

supplied to that effect. There is no great hardship in keeping dogs of this kind out of Western Australia until they are old enough to be effectively sterilised. To-day they are being brought into the State when they are four or five weeks old, kept here until they are three months old and then sterilised. It should be made impossible for any dog to enter Western Australia until it has been effectively sterilised. That means the dog should be kept outside the State until it is old enough to be sterilised. This is a matter of vital importance to sheep owners and I hope hon. members will see the necessity for the proposed amendment of the Act. The amendment will give considerably more protection to sheep farmers than they enjoy at present. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by the Minister for Agriculture, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 9.48 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 1st September, 1938.

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

QUESTION—EDUCATION.

Perth Technical College, Additional Accommodation.

Mr. NEEDHAM asked the Minister for Education: 1, Does the Government intend

to provide additional accommodation for students at Perth Technical College? 2, If so, when will the necessary work be put in hand?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: 1 and 2, The matter is receiving fullest consideration at the moment.

QUESTION—GAS.

Prospective Customers, Claremont and Swanbourne.

Mr. NORTH asked the Minister for Works: 1, Are any steps being taken to empower prospective gas customers in the portions of Claremont and Swanbourne now beyond the Perth City gas area to connect up with the mains? 2, If the Fremantle Gas Company is not taking further powers to meet these cases, is the Government arranging to proclaim the "no man's land" in question as part of the Perth City Council's terrain?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: 1, Yes. 2, A proposal submitted by the Fremantle Gas and Coke Company for an extension of its area is now under consideration with a view to the introduction of the necessary amending legislation.

QUESTIONS (2)—RAILWAYS.

"AZ" Coaches.

Mr. DONEY asked the Minister for Railways: 1, Is the arrangement whereby "AZ" coaches have—except for one upward and one downward journey—been transferred from the Great Southern line to the Perth-Kalgoorlie line a permanent arrangement? 2, Does the Railway Department intend to build more "AZ" coaches?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, Only until the present limited supply of these coaches is added to. 2, Yes.

Coal Box Wagons, Bulk Wheat Trucks.

Mr. DONEY asked the Minister for Railways: 1, Was there in 1930, or in any other year, a surcharge of 1s. per ton freight on coal carried over the State railways in coal box wagons? 2, Over what period did this surcharge operate? 3, If coal box wagons have been constructed in the Midland Junction Workshops, what is the cost per wagon to the Railway Department? 4, During the

period over which the surcharge was levied, what percentage of vehicles used for transport of coal over the State railways was in coal box wagons and what percentage in ordinary trucks? 5, What was the cost of the special trucks built at the Midland Junction Workshops for transport of bulk wheat?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, Yes. 2, 22nd September, 1930, to 30th November, 1931. 3, Three wooden box trucks, £112; four steel box trucks, £195. 4, Information not available. Box wagons are used mainly for departmental coal. 5, No special trucks were built but 120 four-wheeled trucks and 40 eight-wheeled trucks were altered for carriage of bulk wheat, the cost being £1,905.

QUESTIONS (2)—AGRICULTURE.

Fertiliser ex Abattoirs.

Mr. THORN asked the Minister for Agriculture: What is the contract price between the Government and handling agents for blood-and-bone fertiliser ex Midland Junction and Kalgoorlie abattoirs?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE replied: Midland Junction abattoirs, £8 per ton. Handling agents supply bags. No blood and bone is sold from the Kalgoorlie abattoirs.

Ex Wyndham Meatworks.

Mr. THORN asked the Minister representing the Chief Secretary: What is the contract price between the Government and handling agents for blood-and-bone fertiliser ex Wyndham Meatworks?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: No contract price exists as between the management of the meatworks and distributing agents. Prices are fixed by the management of the meatworks according to market demand and condition of sale. At these prices the distributing agents must sell and return (on a cash basis) prices fixed less commission only. The undermentioned prices have been charged to buyers this season, but cannot be taken as firm quotations for future delivery as forward prices will depend upon market conditions:— Wholesale to merchants only, £9 10s. to £9 12s. 6d. per ton ex trucks Fremantle as received from ship; wholesale to merchants only, £9 12s. 6d. to £9 15s. per ton ex trucks Perth as received from ship; retail, £10 10s.

on rails Perth. Purchasers taking parcels ex trucks incur cartage and storage charges. Where sales are made "On Rails Perth" cartage in and out of store at Perth is a charge against the meatworks.

QUESTION—ALBANY ROAD.

Widening and Resurfacing.

Mr. RAPHAEL (without notice) asked the Minister for Works: Is it the intention of the Government to widen and resurface the Albany-road between Cannington and Armadale?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: I cannot supply the information off-hand.

MOTION—YAMPI SOUND IRON ORE DEPOSITS.

Commonwealth Embargo.

Debate resumed from the 30th August on the following motion by the Premier:—

That this Parliament of Western Australia emphatically protests against the embargo placed by the Commonwealth Government on the export of iron ore from Australia, in view of its disastrous effects upon the development of the State. We consider that the information available does not warrant such drastic action, and we urge the Commonwealth Government to remove the embargo.

HON. C. G. LATHAM (York) [4.37]: I desire to make my position perfectly clear. I do not intend to oppose the motion, but wish it to be understood that anything I have to say will be mere criticism and will not be intended as a censure of the Commonwealth Government for its action in imposing an embargo on the export of iron ore. Whether the export of any article from, or the import of any article into Australia should be permitted, is the sole responsibility of the Commonwealth Government, so that I do not know that we have any right to interfere with its decision in this matter, though admittedly we have some right, as far as the sovereignty of this State is concerned, to ensure that our industries are developed to provide employment for our people. I would have liked to see the motion worded differently, because so far the embargo imposed by the Federal Government does not affect this State. Were Western Australia in the same position as South Australia, the

embargo would affect us very definitely. The motion begins—

That this Parliament of Western Australia emphatically protests against the embargo placed by the Commonwealth Government on the export of iron ore from Australia.

According to the records I have been able to peruse, the only State exporting iron ore is South Australia, which is sending it to Japan, America and, more or less, to some other foreign countries. I can find no record of any exports from this State during the last two years. It is true that initial works are being carried out at two localities known as Cockatoo Island and Yampi Sound, but those works are yet in a preliminary stage, and I do not know that we are justified in asserting that any very serious attempt is being made to develop the iron ore deposits at those places.

The Premier: Where?

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: Either at Yampi or Cockatoo Island. The leases have been held more or less for a considerable period. In 1935 the present holding company, Brasersts Ltd., had transferred to it the leases from a company that was previously holding them. This transfer was afterwards confirmed by the Mines Department. Since then no serious attempt has been made to exploit the deposits. Some work has been done, but repeated applications have been made to the court for the forfeiture of the leases on the ground that the company was not complying with the Mining Act. The Premier knows that that is true. As recently as May of this year, application was made again for the forfeiture of the leases, and the warden found that the leases were liable to forfeiture, and recommended their forfeiture.

Mr. Sleeman: The wire did not say that.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: On an average I think that not more than 32 men have been employed on the island since 1935, when the regulations compelled the company to employ not fewer than 52. The amount of work done on the leases is very limited. Two bores were put down to a depth of 140 feet but were abandoned. A small amount of mining has been done; what are known as two costeens were put in. Apart from that, nothing has been done. My opinion is that the Japanese company that was to find the money to exploit the deposit is purposely holding the leases to prevent other people from exploiting them. From information

that has reached me, I conclude that the Japanese mining company that really has the interests at Yampi also possesses large interests in other parts of the world. At Malaya and Manchukuo the company has recently developed large iron ore bodies, and a considerable amount of trade is done with Japan by those two countries. The ore bodies in those countries may be cheaper to work than those at Yampi, at any rate in the matter of labour conditions, and if the company can prevent another mining company from exploiting the Yampi deposits, in order to stifle competition, it will be doing something to its own advantage,

The Premier: You do not suggest that the company would connive with the Commonwealth Government to that end?

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I am not suggesting anything of the sort. What I am contending is that no serious attempt has been made to develop the Yampi deposits. I believe that if the Premier perused the papers that were tabled, as I did, he would agree with me.

The Premier: How long ago?

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: Twelve months ago. I propose to quote some of the evidence adduced in the court when the last application for forfeiture was heard in May. Let me take the period of 12 months, during which about 32 men have been employed. On the 5th March, 1938, very little work had been done on the island. On the 10th November, 1937, the total number of men employed was 35. There was no change in the number until the 15th December, when six men left and four arrived, reducing the total to 33. On the 2nd January, 1938, all the employees on the island received notice of dismissal and no further work was done until the 15th January, 1938. On the 4th January, 1938, three men, including the officer in charge, left the island. Thus the total of the men remaining was 32, and they were unemployed at the time. On the 14th January, 1938, two men, including a new officer in charge, arrived, which increased the total to 33. On the 20th January one man left, making the total 32. On the 17th February another man left, reducing the total to 31. Thus the number was diminishing. I understand that even now the number on the island is gradually dwindling. I wish to show that fewer than 52 men were employed, in order to demonstrate that no

serious attempt was made to exploit the iron ore bodies.

The Premier: Who are your authorities?

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: They were accepted in a certain place.

The Premier: You mean in the court?

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: Yes. The men on the island were described thus—A man in charge, one accountant, one storekeeper, one blacksmith, one electrical fitter and assistant, one fitter, one ganger, three carpenters and three assistants—a certain amount of building was in hand at the time—one cook, two kitchen boys, one first-aid man, one sanitary man, and 12 labourers. Those particulars indicate the extent to which men were employed at the end of January this year, and nobody could expect that they would be able to do very much mining work on the island. On the 21st February, 13 men arrived, making a total of 44. Between the 25th January and the 17th February, the total number of men employed on the island was 35. No work was actually done on the leases during the period I have mentioned, namely, October, 1937, to January, 1938. The Premier, in the course of his remarks, mentioned that a large quantity of machinery had been taken to Yampi. This is the extent of the machinery there.

The Premier: No, I said a lot of machinery had been purchased.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: We have heard that story so often that evidently the Premier believes it.

The Premier: I do.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: If my memory serves me rightly, the file tabled in the House showed the position. The representatives of Brasserts Ltd. in evidence before the warden at Broome, stated that the whole of the machinery was English, and that it had been ordered, would be manufactured, and would be delivered on the island at the end of 1935. That was a sworn statement and it appeared on the file. Since then I have been credibly informed that there was never any intention to use English machinery. It was to be American machinery. I believe that the Japanese company interested did purchase the machinery, but on finding that it could obtain iron ore from Malaya, which is only about half the distance away, it installed the machinery there.

The Premier: But the Japanese have been working the Malaya deposits for years.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: Evidently then, the company installed the machinery there.

The Premier: The Japanese have been working in Malaya for 20 years.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: Evidently they have erected additional machinery there. The Premier will agree that recently the Japanese opened up new iron ore bodies in Manchukuo. An extract from the "London Financial Times" has been put into circulation. This contains an article written by the member for North Perth (Mr. J. McCallum Smith) while in London, setting out the whole position. He said that the holding company was Brasserts and that the whole of the capital was Japanese. That is what I told the House when I asked for the papers. Unfortunately the Government was very annoyed because I suggested that the whole of the capital was Japanese. The Premier now says that the Japanese are complaining bitterly because the Federal Government placed this embargo upon the export of iron ore. The whole of the capital is Japanese.

Mr. Sleeman: That was on the file.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: Yes, and the Minister for Mines was informed to that effect. The request was also made that the Japanese should be permitted to work the deposits, and that the machinery should be admitted free of duty. The Agent General said that Brasserts thought that should not be agreed to. The Mining Act prevents the employment of Asiatics, and the question of the importation of machinery free of duty would have to be taken up with the Federal authorities. I do not believe any serious attempt has been made to export iron ore from Yampi. Since 1935 more could have been done had the company been serious in its attempt to work the deposits. I admit that an embargo would not have affected the position as the company would still have been obliged to observe the mining conditions. I support the Premier for the reasons I am about to give. My anxiety is to see that the iron ore bodies are developed and utilised, and that the men now at Yampi are employed in working them. At the same time, it is my desire to impress upon the House that it is neither fair, right nor proper for us to export accessible iron ore that can economically be used, and leave to the people that which will be difficult of access and uneconomical to use. It will mean that

the output from our steel works will be much more costly to us. The Prime Minister has told the State Government and the people what his idea is. He said that he had no desire to interfere. He is responsible for the future. He must have a national outlook, and cannot leave things until to-morrow.

Mr. Rodoreda: He got the outlook very suddenly.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I will tell the hon. member when he got it. On the 31st August, 1937, the Prime Minister made the following statement:—

I wish to dispel any misapprehension that may exist regarding the attitude of the Commonwealth Government in connection with the export of iron ore from Yampi Sound. A preliminary survey of the potential supplies of iron ore has revealed the existence of very considerable deposits, sufficient for all our requirements for a great many years ahead. However, this survey is incomplete, and it is believed that much greater supplies exist than have been taken into account in the preliminary survey. A more detailed and comprehensive examination is now in hand. The leases in connection with the proposed export of iron ore from Yampi Sound were granted to Brassert & Company by the present State Government of Western Australia. The Commonwealth Government is aware of no reason why it should interfere. The Government therefore does not think it likely that the necessity will arise to limit the export of iron ore. The responsibility for constant watchfulness over the conservation in the national interests, not only of our iron ore resources, but also of the essential non-ferrous metals, is one which falls on the Commonwealth Government. This responsibility the Government accepts and will act upon whenever and in whatever connection it is necessary.

The Premier: What made him change his mind? Had he any further information?

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: Yes.

The Premier: We do not know anything about it.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: Then the Premier does not keep in touch with Federal matters.

The Premier: We know what our own officers do.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: The Prime Minister pointed out that the survey was not complete, that there were large quantities of iron ore, that he was informed they were uneconomical to work, and were in such a position that they could not be economically used. Their inaccessibility rendered them unprofitable.

The Premier: They are not less accessible than they were when he made his statement.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: Is the Prime Minister likely to be acquainted with all the natural resources of Australia? He took it for granted there was all that iron ore at Yampi. The Premier believes it, and I believe it. If the cheapest places in which it is possible to develop the iron ore deposits in a profitable way are Iron Knob and Yampi Sound or Cockatoo Island, should we not reserve the deposits at those places for our own people?

The Minister for Mines: The Yampi iron ore could not be used any more cheaply than could iron ore on the Murchison. There is no coal up there.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: It is a question of handling. That is most costly.

The Minister for Mines: But what about the transport of coal?

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: The value of iron ore on a royalty basis is 3d. per ton. That is the value the department has put upon it.

The Premier: We do not discourage industry by placing big Government charges upon anything.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I do not know anything about that.

The Premier: We do not make a charge on wheat when it is exported.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: According to the department the cost of depriving this State of its iron ore is 3d. a ton. The exploitation of the deposits would provide employment for a certain number of people in the extraction and shipping of the ore. The vessels would be Japanese and would be manned by Japanese labour. If foreign countries find that they are getting short of pig iron, they will probably buy their supplies from Australia. In the manufacture of pig iron a good deal of additional labour would be required.

The Minister for Mines: Where would Yampi Sound iron ore be made into pig iron?

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: It would be sent to Fremantle or Bunbury. There was an idea in my mind that Collie coal could not be used in the smelting of iron. I find, however, from inquiry in the Old Country that new methods exist by which almost anything can be used for smelting purposes.

The Minister for Mines: There are large bodies of good iron ore nearer to Fremantle than is Yampi.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: At Yampi it is possible to put the ship alongside the iron ore and run loaded trucks from the mine or ore body straight into the boat. There is no other place where that can be done.

Mr. Marshall: It is possible to back trucks in to other ore deposits.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I wish the member for Yilgarn-Coolgardie (Mr. Lambert) were here to listen to that interjection. The very thing that killed the manganese deposits was the high freight from Peak Hill to Geraldton, taking into account the value of the ore at the time. The hon. member said it was a prohibitive freight.

The Premier: No, it was £1 per ton.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: Let us say that manganese weighs as heavily as iron ore. What would it mean if £1 were added to every ton of ore? The cost would be prohibitive.

The Premier: To send products from Fremantle to Geraldton, a journey of two days, costs 17s. 6d. per ton.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: That is so. Of course, the shipments would be parcels. I am referring to tramp steamers coming in and loading full cargoes. We all know that goods cannot be railed from Fremantle to Albany as cheaply as they can be shipped from Adelaide to Albany, four times the distance. When points are put up, we get marvellous defences. It is perfectly right to preserve for the use of our own people the commodity that can be most cheaply obtained and most profitably used. If £1 additional per ton is put on iron ore, the cost of steel will be correspondingly increased. Freights along the coast are terrifically high. I have in mind tramp steamers doing nothing but load the iron ore. If the Premier says that he knows nothing of the attitude of the Federal Government, I will quote to him the following statement, made by the Prime Minister on the 29th June, 1938:—

While not attempting to traverse all the points raised by questions in Parliament and in statements made in the Press, it is nevertheless proper that I should inform the House of the main reasons which have determined the Government to adhere to its policy to prohibit the exportation of iron ore from Australia as from the 1st July, 1938.

The criticism of the Government's action can be grouped under two heads. It has been urged that until a complete survey of Australia's iron ore resources has been made, the prohibition of the export of ore cannot be justified. It has been contended also that no fresh evidence has appeared since August, 1937—

That was when the Prime Minister made the statement I read previously.

—to warrant the change of policy on the part of the Commonwealth.

Even if the Prime Minister had withheld the embargo until a thorough examination had been made—involving a delay of two years—I venture to predict there would not be one ton of iron ore exported from Yampi. It is being assumed that the Prime Minister is preventing the export of iron ore from Yampi, but the people now affected are those who export from Iron Knob in South Australia.

The Premier: No.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: They are continually exporting, and not only to Japan. According to the "Trade Gazette" they have exported considerable quantities to America. They have also exported to Belgium and other countries. The contracts will expire at the end of this year. Yampi Sound would not be affected, because no iron ore has been exported from there. A few bags of ore may have been sent away; but, anyway, there is no record of any export. The most that could result from the embargo would be to deprive the 32 men at Yampi Sound of employment at the end of the year. I understand, though I am not sure, that the Commonwealth Government has undertaken to employ all the men who are there. The Premier will probably be able to inform the House on that aspect, because, I understand, arrangements have been made with the Western Australian Government to do the work of investigation, for which this State is to be paid by the Federal Government. Can the Premier tell me how many men at Yampi Sound are affected?

The Premier: No.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: Can the hon. gentleman tell me whether the Government has dismissed any of the men up there?

The Premier: The men come and go.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: A great many men have gone there, and a great many have left. I fancy few of us would care to exchange places with them, because Yampi is not a pleasant place to live in. The Prime Minister said that there was no warrant for

a change of policy since he made his previous statement. Then he continues—

It is true that a detailed survey of Australia's iron ore resources has not yet been made—

Mr. Lyons stated that previously.

—but, nevertheless, facts supplied by its geological advisers have convinced the Government that the deposits of iron ore economically accessible are so limited as to cause very great concern as to the future of the iron and steel industry.

This is backed up by the Federal Labour members.

This most disturbing information has come to the knowledge of the Government only within the last few months. Subsequent to August of last year, a general review of iron ore deposits was made by the Commonwealth Geological Adviser, and it was the serious position revealed in his report which compelled the Government to prohibit the export of iron ore. From his report, the Government learned with alarm that there are only two groups of ore deposits in Australia which can be economically developed. These are the Iron Knob group in South Australia and the Yampi Sound group in Western Australia. Moreover, it has been suggested that the estimated available tonnage of both these groups had been greatly exaggerated.

The Minister for Mines: Woolnough had never seen Yampi when he made that report.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: The statement continues—

Dr. Woolnough has stated quite definitely that it is certain that, if the known supplies of high-grade ore are not conserved, Australia will, in little more than a generation, become an importer rather than a producer of iron ore.

If our Premier received such advice from his expert adviser he would, I suggest, adopt exactly the same stand as the Prime Minister took.

The Premier: I say that I would verify the report.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: Exactly what the Prime Minister is doing; but in order to safeguard the people of Australia he says, "I will not allow any export of iron ore until I am justified in doing so."

The Premier: Two million tons a year for twenty years! Forty million tons!

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: That interjection does not bear out the statement made by the Premier the other evening, when he said that this was an exporting industry and that he anticipated it might attain vast importance.

The Premier: That is the Commonwealth estimate.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I think the Premier endorsed it.

Taking the estimated tonnage of ore available in the groups mentioned and assuming that the whole of this ore will respond to economical methods of mining, and that the quality of the ore will be maintained, we would have something more than 200,000,000 tons to meet the requirements of Australia's manufacturers in the future. We are at present using more than 2,000,000 tons of ore per annum, and expert opinion is that within the next few years this quantity will be greatly increased. If the expansion of the steel industry is to proceed at the rate at which it has moved during the last quarter of a century, the present consumption of iron ore will be doubled or trebled before many years have passed. Obviously, therefore, our resources viewed in relation to our requirements are dangerously limited . . .

The Government's advisers have stated that there are quantities of ore in Australia which by reason of their inaccessibility cannot be economically developed. For the purpose of placing Australian industry in a position to meet the competition of other countries which have access to cheap raw materials, these deposits are valueless. Moreover, improvements in methods of treatment, etc., are not likely to alter this state of affairs within any foreseeable period . . .

If a quota were applied to Yampi, it would be necessary both on constitutional grounds and on the grounds of equity to apply it equally to all other localities of the Commonwealth. The adoption of this course would result in a substantial depletion of the accessible resources of iron ore in Australia.

The Premier: But he says there is no other portion of the Commonwealth that has iron ore.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: Also Yampi. Could not the Premier have got the Prime Minister to agree to the transfer of export permits from some of the inland deposits and see whether the Japanese would attempt to develop those? In that case we would get a little more money out of the project because our railways would be used.

The Premier: You would not ask me to make a fool of myself, would you?

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: No, I would not.

The Premier: You are suggesting that I should do so.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I am not.

The Premier: Why do you make that silly suggestion?

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: The Premier clearly demonstrated that those deposits could not be profitably utilised.

The Premier: I do not put up silly proposals.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I do not suggest that the Premier does, but, in my opinion, if those are the only accessible iron ore deposits available under similar conditions, we should reserve them for our own people. If iron ore is to be exported, let the foreign companies get their ore from deposits further inland and let them bear the added cost.

The Premier: The Commonwealth Government says it will not allow anyone to export iron ore.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: That is so.

The Premier: Did the Commonwealth Government say that the embargo applied only to iron ore from Yampi Sound and Iron Knob?

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: No.

The Premier: Of course it did not.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: The Premier seems to get cross when I suggest that we should give the Japanese an opportunity to secure iron ore from the inland deposits, but I claim it is better that they should go to the expense of working those deposits than that our own people should be required to do so. Surely that seems reasonable.

The Premier: It is silly.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: If it is silly to ask foreign concerns to take their supplies from iron ore bodies that exist inland, it must be equally silly to expect our own people to do so.

The Premier: That may be all right a hundred years hence.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: Once it is necessary to truck iron ore to the seaboard, the operations become too costly. As the Minister for Mines explained, it costs £1 a ton extra to haul iron ore.

The Minister for Mines: I did not say that.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I am sorry; it must have been the Premier who said it. When that extra cost is added to the expense of handling what is a cheap commodity, it becomes altogether too expensive. I am prepared to join with the Premier in doing all we possibly can to make use of our iron ore deposits. The strongest argument we can advance is that if the Yampi Sound and Iron Knob deposits are the only two available, they should be worked on a fifty-

fifty basis. That would be merely fair. If the Broken Hill Pty. Co. will eventually draw supplies from the Western Australian deposits, it may just as well take half from Yampi Sound and half from Iron Knob.

The Premier: The company would point out that it would cost £1 a ton extra to make use of our iron ore, and would ask why it should pay that extra amount, particularly as all that is necessary can be procured at Iron Knob.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I do not know that there is any provision in the Constitution enabling the Federal Government to compel the company to take iron ore from Yampi Sound.

The Premier: There is not.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I think the Premier has been advised—he will correct me if I am wrong—that it is the intention of the company to take some of the iron ore it requires from the North-West. Those supplies will probably not be procured from Koolan Island, because the company has not the right to do so. Possibly the required ore will be taken from Cockatoo Island, which, I understand, is being manned.

The Premier: The company has done nothing with the deposits there for years past.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I quite agree with the Premier's statement.

The Premier: It has endeavoured to keep others out.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: Although I may be wrong, that is all, in my opinion, that is being done with regard to Koolan Island. An attempt is being made to prevent a mining company from working the deposits.

The Premier: The Commonwealth Government became extremely perturbed about the matter—if that is all that is involved.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I do not suggest the Federal Government did that; I think the State Government, quite unconsciously, has been used by the company. The Premier could easily peruse the file, as I have done. If he were to do so, he would see that, from time to time, the company failed to comply with the conditions of the lease throughout the whole of its tenure. At any rate, that is my opinion. If it had been intended to do anything with the iron ore, there was nothing to prevent the company keeping 200 men fully occupied on the island. No preparation has been made for loading the ore into ships, although the com-

pany has held its lease for over three years. I am anxious that the iron ore deposits at Yampi Sound shall be developed, and it is only fair to Western Australia, seeing that efforts in that direction have been frustrated, that the State should be directly compensated for the losses sustained in consequence. If the Federal Government cannot compel the Broken Hill Pty. Co. to make use of the iron ore at Yampi Sound—as I have already indicated, I do not know that it has any power to compel the company to do so—

The Premier: It has not.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I do not think it has that power, but, nevertheless, I think the Federal Government should compensate the State for the losses it has sustained on account of the number of men who would have been employed there but have had to be dismissed. Some method should be devised by which the iron ore resources could be developed. The matter is serious to both the Commonwealth and Western Australia.

The Premier: Not quite as serious to the Commonwealth on a proportionate basis.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: Perhaps not. If a question of defence is involved, the Commonwealth Government is responsible. The Premier himself mentioned that point, and directed attention to reports of foreigners having landed on our northern shores to engage in fishing and other pursuits.

The Premier: To-day I have sent two additional reports to the Prime Minister.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: There is no way in which we can check such happenings, apart from encouraging population in the North, with the consequent necessity for transport by sea to and fro.

The Minister for Mines: Foreigners know more about the North than we do, and foreign ships are constantly on our coast.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: Unfortunately that is so, and we have encouraged those people to visit our shores during the last few years.

The Minister for Mines: For the last 20 years.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I have always held that the Japanese know more about our coastline than do the people in the southern parts of the State.

The Minister for Mines: When a Japanese man-of-war arrives at Fremantle, the sailors have cameras and take photographs wherever they like. No one attempts to stop them.

The Premier: And that applies to sailors on warships of other nations as well.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: Foreigners know all about our water supplies and so on. They are better acquainted with our circumstances than are our own people. The Federal Government is responsible for the defence of Australia, and should assist us to populate the State. That is the reason I say that if there are means by which we can develop our iron ore resources in the North-West, we should adopt them. If it is merely a matter of exporting our iron ore, I am opposed to that policy, and I have expressed that opinion on a former occasion. I know the Premier will agree with me when I say that when I asked for the tabling of certain papers relative to this matter, I indicated that I considered the export of our iron ore was wrong in principle, if that was the only method by which we could secure the development of those deposits. If the Federal Government considered its action was necessary from a national or international standpoint, then it should be prepared to compensate the State accordingly. Experts should be consulted and their advice secured to ascertain whether it would be possible to erect smelters and utilise the iron ore ourselves. Naturally we could not ship the ore as cheaply as the Japanese could.

Mr. Sleeman: We need not get the iron ore from Yampi Sound.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: Where would the hon. member draw the supplies from?

Mr. Sleeman: From Tallering Peak.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: If the hon. member were to attempt to transport iron ore from Tallering Peak to Fremantle, he would quickly find it an unprofitable proposition.

Mr. Sleeman: We will have a try.

The Premier: If we levied a charge such as we have for super it would be brought down for about 6s. a ton.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: There was substance in what the member for Yilgarn-Coolgardie (Mr. Lambert) said on this point as applied to manganese. I admit that the railways do not desire to do anything unfair and are anxious to develop the country, but the cheapest rate at which it could be carried was £1 a ton.

The Premier: That was for haulage over 200 miles.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: That was too costly.

The Premier: It was not too costly.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: Perhaps not when we compare our manganese deposits with those in other parts of the world. I do not suppose there is available anywhere a higher grade of manganese than is found at Peak Hill, and probably there is no higher grade of iron ore than that at Yampi Sound. I believe that if we had the authority to investigate the position we would find that the Japanese company is holding so many interests in Manchukuo and Malaya that it is merely endeavouring to stall off competition by its attitude regarding the Koolan Island deposits.

The Premier: No.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: It is all very well for the Premier to smile. I do not accept much of the evidence embodied in the sworn declarations that were submitted when the leases were dealt with. I refer to the occasion when the warden wrote down and asked what he should do. That was a most shocking action to take. I do not want the House to be led astray by the statement of the Premier when he suggested that a market might have been opened up for cattle on the hoof. Had the Japanese company been allowed to operate, a market might possibly have been developed for chilled or frozen beef, but I cannot believe that cattle on the hoof could have been exported to Japan. I have some particulars about those distances.

The Premier: The ships calling at Yampi would get their meat stores there.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: Not a great deal in the way of stores would be bought there. The Premier will know how little in the way of stores the P. & O. Company buys here. That company buys its stores in a cheaper market than ours.

The Premier: The company does not buy all its meat requirements elsewhere.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: The company buys its meat requirements in the Old Country. In the ship in which I travelled to England, and in the ship in which the Premier sailed, I venture to say English meat was served.

The Premier: Good Australian lamb.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: Much of it was good old English poultry. The company certainly purchases some of its vegetable supplies here. The company can buy Australia lamb on the English market at a price cheaper than that at which it can be bought here.

The Premier: No.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: It is true. I can buy a leg of lamb in London cheaper than I can buy one here.

Mrs. Cardell-Oliver: And butter is half the price in London.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: Yes, 10½d. a lb.

Mr. Sleeman: You dairy farmers are getting the advantage!

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I am not complaining. If the Premier thinks a big cattle trade can be built up, he is making a mistake. There would be some trade, I grant him that. First of all, water would have to be obtained here. The distance from Derby to Fremantle is 1,500 miles and the journey takes from six to seven days. The cattle are loaded as late as possible at night and the ship immediately sails as fast as it can to its destination. The fewer stops on the way, the better for the cattle; but, even so, there are casualties. The object, of course, is to get the cattle to their destination in the best possible condition. The distance from Derby to Japan, via Darwin and Manila, is 4,430 miles, and the journey occupies 14 days, but not for a tramp steamer.

The Premier: But the vessel would not call at Darwin and Manila.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I am pointing out that that is the route. The ship could not go straight through the islands. One has only to look at the map to see that. There are two routes from Derby to Japan, one via Darwin and Manila, and the other via Singapore and Manila. A vessel would have to travel either one of these two routes. I have obtained this information from a shipping company, because I desired to give it to the House. If the route via Darwin and Manila were chosen, the vessel would probably not call at either of those two places. The route from Derby to Japan, via Singapore and Manila, is 4,856 miles, and the vessel must pass through the tropics. Notwithstanding that the cattle were shipped in good condition at Derby, what member of the House would care to eat the meat after the beasts had been subjected to such a journey? I would have liked members to see some cattle that were shipped to Western Australia not so many years ago from Newcastle. The cattle were fed just as well as the cattle that it is proposed might be shipped to Japan. The cattle from Newcastle passed through a cool climate and yet,

when they were landed here, I venture to say not a member of this House would have bought one of them for the purpose of consumption. They were very unattractive. It must be remembered also that Japan has not the feed supply to bring the cattle into good condition.

Mr. Coverley: We had a good cattle trade with Manila.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: Manila is half the distance to Japan. Do not forget that it is every half day over that distance when the wastage takes place. In the early days, if my memory serves me rightly, the only overseas market available for Kimberley cattle was Manila; and, if it was a favourable market, I cannot imagine why we are not still exporting cattle there. In my opinion, there is no chance of selling cattle on the hoof to Japan. I believe, however, that there may be a market for chilled or frozen meat.

The Premier: The people of Japan do not now eat only rice, as they did 20 years ago.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I do not say there is not a market for meat in Japan. The Premier wants my words to dovetail with his. I just said there may be a market for chilled or frozen meat, but to attempt to sell cattle on the hoof in Japan would be futile. The loss on the first shipment would be so great that the business would at once be discontinued. I read a report a little while ago which stated that the firm representing Brasserts had said it had no intention of dealing in cattle. Cattle dealing was not part of its business; all it was concerned with was shipping iron ore to Japan.

The Minister for Works: You are not a violent advocate for the North-West.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: Surely to goodness we can face facts. I know the Minister for Works always puts the very best foot forward and probably he is not as careful as I am about stating facts. I certainly would not dare to say anything in this House—

The Minister for Works: You set a great value on your facts, but you use them very economically.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I have to, otherwise the Minister would not value them. Of course, they are not valued by the Government, so I use them sparingly. I believe that eventually we may be able to build up a trade in meat with Japan, but that country, like nearly every other foreign com-

pany, is experiencing great difficulty in getting sufficient credit.

The Premier: Japan started buying our wool again the other day.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: Japan must buy some of our wool, because she has still a credit balance in Australia. I have obtained particulars of the exports from Australia to Japan. During the last two years the exports from Australia to Japan were about equal to the imports. In 1936-37 Australia had a favourable trade balance with Japan of £4,700,000. This year the trade balance favours Japan to the extent of £713,000, which is an indication that Japan is not purchasing as much from Australia as she did last year.

The Premier: What about the trade in wool?

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I can give the wool figures, if the Premier cares to have them, although I did not bring them with me to-night.

The Premier: Do you mean to say that Japan is buying as much wool from Australia as she bought two years ago?

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: In 1936-37 and 1937-38—

The Premier: Go back to four years ago.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: There may be an inducement this year for the Asiatic countries, China and Japan, to purchase some of our wheat. Wheat may drop to 2s. a bushel; there is every prospect of it. I know the Minister for Works will dub me a gloomy Mick, but I cannot shut my eyes to the fact that to-day wheat is down to 2s. 2d. per bushel and possibly in the new market it will decline to 2s. If that happens those countries will probably buy our wheat because the price will then be less than the cost of producing rice. I can assure members that Japan, like every other country, has had to husband its credit resources, which are very limited. We therefore need not expect very much in the way of additional trade with Japan for some time. I have not heard one utterance from Japan about the Commonwealth's embargo on the export of iron ore, not one word.

The Premier: You could not have looked for them.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: Yes, I have looked carefully and never even read anything. The Premier did not quote any protests. Let us look at the facts as we find them. Undoubtedly we have a grievance and it is that we have had the opportunity during the

last few years of employing between 30 and 40 men at Yampi. The embargo, however, will not now place us in any worse position than we were in before. If, as the Premier said, there were prospects of finding employment for 200 men, we would then be justified in asking the Commonwealth to find other avenues of work for those men, preferably in the North where they could be engaged in developing some of our latent resources. Personally I should like to see the iron ore deposits developed and converted in this State into pig iron. I am not qualified to express an opinion as to whether we could find a market for that pig iron; but to me it appears that this is the right course to follow. If we gave encouragement to an English firm, probably it would be prepared to come here and carry on that work within the State. I have no doubt some firm would do so, provided, of course, there was a market for the output, and I am certain also that any company that would work those deposits would erect the most up-to-date plant it would be possible to secure. I have seen a letter from England in which it was set out that a company would be prepared to erect a plant capable of treating up to 500,000 tons of iron ore per annum. The letter was accompanied by a plan. If we were able to get the ore converted into pig iron in this State I would be very pleased.

The Minister for Works: We should convert our wheat into flour.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I should be glad if that also were done. The countries that want our flour, also want bran and pollard, but then we in Australia are handicapped by having to pay high wages. I know that some years ago Japan took from us our Egyptian wheat and flour market. Japan bought our wheat, gristed it and sent the flour to Egypt. Japan was able to do that because the cost was so much less than ours. It is my intention to associate myself with the motion, though not so much with the protest against the embargo as with the protest against stopping an industry in the North. That is serious because we in Western Australia are hard put to it to find employment for our people. There seemed to be prospects of permanency in the North in the work that was about to be undertaken. If the men who have been dismissed come to this part of the State, what have we to offer them? Nothing but half-time em-

ployment on our roads. My desire is that they should have permanent work, and the Commonwealth must be responsible for that. The Commonwealth must not prevent us from developing our industries and in that way throw a number of people on the unemployment market without doing something for them. I should have preferred the motion differently worded, because "embargo" does not apply at the moment. It does, however, apply to South Australia which will be seriously affected. I wish the member for Yilgarn-Coolgardie (Mr. Lambert) had been in his seat earlier; I would have had his assistance.

Mr. Lambert: You have been a long time discovering that South Australia exports iron ore; it has been exporting iron ore for years.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: What I said was that the embargo would affect that State more than Western Australia.

Mr. Lambert: Japan exports to America sufficient to create credit there for what it buys.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I do not know what Japan buys there.

Mr. Lambert: Manganese, for instance.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: If the hon. member had been here earlier in the day, he could have assisted me by following up the remarks I have made by pointing out that Western Australia could have exported manganese. My desire is to advance some constructive ideas so as to give a lead to the Commonwealth in the direction of rendering us assistance. Even at this late hour it might be possible for us to develop our manganese deposits at Peak Hill. If the Japanese are importing manganese from America, why should they not take that or steel from us?

Mr. Lambert: Japan cannot produce one ton of steel unless they import manganese.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: The matter is serious from the employment point of view, and on account of its seriousness I question whether the Commonwealth had the right to deprive us of the opportunity of opening up a new industry. Naturally I would prefer that the iron ore remained in Australia, if it could be used here. Therefore, I associate myself with the motion. At the same time I do not consider that it is right for one Government to question the acts of another, and although I would always jealously protect our interests, we must always be

careful in what we do and say about the Commonwealth.

HON. N. KEENAN (Nedlands) [5.57]: I desire to support the motion. I do not, now, propose to indulge in a discussion on the merits of the company working the deposits at Yampi Sound, although at different times I have had information about that company of a very contradictory character. In some respects I entirely agree with what the Leader of the Opposition said. The company in question was brought into existence in circumstances of which we are not at all proud. It came here really cloaked as an English company and proceeded to carry out the duties devolving upon it under the Mining Act. As I said, I do not intend to discuss the merits of the company, beyond saying that operations were in the initial stages only, and it was preparing to carry on those operations. If the Government was satisfied that those preparations had been pursued with reasonable activity, that the machinery necessary for the work was either ordered or on the way out, or partly erected, then although the output to date might be non-existent, that would not in any way influence us. I agree with many of the observations made by the Leader of the Opposition on the general question. We in Western Australia suffer from the fact that the only method at present available to us for carrying on the iron ore industry is to sell the raw material. I would be more delighted than anyone else if I thought it possible to look forward to the establishment at Fremantle, or any other place in the State, of a smelting works that would produce not merely our own local requirements, which, of course, are absurdly small, but would also produce sufficient for sale in the Eastern States, or, if necessary, abroad. Nobody would welcome such a proposition more than I, but I do not think for a moment that the prospect is one we are legitimately entitled to entertain. The big foundries in the Eastern States have a colossal capital and they have an established market in all parts of Australia. What chance would we have in competition with them? No one imagines that our chance would be a rosy one. Therefore I cannot convince myself that there is any prospect of our utilising the iron ore we have in such large quantities in Western Australia except by digging it out and selling it, either to the Eastern

States or, if we cannot get a market there, then outside Australia.

Mr. Lambert: The trouble is that we have not the advantage of coking coal in Western Australia.

Hon. N. KEENAN: That may be so. But even if we had all the necessary advantages—if we had coking coal, or whatever might be required—we would still have to face competition with established businesses, concerns that have a colossal capital. The Broken Hill Proprietary Company, for instance, has millions of pounds behind it. Such competition would, of course, be fatal.

I find myself—and I feel sure a number of members find themselves—wondering what beneficial effect is expected to result from the passing of this motion. The Federal Government is, of course, fully aware of the views of the State Government and of the opinion of the people of Western Australia on this question, and has very clearly intimated its position. It has pointed out that it does not intend to allow its actions to be governed by the views of this State.

The Premier: The same could be said respecting motions against regulations that might be moved in this House.

Hon. N. KEENAN: State regulations or Federal?

The Premier: I am referring to motions for the disallowance of regulations that have been introduced since the House met.

Hon. N. KEENAN: If the House carries such motions, the regulations affected are thereby obliterated. But what beneficial result can be accomplished by the passing of the motion now before us, when we know that the Commonwealth Government is not open to conviction? Were it likely that the Federal Government could be induced to change its attitude, something might be said for the motion. When, however, the Government of the Commonwealth has clearly and definitely stated what it intends to do, what can we expect to achieve by passing the motion?

Mr. Lambert: Did not you chase impossible shadows in company with the Dominion League in the matter of secession?

Hon. N. KEENAN: Our aims in that connection were not impossible of fulfilment. They were rendered impossible by unfortunate diplomacy in another part of the world. This discussion may be a useful peg on which to hang a certain amount of

hostile criticism of the Lyons Government, and for that reason it may be acceptable in certain quarters; but I believe—and I feel sure that, on examination, most members will believe—that not the Lyons Government, but the Federal Parliament stands opposed to us in this controversy. No one imagines for a moment that if Mr. Curtin, the Leader of the Federal Opposition, were to move a motion in the Federal House condemning the embargo that has been placed on the export of iron ore from Yampi Sound, he would receive the support of any but a negligible number of members of the House of Representatives. He would receive little support except from Western Australian members of the House. That is established by the fact that when he loyally ventured—I will give him credit for having been loyal to the State—to express a hostile opinion concerning this embargo, he was immediately challenged by the secretary of one of the most powerful unions in the Eastern States, which clearly demonstrates that not only is the Federal Parliament behind the action of the Federal Government, but also the solid mass of the people of the Eastern States. I have not seen in any Eastern newspaper a single reference of a condemnatory character concerning the embargo on the export of iron ore from Yampi, although I have endeavoured to discover one.

The Premier: Do you ever read "The Bulletin"?

Hon. N. KEENAN: "The Bulletin" had what might be described as a comic reference to the matter. If one reads "The Bulletin" when it is in a serious mood—a mood in which it sometimes indulges—one then finds that journal valuable and instructive. On other occasions "The Bulletin" merely amuses one. I have read Melbourne papers and also some Sydney publications—not every day, but whenever I have had an opportunity—and I have not seen a single reference in condemnation of the embargo. That is quite natural. For what is the position? That is what we have to face. It is this: That if the assumption is correct—and I give the Federal Government credit for believing it to be correct—that at some day in the not too distant future the raw materials necessary for the conduct of the iron and steel industries will become non-available; that is to say, if it is true that the more easily procurable supplies will soon be exhausted, the industries concerned would

suffer to a great extent. For that reason the Federal Government deems it necessary to impose the embargo in order that industries in the future may be safeguarded. That was very clearly and logically explained by the secretary of the union who attacked Mr. Curtin when he disagreed with the embargo.

The Premier: That situation is not likely to arise for 60 or 70 years.

Hon. N. KEENAN: The period might be even longer.

Mr. Lambert: It might be 200 years.

Hon. N. KEENAN: But this is necessary material, and the aim of the Federal Government is to safeguard these industries for the indefinite future. So we have to face a solid opinion in the Eastern States behind this embargo. Under those conditions it seems to me we have not a ghost of a chance of altering that opinion by any motion we may pass in this House. Therefore I propose to ask leave to make an addition to the motion. I have supplied a copy to the Premier of what I propose to ask the House to add. The purpose of my amendment is to suggest something that the Commonwealth might do and thereby make some reparation to us for the injury this policy inflicts. I move an amendment—

That the following words be added to the motion:—"If, however, the embargo is, contrary to our just remonstrance, persisted in, we demand that the Commonwealth Government take efficient steps to ration the supply of iron ore required for use in Australia so that the State of Western Australia will be assured of a reasonable share of such supply."

The question might be asked, "How can the Commonwealth Government do that? Is it a practical suggestion?" I submit that it is. The Commonwealth Government—and this applies to State Governments also—has power to nationalise any industry. If nationalisation were brought about, that would be quite sufficient, but it is difficult to imagine that the iron and steel industries of Australia would risk the nationalisation of the handling of the raw material simply through unwillingness to assent to some proposal that would assure to Western Australia a share of that supply. We need not worry as to how effect might be given to the amendment. It is sufficient for us to say to the Commonwealth, "If you impose on us a grave disability, as you are doing, we ask you to find

means to reduce that disability, at any rate to bearable proportions."

Mr. Sleeman: You are becoming quite revolutionary.

Hon. N. KEENAN: Possibly I am. I have no wish to add to the debate because much of the ground that I would probably have traversed has been very ably covered by the Leader of the Opposition. In a very large measure our case has been exaggerated, as the Leader of the Opposition explained, in such a manner as to reduce its merits. I have been informed by cattle men that to talk of exporting cattle on the hoof all the way through the tropics to Japan is absolute tosh, if I may use such a term. If the cattle had to be transported to Fremantle or a similar distance south, it might be possible.

The Premier: One would think it had never been done. For years we were sending cattle to Manila.

Hon. N. KEENAN: I am speaking of the journey to Japan.

The Premier: Well, we sent them to Manila.

Hon. N. KEENAN: It is of no use the Premier holding one opinion on the matter and of my holding another. I will tell him my authority for that statement. I did not pretend to have reached such a conclusion on my own judgment; I asked cattle men who were versed in the carriage of cattle by sea, and those men told me that the proposition would not be practicable. There are, of course, other glorifications of the possibility of working the deposits. These also have been dealt with and do not add to the merits of the case. The real merits are these: If the Commonwealth Government can say that it is going to prevent the export of iron ore because that would endanger the supply of raw materials to the industries of the Eastern States in distant years, so, too, it can say that the export of copper or tin or any other raw material used in Australian industry likewise should not be exported. That immediately brings us to the contemplation of another step. Therefore I submit that while we do naturally possess a strong sense of indignation at the steps that have been taken by the Commonwealth, all we can hope for, so long as we remain in the Federation, is to get something back in return for the sacrifice we are now called upon to make. That something, I suggest,

should be a share of what the Australian industries to-day consume of iron ore.

Mr. Marshall: A monopoly is supplying it and you cannot hope to get in.

Hon. N. KEENAN: At the moment that is so.

THE PREMIER (Hon. J. C. Willecock—Geraldton—on amendment) [5.57]: I do not propose to accept the amendment at this stage. I am convinced that the Government and the State should protest to the last ditch, at any rate pending the completion of the action contemplated by the Commonwealth. From the outset the Government has adopted the attitude of protesting on behalf of the people of Western Australia against the embargo. If the Federal Parliament had dealt with the regulation and it had become the accepted policy of the Commonwealth, then we would have considered the advisableness of taking other action. That stage, however, has not yet been reached. I understand that the Federal members representing Western Australia propose to deal with the matter. I believe that the people of the Eastern States are not well informed of the merits of the case, and that the information they might receive from this debate may to some extent cause the Commonwealth to modify its proposal. Had the regulation been approved by Parliament, the Government of the State would have no desire to bump its collective head against a stone wall by attempting a futility, but that stage, I repeat, has not yet been reached. Action has been proposed, but it is not legally completed, until the Federal Parliament has expressed its wishes, should it desire so to do. Members of the Federal Parliament have given notice of intention to move for the disallowance of the regulation, and I should be loth to weaken our case by suggesting that we were prepared to accept some alternative before a decision had been reached on the proposed enforcement of the embargo. We should continue to protest until we reach the last ditch. Until it has been definitely decided in a legal way that this is to be the law, we should continue to object. We should carry on with our objection until the last minute. When it becomes apparent that the Federal Parliament has dealt with the matter, making final the action of the Government, and every legal step that can be taken has been taken, and the determination becomes the law of the land as expressed by regulation,

there will be no use in any further protests, and we must accept the position. Until we reach that stage, the House will not be warranted in discussing any alternatives. Although the Prime Minister has indicated his willingness to consider claims for compensation, the State has not yet made any claim for compensation. We are hopeful, but not sanguine, that the Federal Parliament may, in its wisdom, disallow the regulation. If so, that will be the end of the matter. There will then be no need to talk about compensation, or about alternatives. The business will go on as it was expected to go on, and as the people who have invested a lot of money in it expected. When these hopes are dashed, and finality has been reached in regard to the regulation, it will be time enough to consider alternatives. The House would be unwise to discuss at this stage alternatives to an action which we think is inimical to, and not in the best interests of, Western Australia. The people of this State have a right, through their Parliament, to protest to the Federal Parliament up to the final stages of the making of the law on the subject. I am satisfied that everyone would wish that we should do so. If the action of the Federal Government is endorsed by the Parliament of the Commonwealth, we can then make our claims for compensation, suggest alternatives, and do what we think best for ourselves. I suppose the Leader of the Opposition, and the member for Nedlands (Hon. N. Keenan) are at one with the people of Western Australia in thinking, now that it has been demonstrated that we have extremely valuable deposits of ore situated within our territory, we would be wanting in our duty if we allowed that latent wealth to remain where it is for a hundred years, because at some dim and distant time the people of the Eastern States might want to use that raw material.

Mr. Lambert: The ore might not be wanted then.

The PREMIER: When we know that the regulation has become the law of the Commonwealth, we can discuss the question of alternatives. When we reach the stage where effective protests are unavailing, and the whole question has become an accomplished fact, we can consider what alternatives we should suggest, or what other measures we should take to deal with the matter in a proper way. Meanwhile, it is our duty to

make as effective as possible our protest against the passing of this regulation. If then it is passed, we shall have done our duty. No one will be able to blame us, nor will the representatives of any section of the people of Western Australia be able to say that we did not take whatever steps were possible. I am not optimistic enough to think it is likely the Federal Parliament will disallow the regulation, but it would be an obvious neglect of duty if we did not endeavour to do everything possible to give effect to the desires of our people that this industry should not be ignominiously pushed out of existence because, as a matter of policy, the Federal Government has arrived at a certain decision. I would rather the member for Nedlands withdrew his amendment, with the assurance from the Government that we will, as soon as the regulation has been definitely determined, give the House every opportunity to suggest alternative steps. At that time more light may be thrown upon the subject than is now apparent. There may be other methods of conserving the interests of the State when we know that we cannot do what we have been led to believe we can do. We can do nothing at this stage except to conserve our position so far as is possible. When our endeavours have proved futile and unavailing, then will be the time for this House, and Parliament generally, to be consulted as to what other steps are necessary to give effect to the policy of everyone in Western Australia that we should exert every effort to exploit this great amount of latent wealth in the North-West. Meanwhile, we do not want to weaken our case. I am not pleased with the faint praise with which the Leader of the Opposition has damned this proposal. I do not think he represents the people of the State when he makes use of such a sentiment as he expressed.

Mr. Marshall: His attitude would have been very different if a Labour Government had been in power in the Federal arena.

The PREMIER: Then it would have been rank treason. The House would be unwise to weaken in its attitude by passing a modification upon something in which it believes. Until the regulation becomes law, we should fight to the last ditch. When it does become law, it will be of no use to fight any longer. The Government will then give the House every opportunity to discuss the matter, and we shall reap the advantage

of the collective wisdom of the House. No doubt we shall find some way that will prove of benefit to the people of Western Australia and will lead to the exploitation of this particular industry. For the reasons I have given I shall oppose the amendment.

MR. LAMBERT (Yilgarn-Coolgardie) [6.8]: I do not know that I need speak for more than a minute or two. There have been some excellent contributions to the debate.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The question before the Chair is the amendment, which must be disposed of before the motion is further debated.

Mr. LAMBERT: I shall speak against the amendment—although I was impressed with the remarks of the member for Nedlands (Hon. N. Keenan)—in view of the Premier's assurance that failing notice being taken by the Federal Government of this protest, we can take other steps to have the embargo removed. Admittedly it is a most dangerous thing to allow an embargo of this kind to be placed on any Western Australian export. The member for Nedlands said, quite rightly, that if the Federal Government could place an embargo on iron ore, it could probably place embargoes on many other things. I do not know whether the Federal Government has a right to do that. The member for Nedlands is better able to judge than I am whether the Federal Government would be within the four corners of the Commonwealth Constitution in doing so. I trust the hon. member will consent to withdraw his amendment for the time being, and let us send a forcible and unanimous resolution of protest. As the Premier has indicated, if the protest is of no avail, we can at a later stage use other means to give effect to our wishes.

HON. N. KEENAN (Nedlands—in reply) [6.11]: In view of the remonstrance, if I may so term it, made by the Premier, and the suggestion that the matter possibly can be better discussed at a later stage, I ask leave to withdraw my amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MRS. CARDELL-OLIVER (Subiaco) [6.12]: It was not my intention to speak, but I fear that I cannot let a motion of this kind pass without offering a few remarks. It says that the Parliament of West-

ern Australia emphatically protests. The Premier has repeatedly said that he speaks for the whole of the people. I presume he speaks for all the people who are in sympathy with what he wishes to say. Personally I feel that I speak for the majority of my electors when I say that my constituency would be against the motion. My first reason for saying so is based on more or less moral grounds rather than on economic grounds. The motion seems paradoxical to me, especially when the Premier's view in favour of the protest is considered. At the polls the Labour Party stands for nationalisation of minerals. The member for Collie (Mr. Wilson) tries to push forward the nationalisation of coal. Yet here we have the Premier asking that a protest be made against the prohibition of Australian ore to be sent to a foreign country. Again, it is paradoxical because many members of the Labour Party, the lumpers and others, refuse even to handle iron ore consigned to this foreign country. Thus we have the Premier of the State, a leader of the Labour Party, going against men of his own party while saying that he speaks for the whole party. I hold that all minerals should be nationalised.

Ministerial Members: Oh!

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: I quite agree with the member for Collie. The minerals should belong to the people. Sixty years, a hundred years, two hundred years are as nothing in the life of a nation. The minerals belong not only to the present generation, but also to generations yet unborn. Many rash statements have been made with regard to populating the North and establishing industries in the North. The Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the National Party have made it quite clear that cattle would not carry effectively to Japan. It has been asserted by the Premier that the Japanese are now a meat-eating people. They are not in fact a meat-eating nation. In religion they are Buddhists and Shintoists, and do not eat meat, although considerable quantities of meat go to Japan.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: I believe upwards of 200,000 cattle were imported by Japan last year and during part of the previous year. The purpose was largely for stocking and not for human consumption.

At that time, Manchuria and other parts were being stocked. Then again, Japan does not allow cattle to be imported unless the growers can forward a clean bill of health. I am open to correction, but I believe that Western Australia cannot provide a clean bill of health respecting the cattle exported from the North. The Philippines have been mentioned as another possible market, but there again a clean bill of health is required. In these circumstances, it is difficult to see that the market suggested is really available for our cattle. Mention was made of the provisioning of boats that would be required to lift the ore at Yampi Sound. The Premier asserted that 120 to 150 boats would proceed to Yampi Sound each year, and would have to be provisioned. As I understand the position, that is not so. I have travelled on many foreign boats, and I always found that every endeavour was made to carry full supplies, thereby avoiding the necessity to secure provisions in Australia. All repairs and other necessary work are effected as far as possible before reaching Australian waters, because masters are aware of the high cost if carried out in the Commonwealth. In one instance the painting of an Italian boat was commenced long before it arrived here.

Mr. Fox: Foreign boats are painted while in harbour here.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: Captains of boats on which I have travelled explained to me that they endeavoured to do everything possible before reaching Australian waters, because work was so expensive here.

Mr. Sleeman: Those that have had the jobs done here have spoken highly of the quality of the work.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: I have no doubt about that; I do not suggest otherwise. On occasions, work may have been done here. For the information of the member for Fremantle (Mr. Sleeman) I may add that I have heard captains of foreign boats say that the lumpers at Fremantle do more work in the period of their engagement than do men in any other port throughout the world. I am not in a position to say whether that is true.

Mr. Sleeman: I think you can take it that it is perfectly true.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: Another reason why foreign boats, especially those owned by Japanese, endeavour to provision before reaching Australian waters is on

account of the exchange, which is very much against Japan. In those circumstances, they endeavour to make provision for the return journey before they commence the voyage. Still another aspect is that the Japanese have not respected our rights on our northern shores. Once they get a foothold on Koolan Island, how are we to know that they will respect our shores? The Japanese have consorted with lubras along the coast, with the result that there are many half-caste Japanese to be seen in the North. The Japanese have taken our shell, our fish and other commodities. Shortly after I entered this Chamber, I spoke about the position at Yampi Sound, and later received a letter from some fishermen who were operating in the North. They told me that they had seen the Japanese taking iron ore from Koolan Island, where they had huge mooring rings embedded in concrete enabling them to berth their craft more easily. They told me that that practice had been going on for many years. The Premier referred to the United States of America as a country that had become great on her exports. Perhaps he was merely trying to make his argument appear a little more forceful, and thought that members did not know the position. I know full well, and I am sure the Premier knows it too, that the United States of America has become great, not on the export of her raw materials—

The Premier: I did not say that.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: I made a note of the Premier's remark at the time, and his words were, "She became great on her exports." However, that is by the way.

The Premier: The United States has a great export trade.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: Of course it has; but its export trade is not in raw materials but in manufactured goods. The Premier did not instance Russia. Members know that when Russia is mentioned I see red. That country has enormous deposits of iron ore. Until a few years ago the Ural Mountains had only a few peasant people where to-day there are 250,000 people in one town, practically all working in the local iron ore deposits.

The Premier: There are tens of thousands working in gold mines there, and have been for the past 30 years.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: The Premier is the Premier, and I accept his statement. I have written a book on this subject, and if the statements in my book are true, as I

believe them to be, the tens of thousands of people were not there.

The Premier: Then where does the gold come from in Russia?

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: Gold is procured from many centres in Russia, which is an extremely rich country.

The Premier: And that includes the Ural Mountains.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: I was referring to iron ore. I would not say there were tens of thousands of people extracting gold from mines in the Ural Mountains. I know that many hundreds of thousands are engaged upon the iron ore deposits. The time may arrive in Australia when we will require the iron ore at Yampi Sound, and then we may have people working there, as Russia has in the Ural Mountains to-day. Then again, until last year Russia was exporting iron ore to England, but she ceased doing so.

Mr. Sleeman: Russia is still exporting manganese to the United States of America.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: Why did Russia cease exporting iron ore to England? The explanation is that it was thought there was a possibility of the iron ore being used for the manufacture of munitions. If it is right for a country like Russia to adopt that attitude, surely in Australia, which is populated by a people professing to be peace-loving, it is equally right to refuse to export iron ore to a country where it is known that the ore will be used for the purpose of munitions with which to kill fellow human beings.

Mr. Tonkin: What about our sales of wheat and wool?

The Minister for Employment: Men must be fed before they can fight.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: When Mr. Lyons was speaking some time ago about Yampi Sound, he said he was not aware of any reason why the Commonwealth should interfere. The Premier, however, says that he appears to have changed his mind. I ask the Premier why do people change their minds at all?

The Premier: Because they get more information.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: That is exactly the point. The Premier and his colleagues were socialists when they were elected to this House years ago. They came into this House strong Labour men, but they have all changed their views because they have

obtained more information. They do things now that they would not have dreamt of doing years ago. I am quite surprised.

The Minister for Mines: When did the Prime Minister get the information?

Members interjected.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: I believe in the nationalisation of minerals. I am sorry that the member for Nedlands did not persist in his amendment, because in my opinion it was a constructive amendment, whereas the motion is destructive. I do not think the majority of the people of Western Australia is in sympathy with the Premier's motion; but if he thinks so, it is a good opportunity for him to go to the country and put the question to the people. Let him ask the people if it is their will that our iron ore should be allowed to go to a foreign country to be converted into munitions.

MR. COVERLEY (Roebourne) [7.43]: The criticism that I have heard to-night does not inspire me with the hope that sympathetic consideration will be given to the development of the northern portion of our State. When the motion was put on the notice paper I thought there would be practically no discussion upon it. I thought that all members of the House would agree that the Premier was doing the right thing on behalf of the State. His desire evidently was to explore every possible avenue to develop an industry that would be not only of great benefit to the State as a whole, but to the North-West in particular. I thought such a laudable object would have not only the sympathy, but also the whole-hearted support of this Chamber, because everything possible should be done to assist the development of that part of the State.

The argument advanced by the member for Subiaco (Mrs Cardell-Oliver) is, in my opinion, entirely in favour of the motion because she said that she believed, from information obtained by her, that the Japanese have already been stealing our iron ore, that they have poached our pearl-shell—which is true—that they have encroached upon our fishing industry and, further, have left behind quite a number of half-breeds. All that convinces me we should do everything possible to secure a large population for the North, because it is want of population that is the cause of the evils to which the hon member referred.

The criticism by the Leader of the Opposition of the go-slow policy did not sound convincing to me. If members on this side of the House were making a fuss because progress was slow, one could forgive the Leader of the Opposition for making those accusations, but he must know that considerable time is required to organise an industry such as that which it was attempted to establish at Yampi. The Leader of the Opposition knows that four years elapsed after the start of the Wyndham Meat Works before a bullock was killed there. Surely, the Wyndham Meat Works is not nearly so big an undertaking as that which it was proposed should be established at Yampi. I agree with the Leader of the Opposition that every penny spent on the development of Yampi was Japanese capital. I have said so on the floor of this House. I said I did not believe there was any English capital in the concern at all, and that I did not believe the machinery required would be made in England, but that it was to be manufactured in Japan. I still believe that. I do not, however, agree with the rest of the statements made by the Leader of the Opposition. I do not think there was a deliberate hold-up at all. I do know there was much controversy before negotiations were concluded. Engineers and other experts were sent out to inspect Yampi Sound; plans and specifications of the machinery required had to be drawn up, all of which took a long time. The greatest hindrance in my opinion was the delay that took place in the negotiations between the various people financially interested in the venture. Yampi Sound had been lying idle for many years; nobody seemed to be interested in it, until iron ore became a marketable product. Immediately, every Tom, Dick and Harry along the North-West coast seemed to think he had a prior right to take up a concession at Yampi. Much of the information upon which the Leader of the Opposition based his criticism has, I think, been given to him by disgruntled people who did not share in the profits of the negotiations, and who, for that reason, wanted to put every obstacle they could in the way of developing the proposed industry. Every possible effort should be made to induce the Commonwealth Government to lift the embargo on the export of the iron ore. We have not had many opportunities of developing the North-West, and this industry

would have given the greatest possible impetus to the district. In spite of what has been said to the contrary, hundreds of tons of cargo and machinery have crossed the Derby wharf in the last 12 months. Many men have been employed on the islands and quite a number have left. I doubt whether the figures quoted by the Leader of the Opposition are correct.

Hon. C. G. Latham: They were given in sworn evidence before the warden.

Mr. COVERLEY: I know the source of the hon. member's information, but I still doubt whether the figures are correct.

Mr. Sleeman: Sworn evidence is not always correct.

Hon. C. G. Latham: That may be.

MR. COVERLEY: I know that six or seven men arrived by lugger at Derby from Koolan and Cockatoo Islands. They left the islands of their own accord, as they were dissatisfied with the conditions. However, other men were picked up locally to take their place. Unless one had been there to see, it would be difficult to visualise the difference in the town of Derby during the 12 months of operations on Koolan Island. It did make a vast difference both to the town and to the back country. After all, the more people there are in a place, the more business is done. Recently there was quite a good trade in beef and mutton between Derby and the islands. With progress, permitting more than a hundred men to be employed, trade would have increased. The arguments advanced about the development of the cattle industry were not in accordance with facts. I am convinced that, had Yampi Sound been fully developed, quite a number of cattle would have been taken away on the boats. One hon. member wanted to know whether it was not a fact that the Manila trade was cancelled. That is true. It was cancelled because the boats conveying cattle had nothing else to carry except livestock. The vessels went to Wyndham and on the return journey carried cattle only. The Japanese boats loading iron ore would not have found it expensive to ship cattle and drop them at Manila. Surely no hon. member believes that the company financing this project is interested only in iron ore. The company has sound financial backing and is interested in refrigeration and many other activities. So far as I know, the object was to land cattle from Derby and the Kimberleys in Manila in

which country cattle can be traded in any condition, though the people there prefer to take the stock on the hoof.

Another point raised either by the member for Irwin-Moore (Mr. Ferguson) or the Leader of the Opposition, by way of interjection, was that cattle would not be fit to eat if 14 days were required to convey them to their destination. But the syndicate controlling Yampi Sound would have dealt with a class of people different from the Australians, who like a good slice of rump steak. Anything killable would suit the trade for which the company would have entered.

A further criticism levelled by the Leader of the Opposition was that we proposed to export the very best iron ore from this State and leave the worst type for Western Australia to develop. Would the Leader of the Opposition apply that argument to the export of timber, meat, fruit, butter and other primary products that are exported from this State? Of those commodities surely we export the very best. Therefore, I do not consider that his argument was sound when he contended that we should restrict the export of the best iron ore. He was not justified in applying a different rule to iron ore mined in the northern areas from that applied to products obtained in the southern parts of the State, and grown by people that he directly represents. If we were considering the export of fruit, or some other primary commodity, the Leader of the Opposition would probably hold quite a different view. If this is the kind of support that is to be given to projects for the development of the North-West, the future of that part of the State will not look very bright.

The question was asked as to what benefit would come from the removal of the embargo. In this respect there is one point that might be mentioned. Many known minerals exist throughout a portion of the coastal area near Yampi Sound. No encouragement has been given to prospectors to leave Derby and travel overland for approximately 300 miles from the coast through the Leopold Ranges, where they might spend a lengthy period prospecting. If they desired to do so, they would have to travel by lugger around the coast, or overland by pack horse. Members will realise that the average prospector is not wealthy enough to own or hire a lugger, and fill it with

supplies so that he might be enabled to travel around the coast. The average prospector is of the battling type, with a couple of pack mules and about £10 worth of food, which would not last very long. By the time he reached the place where he could begin prospecting, most of his food would be eaten, and it would be necessary for him to turn back for fresh supplies. My contention is that, had Yampi Sound been developed, men of this type would have been able to work for a few months and thus save sufficient money to enable them to equip themselves for a journey inland from Yampi on a prospecting expedition that might lead to the unearthing of many new minerals of benefit to the whole State.

One hon. member said that the Federal Government ought to compensate the State for its loss in respect of the export of iron ore from Yampi. It was contended in a casual way that the compensation would be for those that were unemployed as a result of the embargo imposed by the Federal authorities. To estimate the harm caused by the imposition of the embargo is almost impossible. Not only has the possibility of opening up fresh mineral resources been prevented, but a good deal of unemployment has resulted. The effect on the pastoral industry has also to be considered. That industry would have derived much benefit from the development of Yampi Sound.

Possibly my support of the motion may be considered as having been given from selfish motives. Certainly I desire to see the North-West developed. I believe it is rich in mineral wealth and that it is valuable from a pastoral point of view, and both the mining and the pastoral industries would have been given a tremendous impetus by the further development of the Yampi Sound iron ore deposits. A good deal of trade would have come to the State as a result of that development. It has been argued—and probably soundly—that most of the food supplies would have been taken to Yampi by the boats that shipped away the ore. But those supplies would be only for the employees on the vessels, and not for the men on the island itself. Many people were opposed to the development of the iron ore deposits because they believed that Japanese labourers would be engaged. The law of this country would not permit Japanese, or any other aliens, to work ashore. The whole

of the island would have been controlled and worked by good Australian workers, labouring under Australian arbitration awards, and the whole of the food supplies for those men would have been sent from Fremantle or Derby, or from somewhere else in Western Australia. Supplies for those men would not have come from outside this State. I know the Australian worker too well to believe that he would consent to conditions of that kind. He would not be likely to eat Japanese food—brought on the vessels that came to take the ore—in preference to his own food. The Australian worker would sooner starve than submit to a diet that did not suit him. I hope the motion will be agreed to without any further criticism from those that probably from political motives are trying to protect somebody, rather than to advocate the development of industries in Western Australia.

On motion by the Minister for Mines, debate adjourned.

BILL—BUREAU OF INDUSTRY AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH.

Message.

Message from the Lieut.-Governor received and read recommending appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

Second Reading.

THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT (Hon. A. R. G. Hawke—Northam) [8.0] in moving the second reading said: It is with considerable pleasure I approach the task of introducing this Bill. The measure has been framed as the result of certain recommendations made by Mr. Justice Wolff, who, as Royal Commissioner, recently investigated questions concerning youth employment and the apprenticeship system. It was on the 5th April last year that Mr. Justice Wolff was appointed to carry out those investigations. He spent a great deal of time in making extensive inquiries into the matters referred to him, and obtain much valuable evidence from witnesses who appeared before him both in this State and in other States of Australia. The recommendations made by him regarding the setting up of a bureau of industry and economic research in this State are contained in his report, together with a number of other recom-

mendations. Members of the Government are highly appreciative of the splendid work carried out by him, and of the very valuable report he presented. During the course of his inquiry in other parts of Australia Mr. Justice Wolff was greatly impressed by the activities carried out in Queensland under the provisions of the Bureau of Industry Act, 1932. That Act is altogether comprehensive, and contains greater powers and covers a much wider field than is proposed in the Bill now before the House. Mr. Justice Wolff also obtained a considerable amount of information concerning the operations of a bureau of industry that was established in New Zealand early in 1936. In his report he expresses the belief that lasting benefit to Western Australia will accrue if a bureau of industry and economic research is established here. He urges that the work of such a bureau should be continuous, and co-related, and not in any way spasmodic.

Throughout its existence Western Australia, by its Governments, has concentrated almost entirely on the task of developing primary industries that have been of great value to the progress of the State. Those industries have been the means of establishing a splendid reputation for Western Australia in practically every part of the world. In the past, and particularly during the last 20 years, many millions have been expended in developing our primary industries, whereas Governments have spent little, if anything, in encouraging and developing our secondary industries. Huge sums of money have been lost by Governments and institutions in financing the development of our primary industries. It may be that the heavy losses which have been suffered in a direct way have been more than offset by the indirect benefits that have accrued through this development. For some years it has been recognised, and it is becoming increasingly apparent, that our economy has been developed in a most one-sided manner. The many dangers associated with that policy are now understood by most public men, and by members of the public as well. We are suffering to-day in many ways because in the past we have placed all our eggs in one basket. To a large extent we are doing that very thing even now.

The weaknesses and dangers of that policy have not been felt as severely as they would have been because our

goldmining industry has assisted in safeguarding the State and its people from many of the ill-effects of such a policy. One almost trembles to think what would have happened to the State from 1930 onwards had the goldmining industry not revived in the remarkable way it did. The revival provided employment for thousands of men, and produced millions of pounds of national income for Western Australia. By providing such a great volume of employment the industry has also made available a valuable market for the products of this State. During recent years world conditions have been so upset and have become so uncertain as to bring about an almost impossible state of affairs with regard to the marketing of primary products exported from one country to other countries. Ruinous fluctuations in world prices for wheat and wool and other primary products have taken place. The State or country, depending for its welfare and even its existence upon its trade in primary products with other countries, is in a dangerous position. The condition of our primary industries to-day is precarious. That condition has been brought about, not because of any lack of production in our own country, or of any lack of effort on the part of our own people, but only because of dangerous policies and the unsettled conditions existing in other countries of the world. The threat of war, which is almost continually present in Europe, has compelled the Governments of the countries concerned to shape and operate policies with the object in view of making their respective countries as self-supporting as possible in the matter of food supplies.

At the present time world prices for primary products are unprofitably low. Even more disturbing is the fact that the demand for such products appears to be weakening as the days go by. This situation represents a very real threat to the future of Western Australia, in the event of this State deciding to pursue its past and present policy of concentrating almost entirely on the development of primary industries. All the facts indicate the necessity for an alteration in that policy. The time has arrived when a serious and persistent effort should be made to balance our internal economy more evenly by concentrating a reasonable amount of attention on the task of developing our secondary industries on a far wider scale than has previously been attempted.

While world markets for our primary products are contracting, it is a significant fact that we are increasing our volume of imports of manufactured goods in each successive year. The value of such goods imported from eastern Australia last year was almost as great as the value of manufactured goods produced by our own secondary industries in that year. In the year 1936-37 we imported manufactured goods from eastern Australia to the value of £12,380,000. In the year 1937-38 the figure rose to almost £13,000,000. Further goods to the value of £8,000,000 were imported into this State from overseas in the year 1937-38. Therefore the total value of our imports for that year was, in round figures, £21,000,000. I propose to quote a list which sets out the main items of import for the year 1937-38—

	£
Butter	190,000
Cheese	84,000
Fish	62,000
Bacon and Hams	76,000
Meats	69,000
Dried and Condensed Milk ..	130,000
Other Animal Foodstuffs ..	180,000
Confectionery	271,000
Preserved Fruits	87,000
Jams and Jellies	126,000
Other Vegetable Foodstuffs ..	550,000
Spirituos and Alcoholic Liquors	365,000
Tobacco and preparations thereof	960,000
Boots and Shoes	380,000
Other Wearing Apparel	1,421,000
Textiles	1,080,000
Paints, Varnishes and the like ..	162,000
Agricultural Machinery	536,000
Other Machinery	2,433,000
Other Metals and Metal Manufactures	1,484,000
Pneumatic Tyres	308,000
Leather and Leather Manufactures	94,000
Wood and Wicker in manufactured form	111,000
Earthenware, Cement, China, Glassware and the like	246,000
Paper	266,000
Stationery and Paper Manufactures	327,000
Drugs, Chemicals and Fertilisers	552,000
Arms, Munitions and Explosives	346,000
Soap and Soap Substitutes	125,000
Miscellaneous	872,000
	<hr/>
	£13,893,000

It is not suggested that the establishment of the Bureau of Industry and Economic Research is likely to create quickly a position wherein the whole of this huge volume of imported manufactured products, mostly from eastern Australia, will be manufac-

tured in Western Australia. It is suggested, and very seriously suggested, that the greater portion of those products could and ought to be manufactured by our own workpeople in our own factories. The direct and indirect benefits of any progress made in that direction would be such as to strengthen the economic and financial structure of this State. By increasing our strength in that direction, the primary industries would be able to receive greater assistance than is now possible in the periods of slump which so frequently occur in overseas markets. A substantial increase in our manufacturing activities would automatically attract additional population to this State, and thus provide an ever-increasing local market for primary products. This would surely, even if slowly, lessen the dependence of our primary producers on outside markets for the disposal of their production.

Although we imported goods to the value of nearly £13,000,000 from the Eastern States during the year 1937-38, the value of our exports to those States during that year amounted to only £3,000,000. Gold to the value of £1,300,000 was included in those exports. The total value of our export of goods was thus reduced to £1,700,000 for the year in question. Our unfavourable trade balance with the Eastern States, including the value of the gold exported, was £10,000,000.

This Parliament, the Government and the people of the State would be failing in their duty if a serious and systematic effort were not made to adjust substantially that heavy and dangerous trade balance in the direction of greatly reducing its adverse nature as it affects Western Australia. Many efforts have been made in the past, and are still being made, with the object of persuading the people of this State to be more careful and conscientious in their shopping activities. The Government desires to take this opportunity of expressing its appreciation to the many public-spirited people who have by individual and organised efforts endeavoured to increase the demand for goods produced in our own factories by our own workpeople. The efforts put forward have been at least partly successful, as they have assisted to increase the number of people who always buy locally-produced goods. Successful as those efforts have been, they have not in-

creased the demand for local goods to nearly the extent that is necessary. It is not to be expected that efforts made by individuals, and periodically by organisations of individuals, are likely to achieve the substantial measure of progress that is so much desired. The time has arrived, in the opinion of the Government, when an organisation such as the Bureau of Industry and Economic Research, sought to be established by the Bill now before the House, should be set up for the purpose of carrying out research work in order that industry may be further developed and additional opportunities for employment provided.

I propose to present some figures that will indicate the progress that has been made in our manufacturing activities during recent years. The figures will relate to 1929, which was the peak year of our manufacturing production prior to the depression; 1931, which was the worst year during the depression, and 1937, which is the latest year for which complete figures are available. The table shows the number of factories, the number of employees under 21 years of age, and the number over that age, and is as follows:—

Year.	Factories No.	Employees		Total No.
		Under 21 years.	Over 21 years.	
1929	2,422	6,436	20,224	26,660
1931	2,382	4,512	14,049	18,461
1937	2,848	6,797	20,833	27,630

The average number of employees in each factory operating during those three years was—1929, 11.007; 1931, 8.17; 1937, 9.7. I propose now to quote a table which shows the output of raw materials used, the power, light, etc., consumed, and the net value, or the value of the factory product, for the separate years 1934-35, 1935-36, and 1936-37. The table is as follows:—

Year.	Output. £	Raw Material used, Power, Light, etc., consumed.	Net Value. £
		£	
1934-35	14,642,000	8,357,000	6,285,000
1935-36	17,529,000	10,625,000	7,504,000
1936-37	18,313,000	10,366,000	7,947,000

The worst annual period in recent years was naturally in 1931-32, when the value of the output was only £11,188,000, of the raw material used—power, light, and the like consumed—£6,582,000, and the net value was £4,606,000. It has to be remembered, too, that fluctuations in the prices of goods affect the value of production. The same volume of goods would naturally have a higher value in a period of good prices than

in a period of low prices. Nevertheless, the prices for manufactured products do not fluctuate either frequently or violently. It would be altogether beneficial for this State and for most other States if a system could be devised under which frequent and violent fluctuations in the income received by primary producers could be eliminated. The devising of such a system is not impossible. Signs are not wanting to show that such a system may soon become a permanent part of the economy of the States and of the Commonwealth of Australia.

The question of employment is vitally associated with that of our manufacturing activities. The demand for factory products is continuous and increasing as time passes. Employment in factories is, therefore, continuous and the opportunities for employment in factories increase as time moves on. Manufacturing activities thus provide opportunities for skilled, semi-skilled or ordinary employment. Such employment is usually based on an acceptable standard of wages and working conditions. On the other hand, the volume of employment available in the primary industries is irregular, and is thus responsible for a considerable number of unemployed for long periods during each year. It may be that the passing of time will establish more regular employment for workers engaged in primary industries. That is a question to which the proposed Bureau of Industry and Economic Research could devote some attention. As matters are, our one hope for additional employment is in the manufacturing establishments already operating and in those it may be possible to establish in the future. The greatest hope of providing employment for our young people lies in the direction of substantially increasing our manufacturing operations.

The number of men depending upon the Government for employment has been far too great for several years past and is too great even to-day. The necessity for providing Government employment for such a large number forces Governments to use loan funds in a manner less economical than would otherwise be resorted to. From every point of view it would be far better if many of those depending upon the Government could obtain employment in private industry. Mere talk about the problem of youth employment, of unemployment, or the problem of unemployed adults is not enough.

Unceasingly to call upon Governments to deal with these problems is insufficient. A duty devolves upon every individual in the community as well as upon any Government that may be in power for the time being. The men and women of Western Australia in their individual shopping activities could, if they would, completely abolish the problem of youth unemployment, and to a considerable extent reduce the problem of adult unemployment. It is nothing short of folly for our people to pay away their money in buying goods that are manufactured in other parts of Australia and in other countries of the world, when similar goods are being produced by our own people in our own factories and could be produced in far greater volume if the demand existed. In my opinion no citizen of this State is really worthy of the name unless he or she is careful to buy locally-produced goods whenever possible.

The Bill provides that the Act setting up the Bureau of Industry and Economic Research shall come into operation on a date to be fixed by proclamation. The proposed bureau will be a body corporate, with perpetual succession, and will be capable of suing and being sued. It is to be given power, subject to the provisions of the Act and subject to the approval of the Governor—

(a) To encourage and assist industrial development throughout the State, including for that purpose the carrying out or the procuring of the carrying out of scientific investigations and research;

(b) To encourage and assist any industry already established, or proposed to be established, and for that purpose to make through all available channels all such inquiries as may be deemed necessary or convenient to be made;

(c) To obtain from all Government departments, State instrumentalities and public officers any information and copies of any documents which the Bureau may at any time and from time to time require;

(d) To solicit, seek for, and acquire information relating to industry, trade and commerce and to make such information available to such persons and in such manner as the Bureau may think expedient;

(e) To make to the Minister recommendations concerning the measures and methods which, if adopted, would assist and encourage industrial development;

(f) To advise the Minister in respect of the granting by the Government of financial and other assistance in relation to any industry or proposed industry;

(g) To solicit, seek for and obtain from all available sources, information regarding raw materials and manufactured products and any other matters of material interest to the industrial life and industrial development of the State;

(h) To co-operate with Federal and State institutions or bodies and with any other organised societies or bodies whose powers and functions and activities are either wholly or in part of a nature similar to the powers, functions and activities of the Bureau under this Act; and to collaborate with any of the institutions, bodies or societies aforesaid when, in the opinion of the Bureau, such collaboration will or may be beneficial to or be in the interests of the development of industries in the State;

(i) To inquire into and advise upon scientific investigation and research beyond the limits of the State with a view to the use or application of the discoveries made or information obtained by means of such scientific investigation and research in and for the benefit of industries in the State;

(j) To inquire into the conditions of employment and the causes and extent of unemployment in the State;

(k) To inquire into and report upon requests for assistance by way of advances or guarantee made under Part III. of the Industries Assistance Act, 1915, and its amendments;

(l) To ascertain and report to the Minister upon the manner in which and the extent to which persons engaged in industry and who have received or are receiving in relation thereto financial or other assistance from the State are carrying out the obligations undertaken by them in consideration of the granting to them of the assistance aforesaid;

(m) To investigate and report to the Minister upon unhealthy occupations and dangerous trades;

(n) To make such investigations and to hold such inquiries concerning matters of economic interest as may be referred to the Bureau by the Governor and to furnish to the Governor reports of the results of such investigations and inquiries;

(o) To advise the Minister generally upon all matters concerning the development of industries;

(p) To solicit, seek for, and obtain any statistical and other information available relating to that which is commonly known as "the sweating evil" in relation to industrial labour, and to unfair competition in industry, and to monopolies detrimental to the interests of the public, as and whenever it is desirable or expedient in the opinion of the Minister that such information should be obtained; and

(q) To make such other investigations, hold such other inquiries and furnish such other reports upon such other matters concerning or affecting or likely to concern or affect the industrial development and the industrial well-being of the State.

Mr. Sampson: No reference is made to the training of apprentices.

The MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT: Mr. Speaker, I think it entirely out of order for any member to anticipate legislation that is likely to be brought before Parliament.

Mr. Sampson: I waited until you had read all the powers and functions of the bureau.

The MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT: The member for Swan (Mr. Sampson) is rather badly off the track in suggesting that provision should be made in this Bill to deal with the problem of apprenticeship.

Mr. Sampson: The object is the encouragement of employment.

The MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT: Does the member for Swan believe that the Bill has been framed with the object of giving legislative effect to all Mr. Justice Wolff's recommendations? If he is of that opinion, then he is entirely wrong.

Mr. Sampson: The Minister might amend the Bill.

The MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT: I am inclined to think that the Speaker would have something to say if the member for Swan attempted to amend the Bill in the direction he has suggested.

Hon. P. D. Ferguson: Can the Minister tell the House if the Bill has any reference to primary industries?

The MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT: Undoubtedly. It has as much reference to them as it has to manufacturing industries. The proposed bureau will devote its activities to primary industries and problems associated with them, as well as to manufacturing industries and problems associated with them.

Mr. Sampson: If those industries are to be developed, you must have more tradesmen.

The MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT: The member for Swan (Mr. Sampson) is in a teasing mood this evening. He is interjecting not with the object of helping the debate, but rather to establish an atmosphere of levity which is most undesirable. I suggest he reserve his criticism until he is dealing with some of his own Bills.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT: For the information of the member for Swan, I may say that legislation to deal with the problem he has in the forefront of his mind is receiving attention. The powers I have just mentioned are set out in Clause 28 of the Bill. Members will agree these

powers are fairly comprehensive and should enable the director and the members of the bureau to achieve valuable results for the industries of the State. Clothed with the powers set out in the Bill, the bureau, by continuous effort under the guidance of the director, who will be employed on a full-time basis, will be in a position to obtain much information not available at present, or available only in a patchy and unsystematic form.

I propose now to deal as briefly as possible with the other main provisions of the Bill. The bureau will consist of not fewer than nine members, who shall be appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Minister concerned. The members shall, as far as possible, be selected with due regard to their ability to represent primary industries, secondary industries, the mining industry, commercial interests and industrial workers. They shall be the permanent members of the bureau and shall be appointed for a period of three years—

Member: That is not very permanent, is it?

The MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT:—and be eligible for re-appointment. Three of the members so appointed shall be appointed primarily to represent the Government, the technical branch of the Education Department and the Government Statistician respectively. The Minister concerned shall be an ex-officio member of the bureau and its chairman. The director of the bureau shall be an ex-officio member of the bureau and its deputy chairman.

Provision is made in the Bill for the bureau to have the right to co-opt persons as members of the bureau because of any special industrial, economic or scientific knowledge possessed by such co-opted persons. Whenever possible at least one of the co-opted members shall be a person that has obtained a degree or diploma in the science of economics. The co-opted members of the bureau are not being given the right to vote in connection with decisions that have to be made by the bureau.

Members of the bureau may be paid such remuneration for their services as may be prescribed by regulation. The director is to be appointed by the Governor for a period not exceeding seven years and shall be eligible for re-appointment. Any person appointed as the director will be called upon to retire from office on reaching the age of

65 years. The director will have to devote the whole of his time to the powers and duties of his office and will thus be able to concentrate continuously upon the work of his office. He will naturally be chosen because of special qualifications possessed by him. His annual salary will be such as may be fixed from time to time by the Governor.

The Bill provides that the director, the secretary and the other officers of the bureau shall not be Public Service officers within the meaning of the Public Service Act, 1904-1935, although it stipulates that an officer of the Public Service who becomes the director or the secretary or an officer of the bureau shall retain all his existing and accruing rights as an officer of the Public Service. Provision is also made that the director, the secretary and other officers shall not be brought under the Industrial Arbitration Act. It is further set out that a Public Service officer may, in addition to the position which he holds in the Public Service, be appointed to perform such other duties in connection with the bureau as the Governor may direct or as may be prescribed.

The bureau is given power to appoint sub-committees either of its own members, or partly of its members and partly of other persons, for the purpose of having investigations or inquiries carried out for and on behalf of the bureau. The Bill also provides that the Bureau may appoint advisory committees consisting of any number of persons, who may be members of the bureau or other persons. The advisory committees would be empowered to carry out special investigations in relation to any particular matter within the scope of the powers and functions of the bureau.

The bureau is also to be given authority to carry out special investigations for any institution, association, corporation, firm or person, upon such conditions as the bureau may think fit. The bureau may charge fees for any investigations made and any reports furnished to such institution, association, corporation, firm or person. The accounts of the bureau are to be audited by the Auditor General each year.

The director of the bureau is to make a report at the end of each financial year setting out a summary of the work done and the researches and investigations made by

the bureau. The Auditor General's report and the report of the director of the bureau are to be laid before both Houses of Parliament. The Bill contains a number of other more or less machinery provisions.

The Government confidently believes the establishment of the proposed bureau will be a long step forward in the affairs of this State. It is hoped, and there is every justification for hoping, that the operations of the bureau will open up a new era of industrial expansion in this State. That industrial expansion will increase our wealth-production, provide additional opportunity for employment, expand the local market for our primary and secondary production, provide a safe opportunity for the attraction of people from other countries, increase our self-reliance and generally promote the progress and welfare of Western Australia. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

BILL—UNIVERSITY BUILDING.

Message.

Message from the Lieut.-Governor received and read recommending appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

Second Reading.

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

(Hon. F. J. S. Wise—Gascoyne) [8.49] in moving the second reading said: The Bill will be readily understood by hon. members and doubtless meet with their wholehearted approval. Its purpose is to enable the University of Western Australia to utilise certain of its trust moneys, up to £14,000, for the erection and equipment of science buildings. These will be erected on portion of the site of the University buildings at Crawley. They will be constructed primarily for the agricultural section of the University, and the essence of the Bill is that appropriation shall be made from Consolidated Revenue for the provision of interest and sinking fund to repay the amount of £14,000. It is intended to provide from Consolidated Revenue for interest and sinking fund—4 per cent. interest and 10s. per cent. sinking fund. The method of financing and repayment will be on a basis similar to that approved in the

1931 Act. By this building the Government and the University will establish a somewhat direct link with the Commonwealth body known as the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. That important organisation utilises Commonwealth funds to sponsor many activities for scientific and industrial research in the various States. In this State, quite apart from any activities involving laboratory accommodation and actual research in such laboratories, the council has made liberal advances in the interests of research in the field. For a considerable time a source of great worry to those who are sponsoring research in agricultural activities, has been the lack of accommodation necessary successfully to further the projects in hand. The greatest claim for the expenditure of public moneys on buildings can be made by the Department of Agriculture to facilitate its big programme of work, but since the opportunity is presented for the University to continue in its science building the Government considers that the best course to pursue is to assist the Senate of the University in its particular desire. Although the department of agriculture of the University desires, when this accommodation is available, to embark upon certain phases of agricultural research, I wish to make it clear to the House that every safeguard has been provided against any overlapping of the functions or the work of the two institutions. Both the State department and the department of agriculture of the University rely for assistance on the Commonwealth and State funds. Some people would be inclined to say that the greatest claim would be that of the Department of Agriculture of the State, because of the limited funds available to it, but I point out that it is not desired there should be any undue competition for this amount; rather should there be a dovetailing of interest and a close collaboration in the spending of any sums available. The activities of the State Department of Agriculture in its research work have given a fillip to the University to endeavour to train scientists in the scientific side of agriculture. A claim can successfully be made that the work of the officers of the Department of Agriculture in scientific research casts great credit not only upon them but upon the department itself. Those officers have worked under very serious disadvantages in the matter of accommodation

and have contributed greatly to the solution of problems common not only to this State, but also to agricultural pursuits throughout the world. Many cases could be quoted of remarkable discoveries that can be claimed by officers of the Department of Agriculture in scientific research in the field. Whilst there is a definite difference in the spheres of both departments for the utilisation of their funds, we have endeavoured, through close contact with the Senate of the University, more closely to define future work in scientific research when these buildings are constructed. The conclusion reached is that the primary function of the University is to train students for service in the community, to conduct research work, to train post-graduate students and to meet the needs of the staff, as well as to carry out special research work for which it is specifically endowed; whilst the functions of the Department of Agriculture are more or less involved in grappling with the common problems of the present-day industry of agriculture. The department has a special urge to conduct agricultural research. Every day problems are being successfully investigated by research officers in the many branches of the Department of Agriculture. Rather could we say that, instead of dealing with the fundamentals, as will the University, it is dealing with the practical problems of the day. If the position were different the extension officers of the department would not be as valuable as they are. It is the work of the research officer in the field that gives such scope to the extension officer in his valuable sphere of work. The Government desires to collaborate very closely with the University in this matter, not in any way to stifle progress research, but, with the accommodation that will shortly be available, more closely to promote collaboration—rather than draw one State institution apart from another—and finally to make every possible use of the facilities that will be available. This has been the subject of much contention in the past, and perhaps has been the cause of certain misunderstandings. When it was found that the Government could assist the University, and in doing so bring more moneys to this State from the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, we had a very clear understanding with the Senate of the University on the point. I discussed this matter with the Vice Chancellor and he addressed to me

a letter which covered the proposed scope of the activities connected with the future utilisation of the building now being constructed. He used these words:—

I have no hesitation in assuring you that the research carried out at the University will not be allowed to duplicate, overlap or conflict with the work carried on at the State Department of Agriculture. The University could continue to undertake aspects requiring fundamental research. The State department's sphere could include investigations of immediate direct, practical and economic application.

In essence, not only are we furthering the very important work of the students of the University, but they will be encouraged to promote research work in fundamentals, which will train them to become proficient scientists, able to cope with the pressing problems of the future.

By the time the students are trained and have had the benefit of this experience, they will be highly valuable officers in the service of the State. Meanwhile a clear understanding has been reached that, should the accommodation be available and the Agricultural Department requires to use the appliances, the equipment, or the accommodation, these will be readily available until the Government has its own better-equipped department.

Mr. Doney: Do you contemplate using the students in due course?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: That will be a matter for the demands and the requirements of the State at the time.

Mr. Doney: You have it in view?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: Naturally so. The hon. member knows that in all spheres and in all departments where technical officers are required we have the greatest difficulty in procuring them within the State, and indeed in some instances within Australia. To take another branch of the Agricultural Department—Veterinary Science—we cannot get a veterinary officer within Australia.

Mr. Doney: I know you cannot.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: So we hope that by the training of these officers in our own particular problems, and in problems peculiar to Western Australia, the State will have the advantage of their services at some future date. When we use the term "agriculture" we use it in its widest sense, applying it not only to the activities of the farmer, but also to the many urgent and pressing problems of the pastoralist.

There is the question of regeneration of our important fodder plants. We have urgent work awaiting a competent agrostologist. The view of Sir David Rivett, with whom I had a long discussion to-day, is that in the honouring of the promise to supply the staff and the moneys after the building has been provided, the first officer to be made available will be a senior agrostologist to investigate the many pressing problems in that branch of agriculture. At a later stage we hope to have certain researches made into matters affecting entomology. While it is unnecessary for me to dilate on the many lines in which these scientists can successfully apply themselves, I feel that those who are at all interested in rural pursuits will recognise that this large, new and overdue building will provide at least a sphere for the activities in which those officers will engage.

Mr. Doney: As regards entomology, I thought we were as well served here as in any State in Australia.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: We have perhaps better officers, as officers, than has any other Australian State; but those officers cannot last for ever, and there are many pressing problems of the day on which they are engaged without entering into the minute details of the life history of certain insects with which they have to deal in a more practical way. Take the locust, or grasshopper, as an example. The entomologist of to-day is at his wit's end to know what to do with the pest as a pest in its very existence of to-day, without going into the life history of any predatory insect or anything else which might affect that pest. He has to cope with the trouble rather than indulge in research matters affecting possible control of the pest. It can be understood, therefore, that in every avenue of agricultural research there are many more problems, increasing day by day, than one can enumerate. We know the activities of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research regarding blue-mould in tobacco, the red-legged earth-mite, and other pests that are fast becoming a menace to many of the crops being grown in this State. In addition, we have many diseases and problems peculiar to Western Australia. We had the wasting disease at Denmark as an example; and we have many others which, while confined within the borders of this State, often in the furtherance of the solving of the

problems give a lead that benefits not only Australia but other parts of the world. Therefore, without going into details of the work that will be carried on in those buildings I commend to hon. members the thoughtful consideration of the numerous aspects of agricultural research in which this State is entitled to engage. Although the Government has for some time past been desirous to continue with its own building programme for its own department, yet when an opportunity offered to utilise some of the trust moneys available to the University, we decided with all speed to do our utmost to assist in the erection of the science buildings which this Bill permits of.

Mr. Doney: Will the passing of the measure involve any delay in the erection of any buildings for your department?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: No.

The Premier: Not at all.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: The position is that the Senate of the University, while having sums that are endowed for specific purposes, has those funds invested in such a way that it desires to utilise the earnings from them. Whilst the University could not itself erect the buildings for which the Government is responsible, it can loan to the Government sufficient money to erect them. Therefore, as the Government is responsible for the buildings at the University, the Senate of the University is investing its money with the Government, and we are repaying, as I have indicated, at 10s. per cent. for sinking fund, with 4 per cent. interest on the money borrowed. This sounds as if the University is on a winner, but the effect is merely to utilise its moneys in the best interests of the State by loaning them to the Government to erect buildings for the University. I have indicated that repayment at 10s. per cent. and interest at 4 per cent. are reasonable. The annual charge against Consolidated Revenue will be £560, plus £70 sinking fund. With the interest compounded this will ultimately wipe out the interest payments and also repay the capital amount, but it will take a long time.

Mr. Doney: What period?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: I have not specified the period, but we have a very long time in which to make repayments.

The Premier: Fifty-seven years.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: Whilst the period is lengthy, it enables the Government not only to assist the University to utilise to the full its existing facilities, but also to train successive men who will be highly useful in this State. It is quite unnecessary for me to enlarge on that particular phase, and I therefore commend the Bill to the House and trust it will have a satisfactory reception. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. P. D. Ferguson, debate adjourned.

BILL—GERALDTON SAILORS AND SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL INSTITUTE (TRUST PROPERTY DISPOSITION).

Second Reading.

THE PREMIER (Hon. J. C. Willecock—Geraldton) [9.12] in moving the second reading said: The Bill is very short and is desired by the trustees of the Geraldton Sailors and Soldiers' Memorial Institute in order that they may, so to speak, set their house in order. The trust was established by Act of Parliament in 1929 and in it has been vested the control of the Geraldton R.S.L. Institute. The trust also owns the Esplanade Hostel and a debenture for £1,113 15s. 7d. issued by the Geraldton Municipal Council, while at the same time it has an overdraft of £3,300 at the National Bank. The funds at the disposal of the trust have been accumulated since the end of the Great War. A committee of Geraldton citizens has been conducting picture shows for years, with the advantage of voluntary labour, and the result has been that a fairly considerable sum of money has been raised. This has been augmented by endowments. In due course the Esplanade Hostel was purchased for use as a club house, at which indigent soldiers from the district, and other returned men who went there, were looked after. In later years the usefulness of the institution has not been so apparent as in earlier times, and the building is now let as an ordinary hostel. A decision was reached to build a new institute; and the present structure, which is one of the best in the State, is known as Birdwood House, having been named after Lord Birdwood, who was present the year before last at the opening ceremony performed by the Lieut.-Governor. The necessary funds not being available to maintain all the property owned by the trust,

it was decided to dispose of the hostel, which is a very old building, and must be almost historic because it was one of the first to be erected in Geraldton. It dates back 60 or 70 years and, naturally, such an old building constantly needs attention and renovation. Little income is derived from it and the sale of the property is advocated, so that the proceeds may be applied towards reducing the overdraft at the bank. The trust already has power to sell in accordance with the Act passed in 1929. As the proceeds may not be sufficient to extinguish the overdraft, the trust also desires to use as much of the debenture money as may be necessary for that purpose. The Bill provides that the proceeds of the sale may be applied in reduction of the overdraft.

Hon. C. G. Latham: The members of the trust desire to mortgage Birdwood House.

THE PREMIER: There is a mortgage for £3,300 with the National Bank.

Hon. C. G. Latham: The mortgage covers the old property and the new premises as well.

THE PREMIER: Yes. The property has reached such an age that it gives the members of the trust much worry and concern regarding its maintenance. They derive no benefit from its retention and desire to dispose of it and devote the proceeds towards the reduction of the overdraft. If any balance of the overdraft remains, it is proposed that the debenture may be realised, or money borrowed on its security, to extinguish the balance. Any balance of the debenture remaining after that is done is to be applied to the same purpose as specified in the original Act, namely, it is to be invested and the proceeds used for the maintenance of the R.S.L. Institute. All concerned are anxious that this power shall be provided, but the authority of Parliament is necessary before anything can be done. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Mr. Thorn, debate adjourned.

BILL—STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE OFFICE.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the 30th August.

MR. WATTS (Katanning) [9.18]: After the report of the select committee on a similar Bill presented last year, and the discus-

sion that ensued upon that report, there can be no reason why I, at least, should not support the second reading of the Bill. Speaking generally, the Bill appears to embody the unanimous recommendations of the select committee, and therefore I believe every member will be able to support the second reading. Mention is made of Section 10 of the Workers' Compensation Act. As was pointed out to the select committee, and subsequently referred to in the House, the fact of its being possible to set up the State Insurance Office as an approved office under Section 10 of the Workers' Compensation Act, while at the same time there are no incorporated insurance companies so approved, can have the effect—if not actually, at least, shall I say, psychologically because of the penalty that is attached to Section 10 of the Act—of granting a virtual monopoly to the State Insurance Office. In certain circumstances, there could be no objection—as is evidenced by the report of the select committee—to such a monopoly as it is proposed should be granted to the State Insurance Office. The report of the select committee, however, clearly sets out that such a monopoly should only be granted if the insurance business proposed to be conducted by the State Insurance Office were carried on in a manner quite different from that in which it is conducted by insurance companies; that is to say, the business to be conducted should be purely in the nature of social insurance. People obtaining cover must be satisfied that the amounts they are compelled to contribute are sufficient to meet only the losses or claims and such amount as is absolutely necessary to administer the office or trust, or whatever it may be called. The business should not be run for profit. The Bill as drawn does not achieve that object. Last year the select committee recommended an inquiry into such a proposal as I have just briefly outlined. The committee itself could not see its way clear to put forward a definite proposal, but I think the members of the committee foresaw some difficulty in the way of its suggestion being carried out. That was the reason for recommending the holding of an inquiry. No such inquiry has been held, nor has it been mooted up to the present time. We are therefore obliged to look at things as we find them. If the business is conducted as it has been over a very long period, then workers' compensation insurance must still be the subject of contracts of

insurance in respect of which premiums are payable. It must be conducted in the same way as every other class of insurance is conducted. If that is to be the continuing position, then I am of opinion we should make certain, so far as we can, that the Bill will not make the position worse for those companies that are at present undertaking workers' compensation insurance. I contemplate moving an amendment, when the Bill is in Committee, to deal with this subject; but it is more than probable that the Minister, when replying, will be able to give the House a satisfactory assurance on the point, so that it may not be necessary to move the amendment I have indicated. That, however, depends entirely upon what the Minister has to say. I urge him to consider the point; in all probability the difficulty can be overcome.

Another point which arises out of the same question is the approval of incorporated insurance companies. The select committee I have referred to ascertained that some unincorporated companies were carrying on this class of business. Consequently, they would appear not to be eligible for the approval which the Minister can grant. The select committee was satisfied that those companies were probably the most deserving of all the companies, because they had succeeded, in a number of instances at any rate, in accepting risks at a rate of premium very much lower than that charged by some at least of the incorporated insurance companies. I commend to the Minister the desirability of making some provision whereby he will be enabled to approve of the unincorporated companies to which I have referred, as well as the incorporated companies, provided, as was suggested to the select committee, that such unincorporated companies have complied with the provisions of the Commonwealth insurance law.

The Minister for Employment: That matter would have to be dealt with in the Workers' Compensation Act.

Mr. WATTS: That is my opinion, too. It could not be dealt with in the Bill which we are now considering. Evidence was given to the select committee upon the valuable work done by the unincorporated offices; and, if the present position is to be continued, then in all fairness they cannot be ignored.

I notice that provision is made in the Bill for the State Insurance Office, when consti-

tuted, to be charged with taxes. In view of the discussion which took place on this subject previously, that is a reasonable and proper provision. I notice, however, that the Bill says—

... there shall be entered and debited in the bank account . . . such sum as in the opinion of the Treasurer represents the equivalent of the amount of taxes in relation to profits or income liable to be paid by insurance companies . . .

In my opinion, the Treasurer is hardly the authority to fix the amount. Surely the proper person to make the decision is the Commissioner of Taxation, after he has been supplied by the Government Actuary, who is to be placed in charge of the State Insurance Office, with a statement of receipts and expenditure. I propose to move subsequently that the word "Treasurer" be deleted from the clause of the Bill that I have quoted and that the words "Commissioner of Taxation," or other suitable words, be inserted in lieu.

I am glad to note from the Bill that it is proposed not to deal with insurance business other than workers' compensation and sickness, except insofar as it is necessary to validate transactions already entered into.

I shall support the Bill. There is no justification whatever—and in this I am in entire agreement with the Minister—for leaving the State Insurance Office any longer in its present position. I think we are all of that opinion. Having regard to the business conducted by the State Insurance Office for the past ten or twelve years, and to the accumulated reserves, we cannot now contemplate the closing of the office. Those who object to the legalisation of the insurance office are, in my opinion, merely kicking against the pricks; they are doing themselves no good, but are doing the State harm. That was shown very plainly to us last year, and it is the opinion of the Crown Law Department that if the office is not legalised, then it will not be in a position to sue for amounts that may be due to it by people who take out insurance cover with the office. There are, of course, other reasons, but to the plain man in the street that would be the reason that should apply. The office has been in existence for some years. We do not know how to get rid of it at present, even if we so desired. Knowing that Parliament, if it wishes, can at any time abolish the office, we would be well advised at this juncture to legalise it, because of

the workers' compensation and accident risk business transacted in past years, and let it go at that for the time being. As I said earlier, I hope that the inquiry mooted last year by the select committee will take place at no distant date, so that we may ascertain whether it is possible to conduct these insurances on a basis better than that adopted in past years. I say on a better basis, because we had fairly conclusive proof that the business has not been very profitable to those undertaking it. It appeared to me that those companies were forced to continue that business whether it was profitable or not because, if they were not prepared to undertake all branches of insurance, including the unprofitable, they were likely to lose the revenue from those that were profitable. The time must come, and I trust it will not be long before it does, when an inquiry will be held to ascertain what can be done to cheapen rates to the general public and, if possible, put the whole matter on a better basis.

THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT

(Hon. A. R. G. Hawke—Northam—in reply) [9.32]: I desire to express my appreciation of the manner in which the member for Katanning (Mr. Watts) dealt with the Bill. I admit, with some degree of shame, that I have not been able to give any attention to the question of authorising an inquiry in accordance with the recommendation of the select committee that considered the Bill—more comprehensive than this one—that was before the House last session. The only excuse I can offer is that other matters, many in number and varied in nature, have had to receive my consideration. However, I do give an assurance that I will take an early opportunity to bring the question of the proposed investigation before Cabinet with the object of obtaining a decision as to whether the inquiry can be undertaken in the reasonably near future.

The Government has no desire by means of the Bill to give to the State Insurance Office an absolute monopoly of business under the Workers' Compensation Act. The particular clause in the Bill providing for the State office to be approved under Section 10 of the Workers' Compensation Act is included because that is the only way by which the State office can be given the necessary approval. If we had not pro-

vided in the Bill for the State office to receive that approval, the office could not have received such approval in any other way. It would not be legally possible for the Minister to approve the State office under Section 10 of the Workers' Compensation Act, because the State office would not be an incorporated insurance office. Accordingly the necessity arose to provide in this Bill for the State Insurance Office, when legalised, to be an approved office under Section 10 of the Workers' Compensation Act.

The point raised by the member for Katanning that provision should be made for private insurance companies that are not incorporated companies to be capable of receiving approval under Section 10 of the Workers' Compensation Act has been receiving consideration in recent days as a result of representations made on behalf of those companies, and I undertake to give that matter further attention and to inform the House of the Government's decision when dealing with the Bill introduced for the purpose of amending the Workers' Compensation Act.

The other point mentioned by the member for Katanning was whether the Treasurer should decide the amount of taxation to be debited against the operations of the State Insurance Office. The member for Katanning suggested that it would be preferable for the Commissioner of Taxation to decide the amount to be so debited against the State office. I undertake to give consideration to that suggestion, and to inform him of my opinion before the matter is decided in Committee.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Mr. Sleeman in the Chair; the Minister for Employment in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 8—agreed to.

Clause 9—State Government Insurance Office to be deemed to be an approved incorporated insurance office:

Mr. WATTS: I did not receive any assurance from the Minister on this matter, and would like to have progress reported so that I may discuss the subject with him.

Progress reported.

BILL—FAIR RENTS.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the 30th August.

MR. DONEY (Williams - Narrogin) [9.39]: I agree with the Minister for Justice that there is need for a Bill to regulate rents in this State, but I must be excused if I say that I do not agree that the method laid down in the Bill will be of any use towards achieving that end. There is such a thing as an average rent for certain standard types of dwellings in this State. Occupiers who pay rents below that average would be fortunate. Those that are on the average would be paying what we might call a fair rent, and those above the average may be considered to have a grievance, and the right to appear before a properly constituted authority for relief. In the rural parts of the State I understand that the basic wage takes into account the average rental, regarding it as approximately 18s. 6d. In the metropolitan area I think the figure would be 19s. 6d., and on the gold-fields it is set down at £1 7s. 6d. I suppose the Minister appreciates the fact that if this Bill reduced the average rental by, say, 1s. 6d. per week, it would also reduce the basic wage by the same amount.

Mr. Cross: That would help the producer.

Mr. DONEY: We are not discussing him just now. I take it the Minister will agree that the workers whose rent would be decreased by more than 1s. 6d., if the Bill became law, would be very few in number. The big majority would be much worse off through the operations of this measure, or would not be affected at all. Wage earners who happened to own a house, or were buying one, would have their income reduced by 1s. 6d. a week without any compensatory benefits. If the Minister does not agree with that contention I should like him to say why. He should recognise that if the Bill brought about any substantial reduction in the rental paid, this would make the building of dwellings a much less attractive investment than it is at present, would reduce the number of houses available to house-hunters, and by creating competition would force up the rents. I too am anxious to abolish profiteering in respect to rents, and I will vote for the Bill to give the Minister an opportunity to test out the theory embodied in it,

but I have no faith in his being able to bring about (by the use of his formula) the state of affairs he anticipates, except possibly on the goldfields where the Bill may have a beneficial effect. The Minister might perhaps be wisely employed if he attempted to coax his colleagues in Cabinet to induce the Workers' Homes Board to extend its activities to the several goldfields areas, so that a greater number of houses might be erected there, and thus create a corresponding lack of competition for the very poor shacks for which workers now have to pay through the nose. The Minister must realise that there is not one chance in a thousand of the Bill increasing the number of houses available to the worker; quite the contrary! For all purposes the measure can be narrowed down to one clause, that which sets out the formula whereby the cost it is proposed to create will arrive at the official idea of what constitutes a fair average rent. To assist the House in assessing the value of this formula, I suggest that the Minister takes a pad and makes that formula apply to houses that cost, with the land, say, £500, £600, £700, or £800. He can then inform members exactly what he allows for insurance, painting, general repairs, land tax, rates levied by local governing bodies, depreciation, interest at, say 2 per cent., plus the 5 per cent. interest, which is at present the rate on overdrafts at the Commonwealth Bank. Members will then be able to compare the result of the Minister's calculation with the rents obtaining in their own districts, and at the same time judge just exactly what benefits are likely to accrue from the method set forth in the Bill. Personally, I do not think the hon. gentleman will get much satisfaction from his figures, except insofar as they apply to the goldfields, where the position is entirely different from what it is in other parts of the State. On the fields the future is of utterly unstable quality, and that very fact naturally leads, not only on our goldfields, but on mining fields in all countries, to the erection of ill-built and very cheap shacks, generally or frequently made of secondhand material. The houses are unsightly, and certainly most unsatisfactory to inhabit. It is realised that in those cases the rents charged are out of all proportion to the capital values of the buildings. I dare say that in such instances the Minister might be able to apply

his formula and secure some beneficial results from doing so. I put it to the hon. gentleman that he might use his own judgment and decide whether, if he agrees with the view I have expressed, it is not wise to amend the Bill by restricting its application to the goldfields.

Hitherto the Government has encompassed this admittedly difficult problem by fixing the basic wage at a figure large enough to let the basic-wage earner pay an average rent. That has proved only partly successful, as I think members generally will recognise—for one reason because some landlords charge unjustifiably high rents, and for another reason because many wage earners earn a great deal less than the basic wage, a point that the Minister seems to have overlooked. These two disabilities can be cured by penalising those landlords who will not bring their rents down to the more or less reasonable compass set out in the Bill, and by assuring the basic wage to all workers. The Minister for Employment is able to tell the House that there are in Western Australia some 6,000 workers, with something like 6,000 wives of course, and possibly 6,000 families, generally pretty large, who are receiving far less than the basic wage. They do perhaps receive the basic wage reckoned at per week, but they certainly receive far less than the basic wage when their incomes for the whole of the year are taken into account. The reason is that these workers lose so much time in between jobs. I admit, of course, that it is inevitable for them to keep two homes going for practically the whole year. It will be recognised that such men have not a dog's chance of ever getting a decent home, a dry, warm, hygienic and sensibly-built home such as they are entitled to have. These are the men who are continually changing their jobs, and who by that fact are compelled to be constantly changing their abode, living first in this town and then in that. It follows that they have to take what is left of the houses. They get houses that are old and possibly wet—certainly houses that are let at rents higher than should be the case. It is these poor unfortunates whose troubles form the hard core of the housing problem. Renting is no permanent solution of the problem. I believe that is generally recognised. The only thing is for the man to own, or to be in process of own-

ing, his own home. Ideally, that home should be not in the cramped spaces of the city or of towns, on a quarter-acre block, but away on the outskirts, where at this stage of expansion there is plenty of room for a man to live with his wife and children and lead a more contented and healthy life than is possible in the city or in towns. He would there be able to have his three acres and a cow, to say nothing of his fruit trees, his poultry and his vegetable garden, with good roads, and a bicycle to connect him with his job. There would, of course, be depreciation, and the annual painting and repairs that add to a man's rent. But a house under the conditions I have described would certainly prompt the man to do his own painting and his own repairs, thereby checking to some extent the depreciation that naturally takes place. It is reasonable also to think that his vegetables, his fruit, his poultry and his milk would ease considerably his household bills, and make the payment of instalments a great deal easier than would otherwise be the case. You will appreciate, Mr. Speaker, that in the case of probably 95 per cent. of wage earners the lure of the possession of a piece of land is wonderfully strong. I am reminded here that at the last general election the Country Party platform contained a suggestion that some Treasury money might properly be spent upon erecting two or three or perhaps four workers' homes on five to ten acre blocks at sidings near which there was promise of employment on farms. If there came a time when there was a lack of employment on those farms, the occupants of the blocks would turn their attention to their own ground and cultivate it.

That is as far as I intend to go with the Bill, other than to indicate to the Minister my hope that when closing the debate he will deal with the matter of applying his formula to such houses as I mention, houses costing £500 or £600 or £700 or £800. If he will do that, he will enlighten the House and enable it to come to a more or less wise decision on the value of his ideas.

MR. CROSS (Canning) [9.59]: I expected, when the previous speaker—

Hon. C. G. Latham: Are you not getting the adjournment of the debate?

Mr. CROSS: I will not speak long, but what I do say will be pretty effective. I did expect, when the member for Williams-Narrogin (Mr. Doney) was criticising the

Bill, that he would give some reasons for opposing it. I was astounded to hear him say that there was not any call for a Bill of this nature in the metropolitan area. He did not find any fault with the formula laid down for the fixing of fair rents. A number of landlords are exacting extortionate rents, and the formula will be an advantage to the workers. In 1914 and 1915 a considerable number of houses were built in the greater metropolitan area and were let at rentals that ranged from 10s. to 12s. 6d. per week. The cost of construction then was considerably below that of to-day; yet the rentals received for those houses now range from £1 to 22s. 6d. per week.

Hon. C. G. Latham: That was because they increased in value owing to sales that had been effected.

Mr. CROSS: That is not the position. I can take the hon. member to a street in my electorate where there are about 50 houses. One of the houses is let at the same rental now as was charged in 1914, whereas the rentals obtained for the remaining houses range from £1 to 25s. per week. That is not because any sales have taken place and I claim the rentals charged are extortionate for such a class of dwelling.

Hon. C. G. Latham: You must remember that £1 is worth 10s. now compared with the full value when the buildings were erected.

Mr. CROSS: I know that the value of money has changed since 1914, but the percentage of income that these tenants are paying is greater now than it was in 1914.

Mr. Hughes: Percentage of what?

Mr. CROSS: The percentage that the workers are paying in the form of rent.

Mr. Hughes: The percentage on building costs.

Mr. CROSS: Yes, that also, compared with 1914.

Mr. Hughes: But the Bill will not alter that.

Mr. Doney: How does the Bill affect that?

Mr. CROSS: The hon. member said he could find no fault with the formula and that benefit would be received from it in many instances. The member for Williams-Narrogin (Mr. Doney) suggested that the application of the Bill should be restricted to the goldfields, but there is no reason why people residing in the metropolitan area

should not benefit similarly. The hon. member suggested that he would support the Bill in order to give it a trial, but did not advance any reason why it should not be applied to the metropolitan area. I hope that Opposition members, instead of giving the measure what I might term "compromised support," will approve of its provisions wholeheartedly. When the Bill reaches the Legislative Council, I hope that members there will deal with it on that basis and give it a trial. The measure protects the interests of landlords in assuring to them a reasonable return, and it should be passed so as to afford workers reasonable protection against landlords who are extortionate. I have pleasure in supporting the second reading.

Hon. C. G. Latham: Do not you think we should guarantee the payment of rents, too?

On motion by Mr. North, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 10.4 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 6th September, 1938.

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

QUESTION—LICENSING ACT.

Trading Outside Licensed Hours.

Mr. STYANTS asked the Minister for Police: How many prosecutions of hotel proprietors in the Eastern Goldfields Magisterial District for trading outside licensed hours were instituted in the periods 1930-33 and 1933-36, respectively.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (for the Minister for Police) replied: For period 1930-33, nil; for period 1933-36, 18.

QUESTION—ALBANY ROAD.

Widening and Resurfacing.

Mr. RAPHAEL asked the Minister for Works: Does the Government intend to widen and surface Albany-road between Cannington and Armadale?

The PREMIER (for the Minister for Works) replied: This has been considered. At present there are other matters relatively more urgent.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Presentation.

Mr. SPEAKER: I desire to inform the House that, in company with Mr. Sleeman, the member for Fremantle; Mr. Tonkin, the member for North-East Fremantle; and Mr.