is Mr. Richardson, and he has under him a number of field officers. I thought some reward would have been given to these officers for their services, but I see nothing on the Estimates to show that they have been thought of. Mr. Richardson is receiving only about £450 a year, and some of his field officers are receiving less than the foreman in charge of individual groups. It is quite likely this will grow into a big department. I hope the Premier will see that these officers get a remuneration commensurate with their services, and that the department is placed under its own responsible Minister.

Mr. WILLCOCK: Mr. Lefroy, of the Lands and Surveys Department, has not been rightly treated. He has spent his life in the service and has done excellent work. No one can say a word against his ability or the value of his services. A vacancy occurs, and, notwithstanding his length of service, his seniority and ability, Mr. Camm is appointed over his head. A grave injustice has been done to Mr. Lefroy. I know that his views regarding closer settlement are not in accord with those of the Premier. The report submitted by him to Parliament with respect to unimproved land adjacent to railways has been spoken very highly of by numbers of people. There may be some ground for the suggestion that Mr. Lefroy would not be acceptable in the position of Surveyor General.

The Premier: Do not be ridiculous.

Mr. WILLCOCK: I should like to see Mr. Lefroy get his just reward. He has classified land all over the State and done a great deal for Western Australia. Notwithstanding this, towards the end of his career, he is passed over. There must be some special reason for this. I seriously suggest that, because of Mr. Lefroy's views on the question of unimproved land adjacent to our railways, he has been detrimentally affected.

The Premier: I assure you that is not so.

Mr. WILLCOCK: I am glad of the assurance, but I cannot see why he has been overlooked.

Mr. Corboy: I should like to have the Premier's reason as well as his assurance.

The Premier: The Public Service Commissioner made the recommendation.

Mr. WILLCOCK: It is all very well to place the responsibility upon him.

Mr. Johnston: A very good recommendation.

Mr. WILLCOCK: We should have some say as to the manner in which these high positions are filled.

The Minister for Works: You want the House to make the appointments?

Mr. WILLCOCK: When an appointment is made that we do not consider right, we should be given some reason for it. If reasons are not given the rumbling of discontent in the service will continue. I hardly know Mr. Lefroy.

Mr. Johnston: Did he apply for the position?

Mr. WILLCOCK: As one of the senior officers of the department he must have put in an application.

Mr. ANGELO: Have the Government considered, or has the Public Service Commissioner considered, the advisability of creating a provident fund in connection with the State service?

The CHAIRMAN: I do not think that is quite relevant under this item.

Mr. ANGELO: Under what vote can I discuss it?

Hon. M. F. TROY: By motion.

Mr. ANGELO: The fund would be controlled by the Public Service Commissioner.

The CHAIRMAN: I do not wish to burke discussion, but we must confine our arguments to the item before the Chair, and that is the Public Service Commissioner.

Hon. M. F. TROY: And all his activities.

The CHAIRMAN: The idea suggested by the member for Gascoyne would require an Act of Parliament. Nothing requiring legislation can be discussed on the Estimates.

Hon. M. F. TROY: On a point of order, in my opinion the hon. member is entitled to discuss that matter under the item. He is endeavouring to point out to the Premier a necessary innovation for the service controlled by the Public Service Commissioner. If on the Estimates members could only discuss what is provided for by Acts of Parliament, they could discuss very little. If the member for Gascoyne can submit, on this item, any proposition which would be for the advantage of the service controlled by the Public Service Commissioner, he is in order, I submit.

The CHAIRMAN: Some years ago on a discussion of the Legislative Council vote, it was held that nothing requiring legislation could be discussed in Committee on the Estimates. In view of that ruling, which was upheld, I consider the member for Gascoyne is not in order in suggesting under the item of Public Service Commissioner that a provident fund for the service should be started.

Hon. M. F. TROY: We can reverse the ruling referred to.

Mr. ANGELO: The Public Service Commissioner is the authority for fixing salaries, pensions, and compassionate allowances for the Public Service.

The Premier: You are wrong.

The Minister for Mines: He is only an administrative officer.

Mr. ANGELO: He controls the Public Service completely.

The Minister for Mines: Only subject to an Act of Parliament.

The CHAIRMAN: It has been ruled dozens of times that general discussion is prohibited once items have been touched on. Mr. Angelo's matter is irrelevant, and has nothing whatever to do with the question before the Chair.

Mr. ANGELO: We are on a division, not on an item, Sir. However, I can perhaps make my suggestion on the vote for the Treasury.

Hon. M. F. TROY: If the member for Gascoyne is satisfied, I will not press my point of order. The Premier should make some reply as to the complaint brought forward by the member for Geraldton.

The PREMIER: I have not yet had the chance. Applications were called for the position. The Public Service Commissioner made a recommendation. His recommendation was approved by Cabinet, and by the Governor in Council. There the matter ends.

Mr. Willcock: Irrespective of whether or not an injustice has been done?

The PREMIER: I do not think an injustice was done.

Mr. Willcock: A lot of people think so.

The PREMIER: If a recommendation of the Public Service Commissioner is not acceptable to the Government, it has to be disallowed by the Governor in Council.

Hon. M. F. TROY: In this case it was acceptable?

The PREMIER: Yes.

Hon. M. F. TROY: It was not inspired?

The PREMIER: No. I know nothing of the merits or demerits of either officer. The recommendation came along and was approved. Mr. Lefroy has been a friend of mine for many years.

Hon. M. F. TROY: It has been said that Mr. Camm is a special friend of the Premier. I do not think that is anything to his discredit.

The Premier: Mr. Lefroy has been very much longer my friend than Mr. Camm.

Hon. M. F. TROY: I consider a great injury was done to the service when Mr. King was removed.

Mr. Corboy: Hear, hear! He was a most efficient officer.

Hon. M. F. TROY: If there was an efficient officer in this country, it was Mr. King. He had a long departmental experience, and had given a lot of field service. In the most prosperous days of the mining industry he was Under Secretary for Mines. We have the Government six millions to the bad, hard up for money. We know there have been heavy

withdrawals from the Savings Bank during the last week or two. Yet the Government retire such men as Mr. King, Mr. Stenberg, and Mr. Wells, men with years of service in front of them, and pay them pensions. I was told by one of these gentlemen that six officials, who went out fishing the other day, between them were drawing £2,000 a year in pensions. This hard-up country is paying them pensions in order that other men, probably not so competent, may be appointed in their places. Mr. King and Mr. Canning are now actively engaged in private work, competing with private surveyors. Mr. Stenberg is engaged in business, and has been made a returning officer. Such men are pensioned off at a cost of thousands of pounds to the State in order that other men, having the sympathy of Ministers, may get their places. We all know that Mr. King was not acceptable to the Premier.

The Premier: You know nothing of the kind.

Hon. M. F. TROY: I do know it, and the Premier knows I know it.

The Premier: You do not know it.

Hon. M. F. TROY: I know that Mr. King did not like the Premier's methods, that as a responsible officer he could not approve of them.

The Premier: Nothing of the kind.

Hon. M. F. TROY: The Premier cannot deny it.

The Premier: I do deny it.

Hon. M. F. TROY: I know just as much about it as the Premier does.

The Premier: You know a lot.

Hon. M. F. TROY: Time will prove that the things Mr. King did not approve of are ultimately disastrous to this country. Before five years are over, the Premier will be the most cursed man in this country. Then his followers will desert him.

The CHAIRMAN: The Premier is not under discussion.

Hon. M. F. TROY: The services of these men have been dispensed with, but they should be in the service to-day. Their places have been taken by men not nearly so competent. I voice my protest because this has gone on too long. The retirement of Mr. King and of Mr. Stenberg was not deserved. It was bad for the country. Not even the Premier can justify it. It is a strange thing that the Public Service Commissioner always seems to be in a position to recommend the man who is wanted. I suppose he recommended Mr. McCay as Assistant Under Secretary for Group Settlement. I object to this sort of business. It was a bad snub to Mr. King when he was retired.

Mr. Corboy: It was most undeserved.

Hon. M. F. TROY: The same thing applies to Mr. Stenberg. Will the Premier suggest that these men retired of their own free will? Of course he will not.

Mr. Mann: Had they reached the age when they had to retire?

Hon. M. F. TROY: I hope there will be no more of this business. Are we to have a dictatorship under which men are pushed out of the service because they do not meet a Premier's views?

The PREMIER: The member for Mt. Magnet (Hon. M. F. Troy) should amend the Superannuation Act. If men are not to be retired from the service at the age of 60, the Act should say so.

Mr. Corboy: The Commissioner can extend the service from year to year.

The PREMIER: But the Act says that an officer may be called upon to retire at 60 years of age. In any case, the Government have to take the responsibility.

The Minister for Mines: The Public Service Association ask us to deal strictly with that matter, because it is unfair to other officers if the Act is not complied with.

The PREMIER: If the Act should be interpreted to mean that a man must be retired at 70 or 80, let the Act say so.

The Minister for Mines: The Public Service would have something to say on that point.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—Government Motor Car Service £2,186.

Hon. M. F. TROY: I move an amendment—

That the vote be reduced by £1,000.

The way in which this vote has increased is most striking. Surely the activities of Ministers were no less some years ago than they are now.

The Premier: This vote does not refer to Ministers alone.

Hon. M. F. TROY: The activities of Government departments were no less then than they are to-day.

The Minister for Mines: In those days cars were operated by the different departments.

Hon. M. F. TROY: To-day we are asked to vote £6,510 for contingencies. Last year the vote was £6,400, and the expenditure £7,505. This year, the estimated expenditure for contingencies is £6,510. We should discourage this trend. I do not deny that the work of departments is probably done with more expedition by officers using motor cars, but the vote is increasing annually. I move the amendment in order to emphasise the necessity for economy.

The PREMIER: The vote covers cars used by officials from most of the departments who have to travel long distances in many cases. The vote really means economy, for the provision of motor cars enables officers to attend to their duties more quickly. The vote is not large for the work that must be done, and I hope the Committee will reject the amendment.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: While the Premier was speaking I was thinking what a different tale there was regarding motor cars a few years ago.

Hon. M. F. Troy: You are right. What a squeal there was then!

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Every year present-day Ministers, who were then sitting in Opposition, used to cry out about the expenditure by the Labour Government on motor cars.

The Premier: This does not apply only to Ministers.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Nor did it in those days. I remember the present Minister for Mines explaining the position thoroughly on behalf of the Labour Government. In those days they said the first thing they would do when they got into office would be to cut down the expenditure on motor cars.

Mr. Munsie: Last year £4,648 was spent on the maintenance of the workshop, repairs and hire of cars for all departments.

The Minister for Works: Officers must do their work.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I know that, but I am reminding the Premier and the Minister for Works of what they said when they were sitting on the Opposition side of the House.

The Premier: The Government realise that it is cheaper to run the work of departments with motor cars.

The Colonial Secretary: Besides which, the bulk of this expenditure is on Fords, not motor cars!

Hon. M. F. Troy: That is a brilliant interjection from the Minister!

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Not only present-day Ministers, but the Press kicked up a row and used big headlines to condemn the Labour Government on this question. It must be admitted that the vote is continually increasing, and I cannot say whether there is the same supervision as formerly. I do know that it has been found necessary to build up the Premier's Department during the past few years.

Mr. A. Thomson: That is the trouble with all departments when they are started.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The motor car service should be transferred from the Premier's office and placed under the control of the Minister for Works.

The Minister for Mines: I suppose the Premier would have to ring up the Minister for Works and ask for a car.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Yes.

The Minister for Mines: Oh, gee! Fancy that!

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I know they are particular in the Premier's Office about the use of cars. There is a scrutiny at times. When Colonel Newcombe visited Western Australia a few months ago with a view to inspecting the State and its possibilities—there was a chance of the expenditure of about two millions of money in this State under his scheme—the Premier's secretary could not provide a car for him as no private person could have them. I endeavoured to find the Colonial Secretary, because I was confident he would have placed his private car at the disposal of Colonel Newcombe. Unfortunately, the Colonial Secretary was with the Minister for Works arranging with him

to open a new road in the hills. I cannot support the member for Mt. Magnet in his amendment, but I recognise the department requires careful handling. I believe cars are sometimes used by officers when cheaper transport could be used. When I had access to the accounts I know that inspectors of the Education Department used cars when they could easily have availed themselves of the railways.

Mr. ANGELO: I should like to know whether the Government have ever considered the standardising of the State cars. We see half-a-dozen makes of cars in the service. That necessitates the keeping of half-a-dozen sets of duplicate parts.

The Minister for Works: No.

Mr. ANGELO: Not only that, but a mechanic, if dealing with only one make of car, can effect his repairs in half the time required where a number of different makes are dealt with.

The Premier: I agree with that.

Mr. ANGELO: I mentioned this five years ago, and the then Premier, Sir Henry Lefroy, said it was a good suggestion and that he would see whether it could be adopted. Still the same thing obtains. The standardisation of the cars would mean a big reduction.

Mr. Munsie: Which make of car do you suggest?

Mr. ANGELO: That would have to be determined by officials who understand cars. Again, if the Government were to decide upon one make of car, probably the vendors would allow a big reduction in the price.

Mr. Lutey: One car might be better in the country, and another in the city.

Mr. ANGELO: It might be necessary to have two makes of cars, but certainly not as many as we have to-day.

Amendment put and negatived.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—Printing, £66,434:

Item, Government Printer's Provident Fund, £50.

Mr. ANGELO: It would be a good thing if we had a guarantee and provident fund to cover the whole of the Public Service; a fund similar to those instituted by many big financial concerns and the public services in some of the other States. We should have the one fund for all permanent employees of the Government.

The Minister for Mines: What about the chap on casual work?

Mr. ANGELO: The casual employees should be added to the permanent staff as soon as it is seen that their services will be permanently required. We have compassionate allowances and pensions to be provided out of revenue. Again, many of our officers are not covered by fidelity bonds.

Mr. Hughes: Is this to be a superannuation fund or a fidelity guarantee?

Mr. ANGELO: Both. The officers should contribute so much per cent. of their salary

every year, and the fund should be subsidised by the Government. Out of it any moneys wrongfully taken could be made good, and all pensions and compassionate allowances provided. If at any time an officer were retired, his retiring allowance would come from the fund. When we consider the amount to be paid in pensions this year, the compassionate allowances, and the amount required to make good moneys wrongfully used—a pretty heavy sum—it is seen that the Government could afford to liberally subsidise such a fund.

The Minister for Mines: Surely you do not propose that honest employees should make good the deficiency caused by dishonest officers?

Mr. ANGELO: You make a lot of your officers pay insurance for fidelity. This fund would do that.

The Minister for Mines: Where are you to get the fund from? You are asking honest employees to contribute something towards the depredations of dishonest officers.

Mr. HUGHES: Fidelity bonds are taken only from officers handling cash.

Mr. ANGELO: A fund such as this would cover the lot.

Mr. HUGHES: But why demand a fidelity bond from an officer who is not handling cash?

Mr. ANGELO: Provision could be made from the fund to cover fidelity bonds. Every officer should contribute to the fund, and would be guaranteed by the fund, while at his retirement or death the fund would provide him, or his widow, with a pension. I have the rules of such funds, which I shall be only too pleased to submit as a guide. The Public Service is attaining such dimensions that provision ought to be made for fidelity guarantees.

Mr. HUGHES: The Government ought to go further than inaugurating a fund exclusively for the Public Service. If a superannuation fund is good for the Public Service, it is good also for all the workers in the State. It is unfair to ask the taxpayer, who perhaps is receiving a smaller salary than the public servant, to subscribe the revenue required to subsidise a fund for the superannuation of the Public Service, particularly when the taxpayer has no chance to participate in the benefits arising from that fund. What is required is a national superannuation or insurance scheme. It could be financed with the money now subscribed by the people to various insurance companies. The taking over of the whole thing by the State would result in a material saving to the people now paying insurance premiums, and an enormous saving in the running of one scheme instead of many. Outside the Public Service are men as much entitled to, and in greater need of, superannuation than are the public servants.

The Minister for Works: You want a general insurance fund?

Mr. HUGHES: Yes, and a levy on industries, particularly those injurious to health.

Take the mining industry, which has filled the sanatorium—

Mr. PICKERING: What has this to do with the vote?

The Minister for Mines: You are now introducing three different questions. Superannuation differs from insurance, and both differ from compensation.

Mr. HUGHES: The broad principle in each is the same. The suggestion that all officers should contribute to a fidelity guarantee—

The Minister for Mines: A brilliant idea that is!

Mr. HUGHES: Yes, it is hard on the honest officer, and hard also on those officers not handling cash.

The Minister for Mines: Of course such officers might get away with the blotting paper.

Mr. HUGHES: I hope the Government will not take the fidelity bond suggestion seriously. The Government themselves should pay the fidelity bond. Take an instance: Of two officers, each on £300 per annum, one is given a position where he has no cash to handle. The other man has to handle money and he has the greater responsibility. If he loses a few shillings, he makes it up out of his own pocket. The man with the greater responsibility should receive a higher salary.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: We are getting a long way from the item, which is a contribution of £50 to the Government Printer's provident fund. This is a fund established to make payments to members of the printing staff absent through sickness. It has nothing to do with fidelity guarantees or superannuation.

Mr. MANN: I cannot agree with the member for East Perth that, because an outside worker may be on a lower salary, he should not subscribe to a Civil Service pension fund. The same argument might be applied to the outside worker paying his quota towards the civil servant's salary. I favour a superannuation or pension scheme for the Civil Service because it would make the employees more contented, and this, in turn, would lead to greater efficiency.

Mr. HUGHES: Does not that apply to the worker outside?

Mr. MANN: The worker outside could make his own arrangements. The police have a benefit fund and desire to convert it into a pension fund. I support the suggestion that such a fund should be established.

Hon. M. F. TROY: I know a number of men who have worked on the railways for 20 or 25 years and have given the best of their lives to the service and, having failed to pass the eye test, have been discharged. I have received some very pitiful letters from the wives of such men, who find themselves in dire distress. They were unable to save anything out of their wages while bringing up a family, and no provision has been made for them. One of these men saw me the other day. He could do his work, but the depart-

ment want as much as they can get and this man cannot keep pace with the young and vigorous men.

Mr. Teesdale: How old was that man?

Hon. M. F. TROY: About 55.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: And he is not old enough for the old age pension.

Hon. M. F. TROY: That is so. It is high time we had a proper scheme. Every person who gives his life to a service should be in a provident fund. The Government will not go in for insurance because the insurance companies appoint members of Parliament to their directorates. Now that the Government have started a provident fund in the Printing Office, I hope similar provision will be made in other departments, particularly for railway employees and the men who build the railways.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: So far as is practicable we are handling the question of recognising the services of our salaried and wages staffs. We are considering the question of applying it to all men in the railway service.

Mr. Willecock: It has been too long under consideration.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I do not deny that, but the fact remains that we are handling it. A scheme has been submitted by the staff, including the wages men, of the Railway Department to provide a fund for such men as those mentioned by the member for Mt. Magnet. When we have reached finality and obtained an expression of opinion from the men, Parliament will be asked to pass legislation. The same applies to the police. They have a benefit fund that encourages a man to remain in the service for 12 years and then to get out. We ought to make them realise that they have a permanent position and that, by remaining in the service, they will obtain something in the nature of a competence when they retire. Legislation will be required to terminate the Police Benefit Fund and make provision for superannuation.

Mr. Mann: Are you bringing it in this session?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: That will depend on whether the men accept the proposals. When a man has served the State for many years his work should be recognised when, owing to ill health or other reasons for which he is not responsible, he is unable to continue.

Mr. WILCOCK: What is being done regarding workers' compensation? Right through the Estimates there seems to be provision for different systems. Is £1,500 a year to cover all the activities or is there some new scheme?

The PREMIER: The payments into the workers' compensation fund are being kept up. A sum of £18,000 or £20,000 a year is being paid in and the fund is being maintained at £50,000.

Vote put and passed.

Vote — *Tourist and Publicity Bureau*, £1,628:

Hon. M. F. TROY: I understand the Government are spending some money at Nornalup to establish a tourist resort there. A considerable sum has been spent in the South-West—on the caves and at Augusta. I believe Nornalup is a very fine resort, but we should not incur too much expenditure there until it is made accessible by railway.

The Premier: I do not know of any expenditure there.

Hon. M. F. TROY: It is a mistake to spend money on any locality until cheap means of access are available. Nornalup is not accessible to the great majority of people.

The Premier: There is no expenditure contemplated at Nornalup for tourist purposes that I know of.

Hon. M. F. TROY: Arrangements should be made for people on the goldfields to visit these tourist resorts, or, if they wish to do so, go to Dongara or Geraldton, at reasonable railway rates. Women and children on the goldfields must be able to get away during the summer months so that their health may be restored. I am aware that excursion rates to Perth are in operation, but they should be extended, and should have a currency of, say, three months. People in the country should be enabled to have cheap trips to other parts of the State, so that they may gain experience and acquire a greater knowledge of Western Australia. I approve of the Publicity Bureau, and I think its operations might be extended. The tours I speak of should be made as cheap and comfortable as possible.

The Colonial Secretary: The accommodation at the Government tourist resorts is equal to the best.

Hon. M. F. TROY: The trips to the North-West and beyond are unfortunately outside the means of most people. It is a pity such trips could not be of more frequent occurrence. The more people travel about the State the more will they appreciate it. I do not know whether the exhibition in Barrack-street is of any value to the country.

Mr. Mann: It is a good advertisement, but it is in the wrong class of building.

Hon. M. F. TROY: Yes. The building is not big enough. The Central Railway Station is the place for the exhibition.

Mr. Pickering: What about the new street?

Hon. M. F. TROY: That would be ideal. Perhaps the Commonwealth Government could be induced to give up one of their shops for the exhibition. They ought to be patriotic enough to give us this opportunity of displaying our wares. The Publicity Department should be so situated that visitors from the Eastern States or abroad, coming by train or steamer, may readily find it and avail themselves of the information obtainable there.

Mr. LUTEX: The vote might well be increased. The time table from Kalgoorlie to Adelaide should be altered, and arrangements made for the train to leave later in the day so that visitors passing through on their way to the Eastern States might have an opportunity of paying a visit to the Golden Mile. As things are, they pass through Kalgoorlie without having an opportunity of seeing the central attraction of our goldfields.

Mr. PICKERING: The Bureau should be centrally situated, and the best place for it is in the new street opposite the railway station. The Prime Minister is full of promises, and it is about time some of them were fulfilled. The member for Williams-Narrogin suggests that the Premier should ask for a corner block, and I agree with him.

Hon. W. C. ANGIN: The Immigration Bureau should be placed under the control of the Tourist and Publicity Bureau. There used to be a nice exhibition on the Fremantle wharf of Western Australian products, but for years the exhibits have been a disgrace to the State, and the Premier should have them either radically altered or else abolished.

Mr. CHESSON: The Government should grant cheaper facilities for goldfields residents to visit health resorts, such as Dongara beach, where a few pounds might well be spent on providing accommodation. The Tourist and Publicity Bureau should certainly be located near the railway station.

The PREMIER: I have made a note of hon. members' suggestions. Railway matters, such as excursion fares, are not covered by this vote; but I agree that it would be well for the State if women and children from the goldfields could get to the seaside in summer.

Mr. MONEY: I hope that in future the treatment meted out to all summer resorts will be equal and without any differentiation whatever. During last year's discussion the Committee were shown a handbill which gave evidence of much greater consideration for one seaside resort than for another.

Mr. MARSHALL: The amount provided for publicity purposes is very small. Is anything done by the department in the way of advertising outside the State?

The PREMIER: Not by this department.

Mr. MARSHALL: Other States, and particularly Queensland and Tasmania, are outstripping Western Australia in the matter of advertising, as we can see for ourselves in all our public libraries and reading-rooms. The time has arrived for us to advertise our pleasure resorts prominently in the Eastern States. However, the matter can be better discussed in connection with the Railway Department. I hope that when next year's Estimates come round, the expenditure on advertising will prove to have been greater than here provided.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—*State Labour Bureau, £2,231—* agreed to.

Vote—Literary and Scientific Grants, etc., £9,250:

Mr. WILLCOCK: When will the Government resume the practice of doing something for literary institutes in the country? The whole of the expenditure of £6,000 in this connection is practically concentrated on Perth, illustrating one of the evils of centralisation, concerning which we hear so much.

The Colonial Secretary: That amount includes the travelling library.

Mr. WILLCOCK: Geraldton has established a public library which is used by numerous visitors from the Murchison. Formerly the Government subsidised the Geraldton institution.

The PREMIER: Many years ago.

Mr. WILLCOCK: Not so many years ago. During the war people thought they were patriotic in not pressing for grants for such purposes. But that condition of affairs does not apply to-day. The people in the country districts are deserving of consideration in this matter.

Mr. MANN: But you do not want to see our museum lag behind the museums of the Eastern States;

Mr. WILLCOCK: I do not want to see anything in this State lag behind what is to be found in any other Australian State, but Perth should not receive practically the whole of this £6,000, out of which Kalgoorlie alone gets £100. The Geraldton people have repeatedly applied for assistance, and as late as the 4th of this month the Premier's secretary wrote to them stating that in the present financial position it is not possible to grant them the assistance they ask for. If it is not possible to give any assistance whatever to country districts, we are not justified in expending this £6,000 in Perth. I am not prepared to go on agreeing to the expenditure of money in the city while the country is lacking facilities that should be provided.

Member: Move to reduce the vote!

Mr. WILLCOCK: I will not do that; I want to see the vote increased. The time has arrived when there should be a reconsideration of the policy regarding grants to literary institutes. These institutions provide books, magazines and papers for the use of people at different country centres without any charge. They are worthy of assistance and I hope the Premier will tell us when, in his opinion, the financial position will be such that it will be possible to grant this assistance. For the past eight or nine years, the same excuse has been made regarding the state of the finances, but that position does not debar the Government from granting £6,000 to the Perth Public Library and Museum.

Mr. MANN: Do you think that is too much for the metropolis?

Mr. WILLCOCK: No, but I do not want all this expenditure concentrated in one place.

Mr. Munsie: How many Australian authors will you find represented in the Public Library?

Mr. WILLCOCK: I don't want to enter into a discussion on that question.

Mr. Munsie: I don't think you will find three.

Mr. WILLCOCK: If the Government were to select five or six country towns and give them a small grant every two or three years, if it is not possible to provide an amount annually, it would be greatly appreciated.

Mr. Angelo: What about the smaller towns further away?

Mr. WILLCOCK: They should get consideration too.

Mr. MONEY: I support the remarks of the member for Geraldton. I would like some information regarding the travelling libraries. Up to the present I know very little of them. If we wish to keep the people in the country, we must do something for them. There is some reason why people want to live in the city, and if we want to keep people in the country areas, we should give them some of the pleasures available in Perth. The season has made life in the country deplorable. There are neither roads, trams, libraries, museums, or anything else that will help make the lives of the people more pleasant. The sooner the policy is altered, the better it will be for the State.

Mr. WILSON: I support the member for Geraldton. Surely other portions of the State in addition to Perth and Kalgoorlie are entitled to a grant. If the Government were to give Geraldton, Bunbury, Collie and other centres of decent proportions a grant, they would receive the support of members. When I was secretary of the library in Collie, we used to get as much as £100 a year, according to our membership.

The Premier: That was before you put up the price of coal.

Mr. WILSON: Never mind that. The travelling libraries are of great advantage to the country people. The only trouble about them is that sometimes you get books as old as the hills. The present generation does not want too much of Walter Scott and Dickens, but desires standard authors as well.

Hon. M. F. TROY: What about Victoria Cross?

Mr. WILSON: Never mind about Victoria Cross.

Mr. Hughes: You are old enough to be moral.

Mr. WILSON: Yes. We want some of the later authors represented in the books sent out.

Mr. Money: You might divide the library up for a while.

The PREMIER: I should be glad indeed to put a large sum on the Estimates for the purposes suggested. The provision of £6,000 for the Public Library, Museum, and so on, has to be paid, for it is a public responsibility. The same applies to the £100 for the Kalgoorlie library. That is in respect of some money we guaranteed some time ago.

Mr. Wilson: That is all right, but we want some more.

The PREMIER: The travelling libraries absorb a fair proportion of the £6,000, and I believe those libraries are appreciated by the country people. Boxes of books are sent out and carriage is paid one way.

Mr. Money: How many boxes are there?

The PREMIER: I do not know offhand. I had a list last year and the places were widely separated.

Mr. Wilson: They will send a box wherever it is wanted.

The PREMIER: They are very good. It is a very good thing indeed, and benefits large numbers of people. I understand the books are widely distributed.

Mr. Angelo: Is any charge made?

The PREMIER: None whatever.

Mr. Angelo: I never heard of it before.

The PREMIER: I hope hon. members will not confuse this grant to the museum with the grant once paid to various libraries throughout the State.

Mr. Wilson: Will you consider the advisability of putting it on again next session?

The PREMIER: Yes, next session.

Hon. M. F. TROY: I do not agree that the grant to the museum should be cut down. The artistic life of the city demands a museum and art gallery. We have in Perth a remarkably fine collection of books and pictures, and only in the city can it be maintained. This grant is as much for the country as for the city, for the art gallery and library are there for everybody. I can testify to the benefits conferred by the travelling libraries. They go into the most remote places, even to Payne's Find, 130 miles from the railway. It is a pity that ever the grants to back country libraries were cut out, for to have access to books is one of the chief solaces of country life. When a man has the enjoyment of reading he does not look for much other diversion. A library is a necessity to the people of the country. That is what is wanted in the back country, and the Government ought to help supply that want.

Mr. CHESSEX: It is now ten years since the grants to back country libraries were cut out. Since then for the most part the people have had to make their own provision for reading. At Day Dawn we have a library containing 2,000 books, but it has had no Government assistance for the past 10 years. I know from experience what a great good the travelling libraries are doing. The grant here provided for the public library and museum is by no means too much, but I should like to see an additional sum for back country libraries even though it meant not more than £15 or £20 per annum to each library. This is one of the few pleasures available to the people in the outback places. Many of our books are out of date and, unless we receive assistance, we cannot obtain new ones.

Mr. MONEY: Is it necessary to apply through a country library in order to get the advantage of the travelling library, or can a group of individuals get it?

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The Premier: A group of individuals can get it.

Mr. MONEY: That is not generally known. I shall certainly make it more widely known in my district.

Mr. WILSON: I understand it is necessary to give a guarantee that any books lost will be replaced.

The Premier: Quite so.

Mr. WILSON: Cases are sent out containing 60 to 80 books.

The Premier: The cases vary in size.

Mr. WILSON: It is advisable to arrange for someone to take charge.

Mr. PICKERING: Are these books being made available to group settlers?

The PREMIER: The books are available to any group of people anywhere in the State.

Mr. J. H. Smith: Is it proposed to send "Hansard" out to the groups?

The PREMIER: No, we cannot afford it.

Item, *Acclimatisation of fish, birds, and animals*, £75:

Mr. CHESSEON: This is a very small amount in proportion to the good work done. As a result of Mr. Kingsmill's work, the dams from one end of the Murchison to the other are stocked with fish that have come on well.

The Premier: I agree it is a very small vote.

Hon. M. F. TROY: I would like some information about the £100 for the Law Library.

The CHAIRMAN: We have passed that item.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—*Lands and Surveys*, £96,446:

Progress reported.

House adjourned at 10.55 p.m.

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

PAPERS—INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, ADVANCES.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION (Hon. J. Ewing—South-West) [4.35]: I now lay on the Table of the House the papers giving the names of the firms and persons to whom advances have been made from the Industrial Development Vote, in accordance with the motion moved yesterday by Mr. Lovekin.

QUESTION—WYNDHAM MEAT WORKS.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN asked the Minister for Education: Will he lay upon the Table the agreement with Messrs. Speed, Thomson & Co., relating to the sale of Wyndham meat and the file connected therewith?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: Yes. I now lay the papers on the Table.

QUESTION—DWARDA-NARROGIN AND OTHER RAILWAYS.

Hon. J. A. GREIG asked the Minister for Education: 1, Will he lay on the Table of the House all Advisory Boards' reports, or other reports of responsible officers concerning the Dwarda-Narrogin railway? 2, All Advisory Boards' reports or other responsible officers' reports concerning a railway from Dwarda to Codjatinine? 3, All reports as to the proposed railway from Brookton westward?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: Yes. I now lay the papers on the Table.

QUESTION—WATER SUPPLIES, MT. MONGER DAM.

Hon. E. H. HARRIS asked the Minister for Education: Will the Public Works De-