

money. Our housing accommodation is by no means good. Just consider the railwaymen's houses at Mullewa. The Government say they would like to build houses there for the railwaymen, but they have not the money. I want to know how long we are going to carry on under this sustenance system. It is hard enough for the basic wage man to make ends meet, but the sustenance worker is sent out into the country, where prices are high, and so he has to keep two homes going. Moreover, this system is likely to break up the happy homes in which those men should be living. I hope the time will soon come when the sustenance system will be discarded and we shall get all our men on to the basic wage. The basic wage men have taken a stand in so far as the wife and two children are concerned. We said that we would provide a basic wage for a man on the basis of his wife and two children, and it remains at that to-day, which is surely very unfortunate in a young country like this. Jack Lang has an awful name in this country, but it is to his credit that he instituted child endowment in New South Wales. It has remained there. Had we instituted it in Western Australia at the same time, it would have become a Treasury responsibility, as it is in New South Wales, and so when we go to the Loan Council we would be on the same basis as in New South Wales. In New South Wales the scheme is costing about £1,000,000 and, of course, that is taken into account. The leaders in New South Wales took the responsibility in the first place, and when they go to the Loan Council they put that up as a reason for more money, and so they are allowed for it. It is unfortunate for this young country that we have not larger families. That is the view working men are taking to-day, with their two children when they should have more. Much of the work of the working men is being done by machinery, and no provision is made for the men themselves. We introduced machinery without making any provision for the men who had carried on the industry for years. Whenever machines are put in, those looking after the affairs of the State should make provision for those men who will be put out of work as a result of the introduction of the machinery. There are many other matters I should like to touch upon, but I am aware, of course, that I shall have an opportunity later on. I ask members to remember that the Government of the day have not a very enviable task before them. Mr. Parker said that previous Governments had had

a very bad time. However, I do hope that members of Parliament will do all they can to assist the Government of the day to do their best for the State. That would be much better than continually finding fault. A little praise gets us a long way. If you are continually telling someone that he does not do the right thing, I think he gets sick of trying to do the right thing. Here we have a Government endeavouring to provide necessary facilities in this large State, and we realise what an impossible task that is for the Government in their present circumstances. We should endeavour to put forward ideas as to how things could be improved, rather than be content to sit back and criticise the Government, without ever offering a useful suggestion.

On motion by Hon. C. G. Elliott, debate adjourned.

*House adjourned at 5.40 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly.

*Thursday, 19th August, 1937.*

	PAGE
Questions: Imprisonment of Frank Evans ....	181
North-West problems ....	183
George Elliott's file ....	183
Committees for the Session ....	182
Address-in-reply, seventh day, conclusion ....	182
Bills: State Government Insurance Office, 1E. ....	214
Workers' Compensation Act Amendment, 1E. ....	214
Air Navigation, 1E. ....	214
Main Roads Act Amendment Act, 1932, Amendment, 1E. ....	214
Rural Relief Fund Act Amendment, 1E. ....	214
Sales by Auction, 1E. ....	214
Lotteries (Control) Act Amendment, 1E. ....	214

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

### QUESTION—IMPRISONMENT OF FRANK EVANS.

Mr. J. MacCALLUM SMITH asked the Minister for Justice: 1, How long before the death of Frank Evans was it decided by the

Government to release him? 2, Was that decision communicated to Evans? If so, by whom and when? 3, If not, why not?

The MINISTER FOR JUSTICE replied: 1 to 3, After the decision of the court in the Evans case the matter was considered by Cabinet and a decision was reached that Evans be detained for six months and the matter would then be reviewed. Unfortunately Evans died before the expiration of this time.

### QUESTION—NORTH-WEST PROBLEMS.

Mr. COVERLEY asked the Premier: 1, Has his attention been drawn to an address delivered to the Institute of Engineers by the Chairman (G. Drake-Brockman, M.C.M.I.E.) on 5th April, 1937, discussing North-West problems? 2, If so, will he procure copies and have same delivered to all members of both Houses of Parliament and all official heads of Government departments for their information and guidance?

The PREMIER replied: 1, Not previously. 2, This matter will receive consideration.

### QUESTION—GEORGE ELLIOTT'S FILE.

Miss HOLMAN asked the Minister for Employment: Is it his intention to place the file of George L. Elliott on the Table of the House?

The MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT replied: If it be desired, the file will be placed on the Table of the House.

### COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION.

**THE PREMIER** (Hon. J. C. Willecock—Geraldton): I move—

That the following sessional committees be appointed:—

*Library*—Mr. Speaker, Miss Holman, and Mr. Patrick.

*Standing Orders*—Mr. Speaker, the Chairman of Committees, Mr. Doney, Mr. Johnson, and Mr. Sampson.

*House*—Mr. Speaker, Mr. Lambert, Mr. McLarty, Mr. Stubbs, and Mr. Wilson.

*Printing*—Mr. Speaker, Mr. J. MacCallum Smith, and Mr. Withers.

**HON. C. G. LATHAM** (York): I know that this is the usual motion introduced every year. During the many years I have been here I have often wondered, as no doubt other members have wondered, what these committees are appointed for and to whom they report. I do not remember a report from any of these committees being presented to the House.

Mr. Marshall: What about the report of the Standing Orders committee last session?

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: Yes, that committee made some alterations in the Standing Orders, but that was on a definite direction by the House. I think we should have at least one report each year from each of these committees. You, Mr. Speaker, might tell me when last the printing committee had a meeting.

Mr. SPEAKER: Last year.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: There was no report to the House about it.

Mr. SPEAKER: As a matter of fact they have had one meeting this year.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: The House committee meet from time to time, but do not report to the House. They are a little authority to themselves. The Standing Orders committee, under instructions from the House, met last year, and I understand that the library committee meet from time to time but do not report to anybody. I think we should have one report per annum from these committees so that they might thus justify their appointment.

Question put and passed.

### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

*Seventh Day—Conclusion.*

**HON. P. D. FERGUSON** (Irwin-Moore) [4.37]: The Speech of His Excellency, the Lieut.-Governor, in opening this session of Parliament, did not convey very much information to the House or to the country generally. These opening speeches do not vary much in that respect. I have listened to governor's opening speeches for the past 10 years, and I know they have not varied very much. This latest Speech did not indicate to Parliament or to the people of the State much about the intentions of the Government. It was purely a resume of some

governmental activities which, I presume, the Government of the day wished to bring under the notice of the people, and which might reflect some credit upon them. The season we are experiencing is causing very great concern, both to the Government and to the people of the State, particularly the agricultural section of the community. After having made a start which was probably as auspicious as that of any other season we have ever had and gave promise of everything favourable, towards mid-winter the rains eased off to so marked an extent that to-day we are almost in the throes of a drought in some of our agricultural areas. In quite a number of districts that are regarded as safe rainfall areas the farming community are beginning to wonder whether or not they are going to get crops at all. There are one or two such instances on the Midland line, which is regarded as a safe district, where the farmers have already turned their stock into the crops. That is a dreadful state of affairs, and it is going to be reflected next year, I suppose, more than this year in the finances of the State. It has been said that the financial emergency tax, from which the Treasurer expects to receive a million pounds, should be regarded as ordinary income taxation. If we are to have a drought in the agricultural areas the Treasurer will require to bring down another financial emergency tax, because in the event of a drought there will be a real financial emergency, not a fictitious one such as we have had during the last few years. We have been notified by those in authority that we have passed through the depression and got back to a more normal basis. If that is so there would appear to be no real necessity for any taxation to be designated financial emergency taxation. I suggest to the Treasurer that the time has arrived when he should drop that tax in favour of ordinary income tax, and reduce it as soon as he possibly can. I can assure him that there will be a very keen demand for real financial emergency taxation for the assistance of our primary producers if the season finishes up as it is going to-day. From time to time we have been told that everybody was looking forward to good rains that seemed to be imminent, but in every instance the result was disappointing. There is neither feed nor water in the stock-carrying areas, except in some favoured districts along the Great Southern or down in the South-West,

and the outlook is very depressing. I do not wish to be pessimistic, but it is as well that we should face the facts. It is unfortunate, too, that when we have a dry season pests such as grasshoppers come along and take what little crop or grass there is. When the Premier was in London I noticed that at a function held in his honour there he said that agricultural production in Western Australia continued to grow apace, and that all was well.

The Premier: Did not it look like it then?

Hon. P. D. FERGUSON: It looked like it when the Premier left here, but it did not look like it when the Premier made that statement. We were very apprehensive about it just at that time.

The Minister for Mines: Why, it looked like it when he landed back here, let alone the time when he made that statement!

Hon. P. D. FERGUSON: It may have seemed so to the inexperienced Minister for Mines. I can only express the hope that we shall yet get bountiful rains. Victoria was in a very bad way only a few weeks ago, but she has now had bountiful rains which have improved her prospects considerably. There is still time for us to have sufficient rain to give a good harvest over much of the State, but I am afraid that in some districts at least it is already too late. I am sorry the Minister for Agriculture is not in his place, because there are one or two matters concerning the Department of Agriculture which I wish briefly to discuss. I sincerely regret the accident that occurred to the Minister, and I join with other members in expressing the hope that he will soon be back in his place here. I wish to refer to the wonderful work which has been carried out by an officer of the department, Dr. Bennetts, in his research work into stock diseases in this State. For the last hundred years in some of our best stock-raising districts people have unfortunately been unable to rear any great number of lambs. It is a common occurrence for ewes during their useful breeding life only to raise one lamb in certain districts. Instead of raising one lamb a year, they only raise one lamb in their lives. Graziers in those areas have found it necessary to get rid of such ewes, after they have raised the one lamb, to another district. The districts I refer to are mainly situated between the Midland railway and the coast. They comprise some of

our best grazing areas. I think every leading veterinary officer in this State, and certainly every leading veterinarian of the Department of Agriculture, has devoted a good deal of his time and attention to endeavouring to discover the cause and a cure for the disease that is commonly known as rickets. There is a vast difference between rickets of that nature and the ordinary rickets which stock get from eating palms. This disease mainly occurs in lambs, but it also occurs in calves and foals. It is found in the coastal areas between the Midland railway and the Indian Ocean. Of my own knowledge for the last 40 years every grazier in these areas has done his utmost to ascertain the cause of the disease and if possible to find a cure for it. They have invoked the aid of the Agricultural Department ever since it has been in existence. Quite recently Dr. Bennetts, as a result of several years of research work, and with the aid of a chemist from another department, succeeded in ascertaining the cause of the disease and in putting before residents of those districts what promises to be an effective cure. This will be worth a great deal to the State. Some recognition should be accorded Dr. Bennetts for his untiring work. He is a born scientist and research worker. The stock raisers of Western Australia desire that some recognition should be made by the State or Commonwealth authorities for the painstaking work and the perseverance Dr. Bennetts has brought to bear upon his investigations. I hope on his return the Minister for Agriculture will discuss the matter with the C.S.I.R. and the Federal Government, in conjunction with whom and the Department of Agriculture Dr. Bennetts has been carrying on operations for some years. I trust by that means some suitable recognition will be made of the value of the services which have been rendered by this scientist. For many years past Western Australia has been fortunate in its veterinary officers who have been attached to the Department of Agriculture. They have made a name for themselves, but because we in Western Australia have not been able to pay them a sufficient salary they have found better jobs elsewhere. I do not want that to happen in the case of Dr. Bennetts, whose services we cannot afford to lose. The stock-raising industry is of vital importance to Western Australia,

and associated with it are many big problems. Unless we retain the services of trained scientists and research investigators, such as Dr. Bennetts, the industry will be bound to suffer. I hope something will be done to show the appreciation of the State for his services, and that they may be retained to us. In some of our older settled areas, particularly in what is known as the jam and York gum belt, as a result of the clearing of timber for some years past, many salt patches have appeared. Through the clearing of timber on the higher slopes this salinity has made itself manifest on the lower slopes. These salt patches have recently become bigger and bigger, until to-day they represent quite a considerable area. I urge upon the Government and the Minister for Agriculture to take steps to endeavour to find some fodder grass that will grow on these salt patches. One settler in my district, Mr. Truman, has been in touch with scientists all over the world. He has secured seeds of various plants, some of which give promise of taking hold in these salt patches. That, however, is not the province of the private individual. The Department of Agriculture should be able to tackle the job much better.

Mr. Stubbs: Mangels will grow there.

Hon. P. D. FERGUSON: Settlers cannot be expected to undertake to grow hundreds of acres of mangels. They cost a lot to produce. Unless a man is running a dairy property, the crop can hardly be put to profitable use. Mangels are useful in the case of cows, but the rainfall must be heavy. They are not a practical crop to grow in ordinary wheat and sheep areas, and a lot of labour is required to grow such a crop. We want a fodder grass that will thrive on this comparatively salt land, a fodder that is useful for stock. Similar areas are to be found all over the world. I understand that in Russia a lot has been done with regard to the propagation of such grasses and that this work has revolutionised some of the salt areas in that country. I suggest that the department might do more in this direction. They might let us know what has been done up to date, and if any seed is available for distribution amongst reliable farmers in the areas concerned. It is a pity that so much of this land should remain idle. In many cases it comprises some of the best land

on the individual farms. If it could be utilised for the growing of suitable fodders, it could be turned to useful account for the farmers concerned. I wish now to refer to the question of rabbit extermination. There has hardly been a debate on the Address-in-reply when I have not raised the question. I do not propose to talk about rabbit extermination generally. In the Old Country virus has been prepared which gives promise of being particularly useful in the eradication of the pest. Some of that virus has been secured for Australia, and is in the hands of scientists associated with the C.S.I.R., mainly operating in the Eastern States. In an endeavour to try it out in Australia, the officials concerned tried to secure an island near Tasmania, where they felt it would be safe to conduct experiments. Owing to some misguided action on the part of the Government of Tasmania they were unable to obtain the use of that island. I suggest to the Government there may be some island off our coast that could be offered to the C.S.I.R. for their experiments. Those responsible people who are associated with the movement are not likely to do anything that will prove injurious to human beings, or other life within the area in the course of proving the use of the virus in question. Australia would be perfectly safe if it allowed these investigations and experiments to be conducted on some suitable island, where it might be demonstrated that the virus will definitely kill rabbits in a wholesale manner. Very few other considerations should be allowed to interfere with its use in Australia. The rabbits constitute a terrible menace, and are responsible for many thousands of pounds worth of damage each year within the Commonwealth. We have a number of islands along our south coast. If we could provide the C.S.I.R. with one of them, the authorities would then be able to put the virus to an adequate test. We know that in the Old Country under more confined and restricted conditions much good has been achieved by this discovery. I hope the Minister for Lands is not too busily engaged in reading the document before him, because I would like him to take up with the C.S.I.R. the possibility of placing at their disposal one of our islands on the south coast so that the virus may be tried out there. I am sure that if there were any danger attached to the making of

the experiments, the Federal Government would not allow those concerned to proceed with it. Nothing should be placed in the way of preventing the experiments from being conducted. In this State we suffer probably to a greater extent from the depredations of the pest than any other State suffers. We ought to take a hand in the matter and say to the authorities, "We will find you the necessary island where you may conduct your experiments." I commend the matter to the Minister. The question of sheep stealing is exercising the minds of farmers and pastoralists in various parts of the State. The trouble will continue until the Government provide more funds for the Commissioner of Police to enable him to employ more police officers in the country districts. I was told by the secretary of an agricultural society along the Midland line that in his immediate neighbourhood since the 1st January no fewer than 500 sheep had been stolen. It is impossible for the local police, with the conveniences at their disposal, to track down the thieves. I asked the secretary of the society if the thefts had been reported to the local police. His reply was, "No, of what use is it to do that? They can do nothing." The sheep are generally stolen by people who have a motor truck. The only means of transport for the local policeman is his horse, and sometimes the horse is as old as he is. It takes him a long time to get out to the farm from which the theft has been made, let alone track up the thieves. The Government should find a sum of money for the Commissioner to enable him to appoint additional officers in those areas where it is known that sheep stealing is rampant. The farmer himself can do nothing. Sometimes he does not know for several days that sheep have been stolen, and if he did know, he could not track up the thieves. That is the work of the police. When a thief sets out to take a truck load or half a truck load of sheep he generally does so on a holiday, a show day, a race day or a gala day. At such a time most of the farmers are away from their farms and are visiting the town. They may choose a Saturday afternoon when the farmers who have conveyances go to the town for their weekly shopping. By the time the farmer appreciates the fact that some of his sheep have been stolen, the actual thieves are so far away that it is quite impossible for the owner to track them

down. If additional police were provided in the rural districts, I believe that some of the thieves would be apprehended, and if an example were made of some of them, it might have a deterrent effect upon others. I have to confess to a feeling of disappointment that there was no reference in the Lieut.-Governor's Speech to any proposed legislation dealing with the marketing of primary commodities.

The Minister for Lands: The people were given an opportunity to vote on that, and they turned it down.

Hon. C. G. Latham: And they turned down other things, too.

Hon. P. D. FERGUSON: They also turned down legislation that is now on the statute-book, and is in operation despite the referendum. That legislation might easily be extended. There have been a number of deputations to the Minister for Agriculture from primary producers' associations and others urging that action be taken regarding marketing problems, and members of the Government have stated that organised marketing is a part of their policy. If that be so, why do not they take some action that will implement that policy? Is it merely retained on Labour's platform as so much birdlime for the farmers at election times, or do the Government really believe in the principle? I have heard Ministers say that they believed in the policy, and that it was the intention of the Government that something should be done. The problem of organised marketing of products has received a great deal of attention all over the world. The old law of supply and demand, of which we heard so much in our youth, does not operate to-day at all. It is a question of organisation, and other countries have realised that and appreciated the benefit of the application of that policy. Recently the Melbourne University sent to Western Australia Mr. J. C. Habersberger, one of their experts on marketing problems, and that gentleman stayed in this State for some weeks, during which he delivered a series of lectures at the University. I am sorry members of Parliament, particularly those sitting on the Government side of the House, were not invited to listen to him, because I am sure they would have derived a considerable volume of information from that gentleman's discourses. I will read to the House some remarks of Mr. Habersberger that were published in the "West Austra-

lian." In the course of the report the following appeared:—

In Australia there seemed to be a tendency for administrators to stand in the way of the adoption of more efficient marketing methods. Reasons for this tendency were that it was felt that the new methods would lead to possible displacement of labour and to difficulties during the transitional period. While every endeavour should be made to effect the change from one system to the other with as little disturbance as possible, the points specified should not be used as an argument for the maintenance of existing conditions and the preservation of inefficient and costly marketing methods.

Incidentally, when I had a conversation with this gentleman, he told me that he had been absolutely amazed at the indifference and more or less tacit opposition to organised marketing that he had encountered in Western Australia. To continue—

A tremendous amount of consideration had been given to problems of production, and these problems had in the main been satisfactorily solved. Efforts were now being made to secure attention to the distributing side of economics, which was marketing. The test should always be: Would the change in system result in an economic gain to the community as a whole? If this question was answered in the affirmative, Australia should not hesitate to put the change into operation.

Big opportunities for increasing efficiency existed in the transport side of marketing. In many phases of marketing, Australia was already passing through a transitional period. While the adjustment necessary to bring about more efficient systems might possibly be painful in the short term, the gain to the community as a whole would justify the forward move.

I believe that that is so.

Mr. North: Is that about the broad gauge for railways?

Hon. P. D. FERGUSON: No, it has nothing to do with railway gauges at all. It relates to organised marketing.

Mr. Marshall: I should say that perhaps it dealt with narrow-gauge mentality!

Mr. Sampson: And that is not in any way personal.

Hon. P. D. FERGUSON: Mr Habersberger is a member of the staff of the Melbourne University, and has made a close study of marketing problems. He has given those who attend our own University the benefit of his inquiries and knowledge. I feel that in these days the spread between the value of the commodities produced by our growers and the cost of them to the consumers is so great that, in the interests of

our national welfare, we should do something to reduce the margin. It is hardly worth while going on under the old-time conditions, by which we allowed speculators to handle most of the important commodities we produce. It would be marvellous if some orderly method of marketing were adopted, such as is in force elsewhere and has proved such a success. No further proof than that should be necessary to induce any Government to place the necessary legislation on the statute-book that will enable producers of any particular commodity to operate along orderly organised marketing lines with statutory powers, if a majority of them so desire. In the course of his speech, the Premier the other evening stated that the Minister for Lands had devoted the whole of his time to the welfare of the men on the land and in dealing with farmers' problems generally. I desire to indicate one direction in which the Minister for Lands has fallen down on his self-imposed task rather badly, and I hope he will take notice of what I say. During the development of the agricultural areas, quite a number of large properties have been purchased by Governments from time to time, and settled, on long-term provisions, with returned soldiers and other settlers. In some instances, those repurchased estates were bought at higher prices than the later settlers were able to pay. In process of time, certain reductions were made in the actual prices charged to the settlers. Re-valuations have been effected in certain instances. I have a list regarding a few of the estates showing the reductions that were made from the original price charged to the settler, and the prices charged to-day. The reductions affecting the estates mentioned are as follows:—

	£
Guaranu .. ..	10,117
Inering .. ..	97
Wongoondy .. ..	11,596
Mendela .. ..	2,315
Carnamah .. ..	2,155
Cockatea .. ..	2,143
Yarra Yarra .. ..	1,271
Yandanooka .. ..	46,823
Total .. ..	76,517

All those estates are situated in the electorate represented by the member for Greenough (Mr. Patrick). I do not know what political influence he has been able to exercise with the Governments concerned that enabled those reductions to be author-

ised. There are one or two smaller estates in my electorate respecting which the Minister for Lands cannot be induced to agree to any reduction. While that is bad enough and unfair enough when the reductions agreed to in other parts of the State are taken into consideration, it is doubly unfair at the present time, when the Commonwealth Government have provided considerable funds for the reduction of farmers' surplus debts.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! There is too much conversation among members, and I cannot hear what the member for Irwin-Moore is saying.

Hon. P. D. FERGUSON: I think nearly £500,000 has been provided for Western Australia already. Unfortunately, settlers on the repurchased estates to which I am referring—they are the very men for whom this money was provided—are unable to derive any benefit from it. I can give an instance of one man whose case I have taken up unsuccessfully with the Minister for Lands. That settler owes the Lands Department a substantial amount; the Agricultural Bank a certain amount and also something to his ordinary creditors. He made application to the Rural Relief Trustees for assistance. This is a genuine case, and the settler is entitled in every respect to participate in the distribution of the Commonwealth money provided for the reduction of farmers' surplus liabilities. The unsecured creditors of the farmer are willing to write down his indebtedness by 50 per cent.; the Agricultural Bank trustees are prepared to write down his debt to them; the Rural Relief Trustees are prepared to assist him—on condition that the Lands Department will write down their debt also. The Minister for Lands is adamant, and will not shift.

Mr. Thorn: You cannot shift him.

Hon. P. D. FERGUSON: The Minister says, "This man has paid very little to the Lands Department off his indebtedness." Of course, that is quite correct. It would have been hopeless for him to endeavour to pay off his indebtedness to the Lands Department, because the Agricultural Bank has had first call on his income all the time. In those circumstances, the complaint of the Minister for Lands is against the Agricultural Bank, and not against the farmer. The Minister, by his attitude, is preventing this settler from obtaining the benefit of the Commonwealth money that

was made available for the assistance of men in the position I have indicated. This man is settled in the Moora district. It is a mixed farm for sheep and wheat. His farm is not a good wheat proposition. It is more suitable for oats and sheep. His indebtedness on his cleared land runs out at nearly £9 per acre, so members will realise how hopeless it is for him to expect to get rid of such a liability. He has no chance in life of doing so. But if the Agricultural Bank, the Lands Department and his unsecured creditors were to agree to write down the man's indebtedness and the Rural Trustees would provide him with the assistance I am assured they would be prepared to make available, the man would have a fair chance to make good. I will ask the Minister for Lands if he can, on this occasion, to open his bowels of compassion in favour of this farmer, who has been struggling on his holding ever since he returned from the war in 1920. The man is a real dinkum trier, and the only thing that prevents him from getting one more chance to make good is the attitude of the Minister for Lands. I had intended to bring under the notice of the Minister for Works, who I thought would be very sympathetic towards me, a request for a water scheme at a place in my district, but as I came into the Chamber I was handed a letter from the Under Secretary for Works advising me that the money had already been allocated. So I am going to let the Minister for Works off on this occasion.

The Minister for Mines: You might give him a bit of credit for it, you know.

Hon. C. G. Latham: He is giving him credit.

Hon. P. D. FERGUSON: I will do that in writing.

The Minister for Mines: Don't let a word get into the Press that we have done anything to help the farmers!

Hon. P. D. FERGUSON: I was thinking that perhaps I should thank the Under Secretary.

The Minister for Works: That is very generous, too.

The Minister for Mines: You are very generous about it, no doubt. You are good growlers but never give credit where it is due.

Hon. P. D. FERGUSON: There is a governmental utility at Fremantle that handles a great deal of the primary produce of West-

ern Australia. I refer to the Fremantle Harbour Trust. Many years ago the policy was adopted of giving different sections of the community representation on that Trust. I remember when the late Mr. Basil Murray was first appointed to the Trust. He was managing director of the largest co-operative concern in Western Australia, and his appointment was generally acclaimed throughout the length and breadth of this State as being very suitable. On his death another producers' representative, in the person of Mr. H. W. A. Tanner, was appointed, and he carried on that work as producers' representative for a number of years. When he died Mr. Angwin was appointed. Producers' organisations protested that Mr. Angwin was not a producer, and was not the best man for that position, being not quite au fait with the producers' viewpoint on many matters likely to be discussed by the Trust. But the Premier of the day in this House stated that Mr. Angwin had all the qualifications of a producers' representative and could represent the producers on that Trust as well as any other man. Producers throughout the State recognised the fairness, integrity and ability of Mr. Angwin, and did not say very much about it. Unfortunately, when Mr. Angwin resigned to take up the chairmanship of the Rural Relief Fund Trustees, another man was appointed in the person of Mr. Mann, who, I understand, is a Trades Hall official of Fremantle. What qualifications did Mr. Mann have to be the producers' representative on the Fremantle Harbour Trust?

Hon. C. G. Latham: He was a member of the Labour Party.

Hon. P. D. FERGUSON: Producers of this country provide the wherewithal for the carrying on of the Trust, and I suggest that, in common fairness, they should have a representative on the Trust. I do not wish to say anything against Mr. Mann. I do not know him. He may be a very estimable man, but I urge that when the time comes for a reappointment of the Trust, producers' organisations in this State be given consideration, and that a direct nominee of those organisations be appointed to the Trust. To give satisfaction to all sections of the community should be the desire of the Government, and it is distinctly unfair that they should antagonise a big section of the community, a section that provides the bulk of the commodities which the Trust handles



from year to year, and a section which, in my opinion, is more entitled to representation than any other part of the community. The Trust at the present time consists of Mr. Carter, a retired shipping magnate, Mr. Bateman, a member of the firm of J. & W. Bateman of Fremantle, Mr. Mann of the Trades Hall, Mr. McMahon, originally a clerk in the employ of the Trust, and a Treasury official. Why is it necessary that the Labour unions at Fremantle should have all those representatives on the Trust, and and that people who provide the sinews of war should have no representation at all?

Mr. Fox: What have they done that you disagree with?

Hon. P. D. FERGUSON: I am not accusing them of having done anything, but I do know that the chairman of the Fremantle Harbour Trust has hinted on more than one occasion that the time is fast approaching when producers of commodities like wheat and wool are going to be called upon to pay a higher proportion of the cost of the Fremantle Harbour Trust than at present. Who is going to speak on behalf of the producers of those commodities when the matter comes up for discussion at the Fremantle Harbour Trust again? It is absolutely unfair and unwarranted that the producers of this State should be without representation. It was bad enough when the producers' representative was dropped and Mr. Angwin was appointed, but it was adding insult to injury when, upon Mr. Angwin's dropping out, yet another Trades Hall official was appointed. The first time I spoke in this House, 10 years ago, I referred to the habit of some city magistrates in ordering derelict characters to go into the country. I voiced my protest then and I want to reiterate what I have said on more than one occasion since. It is absolutely wrong for any magistrate in the city to order some disreputable vagrant to leave the city and to go into the country as a punishment. It is not good enough for the people in the sparsely populated country districts. In the metropolitan area we can see policemen at every corner. They are there to protect the residents of the metropolitan area, and they have plenty of opportunities of arresting any individuals such as vagrants and thieves. But when characters such as these are sent to the sparsely populated rural areas, where there is less police protection, they become an absolute menace to the people of those dis-

tricts. Many farms in Western Australia are one-man farms. The farmer lives on the property with his wife and family. He is away from his home nearly all day attending to farm work, sometimes a mile or more away. His wife is left by herself in the house, and it has happened on more than one occasion that some disreputable character has come along and almost frightened the life out of her. Yet here we have well-known magistrates in the city aggravating the position by telling these bad characters to get into the country. I hope these remarks will appear in the Press. It is my intention to urge country magistrates, when the vagrants come before them, to tell them that unless they get back to the metropolitan area quick and lively, they will be sentenced to a term of imprisonment. I hope the magistrates will do it. I would like the House to listen to what I am about to read, and judge for themselves whether it is a fair thing to the country districts of Western Australia. I will omit the man's name. He was a labourer and was brought before the court the other day on a charge of vagrancy. This is the Press report:—

Constable Buck had seen him in Perth in the early hours of March 7. He was dirty, dilapidated, barefooted, drunk and reeking of methylated spirits. Sergeant Archibald also drew a distressing picture of his appearance. Detective Richards stated that the accused was wont to move about with a case containing mat-mending materials which, however, had never been seen in use..

The accused transferred from the dock to the witness stand and continued his life story from the ending of a sentence recently imposed by Mr. Mosley. Thanks to free lifts on cars and trucks he had visited all the main towns of the South-West, and had made about £1 10s. by mat mending. The cause of the journey had been the hope of boarding a ship for England. In that he had failed. Returning to Perth, he had spent all his money save 1s. 6d. on liquor. On the night of his arrest he had left his temporary abode in the backyard of a house in Mount's Bay-road to secure a cup of coffee in the city. He had gone barefooted because his feet were tired.

Saying that the police evidence did not go far enough, the magistrate freed the man, ordering him to get out of town within 48 hours.

Having been in the South-West before, I dare say that man will make back for the South-West. No matter what country district he goes to, he will constitute a menace to that district. It would be infinitely preferable for him to remain in the metropolitan area, where he could be under police

surveillance. There is an opportunity for the police to keep an eye on him here, but in many agricultural areas where police stations are 50 miles apart, and sometimes further apart than that, it is not fair to have that type of individual about in the country, let alone to have him ordered there by a magistrate. There is one more matter to which I wish to refer and that is the instruction given by the Government to the Tender Board to refuse to accept a tender from any person or firm until they have an assurance that the tenderer employs union labour, and that the men are financial members of some recognised union. This latest decree of the Government goes further than any governmental act of which I have ever heard in the British Empire. I always thought it was the function of the Government to deal fairly with all sections of the community and all individuals. Surely it is absolutely improper for a Government to say to any individual that unless he employs certain people on certain terms, the Government will not trade with him. Surely every person and firm is entitled to participate in governmental business, provided he complies with the laws of the country. But here is a decree made by the Government without reference to Parliament or the Arbitration Court, which fixes the conditions under which men shall work. The Government says "Unless you do certain things, we will not trade with you." If I want to put in a tender to the Government to supply any Government department with a ton of chaff or a bag of oats, I am not allowed to do so unless the men I employ to produce the commodity and cart it to the town are unionists and have paid their union fees. It is altogether a violation of the functions of Government. It has never been attempted, so far as I know, in any British community before. When I saw, some months ago, that Mr. Willecock had been appointed leader of the Labour Party and thus to the Premiership for the time being, I made the remark: "This man is the most moderate man in the Labour movement in this State and there will be an end of extreme acts." But we find that during the absence of this moderate Premier in the Old Country the irresponsible juniors of his Government have put this sort of thing over. It is discreditable to the Government and I assure them that it is going to react against them. The whole community of Western Australia is resenting it.

Mr. Fox: We are very grateful to you for your warning.

Hon. P. D. FERGUSON: There is no primary producer of whom I know who wants to cater for Governmental business who deems it his duty to see that his employees are financial members of some union that appeals to the Government for the time being. It is a discreditable action on the part of the Government, and I am indeed sorry that the Premier had to return to Western Australia to be faced with this position.

Opposition members: Hear, hear!

**MR. LAMBERT** (Yilgarn-Coolgardie) [5.30]: It is not my purpose to enter into a minute discussion regarding the value of the Address-in-reply debate. It seems strange that almost every member that took exception to its efficacy either grew remarkably loquacious or descended to the depths of his own parochial needs. Of course it is quite understandable that a mentality of that kind should find very little value in the age-long privilege extended to private members of this Legislature. I have no intention to take exception to the varying ideas as to the value of this debate, but it might be illuminating if I quote from "Visions Truer than Truth," by an immortal poet—

Words, words, words; metrical or rhythmical dexterity, rising into pleasant and even intoxicating tunes, which, however, are nothing more than tunes, and when all is said do no more good to the better part of you than a cleverly mixed cocktail. In one's more serious moods one might even go as far as to say that there should be a society bent on the prohibition of meaningless talk, and that the signature of its pledge should be accepted as a duty by all self-respecting citizens. For, when this brilliant verbal jugglery, aerobatics, fireworks, bubble, or whatever you like to call it, is possessed of any ascertainable content of meaning or sense, which it very rarely is—

That passage has a particular application in some instances.

—it conveys ideas or fancies that are morbidly voluptuous, and so it is subversive of sound political principles and of private no less than of public morality.

Mr. Hegney: Who wrote that?

Mr. LAMBERT: That is Swinbourne on "Words," and the passage was forcibly brought home to me while listening to the Address-in-reply debate. This debate really gives members an opportunity to speak in a wide—sometimes wise—sort of way on questions that affect our national and economic life. Two outstanding questions that must be dealt with, not only by the Com-

monwealth Government but by the State Government, are those of national insurance and the control of banking. Probably they are the paramount questions confronting the Commonwealth. Without a satisfactory basis upon which to buy and sell our goods, there is no possible hope under any monetary system of the people who are producing the wealth and performing the essential services of the country receiving remuneration commensurate with their efforts. One needs only to visit the country districts and see the people labouring under conditions that are almost deplorable—deplorable because of a considerable amount of inefficiency in our Government departments. The men and women upon the land, as well as the children who are forced to live upon the land, have to suffer because of the *inexcusable inattention on the part of Government departments*. During the last few months I have come into close contact with the conditions under which people in the farming areas of my district are living. While I will not say that those conditions constitute a challenge to the present Government, I do say that they are at least a challenge to common decency, and lead the people to believe that governmental authorities and many of the bureaucrats represented by the Civil Service are unsympathetic, unkind and care little as to those conditions. I know that nine-tenths of our under-secretaries are sympathetic, but I would like to see the rest, together with under-strappers who sit in cushioned chairs, in the metropolitan area, sent out to the country to get experience of the conditions, and then probably they would cultivate a more helpful outlook as to their obligations to those who are doing the real work of the country.

Mr. Warner: Surely you would not be so cruel!

Mr. LAMBERT: I have said that national insurance and banking must receive immediate attention. For half a century those questions of paramount importance have been allowed to drift, but parties have now forced the issue to the extent that the Federal Government, knowing they have to face the electors within the next three or four months, have indicated that they will give consideration to those questions. If the very basis of our economic and social order is being undermined and the banking system is wrong, what other question could matter as much? What becomes of our

efforts in this Legislature, restricted though it is, if the social order embracing all that contributes to the health and well-being of the community is neglected? In my 21 years' experience in this Parliament we have had faddists who have suggested a fiduciary issue to place banking on a satisfactory basis, and we have also heard schemes for overhauling the social order that no sane man would countenance, but it is a healthful sign that the Federal Government have so far realised their responsibility to the people as to be making a feeble effort, admittedly within the ambit of the political leg-roping of their supporters, to grapple with those problems. If from these efforts we can get a measure of banking reform as well as reform along the lines of national insurance, the Labour Party in the Federal and State spheres will have done something to assist the people who most require help. I have no desire to enter upon a discussion of banking, because I am not a banker. Only on odd occasions do I consult a banker, and then he usually gets the better of the argument. The State Government should immediately make an attempt to repeal the legislation that permitted the State Savings Bank to be taken over by the Commonwealth. That was a most deplorable act. I know the member for Nedlands (Hon. N. Keenan) will agree with me. There was no need for the closing down of the State Savings Bank except the absolute bludgeoning indulged in by the Commonwealth Bank and Commonwealth authorities through their note issue to make unstable the finances of the State institution. It was bad enough to lose the Western Australian Bank. There we had an institution locally owned, but we allowed its directors to alter their charter and sell to the Bank of New South Wales. But we should demand the re-institution of the State Savings Bank, and if other people possessed the same amount of determination that I have, the Commonwealth would soon be brought to realise that many of the anomalies that now exist must be rectified.

Mr. North: You had better join Aberhart's Alberta Cabinet.

Mr. LAMBERT: At my time of life I am not looking for an experience of that kind. I cannot see how there can be any improvement in the relations between the Commonwealth and the State until such time as the Commonwealth definitely concedes that the State has equal rights with the Commonwealth in the government of this country. It is pleasing to note the progress that has

been made in those industries which are of such importance to Western Australia. Last year the mining industry contributed approximately £7,000,000, wool £4,000,000, and wheat £3,600,000. Whilst it is regrettable that because of seasonal difficulties and other factors both wheat and wool have shown a reduction in output, the gold mining industry is buoyant. Apart from the increased productive value of the gold mining industry, there is probably nothing more pleasing to those who represent it in this House than the altered hours of labour connected with it. A tribute must be paid to the industrial organisations concerned, combined with the Parliamentary Labour Party, that in season and out of season, they have stressed the need for reducing the hours of work underground. So much was this so that the Arbitration Court was impressed, and to-day the miners working underground are enjoying the benefit of a 40-hour week. They also enjoy the benefits of the Workers' Compensation Act, but that legislation has been dearly paid for. Unscrupulous and relentless members of the medical profession have exploited the Act in such a manner that it has amounted to almost daylight robbery. I cannot understand why the British Medical Association do not take up this matter and prevent pettifogging practitioners from taking advantage of minor accidents and keeping the patients on their books for three or four weeks. That this sort of thing should be allowed to go on is a standing disgrace to anything approaching a profession. That is what members of the profession are doing to-day, and it is what the B.M.A. are winking at.

Mr. Tonkin: I think the B.M.A. have interested themselves in the matter now.

Mr. LAMBERT: They have taken no action in numbers of glaring cases.

The Minister for Mines: They have done so in some cases. I know of one instance in which the bill was for £90 and they refused to allow more than £20.

Mr. LAMBERT: That is an isolated case out of thousands.

The Minister for Mines: That may be so.

Mr. Tonkin: I think the hon. member will find they have given considerable attention to the matter.

Mr. LAMBERT: In a very ethical and abstract way, as it suits them. That members of the profession should be allowed to exploit the insurance companies, it does not matter whether they are State or privately owned, and inflate the premiums to the ex-

tent of 50 per cent., amounts to daylight robbery. Even Ned Kelly would blush at the very thought of it.

Mr. Fox: The employer has his remedy.

Mr. LAMBERT: Of course he has. The hon. member's widow would have her remedy if he had been attended by an unscrupulous and incompetent doctor, but I do not know that that would be much consolation for him.

Mr. Fox: The employer can dispute the doctor's certificate.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. LAMBERT: For a long time it has occurred to me that the control of our railways is most cumbersome and inefficient. The Commissioner is called upon to control not only our biggest asset, but also the Electricity Supply and Tramways Department. We all looked forward with considerable hope to definite changes in the administration of the Railways when the present Commissioner was appointed, but to my mind there has been no very signal change either in railway efficiency or economy. I am not surprised there is a restless feeling amongst members. The member for Pingelly (Mr. Seward) has given notice of motion for the appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into the running of our railways. If we want efficiency, we should appoint someone whose only duty is to control the Railways. We have a big power station. What does the Commissioner know about controlling our electricity supply? I propose to call for a return showing all the agreements covering the supply of electricity in the metropolitan area with the various people who are using current, as well as people in the outer metropolitan area. What does the Commissioner know from the technical or professional point of view about the control of electricity? These three branches of our services should be treated separately. The Railways should be under a Commissioner or Commissioners, with subsidiary Commissioners to look after the country districts; we would thus gain a more intimate knowledge of transport in Western Australia than has ever been gained before. We should immediately set up a Commission for the control of the electricity supply. It is a disgrace that the general manager of the Electricity Department should have to go down with his files to the Commissioner of Railways, and technically submit his recommendations as to whether poles should be erected here or machinery installed there.

Hon. C. G. Latham: And afterwards take the poles down.

Mr. LAMBERT: I do not know about that.

Hon. C. G. Latham: That is what is being done along Mounts Bay-road.

Mr. LAMBERT: It is unsound and unbusinesslike. Neither is it in conformity with our present requirements, and should be stopped immediately. There should be a proper vision of our future power requirements. We are not to believe that because we have erected a power station at East Perth this is the beginning and end of the power requirements of this great State. As Western Australia develops we will require additional and cheaper power. It is not my purpose to discuss the whys and wherefores of that question now because the problem of more and cheaper power has not yet been solved here. No wonder the people of Claremont and Nedlands are up in arms against the inefficiency of the Tramway Department. Was there ever a more antiquated, inefficient and unsatisfactory service in the way of locomotion than the Tramways Department of this city give us? To go from East Perth to Claremont takes about an hour, round by Subiaco and along the Perth-Fremantle road. There is no excuse for not giving a better service. I have stood in Hay-street many times for a quarter of an hour waiting for a tram. Eventually I would get a tram that would dawdle along up towards Harvest-terrace, with four or five trams immediately following. A dreadful waste of time. It must be apparent to every mind that this is an obsolete, and inefficient service, and that the only alternative to scrapping it is to bring it up-to-date. The tramways should be under separate and distinct control. Unless the forthcoming trolley buses provide a better service, it would be preferable to go back to bullock waggons, or something equally modern according to the department's conception. I was a member of the Royal Commission which dealt with the question of tramway extension, and I frankly admit that it was on my minority report that the tramway to Claremont was built. It was built either on the strength of my minority report, or at the volition of the General Manager of the Perth Tramways—I do not care which. However, the service is an absolute disgrace. It is shocking to think that the State has a considerable amount of money

involved in a service that runs its trams at such a slow speed. No people, and particularly not the residents of the capital of Western Australia, should tolerate such a thing for a moment.

Mr. Cross: We have to tolerate it in South Perth too. We have a service that is still worse.

Mr. LAMBERT: The hon. member can have something to say about that later. I have quite enough to do to compass what I have to say about the Claremont tram without acting as spokesman for South Perth.

Mr. Cross: I am the spokesman for South Perth.

Mr. LAMBERT: I do not hold anyone in particular blameable. When I put in my minority report recommending that the Claremont tram be built, the members of the Royal Commission were exalted to the skies. The Government were asked to build a tramway from the intersection at Nedlands to Claremont. The members of the Commission were feted and extolled for the viewpoint held by me; and it was exactly the same with the Claremont council. In excuse for that, let me mention that it was not expected that the trams would be run at the rate of about three miles an hour. With the stoppages, I do not know that that speed is now greatly exceeded.

The Minister for Railways: Don't exaggerate!

Mr. LAMBERT: I am like the Rev. George Tulloch making his usual speech on the liquor question yesterday. If such a speech is not extravagant, no notice is taken of it. I offer that as an excuse for the Rev. George Tulloch. Now to revert to the control of the railways. For many years it has been the custom of the Railway Department to call tenders for refreshment rooms on stations and for dining cars throughout the service. Many murmurings, in which I do not join, have been heard regarding the unsatisfactory manner in which contracts for the lease of refreshment rooms are let. However, I have yet to learn that the refreshment rooms and the dining cars are anything like up to the standard of service for which the public pay. It is most remarkable that all tenders, with the exception of those for refreshment rooms and dining cars are referred to the Tender Board for consideration. But tenders for refreshment rooms

and dining cars are dealt with in the office of the Railway Department. Why should not those tenders be considered by the Tender Board in the same way as all other tenders submitted to the Government? However, they are dealt with by someone inside the Commissioner's office.

The Minister for Railways: Subject to Ministerial approval.

Mr. LAMBERT: The expression "Ministerial approval" conveys little to me. We do not want Ministerial approval of these tenders. We knew all about Ministerial approval years before the Minister for Railways came here.

The Minister for Railways: You don't know very much.

Mr. LAMBERT: If it is good enough for all other tenders to be submitted to the Tender Board, tenders for the lease of refreshment rooms and dining cars should also be submitted to that board.

The Minister for Railways: What would the board do with them?

Mr. LAMBERT: They would consider the tenders, and allocate contracts on their merits.

The Minister for Railways: They would recommend.

Mr. LAMBERT: Of course they would.

The Minister for Railways: And who would accept?

Mr. LAMBERT: The Tender Board would recommend.

The Minister for Railways: To whom?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. LAMBERT: Who considers tenders in the Railway Department?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member will address the Chair.

Mr. LAMBERT: The Hon. the Minister interrupted me.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a reflection on the Chair.

Mr. LAMBERT: I wish to refer also to the inexcusable hovels that the Railway Department lease on each side of the approach to the central railway station. A man with any pride at all, a man with a humble home and taking some pride in his backyard, would resent the almost unthinkable hovels leased by the Railway Department, particularly on the eastern side of Perth railway station. They are simply deplorable. If the railway authorities cannot get a few pounds worth of revenue without keeping those hovels that have been there for years

and are continued under the new Commissioner of Railways, then it is time we reviewed our attitude to the Railway Department and the Commissioner of Railways. Within a few hundred feet of the central station there is a man manufacturing tombstones. It is true that between the station buildings and the tombstones there is a stretch of lawn with trees and shrubs that have a most attractive appearance. The moment one turns through to Beaufort-street, there is the monumental mason at work, ever reminding us that it will probably not be a long time before there is a flight to eternity for someone. And that is not all. On the other side, by the Horse-shoe Bridge, there are blatant advertisements drawing attention to someone's pink pills, someone's false teeth, or someone's badly tasting brandy. They are displayed by means of placards almost as big as this Chamber, and represent an insult to the ordinary common decency of people who have at least some suggestion of pride in the appearance of the city.

Mr. Hegney: Have you investigated the western side?

Mr. LAMBERT: No, I am afraid. I see enough travelling by train without going to the west. The member for East Perth (Mr. Hughes) will probably deal with the eastern side, which is rather bad, too. There are a few Chinese furniture manufacturers who are tenants of the Railway Department, and that, no doubt, gives the railway authorities considerable satisfaction, seeing that they are stultifying the view obtainable of the capital city of the State when visitors enter by rail. All that is for a few paltry pounds a year, for which the unsightly hovels and blatant advertisements are retained. I will have a few words to say about the Electoral Department.

Mr. Thorn: I thought you were going to say something about the dining cars, and rusty water.

Mr. LAMBERT: I have said all I wish to say regarding the dining cars. With regard to the service on those cars and at the refreshment rooms throughout Western Australia, they screech eloquently themselves, without the necessity for my making any reference to them. As to Mr. Gorman's stale and greasy pies and cold coffee, well, I do not know what to say. It was not my purpose to reduce members to tears by even referring to them. I suggest that members

of Parliament, particularly lady members, should make provision for their own refreshment when travelling over our railways. I think the time has arrived when the Commissioner should seriously consider building proper up-to-date refreshment rooms such as are in evidence in the Eastern States. The present lessee, it is safe to say, is making anything from £5,000 a year from the sale of liquor. That amount per year, even if good liquor were sold, would be better used to provide comfort and reasonable provisions for the travelling public than in going into the travelling pocket of Mr. Thomas Gorman. I shall have another opportunity on the Railway Estimates to deal with this subject in a more scathing and exacting way. With regard to the Electoral Department, like most other members I had occasion to contest an election a year or two ago. I may add that I was certainly rather surprised at having to contest an election! However, I found that the newly-appointed Chief Electoral Officer had entirely forgotten about eight or ten most important centres in my electorate. To such an extent was this so that the percentage vote recorded of 87 at the previous election was reduced to 52 per cent., and, incidentally, my majority was reduced to an alarming extent. I do not know who is the responsible Minister, and whether here again it is a question of Ministerial approval for the action, or inaction, of the Chief Electoral Officer. I hope that the Minister concerned will indicate his approval, or disapproval, of this sort of thing, and instruct the officer concerned that in any centre where there is a group of electors, those individuals should not be disfranchised. Of course, the Chief Electoral Officer was quite a novice, and had just walked into his position. After the elections, when I questioned him as to why he would not provide polling booths for the convenience of some of my electors at Kurrawang, he replied, "Well, there was a dispute there five or six years ago, and I did not think it was safe." That was his reply, notwithstanding that the individuals concerned in my district had migrated into Yilgarn to the extent of about a hundred miles. If the Minister for Justice is responsible for the conduct of this officer, I hope he will review his activities, and see that not only in my electorate, which recorded the smallest vote in the State, but in every other electorate, the

services that the people are entitled to expect from the Electoral Department shall be rendered. What we require is efficiency, and not the Chief Electoral Officer sitting in his office in Barrack-street, with little or no care—

Mr. Marshall: Whether you were returned or not!

Mr. LAMBERT: That was never in doubt. Every elector should have the right to exercise the franchise.

Mr. Marshall: That is the point. It is the elector, not the candidate.

Mr. LAMBERT: If the people have the right to exercise the franchise, this is all we need care about. In the preparation of the new rolls in anticipation of the election that most members on this side of the House hope will be at the normal period, I trust attention will not be given only to the metropolitan area, but some will be paid to the interests of country districts.

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

Mr. LAMBERT: It is not my intention to deal at length with the few remaining matters to which I want to refer, nor is it my wish to summarise the remarks I have already made. Another opportunity will occur during the discussion of the Estimates for members to deal with matters which I consider should be dealt with before the session closes. Just before the tea adjournment I was referring to the Electoral Department, and I hope that hon. members will take note of what I said in connection with that department. Unless we can get some reasonable co-ordination between the State and Federal Electoral Departments, it will not be possible to bring our rolls up-to-date. The Federal Government, I understand subsidise letter boys to report on every person eligible to vote, using the machinery of the Postal Department to bring the rolls up-to-date. That is not possible with regard to the State Department. Surely, however, there could be some reasonable, commonsense arrangement whereby the whole of the claims that are lodged for Federal enrolment could be made available to the State Electoral Department. Until some such arrangement is made, until there is co-ordination of the two departments, we will never be able to put our electoral rolls in the position in which they ought to be.

The Minister for Justice: They are always better than the Federal rolls.

Mr. LAMBERT: That is open to question.

The Minister for Justice: It is not; it has been demonstrated.

Mr. LAMBERT: If the State rolls are better than the Commonwealth rolls it is an outstanding disgrace to the Commonwealth. Under the Commonwealth system if a letter is addressed, say, to "Mrs. Cardell-Oliver, Subiaco," and she happens to have removed from that particular address, the boy who delivers the letter is compensated for its return. A payment is made of 3d. a dozen on letters returned. If a person requests a letter to be re-addressed, the fact is noted. If a person does not give notice of his removal from one place to another, he is likely to be penalised under the Commonwealth Electoral Act.

Mr. Patrick: He is prosecuted too.

Mr. LAMBERT: That is so. I do not wish to say any more in this connection at the moment. We will have an opportunity later on of contributing something useful to the discussion of many subjects when we have the Estimates before us. I wish now to make reference to the activities of the Agricultural Bank. It will be remembered that an investigation of the operations of the Bank over a very long period was conducted, and a Royal Commission made certain recommendations. This House then passed legislation which it was thought would be reasonably effective. To a great extent, as a result of the recommendations of the Royal Commission and the subsequent framing of legislation to give effect to those recommendations, the affairs of the Agricultural Bank were placed upon a very different and, I hope, more satisfactory basis, but I have yet to learn that the last word has been said regarding the efficiency of the Agricultural Bank, both in respect of the matter of indebtedness and the relationship existing between the Bank and its clients. While I desire to pay a measure of tribute to the amount of work that has been attempted, I hope it will be possible for us to review this legislation and, as a result, bring about more contentment and a feeling of greater security on the part of the clients of the Bank than exists at present. I embark now upon the discussion of a question which bristles with many difficulties. I am going to deal with three or four matters: the school leaving age, dental and medical attention, and free milk, and proper nutrition for school children, a subject dealt with in a most pleasing manner by the member

for Subiaco last night. The other night the Bishop of Kalgoorlie saw fit to deal with the social position on the goldfields. Whether that reverend gentleman is in a position from personal knowledge to deal with this matter, particularly as it affects delinquent and unemployed youths, it is not my purpose to say, but I do say that the one religious body that attempts to do something for youth and social uplift is the Salvation Army. I should like to know how often the Bishop of Kalgoorlie, with his privileged position and his opportunities for indulging in bridge with his rich parishioners, and for indulging in golf whenever it suits him, has seen fit to visit the little humble homes on the goldfields and ascertain the conditions under which the men, women and children of the goldfields are living to-day. It is all very well for an obscure curate to come here from England and try to assimilate the atmosphere of the goldfields. Would to God that we could revert to the time when we had the Rev. Collick and Father O'Gorman, and the Rev. Tom Allen, men who went out into the highways and byways, and did not hesitate to enter the humblest homes on the goldfields. I should like to know when the Bishop of Kalgoorlie went into those homes, and where he got the knowledge that gives him the right to speak of the conditions of life up there. I noticed too, Archbishop Le Fanu, said that the young men and women have too much money to spare, particularly on the goldfields, and that betting amongst children had become a very common practice. With all due respect, I do not know whether that reverend gentleman has a very intimate knowledge of affairs on the goldfields. If we had men, Christians, to-day who would make themselves conversant with the social conditions obtaining on the goldfields, possibly they would deliver forcible and useful, instead of hysterical, contributions to the controversy that confronts us.

Mr. Thorn: Are you conversant with the social conditions?

Mr. LAMBERT: I should not like to be conversant with many things with which the hon. member is conversant. I recall the period when the present member for Nedlands (Hon. N. Keenan) was a prominent figure in Kalgoorlie many years ago, and I will say that whatever his contribution in public service to the



State may have been and may continue to be, possibly it will never be comparable to the work he did in laying down a standard of conduct in the Kalgoorlie municipality, a standard possibly unequalled in Australia. The Kalgoorlie Municipality was very richly endowed. The municipality had endowment lands which, partly due to the acumen of the council—of which the member for Nedlands was the head—have realised up to the present over £100,000 in rentals. Yet the whole of that property is still in possession of the Kalgoorlie Municipality, having been let on building leases.

Mr. Thorn: Surely you are due for some of the credit.

Mr. LAMBERT: My purpose in drawing attention to this is the fact that the reverend gentlemen up there, with their outbursts, if they had an intimate and practical knowledge of the position of the municipality of Kalgoorlie, they would be in a position to speak from a much better point of view. I have before me the balance sheet of the Kalgoorlie municipality. They have a credit balance of a little over £13,000 and an estimated revenue this year of £45,950. Most of their roads and footpaths have been formed and, as a matter of fact, there is no need to continue the works policy they have carried on in the past. They have, as the member for Nedlands knows, a big building half way along the main street, which they constructed for the marketing of perishable goods. Also they have 15 or 20 shops, and I suggest to the Bishop of Kalgoorlie that he and his clerics should go to the municipal council of Kalgoorlie and say, "There is a big building with unlimited space in which physical training could be given to the youths that are temporarily idling about street corners; why not make use of it and also, perhaps, for vocational training, and so prevent those youths loafing about the streets?"

Mr. Hegney: Loafing is a very objectionable term if they are not actually loafing about the streets.

Mr. LAMBERT: Well, let me say idling about the streets; and if that will not suit the hon. member's whimsical ear, I will temper it down still further. However, it is not my purpose to enter into a discussion with the hon. member; my purpose—which should be his purpose also—is to have regard to the youth of this country. Instead of the municipal buildings throughout Australia being used for showing puerile

American talking pictures, they should be used as educational centres for the uplift of our youth. The same conditions obtain in Boulder City of which I was a councillor. Boulder is a reasonably rich municipality, and instead of clerics annually shrieking about what is not being done by the Parliament, they should go to the council and say, "Instead of allowing this contaminating influence of cheap American pictures in your town hall and other institutions, throw them open for the physical, mental and vocational training of our youths." The member for Nedlands is aware that we built a brick bond in Kalgoorlie that was never used. It requires only to be re-built to accommodate 300 or 400 boys to receive vocational training in arts and crafts that would make them useful citizens. I was a member of the Kalgoorlie Municipal Council and I pride myself that it is one of the best civic centres in the State, but the time has arrived when local authorities of the kind should play a useful part in the training and guidance of our boys. Otherwise we shall have this meaningless screech annually that gets us nowhere and will never exalt the clerics in the estimation of the public.

Hon. P. D. Ferguson: It was not hysterics; it was a considered statement that was issued.

Mr. LAMBERT: Perhaps it was, but if those responsible had been more familiar with the conditions, the statement would have been more measured and probably more considered. What applies to Kalgoorlie applies to Coolgardie, Southern Cross, Ora Banda and other centres. Why should we stand idly by when we contribute sums of money that enable municipalities to erect buildings in which cheap-Jack American pictures are exhibited? Those bodies should be taking some part in the work of directing the young lives of the State so that they may develop into worthy citizens of the Commonwealth. I do not propose to deal further with that question other than to say that I believe those people who have been making so much noise are good-intentioned, but are handicapped by inexperience and lack of knowledge of the conditions.

Mr. Thorn: Are you referring to yourself?

Mr. LAMBERT: I shall never so far forget myself as to refer to the hon. member.

The school-leaving age should be reviewed and revised by the Government. During the last three months or more I have had an opportunity to observe the deplorable condition of many of the boys and girls attending our State schools. That possibly 50 or 75 per cent. of the children attending State schools have teeth absolutely rotting in their mouths is a deplorable condition of affairs. Yet there is no one here to raise a voice on behalf of those defenceless children who will become the mothers and fathers of the next generation.

Mr. Hegney: I consider that statement is extremely exaggerated.

Mr. Thorn: Of course it is.

Mr. Hegney: A dentist goes round to the schools frequently. The statement is much exaggerated.

Mr. LAMBERT: No doubt you are familiar with Bassendean.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member must address the Chair.

Mr. LAMBERT: Beyond the confines of Bassendean, the hon. member needs to go exploring. It is time that Parliament realised its responsibility to the people. I know there are two or three dentists going around looking after the teeth of the school children, but that does not apply to the country districts. The hon. member is referring to the metropolitan area. He should go out into the highways and byways of the country, places those dentists have never seen. Why, if a dentist went there, the children would think he was the bogey-man. No child attending a State school should have its health undermined in that way. Fancy innocent little boys and girls who have left their mothers' breasts only a few years having their health impaired through decaying teeth. To remedy this a different social order is needed, and it is time we got better results from the expenditure of public money. We can give £35,000 a year to a richly-endowed University—one of the most richly-endowed and expensively-conducted institutions of its kind in Australia. We can give the sons and daughters of the richest men in the land free entry to the University, thanks to the beneficence of Sir Winthrop Hackett and others, but is it not a travesty that while 600 or 700 students can take, some a useful and others an unnecessary course at the University free of cost, other children are staggering into our

schools ill-fed and ill-clothed, suffering dental and medical defects? It is time Parliament and the Press insisted upon an altered condition of affairs that would be in keeping with common decency, so that the rising generation might be fitted to undertake the useful and essential services of the country when their time to do so arrives.

MR. HILL (Albany) [8.0]: I congratulate the Premier on the improvement in his health, and wish to express my regret at the accident which befell the Minister for Agriculture. I know that the Minister was very disappointed that he was unable to attend the conference for which purpose he had gone to the Eastern States. He has on more than one occasion referred to members on this side of the House as enemies. I admit I am finding this life more pleasant than I anticipated, because politics are not personal, and when we offer congratulations or express sympathy, as we have done, such expressions are sincere. When any of us meet troubles we are all friends. I found this out last February. I wish to offer my sincere thanks to the Government and everyone concerned for all the assistance given to settlers during the period of the great bush fires. I have always felt that sooner or later the group areas would be overtaken by fire. I attended a meeting held at Denmark whilst the fires were still raging, and as a result of that meeting, the Hon. C. H. Wittenoom and I came to Perth by the first available train. As soon as we reached Perth, we went to the Acting Premier's office. We did not have to wait, and when we saw the Acting Premier we did not have to ask for relief. Instead of that, we were told at once what was being done to overcome the situation. From the "West Australian" newspaper and from the Agricultural Bank we had the same sympathetic support. We found we were very welcome in Perth, for with our local knowledge we were able to assist in the carrying out of the measures that were then being taken. The fires easily constituted a record for the State, and the rapidity with which relief was meted out also constituted a record. I cannot speak too highly of the work done by those who were on the spot. I was told by one settler who had seen four years' service in France that his experience on one night of the fires was worse than anything he had been through in the

trenches. From the Acting Premier down to the sustenance worker, everybody did his best to meet the terrible situation that was created. The response on the part of the public was also wonderful. One of the best things the Government did was to send two ladies (Mesdames Dean and Eggleston) to Denmark. It was my privilege to spend two days with them. I cannot speak too highly of the efficiency of their work. Last year when speaking on the Address-in-reply I stated that the settler must pay his interest, but that the Agricultural Bank must not ask him for more interest than he could afford to pay. I also said that the Bank should treat the settler as a client and not as a worker for the Bank. Unfortunately the Bank has been trying to collect more interest than the settler can afford to pay. I discussed this problem about 12 months ago with a Government official at Denmark. He told me that out of the 99 settlers who were left there, he thought that 95 would stay. I am sorry to say that only about 70 settlers are now left, and that some of these are preparing to go. I notice that the "West Australian" commented upon the proposal that interest at only 3 per cent. should be charged to the settlers. Would it not be better to charge only 3 per cent., and collect that much, than not to collect anything at all? We know what has been collected from abandoned farms to-day. The State is losing production through farms being abandoned, and losing the benefit that would be derived from the products of such farms. A producing farm is an asset, but one that is abandoned is a liability. The Bank, by making the payment of interest the first consideration, is undermining the morale of the settlers. I understand that considerable damage has already been done. I hope those in charge of the institution will modify their attitude, and that the drift from the groups will be stopped. I recently came into contact with a very pathetic case. There was a young man, a very fine type of young fellow, who owed a considerable amount of interest, and had great difficulty in keeping his wife and family. He was taken ill, but refused to accept charity. He came to Perth on the 8th July, and died on the 19th July. On the 30th July his family received two registered letters from the Agricultural Bank demanding payment of all back interest. It is this sort of thing which causes people almost to hate the Agricultural Bank. It is essential

for the taxpayers and the settlers themselves to endeavour to put a stop to this drift. I am confident that the right policy to follow in this connection is to obtain the maximum amount of production and not the maximum amount of interest. I congratulate the member for Kanowna (Mr. Nilsen) upon his speech. I am sure members will all be pleased to know that there is a brighter future before the port of Esperance. Had the railway been constructed I would have spent my boyhood there at least. I have a fellow-feeling for the district. The failure on the part of previous Governments to build the Esperance railway is responsible for the backwardness of that portion of the State. Another factor is the policy of Governments that built railways to divert trade from its proper geographical channel. That policy diverted a great deal of trade from Albany, and is responsible for the decline of that port. The whole State is suffering today from the mistakes of the past. There is no chance of reducing the port charges at Fremantle, because all the profits of that port are swallowed up by the losses at our out-ports. The development of the hinterland of the two ports, Albany and Esperance, has been interfered with by the decline of the ports concerned. Another serious result of that policy is that within a 12-mile radius of the G.P.O., 48 per cent. of the State's population is centred. We have not yet had a summarised classification of loan assets for 1936-37, but the return for the previous year shows a total deficiency of no less than £1,914,814. I notice that the Agricultural Bank is responsible for £226,936, the Soldier Settlement Scheme for £161,341, the Industries Assistance Board for £81,870, group settlers for a further £246,621, and agriculture generally for £126,829. This is a deplorable state of affairs for a country so suitable for agriculture as is Western Australia. One naturally asks oneself what is wrong. One trouble is that our farmers' costs are too high. The farmer pays and foots the bill pretty well every time. He has no Arbitration Court and no protective tariff. He has to pay Australian prices for all his requirements and yet he is in competition with the markets of the world. It costs him between 3s. and 4s. to produce a bushel of apples. When I have packed my fruit, I often say to myself that my troubles have now begun. It costs 8s. a case to put

fruit on the overseas market. If we could put our farmers in a prosperous condition by reducing their costs and fill up the 3,000 abandoned farms in this State, not only would the deficits be wiped out or reduced, but our other undertakings would benefit and unemployment would probably cease to exist. Transport charges form a big part of production costs. The primary producer pays transport charges every time; and the question whether production will be profitable or not, largely depends upon transport costs. I notice that we are to give consideration to transport. I am anxiously waiting to see whether the Government are going to continue to play with this problem, or face it as it should be faced. The first thing that we must aim at, if we are to provide the most economical transport possible, is sound administration; and that administration, if it is to straighten out our transport, must begin with a sound port policy. Some people consider that I have only one idea, "Ports"; but when I see and read of the men who hold similar views, I feel that I am in very good company. When over East recently, I had the great pleasure of meeting the leading port administrators and engineers; and I endeavoured to benefit by their experiences. As the result of that trip I am more convinced than ever that if we are to improve our transport we must intelligently carry out the general recommendations of the experts who have furnished reports to the Commonwealth Governments, which have also been made available to the States. The problem is too big for me to do more than touch on now, so I refer members to the report on "Transport in Australia, with a special reference to Port and Harbour Facilities," by Sir Geo. Buchanan, particularly volume I, which deals with the "Administration and Economics of Transport," and the report of the committee appointed by the Commonwealth Government to report upon transport in Australia. A summary of that report appeared in the "West Australian" of the 22nd May, 1929. What a difference there would be in this State today if the Collier Government had studied these reports and intelligently adopted their general recommendations! The first recommendation which should have been adopted was that of the Transport Committee—

All transport activities to be placed under the one Ministerial head, who will be respon-

sible for the whole policy and the establishment of a co-ordinating authority responsible for carrying out the Ministry's policy. The form of authority suggested is a commissioner for transport, with an advisory board, or an advisory council representative of the interests concerned. The function of such an authority would be the construction, extension, or closing of railway lines, new developmental roads, and the development of new harbours.

None of the States which I visited has so far adopted this recommendation, but the Victorian Government propose to introduce legislation to do so. In South Australia the ports and railways are at present under the one Minister, but this is a matter of convenience and not of policy. In Western Australia we have our railways under the Minister for Railways. Although some of our ports are managed by the Railway Department, they are under another Minister, the Chief Secretary. Our roads and so-called Transport Board are under still another Minister, the Minister for Works. We have an efficient Agricultural Department under the Director of Agriculture to assist with our producing problems; but we have no department to study, and to assist us with, our transport problems. When we appoint our commissioner for transport, he should appoint a propaganda officer to educate public opinion. To-day our transport is largely dominated by the narrow railway mind. Because railage is charged on a mileage basis, and is a direct charge, some think that our first consideration must be the minimum of railway mileage. Ports are rarely seen in their proper perspective, and there is a tendency to forget that they must be paid for. Instead of talking about each port having its own trade, we must realise that our first consideration should be to provide producers with export facilities at the least possible cost. To quote Sir George Buchanan—

Ports are the mediums or clearing houses between sea and land transport. On the ports, their efficiency and their proper location the whole system of transport very largely depends.

That naturally raises the question, what is the proper location for ports? In the days of bullock-wagons and sailing ships we needed ports wherever we could get them. In these days of railways, motors, big ships, high labour costs etc., we need a very few big, properly-equipped ports; and such ports are extremely costly to construct. Reference is often made to the cheaper port charges of South Africa, where there are only four

ports worth speaking of. The South African graingrowers, with 800 miles of railgauge, are better off than our wheatgrowers with an average of 150 miles of railgauge. The maximum charge on export grain in South Africa is 10s. per ton, and in Western Australia 18s. per ton. South Australia with its multiplicity of ports is able to keep the average railgauge of wheat down to 73 miles, compared with Victoria, which has only two ports and as a result 150 miles of railgauge. But it is the cost which counts. South Australian railgauge,  $4\frac{1}{4}$ d. per bushel and wharfage  $\frac{1}{4}$ d., total  $4\frac{1}{2}$ d., compares with Victoria 4d. for railgauge and no wharfage. Terminal charges are the same whether railgauge is for five miles or 500 miles. Too many ports mean increased port charges and ocean freight. An insufficiency of ports means points of congestion, lopsided distribution of population as the outer parts of the State are very severely handicapped. The remarks of the member for Kanowna (Mr. Nulsen) make it unnecessary for me to deal with the evils of overdone centralisation. We are not a small State like Victoria. It is a calamity to have Fremantle handling 90 per cent. of the State's trade. We have two distinct problems here—our North-West, and our potential agricultural areas, which extend from about 100 miles north of Geraldton to about 100 miles east of Esperance. With the four ports—Geraldton, Fremantle, Albany and Esperance—and with Bunbury as a timber port, we will have a sound port policy, a true policy of decentralisation, sufficient ports to keep railway mileage to a low level, and, as time goes on, sufficient trade to warrant the development of each port, and to make each port attractive for shipping. A greater number of ports than these will simply mean increased cost to the producer or taxpayer. I wish those who are inclined to disagree with my remarks about Bunbury had been with me in the offices of the Maritime Services Board of New South Wales. This is the authority appointed to control the ports of that State. I discussed Newcastle with those best qualified to discuss that port with me. The position of Newcastle in many respects resembles the position of Bunbury. I was told, "Newcastle never has paid, and never will pay. It is too close to Sydney to be of use as an oversea port. Its maintenance and development are a continued and costly fight against nature. Some years ago the port should have been scrapped, and Port Stephens, a few miles away, developed: but

it is too late to do that now, on account of the tremendous sums of money which have been spent there." As we discussed Newcastle, I thought of paragraph 549 of Sir George Buchanan's report—

A feature of Australia's port development in the past has been the development of ports in unsuitable situations, and the neglect of fine natural harbours where no engineering works were required other than the construction of wharves. To give examples: Rockhampton, on the Fitzroy River should not have been developed with a harbour like Gladstone only a few miles distant. It is difficult to understand why a port should have been created at Newcastle with the natural harbour of Port Stephens next door. And, finally, in Western Australia it will be cheaper to build railways to Albany than to develop Bunbury into a first-class port.

That is the opinion of an independent expert. It was easily seen that the heads of the Maritime Services Board of New South Wales were not at all pleased with the fact that they had inherited a liability, whereas, if Port Stephens had been developed, they would have had an asset. Are we to allow our present Government to pass a similar tragedy on to future generations? The Director of Public Works, when giving evidence before the Royal Commission on bulk handling suggested that the port of Bunbury should not be developed for bulk handling purposes, and later the Royal Commission recommended the provision of orthodox facilities at Geraldton and Fremantle, and urged that the Government should give serious consideration to installing terminal facilities at Albany and Bunbury. After giving, I presume, serious consideration to the matter, the Government presented the Bill to Parliament that included only the ports of Geraldton, Fremantle and Albany. When I appreciated that, I thought that the Government intended to act as statesmen. In fact, I was going to evidence my appreciation of their attitude by withdrawing my parliamentary candidature, but subsequently they introduced an amendment to include Bunbury as well. Now they are erecting a silo at Bunbury. I wish to recommend the Government to place a big brass plate on the silo setting out the names of the present Ministry, in order that in time to come when the silo is keeping company with the Fremantle dock and the Henderson naval base, people will know who were the men that ignored expert advice, persisted in a losing fight against

Nature, and preferred Bunbury to Albany. I do not blame Sydney people for being proud of their harbour. Nature has provided there a wonderful anchorage and beautiful scenery, but the deep water and high rocky formation along the shores make the development of that port extremely costly. A port must not only be able to accommodate shipping, but on the shore side there must also be ample room for sheds, railways and road approaches. Therefore, the State that is able to provide land alongside deep water, so that factories may have their own wharves, has a very big asset, and consequently I suggest that Melbourne, with its level land alongside the wharves, has a strong pull over Sydney. At Melbourne I saw superphosphate works on the waterfront and those works despatch large supplies to New South Wales. I also saw Holden's motor works under construction. In Western Australia we are justly proud of the beauties of the Swan River, which have been enhanced by the reclamation works that are in progress. We are inclined to be contemptuous of the muddy old Port Adelaide river, but as I journeyed down that waterway, I saw the power station with its own wharf, and coal being unloaded there at the rate of 1,000 tons per day. Alongside I saw a wharf being constructed for the alkali works, which have a capital of £2,000,000. Further down I saw the oil depots and super works, as well as other establishments, all with their own wharves. It is a great pity that we cannot offer sites for factories and other works along the shores of the Swan River. If our super works were on the waterfront, the farmers would this year effect a saving of £40,000. I never thought that Albany had so many natural advantages until I had the opportunity of seeing what other ports had to contend with. Not only could Albany be developed for a fraction of what it cost to develop Sydney, but wheat to the latter port must be hauled over the Blue Mountains that rise to a height of over 3,000 feet. On the other hand, from Merredin and Southern Cross to Albany, there are easy grades all the way. When I was going to the Katanning Road Board conference shortly after my return to this State, I could not help comparing the Great Southern Railway with the line to Katoomba in the Blue Mountains. To-day people may be pardoned if they conclude that our Government, instead

of working in with nature and making the most of existing natural advantages, have done the opposite. If members study the railway map of Western Australia, it should be clear to them that previous Governments have done their best to wipe Albany out of existence as a port. A few days ago a prominent member of this House showed me the comparative trade figures for Albany and Bunbury. If a man got the best cow and the worst cow obtainable and starved the best cow and fed the worst, the worst cow would give more milk than the best cow. A farmer who conducted his dairying operations on that basis would soon be bankrupt. A good dairyman tests his cows and cuts out the duds. Ports are like cows; they can be assets or liabilities. Out of nearly £6,500,000 spent on our ports, Albany has received only £153,000. The expenditure on ports since the Collier Government took office has been about £2,500,000. Of that amount Albany has received £1,259, Esperance £76,000, Bunbury £277,000, Fremantle £1,223,600, and Geraldton £83,100. When I mentioned the expenditure on the Albany harbour, the Chief Engineer in New South Wales looked at me in surprise and said, "Have you not got any silting?" When I replied in the negative, he told me that it cost £3,000 a year to remove the silt in the Sydney harbour.

Mr. North: Is this a conspiracy?

Mr. Cross: No, the member for Albany is only jealous.

Mr. HILL: Further large sums have been spent on regrading the railways to Fremantle. About £80,000 has been spent on the regrading of the railway to Bunbury, but not a penny has been spent on the Great Southern line to Albany. Let me put it in another way. Esperance has had sixty times the expenditure since 1924 that Albany has enjoyed, Bunbury nearly 300 times as much, Fremantle nearly a thousand times, and Geraldton nearly 700 times.

Mr. Cross: Absolute jealousy!

Mr. HILL: I would like to remind the member for Canning (Mr. Cross) that the people he is supposed to represent have to foot this bill.

The Premier: He is a very lucky man, who represents one of the best harbours in the world.

Mr. HILL: Then, why the devil don't you use it.

The Premier: I am not preventing it from being used.

Mr. HILL: The State is very lucky in having such a splendid natural harbour. I remember that in 1908 I saw the American fleet in port at Albany. I was on the flag ship and at that time there were in the harbour six other battleships, a cruiser, two supply ships and six coal boats, yet the whole of the berthing accommodation was available for commercial ships. While I was there, a Yankee sailor spoke to me and said, "Where is this place called Fremantle?" I replied that Fremantle was 300 miles up the coast. He looked round the harbour at Albany and said, "If we had this harbour, we would darned soon use it." The Premier, when Minister for Railways, was asked by a deputation to adjust railway rates in order to encourage the despatch of wheat along the easy grades to Albany in preference to the heavier grades to Bunbury, but he refused to do so.

Mr. Fox: That has nothing to do with the harbours. That is for the railways.

Mr. HILL: The railways charge on the mileage basis.

Mr. Fox: That has nothing to do with it.

Mr. Needham: Where is this port of Albany?

Mr. HILL: The ignorance of some members of Parliament is appalling! It shows that they do not represent the State, but merely their own little constituencies.

Mr. Needham: I wanted to know.

Mr. HILL: Has the hon. member never been to school? Albany lends itself to reclamation schemes. I have discussed this matter with leading engineers of Australia and they all agree that conditions are most favourable. In the "West Australian" of the 7th July the Director of Agriculture expressed the wish that some plan could be devised that would prevent the heavy economic loss each year due to the delays in the delivery of super. The establishment of works at Albany to supply its natural zone would reduce, if not entirely eliminate those losses. While there is a shortage of trucks at Pieton and the metropolitan area we see trains of empty trucks leaving Albany. Last year the Albany zone fixed by the Premier used 22,000 tons of super which came from Pieton and probably was hauled at a loss of £1 per ton to the railways. About 17,000 tons were hauled from the

metropolitan works for the railways which junction at Wagin, only 11 miles out of the Albany zone and 67 miles nearer Albany than Fremantle, and a further 17,000 tons for the lines which junction at Narrogin which is practically midway between Fremantle and Albany. Last January I requested the Minister for Works to have a site reclaimed for works on the waterfront at Albany to supply these districts. The Minister, when refusing my request, did not deny that the railways lost probably £1 per ton on the super hauled to Albany zone from Pieton. He advised me that the Albany zone terminated at Boyerine, not Narrogin and that the Lake Grace-Newdegate-Hyden lines were not in the Albany zone. Had those lines been able to draw their supplies last year from Albany, there would have been a saving of 1,020,000 ton miles, a big gain to both farmers and the railways. The Minister tried to tell me that if a separate wharf were constructed that haulage would still be necessary. This is not so. The idea of having a reclaimed site is to save haulage and handling as they do in the Eastern States. His further statement that the number of empty trucks leaving Albany is not greater than obtains at other ports, is not borne out by the fact that the Railway Department have always attempted to justify haulage over the heavy grades to Bunbury in preference to the easy grades at Albany by stating that they cannot get enough empty trucks at Bunbury, whereas 95 per cent. of the trucks which go to Albany return empty. The Minister finally stated that the small tonnage of super required for the Albany zone proper did not warrant the erection of another works. I trust that the Minister will reconsider his decision. I have gone fully into this question with a superphosphate company and I am confident that if there is not another depression and a site is provided on the waterfront, works will very quickly follow. Then as the Wagin and Narrogin areas are now common to both the metropolitan and Bunbury works, so will it be to the interest of the State as a whole to make those areas common to the Albany works as well. When I was in Melbourne I spent a couple of hours discussing bulk handling with the engineer in charge of the installation of plant there. I will not deal with this question to-night, because the member for Katanning dealt with it fairly fully last night and I can only sup-

port his remarks. As time goes on further reclamation could be provided at Albany and if the Government set out to-day to work in with nature the time would come when it would not be the member for Albany, but the Premier of the State who would be saying "Have you seen our harbour?" I have been instructed by the people of Albany to extend an invitation to Mr. Withers and Mr. Craig to attend the Albany Show on the 13th November. I extend the invitation also to other members, but particularly to those two gentlemen, because they have stated that the land around Albany is desert. We at Albany want to show them they are wrong. I have never yet said and never will say anything against the agricultural areas of the south-western part of the State. Money should be spent in developing those areas instead of throwing it into the Indian Ocean. The areas in the South-West in the vicinity of Bunbury have great prospects. In spite of the drawback of its great distance from Perth with its big central population, Albany has steadily progressed and we have thousands of acres of land in the Albany district which can be put to very profitable use. We may not have the best land in the State, but we have the best climate. Last year it was estimated that our freezing works would export about 10,000 lambs. They finished up by exporting 33,000. Another asset of which our Government does not make the most is the tourist trade. In the Eastern States tourist resorts are boomed for all they are worth. I visited one town, Katoomba, which has a population of 10,000 maintained solely by the tourists. In New South Wales several pages of the railway time-table are devoted to advertising tourist resorts and the suggestion is made to readers to travel to them by train. In our time-table there is not one reference made to any of our tourist resorts. People here seem to think that there is only one tourist resort and that is Yanchep. We should encourage tourists to go all over the State and I hope that when the Estimates are prepared more provision will be made to encourage tourist traffic. I might mention that in Denmark, a little town which is coming into its own as a tourist centre, £300 has been spent on the golf links and it is proposed to spend £200 or £300 more to make that place more attractive. There are several other matters with which I could deal but I will leave them until the discussion of the Estimates.

**MR. MARSHALL** (Murchison) [8.38]: I desire to contribute a little towards the discussion of the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-reply so ably moved by the member for Roebourne (Mr. Rodoreda). I have no intention of attempting to sift the merits or demerits of this or any other Government. Had I been a stranger to Western Australia and been invited to listen to the discussions to-day I would have come to the conclusion that the present Cabinet was composed of the most hard-hearted, inhuman individuals it would be possible to find in the whole Universe. The criticism has been similar in character for the 17 years during which I have had the honour of being a member of this Chamber. It has differed only in degree and the difference has been mighty small. One would really believe that the Cabinet of to-day has a strong desire with a full Treasury—when I say full Treasury, I mean an abundance of money—to resist every petition and definitely oppose every request made by members, indeed to put themselves into an invidious and unpopular position with the public. Now, I ask, is there any member of Parliament, to say nothing of a Minister of the Crown, who desires to be unpopular with the public? I confess that any previous Government would have been prepared, if it were possible, to retain its popularity with the public by conceding every request made by every individual member and every outside organisation, and so would have retained ministerial office for all time. Again, from listening to the discussion one could only come to the conclusion that all the social asperities and disadvantages, all the unemployment, the malnutrition, the lack of hospitals and the unsatisfactory railway facilities, the bad harbour facilities—

Mr. Lambert: And all the bad teeth.

Mr. MARSHALL: I wish the hon. member would make his speech standing up rather than make an ass of himself sitting down.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. MARSHALL: One would believe that the whole of these troubles belonged exclusively to Western Australia; that outside the borders of Western Australia every State in the Commonwealth and every country in the world was enjoying everything, while we were suffering all the disadvantages. But on a strict analysis we find that nowhere in the world is it any different. Go to any other State in the Commonwealth or to any country in the world and it will



be found that they have their unemployment and their youth unemployment, and destitution and poverty and misery, equally with Western Australia.

Mrs. Cardell-Oliver: Including Russia?

Mr. MARSHALL: I am not excluding Russia, so the hon. member and I will not come to cross-purposes on that score. For her entertainment I will include both Mussolini and Hitler. The economic difficulties from which all countries suffer are said to be due to international and world-wide tariffs. The Leader of the Opposition and the member for Murray-Wellington (Mr. McLarty) painted a depressing picture of the conditions prevailing among our rural workers. But are they any worse off than are the farmers in any other country? In America the farmers are leaving their farms as rapidly as are the farmers in Western Australia. They have put decades of labour and the whole of their capital into their farms, and in the end have walked off, just as farmers are doing in this State. New Zealand is suffering from the same complaint, and nowhere I can see is there any particular difference. So let me try, in my own humble way, with the limited knowledge of the matter I possess, but with the aid of established authorities on the subject, to locate the trouble from which we certainly do suffer. If I can convince my hearers or even partially convince them, I will call upon members opposite, who appear to be so very humane, to assist me to eradicate the cancer which is causing all our social evils. I do not rely upon my own opinion in this matter. I realise that already there is unnecessary poverty and destitution. We have heard much about the unemployed, the unfortunate wretches who cannot find employment. To listen to some of our members, one would believe that work in this age was absolutely essential in order to live. But if that were so, is it not obvious that we would put our unemployed to work in order that they might live? However, the economic system says that there is no necessity to labour, that the factories are full and that farmers are over-producing. About three years ago, we produced 50,000,000 bushels of wheat. Then what happened? We had an international conference, attended by the statesmen of all countries. And what was their recommendation? Did they say, "As there are starving millions, we shall feed them with the sur-

plus wheat?" No. They said, "Your only salvation is to reduce the quantity of your product." And so Western Australia came down to 23,000,000 bushels in the following year. The Leader of the Opposition wanted to raise an argument about employment. But work is only a means to an end, and that end is life. The hon. gentleman does not perceive that. England is building new battleships, and at the same time English textile mills are being closed down and are to be compensated, all because of over-production. From that I would assume that every person living in the United Kingdom is well clothed; but I find that in England alone—and I want my hearers thoroughly to understand the position—England is experiencing a period of alleged prosperity which, when we review it over a period of years, is unprecedented. The re-armament programme has been the means of absorbing quite a lot of unemployed, men who have been unemployed for years past. So there is some semblance of prosperity as compared with a few years ago. Yet the figures I have for 1937 show that the unemployed in that small section of the hemisphere numbers 1,700,000 who are absolutely starving.

Mr. North: What about national insurance?

Mr. MARSHALL: Taking national insurance at its very best it is merely an item in a programme to get the workers to share their poverty. In England, where national insurance has been tried for years, it is a dismal failure, and it has also failed in Germany. In my view, national insurance may be figured out in this way: The worker contributes one-third; then he produces sufficient wealth and pays taxation to enable the Government to provide another third, and when he buys his commodities he supplies the remaining third. Some people believe there is virtue in national insurance. I cannot agree. Still I would support such a scheme in order to enable those who believe in it to give it a trial, though I know what the result would be. That our trouble lies in the system of banking there can be no doubt. Seeing that the trouble is world-wide, there must be some particular factor exerting its influence to produce that result throughout the world. I shall attempt to show the Leader of the Opposition and members who sit on that side of the House, and purport

to represent the primary producers, exactly what the effect will be of their wailing at the Government to have everybody taxed to the full, to borrow all they can, and to spend the lot. Members may wait until doomsday, but unless more money flows into the Treasury, more money cannot be taken out of it, and it is futile for members opposite to be harping for it. There is a school of thought that argues that under our present monetary system gold is the basis for the issuing of credit. I ask those who argue in that way why it is that America, with over two-thirds of the world's production of gold in its vaults, is as poor as any other country. If gold were the basis, America should be prosperous. Let me give an illustration of what happens in this city to show the basis upon which credit is issued by the banks. Take Boans Emporium. Let us assume that Mr. Boan requires an overdraft to enable him to carry on his business. He would approach his banker, and doubtless if his request were reasonable, the banker would agree. Naturally Mr. Boan would be asked for security, and presumably he would lodge the title deeds of his premises and secure the overdraft. Anyone who gave the matter no further thought would conclude that the advance had been granted on the security of the premises, but suppose the Government, by legislation, stipulated that Boans Emporium should be closed for all time, and should not further engage in the buying, selling or exchanging of goods. Directly that measure became law, what advance would Mr. Boan expect to get from his banker? He would not get a penny. Bricks and mortar and iron do not form the actual security. When a business man seeks an overdraft, the banker wants to know whether he is capable of conducting a business. If he can convince the banker that he has the experience, the next thing the banker wants to know is whether the business is available, and the borrower must show that the business is there. Having satisfied the banker on those points, no doubt the applicant will get the advance. Just as Mr. Boan could not get an advance if his business were closed for all time, so the other business man would not be able to get an overdraft or loan unless he showed that the business could be opened and would flourish. In other words, the banker would want to

know whether the applicant had consumers to buy the goods he proposed to sell. If the applicant could show that there was a sufficient number of consumers to provide the business necessary to enable him to repay the advance plus interest, he would get the advance. Obviously, therefore, banks create and issue credit upon no other basis than that of the consuming public. The greater the consumption, the greater the production; the lower the consumption, the lower the production. Thus the whole basis of credit is consumption. We may safely consider Boan's business to be a prosperous one on the present site, but move the establishment to Fish Rock, and would Mr. Boan then be able to get an overdraft or loan from the bank? Of course not, because there would be no one at Fish Rock with whom to do business. There would be no consuming units to trade with him. Without doubt the primary producer is the salt of the earth. It is because of the consuming and producing public that credit is made possible. It is public credit and should never be entrusted to private individuals. I do not take great exception to the business that banks do. Banks as such are of benefit to society and its commercial life. As repositories for the public treasure they do good work. Acting as agents for lenders of money they also serve a good purpose. In assisting in the development of the commercial life and trade of the community they also serve a purpose. But when they are allowed to create money and destroy it they take away from the sovereign State the essential power and function known as "government by right." It is in this particular form of commercial life that our trouble lies. Later on I will quote some authorities on this matter. The power which small groups of individuals have taken to themselves was not taken recently. Finance of this sort has been working slowly but surely for many years. The present Government no more rules Western Australia than I supervise Paradise. No Government in any civilised part of the world can be said to rule the country it governs. Governments are in the hands of high financiers, and these individuals measure the standard of living as surely as I stand here. The Government is under the dictation of the banks to-day. We know that the Treasurer has to go three or four times a year to the Loan Council to

borrow money. He is borrowing credit from private individuals, who base their credit upon public consumption. We borrow and put into circulation money that is based first upon primary production. We give to the private individual the right to charge interest, and we give him a guarantee to repay the full amount of the money, although that money was never the lender's in the first place. In the second place, it was never money at all, but we guarantee to pay it back in full plus interest. Look at the deplorable position into which we have fallen. The Treasurer is at his wits' end to finance the affairs of State. I wager that 50 per cent. of the rolling stock is not fit to be on the road. Hospitals are required all over the State. I was told the other day that those unfortunate people who are in the Heathcote Home are compelled to take a shakedown in the dormitories between beds already placed there. This is due to lack of money. All our institutions are starved. Water supplies are necessary everywhere and the school accommodation is deplorable. We are taxed as far as it is humanly possible to tax the people. Our national debt is slowly but surely mounting up. Side by side with that is the call upon the taxpayers to provide interest. The Deputy Premier told us frankly on the occasion of his last Budget speech that out of his 10 millions 4½ millions went in interest and sinking fund to repay borrowed money. This money was borrowed from private individuals, who did not have the money in the first place. The money was not theirs to lend either, but we have to pay it back in full—that will be never—and we have to pay interest on it.

Mr. North: The Royal Commission investigated that point the other day.

Mr. MARSHALL: I should like to show how efficiently these small groups of people are organised and how thoroughly they control every Government. I will quote some astounding figures. In New Zealand the population is 1,600,000. The national debt is £282,000,000, and this represents approximately a debt of £170 per head of the population, including the one-day old baby. In Great Britain the population is 45,000,000. The national debt is £8,000,000,000 and this represents a debt of £170 per head of the population. The national debt per head of the population of Australia is also £170. These people, therefore, have got it worked down to a fine art. They are wonderfully

skillful and clever. We all remember the President of the United States, Woodrow Wilson, who played such a prominent part in the peace negotiations in the last great war. The next war is not far off. In a book by Professor Soddy entitled "Virtual Wealth and Debt," page 290, I find that the following appears:—

In 1916 President Woodrow Wilson said, "A great industrial nation is controlled by its system of credit. Our system of credit is concentrated. The growth of the nation, therefore, and of our activities are in the hands of a few men. We have come to be one of the worst ruled, one of the most completely controlled and dominated Governments in the civilised world, no longer a government by free opinion, by conviction and vote of the majority, but a government by the opinion and duress of small groups of dominant men."

President Wilson knew this, and confessed it, in 1916. I do not know that I should delay the House much longer in regard to these matters.

Mr. North: Can you see a remedy for the people to adopt?

Mr. MARSHALL: Yes; but I do not know that my remedy would be acceptable to the hon. member interjecting. It is wonderful what these individuals have been able to do, and how completely they have secured the confidence of various Governments. The tyranny of their operations is almost unbelievable. The methods they adopt are damnable in the extreme. But they do not care how many people remain unemployed. They do not care for the wail of the member for Subiaco (Mrs. Cardell-Oliver) for milk for the children of indigent people. They prey upon the nations in times of peace, and conspire against them in times of war. They denounce as public enemies all who challenge those methods. What happened under the Bruce-Page Government in this sunny but unhappy land of ours? During the term of that Government the bankers approached the Federal Treasurer, and asked him to increase the note issue by £15,000,000. The Treasurer refused, saying, "If I increase the note issue by a further £15,000,000 and divide those notes among the associated banks, the banks will issue five times that amount of credit." And that is what the banks do. Thus booms are created, and booms are not healthy. The financiers, however, were not going to be defeated, and they attacked the Federal Government through the wool interests. I understand that on the Commonwealth Bank Board there is a repre-

sentative of the wool industry. Thereupon the Commonwealth decided to advance £3,000,000 in notes. But that did not satisfy the bankers. It was not sufficient. What did they do? They withheld advances from the wool buyers, and so down came the price of wool. The Bruce-Page Government were helpless, and therefore called upon the Commonwealth Bank to make available the further £12,000,000 of notes desired. The agreement arrived at on that occasion was to the effect that the associated banks should have the right to draw up to that amount. What did the banks do? On the understanding that they could call upon the £12,000,000 of notes at any time, they issued credits to the extent of five times the £12,000,000—£60,000,000 of credit, paper-made money. mere increases in the bank ledgers.

Mr. Seward: What was the gold backing at that time?

Mr. MARSHALL: Australia was the gold backing.

Mr. Seward: The gold backing was in existence then.

Mr. MARSHALL: Nonsense! The banks issued credits on the strength of their right to draw on the £12,000,000 of notes. True, they were under obligation to pay interest to the Commonwealth, or to the Australian people, on all notes drawn by them. So they lent £60,000,000 of credit, and never drew one note of the £12,000,000. But the banks charged the borrowers interest. They never paid the Commonwealth a penny interest on the £12,000,000. By a trick they cheated the people. I daresay the unfortunate borrowers are to-day struggling to repay the £60,000,000 of credit. That was not money subscribed by shareholders, or depositors' money paid into the bank, but only a guarantee of good faith by the Commonwealth Government, who were prepared to have more notes issued and give the banks the right to draw upon those notes. Absolute fraud and chicanery! As 90 per cent. or more of the commercial life of this country exists upon cheque money, I would like to know from the hon. member, who I believe is an ex-banker, whence did the banks derive the legal right to pass off cheques as money? Under what Act of Parliament have the banks the right to issue the cheque money which provides for 95 per cent of the business transactions of the Commonwealth? Who authorised the banks to issue counterfeit money?

If an unfortunate hungry wretch silvers over a penny and passes it off as 2s., he is clapped into gaol; but the banks can create money of their own and use the productivity of the people as a basis on which to issue credits. Further, the people who make the basis on which the credits are issued, are charged full interest by the banks, and are called upon to repay money which they never had. While this form of monetary business is left in the hands of private individuals, members of Parliament can wait for milk for poor children, and cry out for more schools and tramways and railway facilities, but they will never be out of the hands of the financial crowd. The Leader of the Opposition and the member for West Perth, when speaking on the Address-in-reply, stressed the great importance of and the urgent need for export trade. That advocacy seems wise and right as long as one does not probe into it too deeply. Although for many years past I have realised the anomaly of it, I never understood how it came about that we were so anxious to export all the good foodstuffs of this country while leaving our own people hungry. I will agree for the moment that the two hon. members I have mentioned may be right. Export trade! Who is unaware that that very form of commercial activity is the root cause of all wars? Export trade has occasioned every war of England. Wars spring from market rivalry. Comparatively a little time ago, primitive countries and countries in the infancy of development offered markets for exporting countries. But the primitive and developing countries have all of them gradually adopted the idea of doing like older countries did, and have closed their borders to importations. All countries are now doing alike. With the aid of science in development and production, it has become a simple matter for each country to develop and use its own resources. Therefore they no longer want importations. All they want is what the Leader of the Opposition and the member for West Perth advocate—export trade. They do not want the other fellow to send anything back. Accordingly, when two countries clash with regard to an export market, war is inevitable. The same gentleman whose words I have already quoted also had something apropos to say a few days before he died. He was addressing a meeting, and was outlining the real reason of America's participation in

the Great War. He concluded with these words—

Is there a man or woman, nay, is there a child in this audience who does not know that the seeds of war are sown in the heat of successful commercial rivalry?

And that is all we are preparing for to-day. The money powers of the world have their funds invested in certain industries in various countries, and those investments must be made to repay the expenditure. In order that the repayments may be made, the concerns must engage in the export trade. When two or more nations clash in their greed for markets, then obviously the seeds of war are sown, and the picked men of the races are sent forth to spill their good, rich, warm blood on the battlefield, not for freedom but for slavery; not for humanity, but for inhumanity. No one knows the position better than you do, Mr. Speaker, for you have participated in two wars. To those who engaged in the Great War and to those who did not participate, I put this question: What was it that inspired us, and we believed in? Was it not that it was to be a war to end war, a war that would make the world safe for heroes to live in? God forbid that we should have a repetition of that, when we appreciate the fact that to-day unfortunate men with returned soldiers' badges in the lapels of their coats have to leave their little ones behind while they prow about the country in search of work. That was the fruit of the war that was to make the world safe for democracy. Ever since the Armistice, the nations have been at each other's throats. We have never had a day's peace since, and yet the fool public can be gulled into preparing for another war. I predict that, as sure as I stand here, on the completion of the present armament programme, war will be inevitable. The staggering debt is mounting up, particularly in England, and the point will be reached when the structure will topple down. The money power of the world will not yield up its domination without a fight. As Samuel Johnson said, "Patriotism is the last refuge of the scoundrel." War will be declared, and there will be a call for a united front. Anyone who dares to utter a word in defence of the few remaining human beings that are physically fit, to save them from this particular form of inhuman murder, will be declared anti-British and, under the War Precautions Act or some such legislation, will be clapped into prison or, in all probability, shot. That is the programme;

it is inevitable. There is just one possible chance of avoiding that catastrophe, and that is that the banks that have been exercising the money power will hand back that power to Governments. Let me again quote the words of Professor Soddy. I do not wish to labour the matter, but there are a couple of extracts from his work I would like to place before members—

It certainly does seem odd to a tyro to discover that the law proceeds with the utmost severity against the fraudulent counterfeiter for uttering new money tokens, but allows the banks, in effect, to create it wholesale to lend at interest by these methods, which is a far more profitable business and infinitely more serious in its consequences to the general community than counterfeiting. To any other age it would have been the most obvious form of treason against the State.

The writer there says distinctly that the banks have exercised that right, and have issued cheques, thus taking over the sovereign powers that belong to the State. Until that power is returned to the State, there is little hope of the present Government, or any other Government, being able to finance the requirements of the country. I shall quote one more extract from Professor Soddy's book, because the bankers, who are particularly dull on this subject, are not inclined to agree with me. Here is the other extract:—

As the banking and cheque system developed, and people got into the habit of depositing their money more and more in banks and using cheques, in lieu of cash, to settle their accounts, the banker at first would, as we have seen, always possess a much larger stock of gold and silver than he required to meet such demands for cash as the public still made. It is therefore clear that the banker can safely lend part of his depositors' money; but what is not so clear is that he can lend many times as much as the whole nation possesses—in fact, create it to lend at will.

And that is true. Of course they create and lend money. Every penny that the Treasurer borrows and goes into the bank as a deposit, what ordinary depositors put in as deposits, plus the banker's own money, which has been subscribed—those three factors provide the structure upon which the whole indebtedness is created. That is not the right function of a bank. Banks are no more than butchers' shops. A butcher opens a shop, ostensibly to do the business of a butcher, with the object of making a profit, and the only concern he has is the interests of his shareholders. Banks are just as much insti-

tutions for profit. I had intended quoting from Field's work regarding farmers. Every pennyworth of wealth that goes into circulation is created by the farmer. Members should understand that legal tender that is in circulation is money that has been borrowed into circulation, because money emerges from a bank only on account of overdrafts or loans. I admit that a small amount may emerge in the ordinary way of business for cash or change. That is obvious. As I tried to point out last year, when I endeavoured to convince the member for Pingelly (Mr. Seward) on the point, the banks do create credit, and I gave him the illustration of the £1,000 house. If I wanted to build a house costing that amount, I would go to the bank for the funds. I will assume that I was able to get the money. It will be seen from this illustration that those who argue that the banks have securities are wrong. It is not true. I go to the bank and say that I want £1,000 to build a home. The bank replies, "You can have it." The house is not yet built, yet I have £1,000. How does it happen? The banker goes to the ledger, turns up the name, W. M. Marshall, and I am allotted £1,000. I take my cheque book to a contractor and ask him to build me a home, and I pay him a cheque to do it. The builder takes my cheque to the bank. My side of the ledger is debited with the value of the cheque, and his side is credited, yet not a penny has been used; and 90 per cent. of the commercial wealth of the Commonwealth is on that basis—bank created credit. The powers of the Government, of the sovereign state, are used for the aggrandisement and greed of private exploiters, but the member for Subiaco does not want the system changed. All the misery which at present exists can remain, as far as the hon. member is concerned. Poverty can remain throughout the universe so long as the sanctity and security of the monetary system is not interfered with. It may murder little ones before they are born, for all the hon. member cares.

Mrs. Cardell-Oliver: Hit some one your own size.

Mr. MARSHALL: The attitude of the member for Subiaco the other night, revealed in her utterances in this House, indicates to me that she is opposed to any alteration.

Mrs. Cardell-Oliver: You must have been deaf then.

Mr. MARSHALL: I am never deaf, when I am being whispered to by a lady.

I can always hear. I am sorry if I misunderstood the hon. member, but that is what I took her to mean. But here is the position: Our farmers are in a state of poverty according to the reports of their own representatives, and our squatters are nothing more than shepherds for the banks. Ninety per cent. of the farms of this Commonwealth are owned by the banks. The wheat producers themselves owe £138,000,000. The longer and harder they work the more they owe, and their representatives come here and say, "We can get over our difficulties if you rehabilitate the farmer." I cannot conclude now without quoting Field. This is what A. N. Field has to say in his "Truth about the Slump." I recommend the book to the ex-banker. It would be edifying for the hon. member to read it—

If the people live in freedom on the land they will still be secure even though the money-changers have turned the temple into a den of thieves. It is thus of vital importance to the money power to entrap the tiller of the soil and the husbandman in the toils of debt. This has been very completely achieved in New Zealand. Half a century ago a conservative Minister for Lands told Parliament that the only alternative he could see before the farmers of New Zealand was to be either the tenants of the money-lenders or the tenants of Crown.

That was half a century ago. They were asking for rehabilitation of farmers then. We are still asking for it. We will be all right next year when the war breaks out. We will send men to the international abattoirs to be killed, and those that cannot go will be able to go farming, because prices will go up. When it is all over there will be a day of reckoning. Field continues—

Crown tenancy is of no use at all to the money power as it cannot take away the land by enticing the farmer into debt—not that he needs much enticement, for going into debt has become as natural to a New Zealander as sucking in his mother's milk. For some years we did have Crown leaseholds that were inalienable, but the money-lending interests soon saw to it that these leases were done away with.

If the farmer were a free man, able to do what he liked with his own produce, where would the stock exchange be? Where would the gambler on wheat and wool, and the other investors be if the farmers were free to buy and sell as they liked? But no; all are within the clutches of the bankers. There is no possible hope of any relief until this problem is tackled. This is the only grudge I have against the Government, that

they do not try to educate the people. Why, when they go to the Loan Council, do they not tell the people that this credit which they are raising, is credit created by the banks, and the power to issue is in the hands of the banks, and because of that fact the Governments have completely lost control. They are no more the rulers of this State than I am. They do the bidding of the banks. So it is in every allegedly civilised country in the world. Professor Soddy says the same, and he is not the only one. Cassel, Kitson, Withers, and dozens of other men who have written upon this subject, have done so very thoroughly, and have pointed out these facts. Before I conclude I want to make another quotation to show the wonderful power and influence these particular groups of men have over all sorts of industry.

Mr. North: Do not you think they mean well?

Mr. MARSHALL: Yes, they do mean well. They have the best of intentions. They can drink champagne and smoke cigars while my child dies of hunger. Their intentions are perfectly good—for themselves. They are so well organised and interlocked that there is no industry of any importance outside their clutches. I do not care what industry it is, the hand of the money-power is behind it. Dalgety & Co., Elder Smith, and all those firms carrying on under the originally established name are no more Dalgety & Co. and Elder Smith's, than I am; they are subsidiary banks, doing the rougher kind of banking, and acting as agents for the large banks. The same applies to the insurance companies. The same board of directors is over the lot of them, and their persecution is getting almost intolerable. As long as this goes on there will be unemployed, for that is the principal and policy for which they stand—the limiting of credit and the shrinking of it at times. Next year this State and Commonwealth will experience some of the worst times they have ever known, for I can see Montague Norman coming this time, and not Sir Otto Niemeyer, the German. Is it not a wonderful and beautiful thing? During the War if you had mentioned a sentence in favour of a person with a German name you would have been clapped into gaol.

Mr. McDonald: Do you want to keep it up now? The war is over.

Mr. MARSHALL: No, I want to show your inconsistency. I was saying that during the War if a word were mentioned in favour of a German the offender would have been clapped into gaol, but Niemeyer was a German, and he came to Australia in peace time, and introduced one of the rottenest programmes ever suggested to this country to enslave the masses. Yet he was a German and a Hun just the same.

Mrs. Cardell-Oliver: Is he a German?

Mr. MARSHALL: No; no more than a King of England.

Mrs. Cardell-Oliver: A rose by any other name would smell as sweet.

Mr. MARSHALL: So would an onion smell as objectionable.

Mr. McDonald: How do you know he is a German?

Mr. MARSHALL: The hon. gentleman can get all the information about the leading lights of the banking world from these books. Most are members of the American Central Reserve Bank Board, and others are on the Bank of England directorate.

Mr. McDonald interjected.

Mr. MARSHALL: Yes, Ramsay Macdonald was chased all over England to be incarcerated for his utterances, chased by those who a year earlier were pleased to put their arms round his neck. Now I want to quote from this pamphlet, written by Will T. Duggan of Adelaide, in order to convince members that while not even Soddy and I are of one opinion, we have here in this book Mr. McKenna, the chairman of the Midland Bank, addressing a meeting of the shareholders of that bank on the 25th January, 1924. No one, I think, has ever questioned the utterances of Mr. McKenna. This is what he said on the occasion to which I refer:—

I am afraid the ordinary citizen will not like to be told that the banks can and do create and destroy money.

Later in the same address he said:—

And they who control the credit of a nation direct the policy of Governments and hold in the hollow of their hands the destiny of the people.

That was the chairman of the Midland Bank. Now, in conclusion, just to show the hypocrisy and the influence and power that these groups of men have, on page 45 of this same book by Will T. Duggan we have some remarks by Mr. John Swinton, late editor of the "New York Times" at a banquet on his

retiring from office, in reply to the toast "An Independent Press." He said:—

There is no such thing in America as an independent Press. You know it, as I know it. There is not one of you who would dare to write his honest opinions, and if he did you would know beforehand that it would never appear in print. I am paid 250 dollars per week to keep my honest opinions out of the paper I am connected with. The business of the journalist is to destroy the truth, to lie outright, to prevent, to villify, to fawn at the feet of Mammon, and to sell himself and his country and his race for his daily bread. You know this and I know it, and what folly is this to be toasting an independent Press! We are the tools and vassals of rich men behind the scenes. We are jumping Jacks. They pull the strings and we dance. Our talents, our possibilities and our lives are the property of these men. We are intellectual prostitutes.

That is his opinion, his condemnation of that very group of persons.

Hon. P. Collier: What do you suggest would be the function of a Commonwealth reserve bank?

Mr. MARSHALL: The issuing and control of credit would be its proper function, and functioning in the interests of the people, not of the shareholders.

Hon. P. Collier: In what way?

Mr. MARSHALL: For the best part of an hour I have been trying to explain that.

Hon. P. Collier: You have not succeeded in making yourself clear. How would you explain the functions of a Commonwealth reserve bank?

Mr. MARSHALL: I am afraid I must leave the answer to that question until the Loan Estimates come along.

Hon. P. Collier: Yes, I supposed you would. You do not know the A.B.C. of it.

Mr. MARSHALL: Of course, the hon. member does, and we shall have to leave it at that. However, I have given my personal opinion, and if it be at variance with that of the member for Boulder, I am sorry. But I do not propose to have my opinions changed because the member for Boulder differs. I will not be convinced by the hon. member; he can retain his own ideas.

Hon. P. Collier: You do not know what you are talking about.

Mr. MARSHALL: I am not going to be convinced by the member for Boulder that I am wrong.

Hon. P. Collier: I am sure of that.

Mr. MARSHALL: In my remarks I have been aided by men who have given the mat-

ter deep thought. But of course they are nothing to the member for Boulder.

Hon. P. Collier: No argument, only grouse.

MR. SAMPSON (Swan) [9.47]: I move—

That the debate be adjourned.

Motion put and negatived.

Mr. SAMPSON: I regret that it is not possible to defer this until Tuesday. However, I desire to say a few words before the motion is carried. First I wish to speak on the matter of rations and sustenance, and to urge that, where possible, the provision of rations be abandoned for the alternative provision of sustenance. I feel that in the giving of rations severe injury is done to those who receive them, whereas sustenance, that is, working for the money provided, does give an opportunity for the retention of self-respect.

Mr. Cross: But they have to take work at present; they cannot get rations.

Mr. SAMPSON: In some instances that is not so, and it is in connection with those instances that I am speaking. I know of a man who has a wife and a family of six, and who is in receipt of £2 9s. per week. The man is paying, or rather is supposed to be paying, 8s. a week rent, the balance being to enable himself and wife and children to live. One of the grievances of that man is that if there were only five children the amount received would be the same. In a few days there will be seven children and his difficulties will be increased accordingly. I have been wondering if it would be possible for the Government to give favourable consideration to the establishment of a farm somewhat on the lines of the Fairbridge Farm School, where the children and the mother could be cared for, while the father was given opportunity once more to establish himself in the industry in which he has had some experience. The man has no funds whatever and is therefore unable to rehabilitate himself as a farmer—he was a group farmer—and his position must remain utterly impossible unless he is repatriated to the Old Country or given some special consideration in the form perhaps of an abandoned farm or the opportunity to work an abandoned farm. Alternatively he must remain in idleness and his family grow up in the very unsatisfactory atmosphere which in those circumstances would exist. The party



concerned called to see me and later wrote a letter in the course of which he said—

The knowledge that a woman who is the mother of six children is living on the large sum of 8d. per day and has to enter hospital in three weeks (that was from the time of writing) should be quite sufficient to stir up the outraged feelings of any white man, but it is a fact, for I am allowed 49s. per week; rent is 8s., and a family of eight have to live on what remains for food and clothing. I cannot do more than invite you to my home to see for yourself the conditions under which I am compelled to exist.

I am a practical farmer with years of experience, and there are plenty of abandoned farms here in the South-West. Would it not be cheaper for the Government to put men with such experience on these farms? I would only ask for what I had a reasonable chance of repaying, but my family would live and be a credit to the State instead of becoming a burden and perhaps starve or become criminals. Personally I have always tried to be a good citizen. My character, although I say it myself, is unblemished, and I want it to remain so, but blood is thicker than water, and I cannot stand by and see my wife and children want any longer. Something has got to be done quickly or the State can keep them and me. What is more, if I am offered work, I rather doubt if I will be fit to take it.

I am putting forward no criticism whatever. I believe that every consideration that seems practicable to the Government has been given, but there are cases such as this one where the children will suffer unless some new method is adopted under which they will be cared for. The father, as he says, is capable of working and is anxious to work, but he cannot manage unless some special effort is made by the Government to assist him. He tells me that if he goes away to work, the amount he is paid—the basic wage—does not enable him to maintain two homes. Therefore I venture to suggest that the Government might give consideration to the establishment of a farm school whereby the children, at all events, might be saved from the degradation that must otherwise result from their existing position. Sustainance payments would be far better than the ration payments he is receiving. I hope it will be possible to do something. I shall be very glad to give the Minister concerned all available information about the case. If the children are given the opportunity I suggest, they will be cared for at school and could be taught the rudiments of farming, all of which would be helpful to them. A matter in which the Government have already shown their interest is prospecting and I hope that

this method of providing for single young men will be extended. It is a very attractive proposition and is capable of great extension. I wish to stress the importance of reducing the maximum amount now allowed for the erection of a worker's home. When the amount permitted is so high, those mostly in need of workers' homes are prevented from obtaining them. With all the desire in the world on the part of the board and the secretary, I believe it is impossible to provide a worker's home in a period of less than 12 months. This position has probably arisen because so many of the workers' homes provided are too costly. It would be helpful to those who are most in need and who are the hardest pressed if less costly homes were provided and thereby a larger number of them made available. One matter that requires widespread publicity is that of tobacco and timber shares being sold in this State. I have been informed by a number of people that they have suffered greatly because of their belief in the stories told them, whereby shares have been unloaded on to them. The amount paid in some instances has exceeded £1,000, and I know of one man who not only put in his own savings, but took the children's money out of the bank and invested the lot because, following the stories told him, he was convinced that it would be a paying proposition. There are tobacco and timber propositions in this State equally attractive as those of the Eastern States, but I am particularly referring to the Queensland propositions which have been responsible for much loss and anxiety to those concerned. Before concluding let me say that while general dissatisfaction with the Speech is expressed every year, one part of it at all events gave satisfaction to me. I refer to a paragraph under the heading "Railways" that relates to electricity, the Electricity Department being under the control of the Commissioner of Railways. The paragraph reads—

The revenue and expenditure figures for electricity supply were highly satisfactory, the surplus last year being £94,299. Excellent progress has been maintained in the extension of the East Perth Power House, and trial runs of the new plant should be possible towards the end of October.

The next point greatly cheered me and I hope that the suggestion contained in the paragraph will before long be carried into effect—

When this unit is placed in operation it will cope with all demands for years to come, and

will ensure an adequate supply of electrical current for industrial purposes.

Of course, "industrial purposes" would include agriculture, and when that happens, I shall indeed be pleased not only with the previous Minister for Railways, now the Premier, but with his successor who is equally sympathetic and considerate in regard to these extensions. When the extensions are made, a new era will open up for the outer suburban areas. Without this cheap means of raising water for use on growing crops, our position will become worse. I thank the Minister for this added assurance. I hope that everything which has been suggested will be effected, and that the advantages of electricity will be available in these districts.

**MR. SEWARD** (Pingelly) [10.2]: I move—

That the debate be adjourned.

Motion put and negatived.

Question (that the Address-in-reply be adopted) put and passed: the Address adopted.

#### **BILLS (7)—FIRST READING.**

##### **1. State Government Insurance Office.**

Introduced by the Premier (for the Minister for Employment).

##### **2. Workers' Compensation Act Amendment.**

Introduced by the Premier (for the Minister for Employment).

##### **3. Air Navigation.**

Introduced by the Minister for Works.

##### **4. Main Roads Act Amendment Act, 1932, Amendment.**

Introduced by the Minister for Works.

##### **5. Rural Relief Fund Act Amendment.**

Introduced by Mr. Watts.

##### **6. Sales by Auction.**

Introduced by Mr. Watts.

##### **7. Lotteries (Control) Act Amendment.**

Introduced by Mrs. Cardell-Oliver.

*House adjourned at 10.10 p.m.*

## **Legislative Council,**

*Tuesday, 24th August, 1937.*

	PAGE
Swearing-in of member ....	214
Leave of absence ....	214
Address-in-reply, seventh day ....	214

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

### **SWEARING-IN OF MEMBER.**

Hon. J. J. Holmes (North) took and subscribed the oath of allegiance to His Majesty the King.

### **LEAVE OF ABSENCE.**

On motion by Hon. J. J. Holmes, leave of absence for six consecutive sittings granted to Hon. E. H. Angelo (North) on the ground of urgent private business.

### **ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.**

*Seventh Day.*

Debate resumed from the 19th August.

**HON. C. G. ELLIOTT** (North-East) [4.39]: In speaking to the Address-in-reply I shall content myself with the chief matters affecting my electorate—the mining industry and the pastoral industry. The mining industry, which has been of wonderful value to Western Australia during the world depression, is still expanding, and the production for last year showed a considerable advance on that for the previous year. The production from July 1935 to June 1936 was 769,029 fine ounces, equivalent to £6,713,027 in Australian currency. From July 1936 to June 1937 the production was 936,125 fine ounces, representing £8,191,968. The increase for the year thus is 167,096 fine ounces, or £1,478,141. It is highly satisfactory also to note that the producing mines are steadily increasing their ore reserves by development work. At least three mines that have been discovered since the revival of the industry have been fully equipped with treatment plants, and are now producing thousands of pounds worth of gold monthly. Others are being developed to the producing stage during the current