

is compelled to make a trip to Melbourne. I say there is work which we can do, and work which the Ministry should be able to take charge of—if not, they are very incapable—until the Premier returns; and in these circumstances I am compelled to dissent from the position taken up by the Premier and assented to by the Leader of the Opposition, to adjourn the House for such a long period.

Question put and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	27
Noes	12

Majority for 15

AYES.

Mr. Angwin	Mr. Jacoby
Mr. Barnett	Mr. Layman
Mr. Bath	Mr. Male
Mr. Brown	Mr. Mitchell
Mr. Carson	Mr. Monger
Mr. Cowcher	Mr. N. J. Moore
Mr. Daglish	Mr. S. F. Moore
Mr. Davies	Mr. Nanson
Mr. Foulkes	Mr. Osborn
Mr. George	Mr. Price
Mr. Gregory	Mr. A. A. Wilson
Mr. Hardwick	Mr. F. Wilson
Mr. Hayward	Mr. Gordon
Mr. Horan	(Teller).

NOES.

Mr. Bolton	Mr. Swan
Mr. Collier	Mr. Taylor
Mr. Gill	Mr. Walker
Mr. Hudson	Mr. Ware
Mr. Johnson	Mr. Gourley
Mr. McDowall	(Teller).
Mr. Scaddan	

Question thus passed.

House adjourned at 4.50 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 3rd August, 1909.

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Municipal Corporations Act Amendment, 1a.	33
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The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Colonial Secretary: 1, Rules of the Supreme Court, 1909; 2, Rules under the Limited Partnerships Act, 1909; 3, Audit Act, 1904.—Amendments of the Regulations.

BILLS (3)—FIRST READING.

1, Employment Brokers; 2, Municipal Corporations Act Amendment; 3, Public Health; introduced by the Colonial Secretary.

MOTION—PHARMACY AND POISONS LAW, TO COMPILE.

Hon. M. L. MOSS (West) moved—

That the Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1891, and its amendments be compiled in accordance with the Statutes Compilation Act, 1905.

He said: In the session of 1905 Parliament passed an Act known as the Statutes Compilation Act copied from the New Zealand Statute, and the object of the measure—which was a very short one—was to enable the work of the consolidation of Statutes to go on during a recess. That is to say, under the provisions of this Act, on both Houses of Parliament passing a resolution calling upon the Attorney General to compile an Act with its various amendments, the work could be undertaken during the recess, no alteration being made, of course, in the enactment of the Legislature. An Act so compiled could subsequently be submitted to Parliament, and if Parliament was quite satisfied that the compilation had taken

place without any alteration in the law that had previously passed Parliament, the compilation so made would go upon the Statutes. This Act has not yet been availed of though it has been four years on the statute-book, and I have seen fit to move this motion because the Pharmacy and Poisons Act is a very fitting object on which we could commence to use the provisions of this Statutes Compilation Act. The Pharmacy and Poisons Act has been amended once, and it is an exceedingly difficult matter to a person well acquainted with the Act and its amendments to understand what the amendments are. The schedule of poisons has been altered, and a number of the provisions of the Act have been cut out and other provisions substituted. I am sorry that I have omitted to bring with me something I intended to lay on the Table, that is, a copy of the original Act altered in red ink, and showing how it is cut about and how difficult it is for ordinary laymen to understand what are the provisions of the Statute. It is an important Statute, because it deals with the rights of chemists, and also with the conditions under which poisons shall be vend- ed in Western Australia. It is an Act under which the police, the legal profession, and the Pharmaceutical Society have to work frequently, and it would be an exceedingly good thing to have the Statute compiled so that we could have a clear print of it, and have it done without its being necessary to bother both Houses of Parliament to pass a Bill again. The council of the Pharmaceutical Society have requested me to move in this direction. They wish no amendment of the Statute under which they are working, but they are anxious to get it into such a readable shape that it can be readily understood; and in these circumstances I have no doubt the House will readily pass this motion. It will be necessary to send the resolution to the Legislative Assembly, because under the provisions of the Statutes Compilation Act, it is necessary to pass the resolution in both Houses before the services of the Attorney General can be brought into requisition.

Hon. R. W. PENNEFATHER (North): I desire to support the motion of my hon. friend, and I would like it to be carried further if possible. For many sessions past many members, myself included, have drawn attention to the absolute necessity for the Government to start the consolidation of our Statute Law. Not only is it necessary in an Act such as that mentioned by my hon. friend, but there are many other branches of the Statute Law of this country that have been so amended, and so frequently amended that the main provisions of the principal Act are almost eaten up in the amendments, and it is a work really of difficulty, entailing a good deal of labour, to make one's self acquainted with the present state of the Statute Law upon any given subject. This is the only State, I think, in which no attempt has been made to consolidate the Statutes of the State. It has been done in Victoria and in most of the other States; and when we look at the number of small volumes, and the number of amendments upon each subject now in existence, it is really a matter almost of great difficulty to make one's self accurately acquainted with the information on any subject. I hope the House will pass the motion, but I would like the Colonial Secretary to draw the attention of the Government to the necessity for starting the consolidation of the Statutes generally. I know it is a matter of impossibility for the Crown Law Department to undertake the work single-handed, having regard to the other duties they have to perform, but they can, taking the example of other States, call in assistance from outside, and in the course of 18 months, or perhaps two years at the outside, we may have our Statute Law embraced in perhaps four handy volumes, instead of being scattered, as now, over about a dozen. I have much pleasure in seconding the motion.

Question put and passed.

Hon. M. L. MOSS (West): As I cannot ask for the resolution to be sent by Message to the other House until the Legislative Assembly is sitting, I ask that a notice appear on the next Notice Paper that I will move in that direction.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Third Day.

Resumed from the 30th July.

Hon. G. RANDELL (Metropolitan): When I moved the adjournment of the debate it was not my intention to speak on the subject. I moved the adjournment principally with the view of assisting the Government, as I understood there were matters the Leader of the House desired to bring before us, and no other opportunity would be furnished except by the adjournment of the debate and our meeting again to-day. However, as I did move the adjournment of the debate, I would like to say a few words generally. I must confess I do not intend to speak particularly, or rather exhaustively on any subject. I am pleased that the mover and seconder of the Address-in-Reply have expressed the views of the whole of the members of the House in stating the pleasure it has given them to have our new Governor and his lady amongst us. I ascertain from private sources that his Excellency and the Lady Edeline Strickland came here with the highest of opinions and esteem from his Excellency's late sphere of government. As it has been expressed in the Speech, I am sure the warmest feelings of the people generally will be extended to them while they sojourn amongst us. I only hope they will have a peaceful and happy sojourn amongst us. His Excellency has many able precedents to follow. I do not wish to go back too far, because we have had many estimable Governors, who fulfilled their high functions with the greatest success and with the greatest advantage to the State. Some of them, of course, if we go back a little bit, had more powers than the Governors now, and were able to impress their personalities more on the laws and work of the colony than perhaps a modern Governor is able to do. But at any rate they fulfilled admirably the functions, the social functions, expected of them. Indeed sometimes I thought that our late Governor Bedford was imposed upon by being asked to the many functions he attended. It was almost cruel at times to ask him to go to some very trivial engagements

which were scarcely worth the attendance of a representative of His Majesty. However, the late Governor and his lady discharged those functions admirably and will be held in remembrance for a very considerable time by the people here. The same remarks apply to the preceding Governor (Sir Arthur Lawley). I am also pleased that the mover and the seconder regret the loss the State has sustained by the death of our late President, an honoured member of the community, one who discharged all the functions pertaining to his life to the advantage of the community at large, and who had the respect and esteem of all. Not only are the public institutions of this State deprived by the loss of one who exhibited the greatest interest in their welfare, but the general public also have lost one who, to the very best of his ability, endeavoured to promote the interests of the whole of the State. We regret that leaders who have occupied the eye of the public for some considerable time are removed from us, and it is but right that a public body like the Legislative Council should take particular notice of the loss we have sustained by the death of one whom we esteemed so highly. I will say a few words as to the matter now particularly before the House, namely, the Address-in-Reply. I might, it seems, do that in a very few words, as I think the sentiments expressed in the reply, moved and seconded, are such that we can all most heartily concur in. I desire to refer to the speech delivered recently by the Premier at Bunbury. To that speech the Governor's Speech is, to a certain extent, an echo, although happily somewhat curtailed. I read the speech made by the Premier very carefully, and it struck me that it was one of the ablest, clearest, and most statesmanlike speeches we have had delivered by any Premier in this State. It exhibited a large and deep interest in the welfare of this State, a knowledge of the needs and requirements of Western Australia, a knowledge of its resources and what there is within the State to promote its advancement, and was a speech even better perhaps than some of those of Sir John Forrest himself, a man who

in his day was looked upon as an admirable speech-maker at pre-sessional meetings, as they are now called by the newspapers, with his constituents. It was with the greatest pleasure that I read that speech, for it indicated that the Premier of this State is possessed of ability and tact and has a deep interest in all the different resources of the State and the occupations of the people, and of those institutions of the State, both Government and private, which exist for the advancement of the people. I can almost go so far as to say that I take no exception to the Speech, but that would not be quite true. While giving every praise to the Premier for the able way in which he prepared and delivered that Speech to his constituents, there are, of course, some slight matters in which I differ from him. I suppose it will never be the case that members of a political House will see exactly eye to eye with any person speaking on whatever subject one might mention. There are some things we would like to see a little altered, others eliminated or some improvement made upon, and so on; but, with the exception almost solely of that portion which refers to this House, I do not think I can take any great exception to the speech or to any principle embodied in it. I shall have an opportunity to deal with the one exception later on, and will say no more with regard to it now than that I am not in harmony with the sentiments expounded by the Premier as to the franchise for this House. When the time comes I shall give my reasons for opposition. With almost every other item of the speech I am in general harmony and concurrence. Particularly am I pleased to see the statement that it is the intention of the Government to have the survey of the land before occupation. Many years ago, under the old form of Government, I believe, I tried my best in this direction, urging the Government of the day to take the step of survey before occupation. I think there were some efforts made to carry out the principle. The reason for my contention was that I realised from my experience and study of the subject that the adoption of the principle was calculated to promote the best

interests of the State in regard to land settlement, as it would give those persons who settled on the land a chance to do well, as roads would be built near their areas, and general facilities would be afforded them to earn a livelihood, and thus promote the proper settlement of the State. I am pleased that the Government have determined to adopt the principle now. There may be some little delay in settlement, but the result will ultimately be most beneficial both to the State and to those settling in it. There may be certain disadvantages and expense, but I am sure the country generally will approve of the principle and support the Government in the execution of their promise. I am not quite sure that we are pursuing the very best course in settling the State at the present moment. I speak with some diffidence on this question, as I am not in the position of speaking authoritatively on it; but I think there may be some fault found with the way in which our immigration is conducted, and the results accruing therefrom, and, I believe that we, as is said of New Zealand, are too rapidly attempting to settle the country. This is not a natural settlement, for it does not come as the result of any action on the part of the people generally, but it is fostered and promoted almost entirely from the political, if I may use the expression, point of view which comes from the political men, from the Government, and others. We are liable to overreach ourselves to some extent, and this brings a considerable amount of dissatisfaction, possibly of distress to a number of people who may come here. I am not prepared to say that such will be the result of the attempts to settle the land, but I fear that to a certain extent it will be. Another result is that it increases the demand, as the settlers stretch out to greater distances, for additional railway facilities. That means a borrowing policy, one which I am not particularly in favour of. Where such a principle is adopted, one can almost be sure that there is a day of settlement and trouble ahead, and it is to be feared that by and by we shall find here that nearly all our available revenue will be eaten up in payment of interest. That is, of

course, unless fresh taxation is introduced. Such a means of obtaining revenue is undesirable, and to many people of this State, burdensome.

The Colonial Secretary: You are not allowing that any of the works will then be paying interest.

Hon. G. RANDELL: Do not misunderstand what I say. The Colonial Secretary accentuates the word "any." I am in harmony with going on at a moderate pace, and endeavouring to advance the interests of agriculture, and therefore, the interests of the State, but I like to see discretion, after careful consideration of the circumstances at large, the introduction of immigrants and the borrowing of capital, exercised. Care should be taken to see that we are sure of our ground. I have spoken on this question, and in similar terms, before. I know of the early settlement of America. This was done, not by a Government, but, as members will remember, by great combinations of men with capital who purchased the lands and introduced European settlement in America. The work was productive of infinite mischief and cruelties. I can remember reading and hearing the horrible accounts which reached England from America as to the sufferings, the distress, and sorrows of the people who had taken up land in America, all brought about by the eager and unscrupulous methods of immigration to that country. The conditions here are, of course, very different from what they were in America then. Here our climate in the settled country is very much better than in almost any portion of America, although the lands are not so rich. If the Government pursued the means adopted with regard to the settlement of America, and I do not think they will, the position here also would be very bad. I want to guard against proceeding too hastily in the efforts to settle the land. It is to be hoped that the Government will remember that while we want to see the place settled and population come in, we need a continued population, we want people who will be satisfied with their opportunities, and be able to make the best use they can of those opportunities for their own advancement and for the good of

the State generally. I hope I will not be misunderstood, as I am decidedly in favour of immigration and of settling the land, but I would like to see the settlement follow the natural, rather than the forced line of action of the Government of the day, and particularly because I do not desire to see introduced to this State an undesirable element of persons unfitted to occupy our lands, to cultivate them properly. Such persons if they fail will permit the land they had taken up to fall into the hands of capitalists and bigger men. There are two sides to every question, and this is one on which I look very often. I am as anxious and eager as any member of this House, or any person, to see the State progress as fast as it reasonably and profitably can, but we may exceed the limits, and therefore, I utter this word of warning. I am very pleased to see also that for the benefit of those engaged in the farming and producing communities, and for the ultimate progress of this State, every effort is being made by the Fremantle Harbour Trust and others to facilitate the export of the produce of the State that may be available for supplying other countries. It is very good to see that those who have the order and the arrangement of such things are alive to the position, and are determined to see that the best means are provided to prevent the unreasonable and exasperating delays which have taken place until quite recently, and which, judging from the letters in the newspapers, took place last year. No doubt in connection with all the efforts made for the advancement of the State there will be some dissatisfied people, some who suffer more or less from their own fault, it may be through no fault of their own, but because they are not fitted for the particular line of work they have taken up and are pursuing for their livelihood. Every day we meet people, even in the towns, who start in business and after a little while find they are unfitted for the work as they have not the knowledge and skill necessary to make a success of it. There is something wrong: a screw loose somewhere, and they go to the wall. That will happen in all communities, and only those with ability, forethought, and wise

judgment will be successful in the end. The more successful we can make men by any action we may take, the better it will be, of course, for all concerned, and it is well that the different public bodies—and especially in this connection I am now more particularly referring to the facilities offered for transport and export of produce—should be alive to the occasion. I hope also that the Government will see that these things are carried out as well as possible. In this respect the Government may exercise wise and helpful oversight over some of the public bodies of the State. There are so many things in the Speech that it would be impossible for me, especially as I am not prepared to speak at any length on the subject, to discuss them with any helpfulness or any advantage to other hon. members of this House. I hope, however, that other members will speak on the Address-in-Reply and deal with matters which come more particularly under their cognisance and with which they are familiar, and upon which they are able to speak, if I may say so, *ex cathedra*, and then we shall have before the House and the country the views of those hon. members who are experts in their particular lines of life. I notice that the Estimates are in course of preparation—it seems to me that I have heard that before—and the hope is held out that they will be placed before us very shortly. I am a strong believer in the Estimates being placed before hon. members at the earliest opportunity, and I hope that the Leader of the House will take care to see that whenever the Estimates are tabled in another place a copy of them will be placed on our table so that we may be able to make ourselves familiar with them, and be able, if necessary, to speak upon them as they come before us. I hold the opinion that the Legislative Council are as responsible for the adoption of these Estimates as members in another place, and I do not think we can get away from our responsibility in that respect. I hope hon. members will devote full attention to the Estimates, especially in view of our present circumstances, when we have the financial situation in this State in a somewhat un-

fortunate position. I do not think it is possible for any one to put his finger upon many things which are occurring and which might be working to this end, but from them all there is one thing standing out clearly and distinctly, and that is the effect that Federation is having upon our financial prospects and on our financial position. I do regret that the Premier should be just at this present moment leaving the State to attend a conference of Premiers in Melbourne. I regret extremely that the public business should be hindered, for some little time at any rate, in consequence of his absence, but I hold at the same time that the Premier was bound to attend that conference. I think the interests are so great and important, as far as this State is concerned, that it is absolutely necessary that no opportunity should be given to take anything on trust. I am hoping that the present Federal Government will be more sympathetic to this State and to all the States generally than the previous Government, and that we, as well as the other States, shall receive fair play. This, I think, will follow, as we have one member of this community a member of that Ministry. It only shows us how unexpectedly a situation may arise which may do us a considerable injury, and of which we had not the slightest idea before entering into Federation. I would like to refer to the public service. I am pleased to see that the Government are associating with the Public Service Commissioner another gentleman to assist him. I regret, however, that there are not two to assist the Commissioner as the Act provides. I believe in the multitude of counsellors in that respect, and in the examination of the methods of our civil service it would have been as well to have had as many as possible. The Public Service Commissioner will, of course, represent the Government, but I would like to have seen another gentleman associated with him and Mr. McGibbon. However, let us hope that these two together will be able to put the civil service upon a better footing than it appears to be at the present time. I do not believe all the reports I hear about the civil service, and I do not accept all the grumblings

in the newspapers, but there is sufficient to convince me that there is room for improvement and economy to be exercised. I regretted from the first that the Government did not, as desired by this House and agreed to by both Houses, appoint two men to be associated with the Commissioner in the examination of the civil service: it would have been more satisfactory in every respect, and it would have been better for the Commissioner himself. With regard to the redistribution of seats, I quite agree that it is desirable, considering the development which has taken place in the agricultural districts and the redistribution—if I may use the same word—of the population in different parts of the State, that this should be done. I think the best part of the electoral portions of the State are to be found in the country districts. They are seized with a due sense of the importance of sending the best men to the Legislature and we should as much as possible redistribute their electorates with the view of seeing that they are fully represented. I do not wish for any unfair advantage to be taken of any other section, but these people have the interests of the State more at heart, and I believe they are more affected by it. We find in some of the other districts that the people are here to-day and are gone to-morrow, and that in spite of this every man has the same power through the ballot-box as the man who owns large estates or who has the greatest risks and responsibilities resting upon him in the cultivation of the land, or in other walks of life. With regard to liquor law reform, I am in harmony with anything that will promote sobriety in this country. I do not know anything more awful than the curse of drink. One has only to go about Perth and see men wasting their time and that of their masters, and their horses standing outside public houses while they themselves are in the hotel obtaining drink. Then from time to time we get horrible reports in the newspapers of what happens as the result of drink. I wish the newspapers here would curtail such news from the other States, but of course this is published for the public entertainment and the newspapers are

looking after their own interests in such matters, and I do not suppose they will take advice from me; still, I do hope that such reports would not find a place in our newspapers. Any reasonable measure in connection with reform will receive my cordial support. I am an abstainer myself, and I should be glad to see everyone else the same, because I think it is an utter and wicked waste of money, that which is spent on wine, spirits, and beer; and while I do not see in the present circumstances, in the present state of education, that we should be able to make people sober, we should at least be able to limit or restrict the waste of money which takes place in this direction. I am certain that if the enormous amount of money spent here in liquor were spent in other directions, such as the building of houses and the employment of labour, it would be exceedingly more beneficial to the whole State. I do not know that I care to say anything more at the present time; I have given these remarks on the spur of the moment. I see an hon. member opposite looking at the clock to remind me that my few words are extending into a speech. I must apologise if I have transgressed, but I trust other hon. members will address themselves to the adoption of the Address-in-Reply. I am sure they cannot quarrel with the words in which the motion is couched, and therefore I see no reason why it should not be agreed to. I only hope in conclusion that the prayer of the Speech will be amply fulfilled. I sometimes think there is an immense waste of time in connection with the passage of legislation. I am not referring to this House, but to some hon. members in another place who air their opinions for the benefit solely of their constituents; but I think there are some matters which the Legislature might well digest and consider in order to promote the moral and physical welfare of the State as a whole.

Hon. W. KINGSMILL (Metropolitan-Suburban): Before addressing myself to the subject matter of the Address-in-Reply I should like to add my tribute of respect to the memory of the late Sir George Shenton. I feel it would be difficult for

us to point to a man who would be more missed in the public and charitable life of Perth, and whose memory will always be associated with the thought that he was a man who was kind to the country which was kind to him. Dealing with the Speech which has been read to us by His Excellency the Governor, I want first of all to congratulate my friend the hon. Mr. Randell, upon, I was going to say his annual or periodical rejuvenation, which occurs during every recess, and I was going to add, like a giant refreshed with wine, but I will withdraw that because I know he would object to that simile. But he comes back, as I say, with so much enthusiasm in regard to the subject matter of his speech that he makes me, who have one or two small points to cavil at, feel like one old before his time. I trust, however, that the rejuvenation will go on for many years to come. I was pleased—whether it were put into the mouth of His Excellency or whether he spoke it out of of his own heart—at the graceful tribute paid to the people of Western Australia in his Excellency's speech with regard to the warmth of his reception. I feel that while that reception was a tribute to the present Governor it was no less a tribute to the one who has just departed; because on the favourable impression created by the preceding Governor undoubtedly much of the warmth of that reception relied. Still, while on this subject, I do think that the Government of the day should see to it that on future occasions the reception and swearing-in of arriving Governors should be purely a State function. It is a pity that such powers and privileges should be delegated to any other body. While I recognise the full importance of the capital city of the State, I do not think that it should be left to any municipality to swear in any Governor of the State.

The Colonial Secretary: The municipality did not swear him in.

Hon. W. KINGSMILL: No; but they had control of the ceremony. Now, in regard to the Premiers' Conference—and I see I must no longer call it a Premiers' Conference, because it has been dignified by the name of inter-State Conference—I

regret extremely, and I think it is a matter for general regret, that it has been necessary to make a lengthy adjournment of Parliament. I think such an adjournment should not be necessary. There is ample precedent for its not being necessary. In the first year in which I came into Parliament one of the conventions which resulted in the Federation of Australia was held, and the then Premier, who—and I say it without prejudice—balked very much more largely in the then Parliament than have any of his successors, found it necessary to go away, and delegated his duties through the session—a short session, but still a session of Parliament—to the acting-Premier of the day. In the part of Western Australia which I have the honour to represent there is a good deal of feeling with regard to the necessity of Parliament dealing with the affairs of the country as speedily as possible. And I think that, at all events, the debate on the Address-in-Reply—while it has perhaps no particularly definite result always has, to my mind, the result of placing members on both sides of the various questions in a better humour through having expressed their convictions—might have been finished before the adjournment was sought. However, we have to take these things as we find them, and I can only regret that the operations of Federation make it absolutely necessary that a representative should go from this State. Let us hope that the treatment which this State and all the other States will receive from the present Federal Government will be more reasonable than that which they have hitherto received; and that the delegates will be able to arrive at a basis of understanding which will make the Premiers' Conference, as they used to be, instead of a strenuous fight for State rights, more a pleasant interchange, amid delightful surroundings, of ideas discussed in an amicable and non-excited manner. One of the most prominent features of the Speech—and rightly so—is the allusion to the agricultural development which is taking place throughout Western Australia. And I think everybody realises that the Speech is modest in this respect; that it has not put the case too strongly, nor gone too far in the statement of af-

fairs as they stand, or in hopes of the future. We know what an amount of interest is being taken in Western Australian land, not only by our own residents but by those outside Western Australia. And while it is an undoubted fact that a good deal of the quietness which exists in Perth and Fremantle is due to this agricultural development, to the fact that many people are sending their money away into the country for the development of the land—money which they used to put into city speculations—we must bear this philosophically, knowing as we do that it will come back to them tenfold.

Hon. J. W. Langsford: Do you think it will?

Hon. W. KINGSMILL: I do not think there is any possible doubt about it. If the hon. gentleman only thinks for one moment and compares the circumstances of Western Australia with those of the Eastern States: if he takes the land here and compares it in point of productivity—and, after all, it is the only reliable comparison that can be made—I think he will find it necessary to multiply the land in Western Australia by two or three before it approaches the value of the land in the Eastern States. This being so, I do not think it possible that the value of the land will go down. I think the value of the land here must appreciate, and appreciate to a considerable extent.

Hon. J. W. Langsford: I only wanted you to elaborate.

Hon. W. KINGSMILL: Thank you. Now, there is one point in regard to land settlement which I note with a good deal of pleasure. The State from which I came in the first place was a bright and shining example of what survey before selection could do for the agricultural industry. But I would like here to speak a word of warning to the Government: and that is that they should not oversurvey these lands. A little time back I was taking a trip to the westward of the Great Southern, and I noticed where land was being cut up for selection the blocks were far too small. The land was white-gum country, and not particularly high-class, and it was being very carefully subdivided into 200 or 300-acre blocks. It

was palpably absurd. To make a living on that land the selector would want a block of about 2,000 acres; and given a block of that size he would find it intersected in several directions by roads, in respect of which he would have to apply for the closure. And not alone is this a serious point, because he would have to pay half survey fees on a great many more lines than he should have to pay for. I hope, therefore, that the Lands Department will give particular attention to this question. I have often wondered who dictated the policy of the surveys to be made. It is essential, I think, when surveying is being done that this policy should be laid down by gentlemen who are better acquainted with the agricultural capabilities of the country than are the surveyors themselves. Of course, the surveyors, being only human, do not like to shift camp without doing as many miles of survey as possible. And so, if the matter be left in their hands, they endeavour—and legitimately so—to do as much work in one camp as possible, and to get paid for as many miles of line as possible. Now, with regard to the export facilities which are being provided for meat, wheat, and fruit. Some little time ago I had the honour to introduce a deputation which waited upon the present Minister for Lands and presented to him a petition, signed by a very representative number of pastoral producers of Western Australia, with regard to this very provision for the export facilities for meat. And they called the attention of the Minister to what is just as true now as it was then, namely, that before providing lavishly for these export necessities he should endeavour to do something for those people who are living in the State. A project went through—Parliament last session which provided for the erection of extensive abattoirs at North Fremantle. The deputation which I had the honour to introduce was thoroughly representative, and the petition which they presented was even more representative. They wished that the Government should give some consideration to the question of abattoirs at Midland Junction.

The Colonial Secretary: These abat-
toirs will provide for both.

Hon. W. KINGSMILL: I do not think the hon. gentleman is quite right there; and for this reason: this scheme provides that with regard to the Northern parts of the State provision shall be given to them in the way of floating abattoirs for export purposes. Therefore we may take it, I think—there are those here who can contradict me if I am wrong—in regard to the great cattle-producing areas of the North that the export trade will not touch Fremantle. Furthermore, I think it is an undoubted fact also that with regard to the fattening paddocks, there is more probability of getting such areas in proximity to Midland Junction than will be found to be the case at Fremantle. Taking all these things into consideration: and taking also the fact that Midland Junction is the junction of our most important railways, and having regard to the condition of the poor beasts themselves—for it must be remembered that after the traffic once enters the suburban area it becomes congested and has sometimes to be delayed—I think the claim of those gentlemen, representing as they did a very large proportion of the producers of the State, should have met with a little more consideration at the hands of the Minister than it did. He quite refused to listen to it. I hope, however, that after thinking the matter over he will be guided by better impulses, and give to the project that consideration which the importance of the subject demands, which, I think, was a reasonable request by the deputationists and the petitioners. Undoubtedly the most important part of the Speech is that which deals with the finances of the State, and the Speech is so hopeful in tone that the Government of the day have not thought it necessary to point out any way in which the present drift towards further deficit is to be obviated.

The Colonial Secretary: That will come in the Budget.

Hon. W. KINGSMILL: Quite so, but I should have thought it would be placed in the Governor's Speech. However, I am glad of one thing, that is—I look upon this matter with a melancholy joy—that

the case of those members who opposed this iniquitous imposition from which we are now suffering, the land and income tax, has been proved up to the hilt. One of the first objections of those members to the tax was that it was absolutely inadequate, and it has proved itself so palpably inadequate that the Government would not have the slightest justification for endeavouring to meet the drift I have spoken of by the imposition of further direct taxation. I do not think for a moment that can meet the case; because if the Government impose such taxation in the direction already existing as would meet the case, undoubtedly the wheels of Western Australia would clog and be stopped at once. I feel, and I have no doubt that a number of members who opposed this tax feel with me, that we were in the right when we said that this tax would not fulfil its object; and furthermore, I am afraid that what we prophesied has come to pass, namely, that it would cause a good deal of depreciation in the property of that part of the State most hardly hit. It is difficult for any Government, perhaps, to find any way out of the difficulty other than this Government is looking for, that is to say, Ministers say, "Our finances are perhaps on the wrong side, but the prospects are bright and all we can do is to sit still until things right themselves": and upon my word, I am inclined to agree with them, that things will right themselves. I think that the resources of this country were never better, or were never being more energetically or quickly developed than they are to-day. I think that perhaps metropolitan and suburban parts have gone—if I may use the expression—a little bit ahead of themselves, but I have no doubt that the prosperity of the State will enable them to right themselves before very many years are over. There is some mention—well, I cannot say there is mention, but there is a sort of underlying idea in one or two paragraphs of the Speech that civil service retrenchment may be brought about. Indeed there is more than an idea because there is an implication, for this reason—the hours of the civil servants have been lengthened, that is, civil servants, assuming

the rate of work is constant—I assume that it is invariably constant: that is the trouble—are doing about 8 per cent. more work now than they were; and that, of course, implies that 8 per cent. of them are not wanted; and that 8 per cent. off the somewhat large salaries bill we have to pay would be a considerable saving. However, the worst of it is that bad times are invariably not the times for retrenching the civil service. If we can find a Government that have the foresight and strength of will to make this retrenchment in the civil service when times are good, the State, I think, can congratulate itself; and any Government are justified in shrinking from the expedient of throwing out on a cold world, shall I say, those gentlemen who have been reared in the lap of luxury, who have been so many years in the civil service that even in good times the world may prove somewhat harsh to them. Very much more so in bad times would any Government shrink from turning any of these gentlemen out of their comfortable positions. It would only make the bad times worse, I think, and I hope and trust such an expedient will not be availed of. With regard to the hours of the civil servants, I thought that the Premier the other day lost a very good chance—speaking now only on a matter of tactics—of endearing himself for ever by giving away what practically amounts to nothing, and I hope that before long he will see his way clear to giving that half-hour on Saturday from 12 to 12.30 o'clock, which means a good deal to the civil servants and which, I am satisfied under the existing arrangement, means so very little in the way of more work accomplished. I do not say that the civil servants will do less, but I can easily imagine that the process of knocking off, which may take a few minutes at ordinary times, may possibly stretch over from twenty minutes to half-an-hour.

Hon. J. W. Langsford: It is from 12.30 to 1 o'clock you speak of.

Hon. W. KINGSMILL: I am alluding to the half-hour extra they are asked to work on Saturdays.

Hon. J. W. Langsford: They have now to work till 1 o'clock.

Hon. W. KINGSMILL: That makes the case twice as bad. At any rate there is half-an-hour which I think might very well be given to them. I am curious with an intense curiosity to see what the Government proposals are with regard to the amendment of the Public Service Act. Undoubtedly some of the decisions which have arisen under that Act are difficult in the extreme; and that the Act needs amendment is undoubtedly true; but with some little experience of the measure and after thinking for a considerable time over the possibilities of amending it, I must say that, beyond taking the very essence out of the Act, I do not see that very much improvement can be worked by any minor amendment. However, I shall possess my soul in patience until the Bill is brought down, and then I assure the Colonial Secretary I shall read it with a great deal of interest.

Hon. G. Randell: The Government are going to take control.

Hon. W. KINGSMILL: If that is so it practically means the abolition of the Public Service Act, if the Government are going to resume control. Personally, I think it is the best way out of the difficulty, far and away the best, because I look upon the present system in vogue in the public service as only tending to a display of mediocrity in the public service. Under the present system of classification the public service is no place for a brilliant man, and that is wrong; I maintain that the service of the State should be the best place in the State for a brilliant man, that more opportunities should offer to him in that vocation than in any other; but I do not think that any person can reasonably and truthfully say that state of affairs exists in Western Australia under our present Public Service Act. The bad times we are passing through are somewhat serious, more especially in connection with some of the needs of the State, and I will only deal with one or two matters that occur in the department of the Leader of this House. The hon. gentleman himself will realise, what I realised long ago when I occupied the position he does to-day, that there are several things badly wanted in

his department. One of those is a new gaol in Western Australia.

The Colonial Secretary: It is not wanted so much now as in your time.

Hon. W. KINGSMILL: I see. When I was in power justice must have been dealt out with a more vigorous and a severer hand than it is now, or probably the police under the control of the Colonial Secretary must let the prisoners escape. However, the hon. gentleman must admit that the prison at Fremantle is becoming hopelessly out of date, and not only that, but the possibility of employing prisoners at Fremantle is becoming more difficult every year. I suppose that about 80 per cent. of those persons who frequent the Fremantle prison are persons to whom it is no good offering skilled employment. The only work they can do is hard manual labour, and the only opportunities for employing them on hard manual labour about the Fremantle prison now are very small indeed. I hope the time is not far distant in Western Australia when we shall be able to afford to build a prison, say, on the face of the Darling Range or somewhere within reasonable distance of the capital that may be an object lesson to the other States and may embody all the latest improvements, as has been done in other directions also in the hon. gentleman's department, that is to say in the Claremont Hospital for the Insane and in the Old Men's Home. Another building badly wanted, and for which I understand provision is being made, is for the purpose of housing the indigent old women in the State. I understand something is being done in that direction, and I hope that what is being done will prove satisfactory. I notice that municipal subsidies are to be still further reduced. I take it it is a good thing; I take it that the people of the State living in municipalities and in road districts and living all over the place are learning, and will have to learn, to be more dependent on their own resources. Again, I congratulate the Leader of the House upon the stand he has taken up with regard to the reductions in the hospitals. I know from the past experience I have had of the small reductions which I have carried out

at various times in the east and in the shutting up of hospitals the very difficult path the hon. gentleman is starting out on. I know the appeals to his good nature will be innumerable, and that finally, when the appeals fail, he will be painted as a most inhuman monster; but I feel that he will survive and pull through and that he will stick to the point he is aiming at. If the Government adhere to the attitude they are taking up, only paying for the indigent patients while the district pays for the rest, then, I think that the troubles that arise should be at an end; because if the Government pay for the indigent patients and if those who are not indigent pay for themselves, it should throw a very light burden on the people of any district. I hope the economy which will be made in this direction will be a real one. There is a very interesting programme of legislation put forward, and the first thing that strikes the eye is the proposed reduction in the franchise of this Chamber. Now it is a funny position to find that the Leader of the House and myself have changed places on this question, only I claim that I have a good deal more justification for my opposition to this proposed reduction in the franchise—I have no hesitation in saying that there will be opposition from me—than he had in 1904. It is an unfortunate thing perhaps that the Government's scheme—I do not know to what extent they are wedded to it, nor the extent of enthusiasm possessing them on the question—but it is almost a pity that at the very time, practically at the same time the Governor's Speech is read embodying this proposal for a reduction of the franchise, notice of motion was given in another place that the Parliament of Western Australia on and after a certain date, or even from the passing of the motion, perhaps—so confidently is it worded—shall be unicameral. When we find such a thing as that being seriously discussed, I take it it is no encouragement for those in this Chamber—and I claim the members of this Chamber have the interests of Western Australia as much at heart, and furthermore, are just as much anxious to know what these interests are, as members of another place

I think it is not encouraging to be met, in the first place on the part of the Government who should be the last people to make such a move, with a motion for the reduction of the franchise, and on the other hand on the part of the Opposition with a motion for the abolition of this Chamber. I take it that to anyone without a sense of humour the position would appear desperate, but, still, I have hopes that this Chamber will survive the attacks. Added to that hope there is the wording in the paragraph in the Governor's Speech relating to the question of the franchise of the Upper House. I see, however, on referring to the Speech, that this particular reference applies not so much to the franchise as to the redistribution of seats. I take it, however, that the two will go together and they are spoken of as occurring in the near future. Whenever one sees the words "in the near future" in the Governor's Speech he may take it for granted that no definite action will be taken in the matter for at least two years.

The Colonial Secretary: That has reference to the redistribution of seats.

Hon. W. KINGSMILL: I hope they will go together. Although the question of the franchise precedes the other I trust the reference applies to both. Of course I am subject to correction, but I hope I am correct in saying that the question of the reduction of the franchise will not precede that of the redistribution of seats. As to that same redistribution, it is a subject which any Government may well shrink from. Let me counsel the Leader of the House that when this Bill is being discussed he should avoid it as if it were the plague, for once he gets brought into a discussion upon it I can assure him it will be worse than that "fifteen" puzzle, which was so popular some time ago. Just as one thinks the numbers are all right or that the boundaries fit in, some person will point out that there is one of the most glaring discrepancies which had been lost sight of. Then all the work has to be done over again. Every fresh man who comes up will show fresh discrepancies. It is impossible really to please anyone with a Redistribution of Seats Bill, and unless it is absolutely necessary I hope the Gov-

ernment will not undertake it. With regard to the Licensing Bill, which the Government propose to introduce, I was pleased to gather from the remarks of the Premier at Bunbury that the Bill, if it follows the lines he laid down, is one which can be accepted, I think, very freely by all except those who are extremists. Of course the extremists, either on one side or the other, will accept nothing. There are people in the world who look upon a publican as a criminal, and there always will be some of those people, while on the other hand there are those who think the noblest aim of man is to sell his fellow-men liquor. With neither of these parties do I agree, and if a Bill is brought forward which satisfies the general public of Western Australia the Government should be satisfied with it, and that is all they should aim at. A Bill framed on the lines indicated by the Premier at Bunbury, if brought down, will prove acceptable to this Chamber and should become law without difficulty so long as the session is indefinitely prolonged. How on earth the Leader of the House expects to get a Licensing Bill, necessarily a pretty big Bill, especially when it is considered that in addition to the parent measure there are 12 or 13 amending Acts—

The Colonial Secretary: There are more than that.

Hon. W. KINGSMILL: Well, how the Minister can expect to get a Bill of this magnitude and contentious nature through both Houses in one session is beyond my imagination. To-day the Minister is giving notice, as was mentioned in the Speech, of a Bill to consolidate and amend the laws relating to public health. This is the fifth or sixth year that the Bill has been before the Legislature in one form or another, but still it does not get through. Let me point out, as I have done on many occasions previously, that here is a direction in which economy can be exercised by the Government if only they would induce Parliament to take reasonable steps with regard to measures of this description. It is a sort of "King Charles' head" to me, when I allude, as I so frequently have, to the great necessity that exists, from motives of commonsense and economy, for adopting that motion with re-

gard to lapsed Bills which exists in the Commonwealth. The case of the Health Bill is a good illustration in point. If the cost of printing it and all its amendments, printing the interminable debates in *Hansard*, the cost of the witnesses examined, before the various select committees which have sat on the matter, and all other expenses in connection with the measure were added up, I am sure they would total thousands of pounds; while if a Standing Order had been adopted, such as that in the Commonwealth Parliament, which is protected by every safeguard which can be thought of, an amended Health Bill would have been the law of the land long enough ago. I venture to predict there will be the same trouble in connection with the Licensing Bill. It may sound like Satan reproving sin, but there is a tendency to loquacity in the present Parliament, an ever-increasing tendency, which renders it almost impossible to get a measure of any size, or of a contentious nature, through both Houses in one session. That being so I intend later on in the session to bring forward the motion this House carried, but which was rejected, I understand, on very trivial grounds by another place, so that we may have a chance of at least conforming to what I maintain are dictates of common sense and economy in this direction. With regard to this very matter of licensing, may I suggest to the Leader of the House that when this Bill is to be brought down it will add very much to the shortening of the debate, and very much to the easy comprehension of the measure, if the Government were to do a little unofficial compilation, so to speak, on their own account, and furnish members of both Houses with copies of the Bill itself, and with copies prepared by the Crown Law Department of the Bill as it would appear if compiled. I have always thought, and I think rightly so, that the more one lets people know about any Bill the more quickly it goes through Parliament. It always pays to take a good deal of trouble in this House in explaining any measure very thoroughly—I found it so—and in giving members every chance of finding out all about the Bill. I may be taken to task for vain repetition, but I desire again to refer to the

action of the Crown Law Department in sending Bills without marginal notes to this House.

The Colonial Secretary: The Bills will have marginal notes this session.

Hon. W. KINGSMILL: I am very pleased to hear that, and hope the department will go further and see that members are furnished with what is really a consolidation, an unofficial consolidation, of the licensing laws. As members must know, if for the purposes of comparison one has to hunt through 14 or 15 Acts it is almost impossible for him, if not a lawyer—and even for a lawyer, unless he is paid to do such a thing—to get a thorough grasp of the meaning of the various measures. I hope the Minister will take this suggestion, to use a familiar phrase, in the spirit in which it is meant. I have taken up the time of the House unconscionably, and let me conclude by saying that I think the Governor's Speech is a good one. In most things it is fairly reasonable, and although no definite scheme for overcoming the present financial position is laid down, yet the attitude the Government have taken up, the steadfastness of policy imbued in them by their belief in the State, is fully justified, and I think with them that if we fear not, but hold on our course, the course the Government are pursuing, prosperity will come to meet us. I feel certain that even within the next few months confidence—and after all that is prosperity, because it is not exactly what a man owns or what he does, but it is the faith that the business people have in the community that makes good or bad times—will be restored, the State will go ahead, and a position of affairs arise which will replace Western Australia in a state of prosperity not second to that which we enjoyed some years ago. I have much pleasure in supporting the Address.

Hon. R. W. PENNEFATHER (North): I have listened with great pleasure to the speeches made by Mr. Randell and Mr. Kingsmill. If there is one characteristic that commends itself to members in this House in respect to the Governor's Speech, without having regard to its comprehensive nature and its lucidity, it is

the fact that it is pervaded by a spirit of optimism, which Mr. Kingsmill very rightly lays stress upon. for after all, the financial position we are in is nothing of such great moment as to make us feel down-hearted. Where is a man in a business community who, if he finds his affairs are, as he thinks, a little involved, but only to the extent of one month's revenue, would become very down-hearted; yet such is the condition of the affairs of this State, for the deficit does not practically exceed one month's revenue. We have nothing to be afraid of, more particularly when we are aware of the great latent resources of the State. In that respect I hope that the Government will not further postpone the commencing of the Port Hedland railway. Tenders have already been adjourned for a month from the 20th July to the 20th August, and I think there will be no further attempt to postpone the starting of that work, for I can tell the House that affairs in the Port Hedland and Marble Bar districts are almost entirely dependent upon this line being put through. The sooner a start is made the better for the prosperity of the district and the advancement of Western Australia generally. I would like to say a few words on the indication of the opinions of the Government, contained in the following words of the Speech, "In order to liberalise the qualifications of the electors of the Legislative Council and thus to bring that branch of the Legislature more closely into touch with popular desires and aspirations." I fail to see any evidence of popular desire and aspiration to interfere with the franchise for this House. I am aware, and no doubt members are also, that there is a pretty large body of people who would like to annihilate this Chamber, and who have aspirations to that end, but that class of persons will not be very seriously taken into consideration, I take it, by members of this House. We are mindful of the fact that at the present a person who pays rent of even 10s. a week has power to vote for this Chamber, and yet it is proposed that this amount shall be cut down by 2s. a week. This is a most dangerous type of legislation, for it is tinkering with the Con-

stitution for no other purpose than to placate a section of the community which will not be satisfied until it overturns this Chamber altogether. I have a shrewd suspicion that when the Premier was drafting that clause one might have seen a merry twinkle in his eye, and I have no doubt some of the other Ministers, and perhaps our own Leader might have said, "What is the use of bringing it into the discussion now?" Then the Premier, perhaps, looking suavely, might have remarked, "Do you not know it is necessary that we should have not only padding in this Speech, but that we should be able to provide a little pleasant diversion for the members of our Chamber to engage in a common fight against the other Chamber; in other words, it will get rid of criticism for the time being." I do not know whether that is the actual contention, but when the Premier takes this measure in hand I doubt whether he will find that strong backing to support the reduction. I say it advisedly that the necessity for the reduction of the franchise in this Chamber is not sincerely felt by anyone who wishes it well. Why, it would bring it to such a pitch that we might as well say, "Why stick at a few shillings; why not wipe out the qualification altogether?" then there would be two Chambers with the same qualification. With regard to the office of the Agent General, we have had no intimation of who is likely to fill it, but no doubt it will be filled within the next two or three months, and whoever does fill it will act upon the opinions expressed not only in this Chamber but in another place, and completely reform that department. I think for the efficient and proper performance of the duties of that office, everyone in it, from the head to the messenger boy, should come from Western Australia, and have a personal knowledge of the resources of the State. I am told that in the Canadian office in London nearly every person connected with it is a Canadian born. You can quite understand that the people who make inquiries there expect to see someone or speak to someone who has, not a theoretical knowledge of the subject, but a practical knowledge, and a personal acquaintance with

the State; and it would be much to the advantage of Western Australia and the efficiency of the department if it were filled with men from this State. These appointments, too, could be held out as an inducement, as a reward for services well and faithfully rendered in the State. I am glad indeed I have the opportunity of complimenting the Government upon doing a piece of justice to the North-West in despatching that very able and energetic expert, Mr. Despeissis, to report upon the prospects of tropical culture in those parts. I am sure that action will lead to a vast amount of good. That officer will be able to furnish the Government with such a satisfactory report that they will see their way to commence operations there. With reference to the new goldfield discovered in the Northern Territory, and which is about 180 miles from Hall's Creek, the nearest port to that goldfield I am told will be Wyndham. Evidently every effort will be made by the South Australian Government to try and divert the traffic from that field to Port Darwin. I think, if the Government of this State are wise, they will take the initiative, and so to speak, blaze the track from Hall's Creek as far as they can into this new territory, and bring the port of Wyndham to within easy distance of it. There is an excellent road from Wyndham to Hall's Creek, and it only requires to be made now to this goldfield. I think then we might secure the trade that will eventually follow from the discovery of the new goldfield. It is pleasing to find that the affairs of the State are at present being managed in a very sensible and enthusiastic manner by the Government, and I would say before I sit down that the Government are entitled to every consideration for the way in which they have so far safeguarded the interests of the State at the various conferences which have already been held. The last conference resulted in a resolution being passed which was mainly advocated, and well advocated too, by the Premier and the then Treasurer, Mr. Frank Wilson, and which will result in a large sum of money being for a long period devoted to the assistance of this State, to tide it over

its financial difficulties into which it has been plunged by our advent into Federation. The sum of money is £250,000, annually, tapering off at the rate of £10,000 a year for a period of 25 years. This sum totals over three millions, and it will be what the State will receive if the resolution is carried into effect. I sincerely hope, and I hope you, Mr. President, and every member in this Chamber also hopes, that this Conference will endorse that resolution, when, to some extent, we will be able to look cheerfully forward to something tangible to assist us out of the dilemma in which our too impetuous action plunged us, at the time we entered Federation, and when we were not prepared to do so.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY (East): I desire to emphasise the position that I shall take up with regard to one or two points mentioned in the Governor's Speech, and which have been touched upon by members who have already spoken. In passing, I would like to endorse all that has been said with regard to the good qualities of Admiral Bedford, and also the loyalty that I and other hon. members always feel we owe to the representative of the King, and to add how pleased we were that on this occasion we had a Governor amongst us to open Parliament. I sincerely trust also that we shall continue for many years to come to have a direct representative appointed from the old country to come amongst us and open Parliament. With regard to the few points I shall refer to, I would applaud the remarks made this afternoon by Mr. Randell on the subject of the speech delivered by the Premier at Bunbury. That was a very full statement of the great and varied interests and the magnificent assets that Western Australia has, and undoubtedly showed a very lively interest and a firm grasp of all the principal resources this country is relying upon for its development. At the present time the people are concerned about the financial question and perhaps the slight depression which is existing. I come from the country, and it is very pleasing to find how many people, lawyers, doctors, and others in every walk of

life, who at last are beginning to realise the opportunities that are awaiting their attention, and the expenditure of capital in order to reap a good return. In travelling through the country it is astonishing to find that there are men who have been associated with the soil for years who are only just beginning to realise that many miles of land that in the past was looked upon as worthless is to-day giving some of their finest returns. Of course, this means that every pound they can make in the way of profit and every pound they can borrow is put back into the soil, with the result that it is employing all the available labour there is. There are opportunities for large trade in the future both in agricultural implements and in the export of all that the farmers are likely to produce, and the development must become something enormous in a very short time. The manner in which the land of this country lends itself and responds to improvement is simply marvellous. There is no doubt that large areas of land which in days gone by was despised is now found to give splendid results, both in regard to cereals and the quantity of stock they can carry. There are many instances that I could give where only a few years back land that was only capable of carrying a small number of stock, after a very small amount of improvement reasonable improvement as we know it at present—has been rendered capable of agricultural work, and carrying at least four times the number of stock. This means that in the South-Western portion of the State we will shortly have an enormous production of cereals, wool, and lambs, and I am pleased indeed to know that the Government intend to grapple with the question of handling, because this is one of the most serious matters for the agriculturist.

(Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.)

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: When we adjourned for tea I was about to make a few remarks with regard to the abattoirs and the arrangements about to be made at Fremantle by the Government. I

would like to endorse the remarks of Mr. Kingsmill, that there are, of course, those who advocate other centres, and I do not know that this is a question that has been fully gone into. No doubt, however, the Government are well advised and are making their arrangements for that centre which, after due consideration, they have decided upon as the most beneficial. Personally, I have been a strong advocate for arrangements of the kind for a considerable time past. We know what it will mean for the stock trade of the southern districts, and we know that that trade can only be put upon a satisfactory basis with the aid of some such arrangement by the Government. I sincerely hope that the Government will consider the question of these abattoirs at Midland Junction at an early date, even though it should lead to their duplicating the abattoirs in order to have one at Midland and another at Fremantle. I would like to take this opportunity of impressing upon the Government the very great importance of having the most up-to-date plant in regard to this establishment which will be put in at Fremantle, and it is just possible that I can give them a hint in this direction which might be of some little use. I would remind them that there is a very comprehensive scheme of a similar nature now being constructed at Geelong, in Victoria, and I do not know that in going through the Eastern States one would find a more up-to-date or more complete system than is there being installed right on the edge of the harbour. We could also take some very good lessons with regard to the handling of wheat from the arrangements they have in Sydney, and from the system they are instituting along with the abattoirs at Geelong. The system in vogue at Williamstown is not, I think, as up-to-date as those I have mentioned, and I think that with regard to these matters it would be well if the Government would call to their aid men who have been used to the trade; not only the departmental officers to put down their systems from paper calculations, but men capable of going into the merits or demerits of whatever arrangements are being made. Because it is the men who have to handle the stock

who very often can give the engineers or draftsmen, or those who are drawing up plans and specifications, some very good information. On this question of handling of wheat we recognise that the system in vogue at Fremantle in the past is quite obsolete; and in the interests of wheat growers who, from the prospects of the season that we now have upon us, and which point to a record crop for the State—a happy contingency rendered very much more certain by the bountiful rains that we have just been receiving—will have a tremendous output of wheat this coming season, we do not want a repetition of what happened in a small way at Fremantle last season. It is sincerely to be hoped that the Government will at least be able to see their way to the making of better arrangements, and the provision of better facilities for the producers. With regard to the changes in the Ministry, I wish to congratulate the Government upon the inclusion of Mr. Mitchell as Minister for Lands. I think that he is the right man in the right place. I think he is a man who will bring a good practical and energetic interest to bear upon the settlement of our lands. He undoubtedly is an enthusiast. Between Mr. Mitchell and Professor Lowrie, we will, I feel confident, see some first-class work done in the near future, or rather, a continuation of the good work that has been done by the previous Minister. With regard to the new system being inaugurated of survey before selection, I undoubtedly have always been an advocate of something of the kind; and, in fact, I would go further in again making the suggestion that the extension of these spur railways throughout our lands and the agricultural centres should be put upon a system to be worked up to for the next 20, 30, or even 50 years. If some large plan could be adopted at the present time and surveys made of lines, which it is hoped will ultimately be completed, the spur lines could be run along somewhat in this direction. It would give a greater confidence to the men selecting land, and would encourage the settlement of large areas; and in the end, when the various sections of the railways would be added to and extended from time to time, and

worked up to one complete system, it would very materially reduce the cost of the working expenses of the railways, which otherwise—that is to say, if spurs were run off in several other directions, instead of working up to any one system—will become a very expensive item, and therefore, a greater tax upon the community. With regard to the suggested alteration of the franchise for the Legislative Council, when I was elected I definitely announced to those electors who supported me that I was against the proposition to reduce, in the slightest degree, the franchise of the Legislative Council. I feel the more convinced that that attitude is correct when I realise that so important to us is the present financial relationship of the State to the Commonwealth that the Parliament of the country is to be hung up because it is so necessary that the Premier should go to the Eastern States to safeguard our financial interests. This, to my mind, proves very conclusively the error that was perpetrated in this country of allowing the vote in respect of Federation to go to those who had no stake of any description—of allowing it to be decided practically upon manhood suffrage. It seems to me that many of the ills from which we are suffering are due to the fact that we have adopted the system of manhood suffrage; and when we look at the circumstance that our representatives in the Federal Senate are not required to have any qualification beyond those in the House of Representatives, and the further circumstance that we do not appear to have any very great safeguard in that House, it is seen to be the more essential that the Legislative Council, in this State at any rate, and indeed in the other States, should undoubtedly retain their safeguard pending the cropping up at various times of the question of State rights. I hope that we will not reach any very serious stage in this proposed development, and that the matter will not be proceeded with, but will be struck out. With regard to the other matter which has been mentioned, namely, that of amending the liquor law, and the proposed curtailment of licenses on principles beneficial to the community and equitable

to their interests. I hold the opinion that it would be a very serious thing now to interfere with vested interests. We have granted licenses—I fear that too many licenses have been granted, but I think it would be a very serious thing, and a very costly process to the country to interfere in the matter. And when we realise the vast strides that this country is bound to make within the near future, and the progress and the increase in population which has taken place so rapidly during the last few years, I think it would be just as well not to interfere with the licenses already granted, but to continue the Act which we passed some short time ago, and grant no more licenses. We would undoubtedly by that means avoid having to pay heavy compensation or damages to any houses that might be closed, and I daresay it would not mean an unfair taxation on other places which it might be found necessary to tax through the fact of one or two neighbouring places being closed. I do not wish to enter more into the matter of the Speech at present, but to briefly congratulate the Government on the grasp they have of the requirements of the country. I think they have been doing splendid work. We have every confidence that they are on the right road for developing the large pastoral and agricultural interests, and wherever possible doing all they can or that the country can expect of them in the way of developing the resources that are likely to build up the future prosperity of the State.

Hon. E. McLARTY (South-West): I shall content myself with endorsing the remarks of previous speakers with regard to the appointment of our present Governor, but I desire also to add my approval of the kindly remarks made with reference to our late President, Sir George Shenton. As a very old member of this House, and as one who sat under his presidency for a number of years, I say that too much cannot be said in his praise. When I entered the House as a young member I received a great deal of courtesy and kindness from that hon. gentleman, and I am sure that not only the Parliament of this State, but the State of

Western Australia has lost one of its most loyal and patriotic servants. I also wish to add my approval of the action of the Premier. I think his action in refusing the position of Agent-General has stamped him as a true and loyal son of the State. It is a great temptation to a man, who has all the worries that certainly must appertain to the position of Premier, to be released from his worries and go to London, as it were, almost on a holiday trip for a few years. I think that a man who will make this sacrifice and stick to his guns to see carried out the policy he has initiated shows that he has courage, and that he is thoroughly sincere in what he has undertaken. I am sure that his action has met with the general approval of the people of this country. One of the most important matters the House will have to deal with during the present session is the question of finance. It is a question to which I have given a good deal of consideration. Perhaps my views will not be in accord with those of many other members of the House, but I am not afraid to express them, and to say what I consider should be the right line of policy for the Government to pursue at the present time. Of course we all recognise the need of living within our means, whether in a private or a public capacity. We do not want to go too fast and exceed our income, but unfortunately the State has now a deficit of over £300,000, which to some people is very alarming. I do not regard this overdraft as a very serious matter. As one who travels about the State and knows what is going on in the country districts for miles east and west, north and south, I feel satisfied that the time is not far distant when this country will be able to wipe off the £300,000 with less difficulty than it can wipe off £25,000 to-day. I think the matter is one the Government must not take too seriously to heart, because I can foresee in the present circumstances of the State that if an attempt is made, as no doubt it should be made and will be made, to live within our income and reduce this deficit, a good deal of hardship will ensue. I think it would be far better and more in the interests of the State to allow this deficit to remain for three or four years. It

is not a matter that is costing the country any interest; there is always a certain amount of current revenue in hand. In my opinion we are trying to do too much in too short a time. We are at present paying £260,000 a year or thereabouts to a Sinking Fund; that in itself is a heavy impost on the people. Also we are paying off our loan moneys at a pretty rapid rate under the Sinking Fund, and I feel that the enormous developments that are taking place, and with the territory we have to develop, it would be more in the interests of the State for the Government to be able to come to the assistance of industries rather than to pinch in every possible way, and to some extent retard the progress of the place. In regard to the abolition of roads board grants, I know that it is generally considered that it should be a matter of local taxation, and I think most boards now—there may be exceptions—are composed of men who realise that the time has come when they must put their hands in their pockets and do at all events a fair and reasonable thing to maintain their roads and improve them in their own districts. I am entirely in accord with that, and I think the roads board in my district was one of the first to levy a rate, but at the same time, with the developments taking place in the country and with the new roads required, it would be a serious matter if the whole of the roads board grants were withdrawn. There was never greater need than at the present time for the improvement and extension of roads throughout agricultural districts.

The Colonial Secretary: Give the roads boards increased powers of taxation and make it up.

Hon. E. McLARTY: That is all very well, but how much more taxation can they stand? We have to put our hands in our pockets to pay roads board taxes, and then the Land Tax Commissioner comes along, and then we have to pay our land rents, and it seems to me we are working for the greater part of the time to pay rates and taxes. We want a little money for development as well if we are to improve our holdings, as every man should do. A man wants every penny he can put his hands on to do that. I am

satisfied there are not many agriculturists at present who are putting by credit balances in the bank or hoarding money and not doing their duty to the land. As far as I am concerned in my small way, small compared with many agriculturists, I cannot get one-half or one-tenth of the money I need to do the development I want on my properties. It is not my fortune at all events to keep a credit balance. I prefer to spend, as far as I possibly can afford to do so, my money in fencing and developing my property in various directions. However, I am strongly of opinion that the Government need not trouble their heads about the financial position at present, because at the enormous rate at which agriculture is going ahead throughout the whole State, the rate at which the land is being taken up and utilised, and at the rapid rate, I may also say, at which people will come to this State, in another four or five years from to-day there will be no difficulty in paying off this overdraft, and I feel that we will do it without experiencing any inconvenience in the matter. I am sure that the industries of the State were never in a more prosperous condition. I am aware that in the City and in some of the principal towns there has been a good deal of depression, and that the depression still exists, but the prosperity that is taking place in the country districts will soon have the effect of altering this state of affairs in the towns. We can safely claim that we have one great asset in the State. It is no new thing. We have had a coal-field for some years, but great doubts have been entertained as to whether it would ever be developed, or whether it was worth developing, but at present we find that the output is increasing enormously, and that 85 per cent. of the coal used locally is from the Collie coalfield. I think that is a very satisfactory state of affairs indeed. Then the number of vessels coming here and bunkering coal is certainly a proof and indication that the coal is suitable for steam purposes. I have no doubt that when proper facilities are given at Bunbury—and they should be carried out with the least possible delay—that at any rate the trade at that port will be the greatest benefit to

the State. The output is very large at Collie, and there is every prospect that it is going to be one of the leading industries in the State. We never hear any complaints or murmurs about the coal being unsuited for the requirements, on the contrary we have reports from eminent engineers from all parts testifying to its good qualities. Therefore I think that in itself is a matter for congratulation. I am sure our timber industry was never in such a flourishing condition. The export of timber this year will be something enormous. It is giving employment to thousands of people, and I think everyone is contented and happy who is engaged in the industry. All the industries in the State are doing well, though I regret that the pastoral industry is not in as satisfactory a condition as it might be, because the supply far exceeds the demand. Last year a good many scoffed at the idea of establishing freezing works, and said they were not required, but anyone who has had the experience which I and many others have had this year can testify to the fact that the production in stock here is altogether in excess of demand. I have never known during my experience, a pretty long one in this industry, so much difficulty in disposing of stock, and I have never seen the market so low as it is. Therefore it is imperative that something should be done to relieve the industry, and I take it it is a step in the right direction when in any industry we have reached that happy position of being able to supply our own requirements and to export, and bring money to the State. I am fully satisfied that in the near future we shall be large exporters of frozen lambs and meat and of wheat and many other things. The extension of railways is mentioned in the Speech, and it is really gratifying, where one travels about over the new railways and makes inquiries, to find, as I have been able to ascertain, that there is not a single line that has been built which we can regret having built. They are all doing remarkably well, far in excess of the most sanguine expectations. A few months ago when I was down South I had a conversation with the traffic manager in the Southern

districts, and I was surprised to hear from him that on some of these newly constructed lines where very little was expected of them, the work is increasing at a rapid rate. He assured me that no one ever anticipated there would be as much work for several years to come as there is at present upon them. I think that is very encouraging, and certainly justifies the extension of the railway system. Speaking of the few miles of railway being constructed towards the Williams, that is the Marradong railway, it has been found necessary for that line to be extended for a short distance at all events. It is only being constructed for 15 miles. Where it first goes out in the timber country the land is all taken up—it has been taken up for some years by the Combine—and when we get beyond that concession the Government have reserved the whole of the timber up to the terminus of the line and for several miles beyond, I think for some four or five miles beyond the terminus. The Sleeper Hewers' Union have a concession of 20,000 acres which they are very anxious to utilise. They are nearly cut out elsewhere and want to get new ground. It would be a great handicap upon them to have to construct several miles of railway to give them access to this Marradong line, and I think an extension of half a dozen miles at all events, if not more, should be made, for it would be amply justified. That would take the line through the Government reserve and tap the timber available for other purposes. I know that several timber people have been in the locality lately looking around. They are anxious to obtain concessions and to erect mills, but they are handicapped by being miles away from the railway. Representations have been made on the matter. I have made the remark in this House before, and I reiterate it now, that no line built in the State is so remunerative as that which feeds the timber as well as other industries. Such lines pay from the very start, and the Marradong line will pay well from the moment it is opened. Millars' Company are about to erect a large mill, and whether such work is done by Millars' or anyone else, provided that the owners give large employment, they

should receive consideration. I venture to say that before this day 12 months there will be 500 or 600 men earning good money by being employed on timber in that district. At the present time the country is inaccessible. Within a very short time the returns from the line would pay not only interest and sinking fund but also the cost of construction. Reference has been made to the question of erecting abattoirs. It is a burning question now, and I know there is a difference of opinion as to the site, some advocating Midland Junction and others Robb's Jetty. I believe it is the intention of the Government to construct the abattoirs at North Fremantle. On that my opinion is that they could not be constructed in a more inconvenient place. There is no room there; it is a place cramped up; there is no accommodation for stock, and it is most inconvenient in every way. I have no objection to there being abattoirs at Midland Junction, for they are necessary in the interests of the eastern districts and the people on the Midland country; but at the same time I would point out that the chief source of supply comes by sea, and I cannot possibly understand how the present arrangements at Robb's Jetty could be done away with. It would be most inconvenient indeed if stock now landed there had to be landed at North Fremantle, and from thence be moved to the different parts of the State. I think it will be found necessary that, instead of spending an enormous amount of money upon abattoirs in one place, facilities should be given both at Midland Junction and Robb's Jetty. I fail to see where there is any advantage—on the other hand I see great disadvantages—in the site at North Fremantle as compared with that at Robb's Jetty, which is a convenient place to land stock, where there is any amount of open country adjoining, and which is in every way, so far as I can judge, the proper place. I hope that before the Government spend scores of thousands of pounds in putting up something very extensive and elaborate in the way of abattoirs at North Fremantle the matter will receive most careful consideration. As a matter of fact, I am not altogether impressed with the

idea of spending a lot of money on the work at all at the present time. We talk a lot about the export trade and what we will do in the future, but when we realise we are importing thousands and thousands of sheep per annum for our own use, there cannot be such a pressing necessity to export lambs.

Hon. R. F. SHOLL: That is not consistent with your previous remarks.

Hon. E. McLARTY: I am sure the export in lambs will be a big industry, but at the present time it is not sufficiently large to warrant a very heavy outlay in the erection of abattoirs and freezing works. The requirements are fully met at the present time. I am sure a great deal of money has been expended on Robb's Jetty, and every convenience is provided and most rigid inspection goes on there every day. There is no very great necessity for this big outlay, although I believe the expense must be incurred in the near future. I believe the Government have spent some £8,000 or £10,000 at Robb's Jetty, and they have had returned to them between £50,000 and £60,000. Notwithstanding this they appear dissatisfied with this handsome return, for an additional charge of 4d. per head has recently been made on all stock landed there. We have in the past been charged 3s. 3d. per head for every beast sent from Kimberley to this market, the charge being for wharfage at Derby and Fremantle; now the total is raised to 3s. 7d., which is very high. The extension of the Agricultural Bank will, I am sure, meet with general approval. No institution in the State has done so much towards opening up the country and developing agriculture. There are scores of people here now in comfortable circumstances who started on the land without any capital. They owe their prosperity entirely to the assistance they received from the bank. I do not know whether it is wise to increase the amount allowed to be borrowed to £1,000. I am one of those who think the bank exists in order to help the small man upon the land. If a man obtains £500 to enable him to get a start, that should be sufficient, for if he requires further advances there are

financial institutions that will be ready to come to his rescue. This is a matter we have to consider, because, at the rate agriculturists are coming to the State, there will be such an enormous demand upon the bank that it will take a very large capital to meet requirements. I do not oppose the increased amount, but I think that £5000 is a very fair sum to advance to any new settler. There is one question that requires looking into and altering. These are somewhat depressed times in towns, and there should be an amendment of the law relating to the position between landlord and tenant. It is an extraordinary procedure that a man can occupy a house, fail to pay any rent for it, and then, if the owner wants him to leave, can defy him, and compel a very tiresome process of law to be involved. The only way in which a landlord can get rid of such a tenant is to sue in the Local Court. That takes time, and naturally the tenant is given a certain time to clear out, and so further delay occurs. Although I do not advocate arbitrary measures with a person, still, where a tenant fails to pay his rent, a man should have a right to get possession of his house within a reasonable time, and not be subjected to so much inconvenience and loss as is the case now. It is very unsatisfactory, and the law needs amending in that direction. I have very much pleasure in supporting the adoption of the Address-in-Reply.

Hon. G. THROSSELL (East): I desire to say that the policy of the Government as announced in the Governor's Speech and by the Premier at Bunbury has my very hearty support. It goes without saying that the finances of the State at the present time give us some cause for anxiety. At the same time it is reasonable to realise that the Government fully understand this, as is evidenced by their desire to be represented at the Premiers' Conference, and above all by the efforts now being made by them to bring about economical administration. The great mistake is that such an effort to cut down the cost of administration was not made years ago. The mere fact of the seriousness of the position is emphasised when we remember that the

Braddon Clause comes to a termination next year. It seems to me that then we shall be at the mercy, so to speak, of the Federal Government. Fortunate it is that recently we have had a change of Government, and one of such a nature that we might justly think that this State will receive fair consideration at their hands, and also at the hands of the Federal Parliament. The present position serves to show the sacrifices this State made when it entered Federation 20 years before it should have done so. It also serves to show what a country we should have made of Western Australia had we been left unhampered for those 20 years. I know it is too late now to make any alteration. We shall have to face the future boldly, with brave hearts. We have here all the elements necessary to make a great State of Western Australia, and we must look ahead to the time when, notwithstanding the experiences we had passed through, we shall all rejoice that we formed part of the great Federation. I gathered from the Speech that agriculture during the last year went forward by leaps and bounds, and that no less than two million acres of land were applied for. While this is a matter for great congratulation, I venture to raise a warning voice and suggest that this may not be altogether as good as it seems. I have reason to fear that in some directions we are building up an evil that we have for years past been trying to undo; in other words, I fear we are laying ourselves open to the building up of large estates. If members will consider the Act as it stands they will realise with me how easy it is to do this. The land laws wisely intended to make it very hard for an honest individual to build up large estates, but they make it far too easy for a family to do this. At the present time, as the Act stands, it allows a youth of 16, practically a school-boy, to have all the privileges of a land selector. Now comes in the paradox. He goes to the Lands Office, is allowed to select 2,000 acres of land, and is treated with all the privileges of manhood; he then goes to the Agricultural Bank, and is refused any assistance until he turns 21 years of age. It is easy to see that

in such conditions it is simple indeed for a family to build up a large estate. If I cared I could give several instances where farmers wives, sons, sons-in-law, and nephews have all applied for land, and it is an absolute fact that out of so many applicants one only was the real owner. Who shall say a boy of 16 is not the father by another name? We know this is so, and although we have the protection of the compulsory improvement clauses, what is that after all? The getting together of these large estates by a family simply means that as the farmer in many instances has only a limited capital, a very large portion of the land is altogether unimproved, and remains so until capital comes along or a speculator buys it up. I know exactly what I am saying in this connection. Before many years we shall find that we will have to begin to repurchase these estates. Surely it will be seen by the Government that owners should either strike out or have financial assistance, and then we can compel them to perform compulsory conditions. One comfort we have with regard to agriculture is the appointment of Mr. James Mitchell to the position of Minister for Lands. In him we have a practical and an enthusiastic man. We have also Professor Lowrie who made agriculture in South Australia, and who will make it in Western Australia also. He will show us how to utilise third-class lands, which would not otherwise be utilised, and he will show us speedily how to utilise that land in such a manner that it will give wealth to the community that was never anticipated from it. We are to be congratulated on having such men as Mr. Mitchell and Professor Lowrie at the head of our affairs in the Lands Department. The principle of survey before selection makes matters of land settlement comparatively easy, and although the expenditure is large at the outset in sending an army of surveyors into the field, it will result in economy. A new departure which the present Minister for Lands deserves credit for is that in connection with survey before selection, he has marked every block with the amount which can be obtained from the Agricultural Bank. A new selector not only takes up the land,

but he knows how much he can get from the bank, and how he has to spend the money, so that I heartily congratulate Mr. Mitchell upon this entirely new departure. It is pleasing to note that the Government promise to turn their attention in the direction of giving some sort of encouragement to manufacturers. I asked the Government last year and the year before last what they were going to do about this. We have had select committees of another House sitting to investigate this matter and nothing has been done, although an Act of the Federal Constitution permits us to grant bonuses. To-day we have it before us that in order to stimulate private enterprise, a portion of the funds of the Agricultural Bank is permitted to be expended in machinery, providing that machinery is made in Western Australia. That is a wise departure indeed, but that is only the A.B.C. We deplore the fact that we are importing huge quantities of produce, and we should deplore the fact that we expend large sums of money in importing machinery. I maintain seriously, it is a great reproach upon the Government who are borrowing money for the purpose of building agricultural railways, and introducing people if we do not get the greatest possible return for our money. That can only be done by saying emphatically that the men we are placing on the land require a certain amount of machinery, and when we will cease to import that machinery we will stimulate private enterprise in such a fashion that it shall remain here, and the State will get the greatest possible return. I introduced a Bill into the State Parliament before the inauguration of Federation showing how we could have stimulated private enterprise in regard to establishing factories, not only for the manufacture of agricultural machinery, but other things as well. We are importing £60,000 worth of rope and twine. A few thousand pounds will give us a rope and twine factory, and instead of making rope we are importing it. Again, we are on the verge of over-production of fruit, and in this direction I say that we should establish canning factories such as are seen for miles along the rivers in Tasmania, and which are so easily established. I

am only calling attention to these facts; I believe Mr. Mitchell is considering the advisableness of forming a Department of Industry, and, I trust that when he has settled down in his office and re-organised the Lands Department, he will give his earnest attention to the establishment of industries in Western Australia. I feel very seriously, notwithstanding all the factories that have been built up in the Eastern States, that no State in the Commonwealth offers so many opportunities for the successful establishing of new industries as Western Australia. I am sure it is so, and I trust as time goes on the Government will wake up to their possibilities, and not only stop the importation of soil products, but stop the importation of machinery and other things as well. I agree with the liberalisation proposed in connection with the Agricultural Bank. I am not saying that I agree with the amount, but I do believe in liberalising that institution, so that the would-be settler may develop his small estate to the fullest limit. In the past we had to keep a jealous eye on large estates; that day is past; now we have to look after, not the ancient settler, but the new settler whom we are permitting to go on the land, and seeing that the conditions imposed are fulfilled. In going through the country we do not want to hear only the bleating of sheep and the bellowing of oxen, but we want to hear the whirr of machinery, and that machinery made in Western Australia. If this machinery is made here, there will be not only prosperity in the country districts, but instead of this depression which we hear about, the prosperity of the country will be reflected in the towns and cities, and every one by common law will be bound to prosper. It seems to me that if the country prospers under proper conditions, cities and towns must also do so. We have heard a lot about depression. Going about the City we meet men with long faces, and we ask ourselves why it is that this depression exists? We have had no difficulties to contend against: we have had none of the diseases common to other countries; we have had no diseases among our stock, and all our primary industries are flourishing. Whence then comes this cry of de-

pression? I hardly know why we should be depressed. One thing I do know, that two years ago the leading men of the State who ought to have known better preached the gospel of pessimism, and one man publicly announced here that city property had depreciated in value to the extent of 50 per cent.; that Government property which cost £50,000 was then only worth £8,000; property which he had sold for £10,000 was then only worth £3,000. When we have such men preaching such a doctrine, how does it affect the rank and file of the tradesmen? They thought it was time to clear out of the State with such things happening. Great harm is done by statements of that kind made by public men from the Premier downwards, not now however, because the Premier is an optimist. Two years ago he was a pessimist. I am glad to say that this so called depression is disappearing, and altogether there is a better feeling in the City. From whatever reason it is, that feeling exists. I would like to say that I heard only to-day that two large banking institutions in the East had sent their inspectors over here specially for the purpose of reporting on agriculture in Western Australia and its prospects. They have given a report in most favourable language, and have wound up by saying that they have found that all the farm lands of Western Australia have been hugely undervalued. That report has gone East. You will see that my words are true; we are going to have a restoration of confidence. Financial institutions all round have already seen the error of their ways. A short time ago they created a reign of terror and a scare, but it has all done good, and to-day we have for the first time in Western Australia, and I say it seriously, the curious fact of banking institutions tumbling over each other to establish new branches in the agricultural centres. I wish to emphasise that the agricultural centres show clearly that confidence has been restored. If we want to create a reverse or ruin, put the screw on the settler and ask him to pay up. In the town that I have the honour to live in we have now five banks, and rumour says that a sixth is coming. At Dowerin two new

banks were opened last week, and we have a banking institution now at Jenna-cubbin. I say this simply to prove the wholesome reaction that is taking place in our banking institutions. You can depend upon it that when banks establish new branches we are in for a reaction and prosperity. With regard to the future, and to agricultural railways I can only say that the policy of the Government in the face of grave difficulties has been most commendable. Instead of a mark-time policy they have extended agricultural railways East and West and North and South, and the Governor's Speech before us is quite sufficient to give us encouragement. There is to be no mark-time policy, but further railways: and with the railways will come population. None of us know Western Australia. I thought I knew Western Australia, but it is a better land than we knew it to be, or thought it to be. Not only in Northam, York, and Newcastle, but from Pingelly, Beverley, and Eastwards there is land well worthy of a railway: and these railways, I have no doubt, will be constructed in due time. The Government are now constructing several—Dowerin, Goomalling and Wongan, and others, and there are more to follow. In all sincerity I believe the prospects before us are those of the best season the oldest colonists can remember. Wherever we turn, whether it be pastoral or agricultural, we never had a season to surpass the present one. God Almighty blessed the land, and why should we go about with long faces? I venture to say that if the present season does fulfil its promise the Government will have ample reward for the construction of these railways, for there will be a very handsome return from the railways of the State. In conclusion I may say that if the Government is fully alive to what is taking place they will see to it that the farmers' stuff in the coming season is not stuck up for railway trucks. I have very much pleasure in expressing these few words in support of the Governor's Speech, and of the policy contained therein: and I desire to say that in Mr. Moore we have a man on whom we can rely with the greatest confidence. He and his Government are building up

a record for this State with cheap railways, and generally a wholesome policy which will not be second to the policy of Sir John Forrest; although I must say in fairness, they are building on the old foundations which were laid so broad and deep in the days of the old hero.

Hon. W. PATRICK (Central): I heartily approve of the remarks made by Mr. Randell, Mr. Kingsmill, and other speakers in reference to the appointment of the present Governor, and also those expressing deep regret and appreciation of the great loss to the State occasioned by the death of our late President, Sir George Shenton. In reference to the Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Speech, the most notable thing of course is the spirit of hope on the face of it in respect to the future of the State. It is very pleasant to read, more especially considering the present financial condition of Western Australia. During his eloquent speech Mr. Throssell referred to the fact that we had no droughts in Western Australia. Now, unfortunately at the present moment we have a very serious drought so far as our finances are concerned: a very serious drought indeed, and there is no doubt whatever that in order to put this State on a solid foundation it is absolutely necessary that a strong attempt should be made to bring our income and our expenditure together. There is no doubt about that, but I think that having regard to the type of man we have at the head of the Government, together with his colleagues, the thing can be done in spite of the enormous loss of revenue which has taken place in recent years, and for which no Government can be blamed. The loss of our income through the Customs during the last two or three years has amounted to something like £400,000. It is to be hoped that the greater portion of this money is at present in the pockets of the people of Western Australia. If it is not, then the money has been lost. But although this great loss has taken place in our revenue the Government have already by economies reduced our expenditure considerably in the several departments, and at the present moment they are making renewed

efforts to still further reduce the expenditure. In respect to this matter I would like to refer, as I have referred several times before in this House, to one department of the Government where there is not only going on a serious loss but a loss that will become more serious as the years go by unless the drift is stopped. I refer to the tremendous loss on the Goldfields Water Supply Scheme. I have spoken on this subject before, and I am going to speak until something be done. I think it is a grave reflection on the Government of Western Australia that no effort has been made to stop this drift—the loss that is going on from year to year on this Goldfields Water Supply Scheme. We have no account of the workings of the last financial year, but we have the statement in the papers that the net revenue paid into the Consolidated Fund was £91,000. In the preceding year it was £92,000. In that year there was a loss of nearly £100,000 on the Scheme, so that it cannot be less than £100,000 for this last financial year; and this too, notwithstanding the fact that an enormous increase has taken place in the consumption of water. We all know that very serious corrosion is taking place in the main and that it will be necessary before many years are past, possibly within the next three, four, or five years, to relay the whole of that main at a cost of probably two millions sterling. Now, while the main is corroding, the revenue is also corroding. It is a very serious thing indeed that while our finances are drifting to an extent of between £300,000 and £400,000, one department of the Government is allowed to drift year after year to an extent of £100,000 or over. I do not wish any member of this Chamber to imagine that there is anything of the pessimist about me; no man in this Chamber, nor any man in this State has more confidence in the future and the future greatness of Western Australia than I have. But I think that our finances should not be allowed to drift to the extent they have been doing up to the present moment; and I am sure that with the strength the Government have, and the determination they have expressed for economy, they will see that this drift is

stopped in the immediate future. One of the most pleasing items in this speech of the Governor's is the fact that our mining, especially the mining for gold, has at last taken a turn. To-day a report in the newspapers shows that for the month of July the output of gold in Western Australia was within a few hundred pounds of the output for last year, and was more than that of the year before; so that at last we may say that we have turned the corner. The drift has been going on since 1903, but the Golden Mile never looked so well as it does to-day. And within the last two months a development has taken place in the Great Fingal, which is of enormous importance in that district so far as the future of Western Australia is concerned. It means that the future of the Murchison is assured; because they have proved that there is payable gold at a depth, after having passed through several hundred feet of barren country. It means this: that all the mines that have stopped sinking will now make an attempt to get down to the riches underneath; whereas on the other hand if this development had not taken place it would have meant the disappearing of several towns from the map of Western Australia within the next few years. So far as gold mining is concerned we can not only look forward with hope, but with certainty to the future. Anything the Government can do in the shape of railways—and they have done a great deal more than any other Government in this respect for a great many years past—anything they can do for the sake of developing our gold mining industry will bring an ample reward to the State in the future. I trust the Marble Bar railway will be gone on with, and that before many months have elapsed the line to Meekatharra will have been built, with the result of bringing increased wealth to the State. But the greatest progress that has been made during the last 12 months has been in the agricultural industry. It has been simply phenomenal. Over two million acres of new land have been applied for. That means, of course, so many hundreds, or indeed so many thousands more new settlers. Now I think this settlement of the land is

only beginning, and the return that will flow into the cities and towns when once this land has been fairly brought under cultivation is simply undreamed-of by the people who are in such a poor financial position at the present moment. To-day they are growling that the money is going into the land; but it will flow back again in the shape of sovereigns in a very short time. We have a tremendous programme. I do not mean tremendous so far as the number of measures is concerned but so far as their importance is concerned. We have the liquor law reform, redistribution of seats, the reform of the Legislative Council, and a number of other important measures; but any one of those three I have mentioned, considering the time of the year and considering when we will be in a position to deal with them, should absorb the greater portion of the session after we have dealt with the finances. When the Liquor Law Bill comes before the House I shall be in a better position to give my opinion on it. I would only say that so far as I understand the skeleton of the measure, as explained by the Premier in his pre-sessional speech at Bunbury, I think it is a fair measure indeed. I do not think it is at all likely to please the extremists. No Government can afford to please the extremist. The extremist's ideas are always either in the clouds or at tremendous depths. The improvement of the licensing law is one of the greatest questions that can ever come before this Chamber. While I have as much horror of the evils of drink as any man in the State, and while I have seen the results of it in crime and misery in other parts of the world as well as in Australia, at the same time I am perfectly certain we can never stop drinking absolutely by Act of Parliament. It has been proved, and beyond dispute, in other parts of the world that absolute prohibition has always been a failure. It is unnecessary to go into details, but we can point to the irrigation colonies on the river Murray and to the state of New Zealand at the present time. No later than to-day statistics in Invercargill—one of the prohibition districts—showed that drink increased in the district during the last year. Of course, the

object of prohibition was to stop drinking altogether. When the redistribution of seats comes about I trust a measure will be formulated, if possible, to make it elastic, so that the districts will expand and contract in proportion to the population.

Hon. R. W. Pennefather: Self-adjusting.

Hon. W. PATRICK: Yes. I do not at all approve of the redistribution of seats that took place a number of years ago, when the Northampton district was wiped out. Had that Bill been introduced to-day that district would have remained in; instead of very few people there would be a district worth representing; so I trust that the Bill, when introduced, will make it that the districts will expand and contract in proportion to population, so that there will be proper representation. I do not know that there is any need to say much about the reform of this Chamber, because, I suppose, within the next six weeks or two months, when the question is discussed in another place of a unicameral system of Government, there will be no need for dealing with the reform of the House which it is proposed to abolish altogether; but I would like to remark in reference to the reduction of the franchise of the Legislative Council that the conditions to-day are totally different to what they were before Federation was brought about. When Western Australia was a colony with the power of taxing the whole community through the customs, I advocated the very widest possible franchise for this Chamber, but Federation has taken away the whole of that power, and we have no power to deal with anything but direct taxation, which necessarily falls on a limited portion of the people of the State; and when one takes into consideration the fact that 10s. a week is but a small amount to pay by way of rent for a house in Western Australia, the franchise cannot very well be said to be illiberal. However, when the subject comes before us—I do not think it is very likely to come before us this session—we will be able to deal with the measure as formulated by the Government. We have now no idea what the proposal may be. It

may be £24 or £23. The Government have said nothing about the amount. However, I would like to throw out a hint to my Labour friends that if they wish to reform this House their worst policy is to advocate its abolition. I do not intend to say anything further, except to express my entire approval of the policy of immigration, land settlement, and railway policy of the Moore Government. The three must of necessity go together, immigration, land settlement, and the extension of our railways. Immigration is an absolute necessity. When one looks at the map of Western Australia it seems perfectly preposterous that 270,000 people should attempt to govern such a vast territory. Western Australia as it was thought to be 10 or 12 years ago, a desert from end to end, could easily be governed by even a smaller population than 270,000; but to-day when our agricultural and mineral lands are continually extending, when we find that we have an area of agricultural land equal to one of the great States of the East, or equal to two or three of the great Empires of the Old World, it seems to me that it is absolutely necessary that continual attempts should be made to people this country. More than that, it is not only absolutely necessary, it is not only our duty to do it, but I am positive we must do it if we wish to retain this great State. When we remember the empty spaces of Western Australia and the densely peopled countries in the old world, we are exactly in the position of a great landlord who holds an immense estate and refuses to sell it or break it up, and of course as the popular will comes down upon him and compels him to sell his land so we will have to populate this country, and the sooner it is done, the sooner we have ten times our present population, the better it will be for Western Australia and for the Commonwealth. If I thought the population was going to remain at its present state I should say wipe out not only this Chamber but wipe out the other Chamber, and simply manage the State by a municipal Government; but seeing the vast possibilities, seeing that the circumstances of immigration are that every satisfied immigrant will induce hundreds

of others to come, and that every satisfied hundred immigrants will induce thousands to come, we have nothing to fear. I think it was Mr. Randell who referred to the United States and to the great misery being caused by people who were induced to go there under false pretences. I think he remarked that it was not done by the Government but mostly by private corporations. There was a great deal of truth in what the hon. gentleman said but, as a matter of fact, the bulk of the people who went to the United States of America were induced to go there by free homestead grants, the same as we are offering here, and every immigrant who was satisfied became, as it were, an immigration agent, who induced hundreds of others to follow. It will be the same here. Every immigrant will bring a hundred others, and thousands will follow. That is the very thing for this country. It is the policy the Moore Government are following, the policy they are trying to bring about—immigration, land settlement, and the extension of our railway system. I have much pleasure indeed in supporting the adoption of the Address-in-Reply.

Hon. E. M. CLARKE (South-West): It is not my intention to detain the House long, but I cannot give a silent vote on this motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply. I will say first that the majority of the measures enunciated in the Governor's Speech or more particularly by the Premier, in his speech at Bunbury, I am thoroughly in accord with. Any body of men or any Government can govern a prosperous country, but when a Government can tackle a State like this, drifting somewhat, with revenue falling, they are to be commended, and I only rise to compliment the Government on what they have done. Though I say straight away that I do not agree with every one of the measures the Government purpose bringing forward, when they come before the House they will have my sympathetic consideration. The country is to be congratulated on the Premier having resisted the temptation to go to the old country as Agent General and on having stuck to the State at the time when the need of

an experienced man is great; and there is no man in Western Australia more capable of managing the affairs of the State than the present Premier. I say this because I think where there is merit it is the duty of every member of Parliament to let the Government in power see that their actions are appreciated. Faults can be found with them, but the only way to carry on through life without making any faults is to do as little as one possibly can, and the only faults that can then be found with one are faults of omission and not of commission. I sincerely hope the Premier will be successful in the enterprise he has at hand in going to the East to get the best deal he can. I endorse his action most fully. I think he has done a wise thing, notwithstanding the business of Parliament is somewhat retarded, to see if he cannot get a square deal from the Premiers of the other States. I shall vote for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply.

Hon. J. W. LANGSFORD (Metropolitan-Suburban): Like other members I do not intend to delay the House very long in my remarks on the Governor's Speech, but one or two references to paragraphs contained therein should be made. The graceful reference made to our late Governor, I am sure, is heartily supported by all of us, and we also appreciate the sincere encouragement of welcome which our present Governor and his good lady have received from the inhabitants of the State. Reference is made also to the loyalty and attachment to the Throne and Person of His Majesty the King, and the present appears to be a time in our history when we should show our loyalty and attachment to our King and to the Empire. That has been done in a grand way during the last few months by the Commonwealth and the Dominion of New Zealand, and we, the people of Western Australia, heartily support, I am sure, any expression of loyalty to His Majesty. The financial question must, of course, be in our minds, and while the method of dealing with it may be open to objection and to criticism, still one must remember that it is easy to adopt a policy

of destructive criticism, whereas, one might not be able to suggest anything better than the means which the present Government are adopting to diminish the deficit. As Mr. Pennefather has said what after all does the deficit amount to? It is something over £300,000 or a little more than a one month's revenue. It is a deficit that has been growing during the last four or five years, but, at the same time the development of the State has been taking place. If the deficit had been growing and the development of the country had been retarded or stationary, then we could look upon it with much more grave concern than we need now. The mission of the Premier to Melbourne to attend the inter-State Conference will, we hope, be attended with every success, and the concession, the very worthy concession, to Western Australia made by the Premiers at the previous Conference, will we also hope, be maintained, although I have a feeling that this question will not be settled until it has been before the Federal Parliament, and possibly before the people of the States. No matter what arrangements the Premiers may come to, even with the help of the Federal Prime Minister and Treasurer, I do not think the question will be quite safe until dealt with by the Federal Parliament, and I think we will have more reason for concern when it comes before that body than we have now when it is being dealt with by a Conference of Premiers. We know the ambitions of the Federal Parliament and of the parties in that Parliament; we know they are extending far and wide. They desire to have very great Federal expenditure, and that the moneys received from customs and excise duties, from the post office and from those departments which are within the Federal control, shall all go through the hands of the Federal Parliament. This seems to me to be the position. We, as States, are saying that what we want we should have, and what is left the Commonwealth can have. I am inclined to believe the Federal Parliament will take that very attitude, and will say to us, "what we want we shall have, and what is left you can have." Until the question has been dealt with by the Federal Parliament and perhaps by the

people at the elections next year, we shall know nothing definite. The present financial arrangements must continue until the end of 1910, and I think the only suggestion which has been made is that made by Mr. Deakin who said that the present arrangements should continue for a period of five years in order that a complete investigation might be made as to how the money should be distributed after that term had expired. Most of the paragraphs in this Speech have reference to the development of the agricultural and mining resources of the country. If one looks through the Speech it will be seen that paragraph after paragraph refers to the opening up of the country either from the agricultural, the mining, or the pastoral point of view, and I think it behoves the representatives of the City and of the suburbs to see that they are not altogether neglected. Many members tell us that the great prosperity taking place in the country will have a reflex influence on the cities and towns later on. We hope sincerely that this will be so, for at the present time there is a depression in the City and in some towns too. We can only hope that the great developments taking place to-day, and to which the Government are paying particular attention, will result in prosperity to the City later on. The Colonial Secretary has, I know, a rich harvest of well digested thoughts to express to us, and there are other speakers to the Address-in-Reply, so I will not continue much longer. I support my colleague, Mr. Kingsmill, in his reference to the erection of abattoirs at Midland Junction.

The Colonial Secretary: Is that in your Province?

Hon. J. W. LANGSFORD: That does not matter. Attention should be given to the very representative deputation, and the still more representative petition which was presented to Mr. Mitchell some few months ago. I have no particular knowledge concerning this matter, but the lack of paddocks and facilities at North Fremantle seem to indicate that this is not the place where the abattoirs should be erected. The scheme for the reduction of municipal subsidies shows that the

economy which is to be practised by the Government must also be exercised by the municipalities. I remember when municipalities were subsidised at the rate of 22s. 6d. in the pound, and when Government grants were distributed very freely. Now we find that rigid economy is to be practised, and things are different. In regard to the suggested amendment of the Public Service Act, I hope that will not give opportunities for reverting to a state of affairs which prevailed some years ago, when there was a tendency to exert political influence in order to obtain appointments to the civil service. For some time past members of Parliament have been free, to a very large extent, from being approached by those who sought positions in the civil service.

The Colonial Secretary: There have been no vacancies.

Hon. J. W. LANGSFORD: There have been many appointments advertised in the newspapers.

The Colonial Secretary: All filled from inside the service.

Hon. J. W. LANGSFORD: That may be so, but it is to be hoped that the amendment to the Act will not again provide opportunities for the exercising of political influence. I agree with the extension of the hours of the civil service to 5 o'clock, but I would like to have seen the duration of Saturday's work limited to 12 o'clock, as at present, or to 12.30, in view of the movement which must always go on growing until entirely successful, of a universal Saturday half-holiday. When the Saturday half-holiday was enforced all the depression in the City, or at all events a great part of it, was attributed to the fact of its existence, and it was said that if the half-holiday were on Wednesday, prosperity would again come to the State; but I think there are as many shops and houses vacant to-day in Perth as there were last year, possibly more. I should like to have seen the Saturday hours extended to not later than 12.30 p.m.

Hon. G. Randell: Quite late enough too.

Hon. J. W. LANGSFORD: I join with other members who have expressed their appreciation of the action of the

Premier in staying in Western Australia when he might have gone to London as the Agent General. Possibly it was in his mind that some politicians when they have come back from London have passed out of political life here, and he might have thought the same thing would happen to him. He is still comparatively a young man, having a great many of his spurs yet to win, but we appreciate his action in staying here.

Hon. R. F. SHOLL: He will be going all the same.

Hon. J. W. LANGSFORD: The continuance of the present policy, as indicated in the Speech, for perhaps three or four years longer, may be the best thing for Western Australia, and after that period has expired the event to which the hon. member refers might happen, and then, no doubt, the honour will be better appreciated by the Premier. With regard to liquor law reform, I do not know what the full measure will be, but I hope members will look at it from the point of view of the public interest. I shall endeavour to look at it in that way myself. The reduction of the franchise of the Legislative Council has come before us so often that I sometimes despair that it will ever be brought down in a practical way. We have had it mentioned in many Governors' Speeches, and when it does reach us, I shall be prepared to give it not an unfriendly reception. I heartily support the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply.

Hon. R. F. SHOLL (North): I do not as a rule speak to the Address-in-Reply, but as this will be my last opportunity, I propose making a few remarks now. In doing so I may disagree with certain portions of the policy of the Government, but at the same time I must acknowledge, and I think we all do, that the present Government are imbued with an honest desire to push on the prosperity of the State and to work for its future good. They work hard, they use a tremendous lot of energy, and they travel about a good deal, and I think, taking their policy altogether, it is one having in view the advancement of the country. I am like some members who think that the Gov-

ernment are going a little too fast for our means in the way of building railways too rapidly, and expending a lot of money in developing the goldfields. In addition there is too much spent out of loan moneys which should come out of revenue, and in many ways the Government, I think, are going at high pressure when they might, without ceasing building public works, and other necessary works, mark-time just a little so as to allow us to breathe. There is a depression and money is scarce, and with regard to the measures brought forward, dealing with advances of money by the Agricultural Bank, in my opinion the security offered is not too good at the present time. As far as agricultural settlement is concerned there is no doubt that has been a success, and we shall reap the benefit in the near future, but it takes time; but with regard to advances to agriculturists I think the bank advance money to people who can afford to do without its assistance, because they have the money to spend themselves. The bank is not always used to help those who have not any money, but men in business who have money to spend and the means of spending it. These are the people who take advantage of the low rate of interest and the easy terms under the Land Act to make use of the Agricultural Bank by taking up large areas. With regard to Bills, I notice that measures are to be introduced to deal with municipalities and road boards. I notice too that these Bills have been circulated through the different road boards and municipalities. This is a large country and the conditions are so different throughout that I think these Bills might have been distributed among members of Parliament, so that they might have had the opportunity of communicating with their constituents to ascertain their opinions as to whether the provisions of these Bills were suitable for their particular districts.

Hon. W. Kingsmill: I think that is a breach of privilege.

The Colonial Secretary: The Municipal Bill has not been distributed at all.

Hon. R. F. SHOLL: The Roads Boards Bill has.

The Colonial Secretary: It was introduced last session, and I think that is the Bill which has been distributed.

Hon. R. F. SHOLL: I did not see that Bill; there was a Health Bill.

The Colonial Secretary: It was before members last session.

Hon. R. F. SHOLL: Has the Bill been prepared?

The Colonial Secretary: Yes.

Hon. R. F. SHOLL: Why was it not distributed so that in a place like Kimberley, where the conditions are different from those of the Eastern districts, the people there might have had an opportunity of seeing it.

The Colonial Secretary: It is not printed yet.

Hon. R. F. SHOLL: It must have been printed because it was distributed among the roads boards.

The Colonial Secretary: You are referring to the Bill of last session.

Hon. R. F. SHOLL: In the old days Bills used to be published in the *Government Gazette*, and people affected were able to make useful suggestions, so that when the measure came before Parliament these suggestions were advanced to assist in the passing of the measure. We are talking about settling this large country and reference has been made to the fact that there is a population of only 270,000, and goodness only knows how many millions of acres of land, but people do not take into consideration the great area of poor land, sand plain, and useless land. With regard to settling the Kimberleys I am sure the Government are perfectly in earnest in their endeavour to place a population there, and my only hope is that they will be successful; but my experience is that if they try to grow cotton and tropical products there, I am afraid, though I am in favour of a White Australia, that they will never be able to do it and keep Australia white. It will not be profitable to cultivate cotton or tea, and other tropical plants and pay men 10s. a day, the least that you would have to pay in the tropics. The Government must realise that special labour will have to be imported, and that it will have to be Chinese or some other labour. These people could be brought here on a three

years' contract and then returned. That, I think, would retain the principles of a White Australia, and at the same time it would be possible to make the Kimberleys and the tropical parts of Western Australia profitable, which it will not be possible to do with white labour. I think that ought to be realised, and it will be so in time. What are we paying for white labour now? What are we paying on sugar? Sugar has gone up in price, and the consequence is that the local producer in the Eastern States has put the price up so that there can be just a margin below the imported article. The general community have to pay through the nose, simply for this fetish of a White Australia, or the disinclination to employ coloured labour in the tropics. With regard to the alteration of the franchise of the Upper House, goodness knows I am conservative enough, but I must say that if the conduct of the business during the last two sessions is to be allowed—I am alluding now to the Government and the way that members in this House allowed the Government to work the House by bringing in Bills and throwing them on the Table, suspending the Standing Orders, which were only intended to be suspended in the event of urgent business, and which were suspended in order to permit of a Bill, rejected by this House to be reintroduced—then I think members of the Legislative Council are neglecting their duties. What with the numerous works which went through last session members seem to have been paralysed. I have heard members say, "I do not approve of this, but I think I will support it." Why? Because they have a little railway going through their own constituency. This is not a position a member of the House should take up. Members should protect the privileges of the House and they should also be beyond log-rolling business. In all my Parliamentary experience I have never seen so much of it as in the last two sessions, and I have been in both Houses. If that sort of thing goes on it will be better to abolish the Upper House. I am not going to vote for a reduction of the franchise, because members of the Legislative Council should realise that they have to protect not only

the country but also the dignity of the House and their own independence by not allowing the Government to put off important Bills and rush them through in a few hours, after keeping the House idle for the greater part of the session. When the question of the franchise comes up, if it does come up, I shall have great pleasure in opposing it, because if it is reduced it will mean the abolition of the Upper House. If that takes place the only safeguard will be to alter the Constitution and have elective ministries. This is experimental, and I do not think we would care to try it, but it would be much better than the other and the manner in which the business of this House has been conducted during the last two sessions. I hope the House will tell the Government that Bills must be brought down at an earlier stage of the session, and time given to consider them by this House, and that this House will refuse to pass any Bills if the Standing Orders have to be suspended. Bills have been rejected and reintroduced in a quarter of an hour, advantage having been taken of the suspension of the Standing Orders. This is a disgrace to the House, and I do not wonder at people losing confidence in the Legislative Council when this is allowed to be done by members of the House. That was done last session. With regard to liquor reform, I must say I am in sympathy with it, though I am not a teetotaler by any means (I wish I had been), but I do not think you can make a people temperate by Act of Parliament. At the same time I think there are too many hotels, and there should be some restriction on the licensing laws all over the country. I would advocate making those hotels which will be left, contribute more, and I believe that is the idea of the Government. If that is not done the hotels that will remain will have a monopoly; and their business will become more valuable. The Treasurer has my sympathy, but I am not going to agree to any law that will prove an injustice to those who have invested their money in hotels in a legitimate manner. I am sure we all listen to Mr. Randell, when he speaks, with great interest, but I would like to remark that with regard to the facilities, that he

suggested should be provided for the export of our produce, I agree that when we have a surplus of produce to export it is time to give facilities. But what is the position to-day? There has been a clamour and a rush for export; we have exported lambs and we have paid a high price for meat. We have been exporting flour and the flour is now £2 a ton more than it was when it was exported. We have been exporting wheat; it was sold at between 3s. and 3s. 6d. a bushel, and to-day it is between 5s. 6d. and 6s. We have been exporting, and facilities have been offered to exporters when the produce should have been kept in the country for our own requirements. You hear a clamour from people about the rise in prices: it is reasonable if they cannot buy their produce cheaply to increase their prices, yet the Government are offering facilities for exporting produce when we have not sufficient for our own requirements. I quite agree that every facility should be offered for the export of our products, or for their storing until a market is available. But I think it is absolutely wrong, and unfair to the consuming people of this country, if the producer is afforded facilities for sending produce away and supplying it in another market at a cheaper rate than he demands here. Now, with regard to the deficit. It is a very small cue; but then we are a very small community. However, I do not think we need bother our heads about a few hundred thousand pounds of deficit. It is a bad advertisement; but I think the Government are taking very strong measures when they try to cut down by a few pounds the cost of the civil service. It may be that there are certain officials in the service who are not really required, and perhaps it would be but a fair thing to dispense with these. As for extending the office hours, it was probably only fair and reasonable; but I am not altogether in accord with the proposition to make all civil servants work until one o'clock on the Saturday. In winter time in particular, when the daylight hours are so short. I think it would be more generous on the part of the Government to let these men away at midday, in order that they might be able to devote their afternoon to

healthful recreation. Certainly I do not agree to keeping the men on till 5 o'clock during the week days and then making them work an extra hour on the Saturday as well. As for the position of Agent General, I would like very much to see it taken out of the region of political influence. This could easily be done by an Act of Parliament, though I do not suppose this Government will do it. When we get a good man at the head of affairs, at the end of three years he wishes to obtain the appointment; so we are always losing our best men. I suppose it is only natural, for they want to see new countries, or perhaps to educate their children. For my part I would like to see the Agent Generalship done away with altogether, for I think a business agent would be all that we require. In any case, it is nearly time the Agent Generalship was removed from Parliamentary influence. I quite agree with the remarks made in regard to our Premier. I think he has proved himself a most energetic, intelligent, and practical Premier; and there is no doubt he does not save himself in regard to moving about the country. As for the Agricultural Bank, I see there is a proposal to increase the advances to settlers to £750. I do not think that the Agricultural Bank money should be used for the assistance of those who can themselves afford to pay for the settlement of their land. I do not go to the Agricultural Bank for assistance—I suppose I would not get it if I did—yet I am spending thousands of pounds in settling country in the North. Within the last 12 months I have spent £8,000 in trying to settle a station for my sons. I have had to put down an artesian bore that cost me £2,000 yet I did not go to the Government and ask them to contribute to this or to help me to put down the bore. Why then should other people seek that assistance when they can afford to do the work themselves? Another thing I disagree with is the policy of advancing to settlers or agriculturists money for the purchase of sheep, or of supplying them with sheep on deferred payment. We know that the life of a sheep is but short, and that so much depends on a season. You may lose a whole lot in a season. Now, if these

people are assisted by railways, by 20 years' terms on a small rental, and also by money lent at a low rate for the purpose of legitimate improvements, I think they might reasonably be expected to save sufficient to buy a few sheep for themselves. To supply them with sheep is to depreciate their securities. I think it is a mistake to advance money for sheep to people who know nothing about sheep. I heard the other day of a lady who having some lambs went away, and paid someone 10s. a week to look after them. When she came back a number of the sheep had died and she brought an action to recover. These were people who had had money from the Agricultural Bank. With regard to Collie coal I am pleased to note that this is becoming a profitable industry. I hope it will continue to be profitable. At the same time it ought to be profitable. These companies get concessions over the railways, and if you want a ton of coal for local consumption in Perth it costs you 25s. Under these conditions I think the industry ought to become a very profitable one indeed. With regard to these railways through timber country, the line from Wonnerup to Nannup is through timber country. The country has been put to a very great expense in building this railway, and we find the Government have now let a timber concession to some company, and have also given a concession over a large number of acres to some men for the purpose of dairy farming. I think these people are Victorians. There was some little scandal in connection with double commissions—in regard to the butter scandals and railway freights. The point is this: that no one can get a title to land along this railway, because he has first to obtain the sanction of these timber people who have the concession. Now, if we are going to build private railways for favoured individuals who want to cut the timber and are going to block good agricultural land, it is time this system was stopped. Millars' Company have to build their own railways into the forest, and I can see no reason for departing from this rule: unless indeed there be something at the terminus which will assist in settling the land and adding to the freight of the rail-

way. There is another point in regard to timber. I am not sure whether it is wise that so much timber should be allowed to be cut and used. As far as I can understand, all the young trees are cut down for sleepers instead of being allowed to mature. That will affect the future of the State in regard to timber supplies, and is a matter that should be taken into consideration. I think I have pretty well arrived at the end of the few remarks I want to make, except to draw attention to the large amount of money placed in the hands of one Minister for the development of our goldfields. I forget the amount, but it was something over £100,000 last year. I think this is altogether too much to place in the hands of any single Minister to distribute how he likes—more especially a Minister who represents a goldfields constituency. I am not reflecting on the present Minister, in the slightest—far from it. I think we are very fortunate indeed to have a man of such honest, straightforward principles as is Mr. Gregory. Still, representing, as he does, a goldfields constituency, pressure is brought to bear upon him to spend more money in the development of this industry than he otherwise might do. We have heard something of the development of this industry, but it must be remembered that the expenditure also has developed. All these State batteries do not pay us. We are getting the return, but it is not a profitable one. How much do we spend on batteries all over the place? These are matters which require a great deal of consideration. I do not like these miscellaneous votes. If I were in the other House I would do as I did in the old days—I would call for a return of the expenditure from these miscellaneous and incidental votes. If some of the members in the other House, instead of talking so much were to call for a return of this nature it would be doing some good for the country. With regard to the abattoirs I have little to say, but to my mind it is absurd to put them on the sand hills at North Fremantle. The Government had better utilise the abattoirs at Owen's Anchorage. There is no country about the spot, and it must be dirty. On

the other hand, with the large agricultural district to the east and south, there is not the slightest doubt Midland Junction would prove the proper place. I have no interests at Midland Junction, though I have considerable interests at North Fremantle. I would like to say that I endorse the kind and sympathetic remarks made with reference to our late President, Sir George Shenton. Of course, I have known him all my life, and his usefulness as a public man everyone appreciates; while his charity and his good work all his life have been recognised through the Press and in different institutions.

Hon. T. H. WILDING (East): In perusing the Governor's Speech and the Premier's pre-sessional speech it is pleasing to see how hopeful the Government are for the future prosperity of the State. And why should they not be hopeful? Our industries are in a good way, our gold mines, our coal mines, and our timber industry are flourishing, so they have reason to be hopeful. But when we come to the lands what do we find? If Mr. Sholl had taken a trip to the Eastern districts and seen the amount of land the settlers have brought under cultivation, he would not have said that we were not producing more wheat than we required.

Hon. R. F. Sholl: I was looking at the present condition.

Hon. T. H. WILDING: We have to look to the future too. There is no doubt the people are going on the land in large numbers and that we must open up the land, and the only way of doing it properly is to build agricultural railways. I think the Government are to be complimented on giving us to understand that they are going to continue their present policy of building railways to these districts, but I am sorry that they have not in the Governor's Speech told us that they intend to spend half a million in this direction. We need it. The people who have gone on the land require it, and if we do not keep faith with them in this direction, it will be the means of a great many of them leaving the land. They are out 60 and 70 miles without means of communication; they have gone there be-

lieving that the Government are going to extend the railways in their direction. Where they are the land is all good and suitable for production of wheat and sheep, and though they have only been on the land perhaps twelve months, they have their 40 acres and 50 acres under crop, and are preparing to put in their 300 acres or 400 acres next year. But how are they going to make it a paying proposition with 50 miles of teaming to do? I think it is absolutely necessary that these railways should be carried out, and I am sorry, as I said, the Government did not see their way clear to tell the people of the State that they were going to spend half a million of money in this direction. The Government are to be commended on their present system of land settlement, that is the system of survey before selection and providing roads and water for the settlers, and providing that when a man goes out on the land thrown open in the Eastern districts he can see the land he can obtain and the amount the Government are prepared to lend on it, so that then he knows exactly what he has before him. It is the best thing the Government could have done, and I say again they are to be complimented on this way of settling our lands. I also notice that the Government are prepared to advance £100 for the purpose of assisting the manufacture of agricultural machinery in the State. We have been told that we could not subsidise this industry, but I think the Government have overcome the difficulty very nicely. Why should not the machinery required—and only last year something like £60,000 worth of machinery came here from the Eastern States, and over £100,000 worth was brought into the State—why should it not be built here in our midst and the people manufacturing it help to pay the taxation? The Government are doing the correct thing by endeavouring to encourage the manufacture of agricultural machinery in the State. It is pleasing to see that they intend to endeavour to develop the lands in the Northern portion of the State. They have sent Mr. Despeissis to the North to ascertain what tropical agriculture can be carried out there. It seems to me that in the past the North has been very much neglected. We know there are

wonderful possibilities there, and if the white men cannot work there owing to the climatic conditions it seems, as Mr. Sholl said just now, there is no reason why we should not under contract bring men there who can work under the conditions. We need not give them rights of any kind; they simply come under contract and, when they have completed their term, leave or sign on for another term.

Hon. W. Patrick: The Commonwealth would not allow it.

Hon. T. H. WILDING: There is no reason why we should not try it. We want to develop the North; we can ask if it is necessary that we should; but we must develop that portion of the country. If not, someone else will come along and do it for us.

Hon. R. F. Sholl: And the Commonwealth will realise that before very many years are over.

Hon. T. H. WILDING: In connection with the reduction of the franchise for this House, I think it a pity that the Government intend to introduce this Bill. It seems to me that in a State like ours where wonderful possibilities exist any man can in a few years obtain property of the annual value of £25, and that being so, it is a mistake on the part of the Government to bring down this Bill, because we know very well that it aims at the abolition of this House. It is coming from a party that have that object at heart, and I for one am opposed to it. I have no further remarks to make, and I heartily support the adoption of the Address-in-Reply.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. D. Connolly): It is not my intention to delay the house long with the remarks I have to make this evening on the Address-in-Reply, because the debate has lengthened out rather more than was probably anticipated in the earlier part of the evening. I feel pleased indeed that the Governor's Speech has been received so well by the House, and I do not know that I have anything at all to reply to in the way of criticism levelled at the policy of the Government as laid down in the Governor's Speech or in the pre-sessional

speech delivered by the Premier at Bunbury a short time ago.

Hon. G. Randell: You will probably have that later on.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Later on I shall probably have an opportunity of defending the actions and the policy of the Government in the Bills that may be brought before the House. It is certainly very much to be regretted that it was found necessary to adjourn one branch of the Legislature at this particular time: but, at the same time, as hon. members have been good enough to remark, it is essential that the Premier should attend this Conference now being held in the East. As members are aware it was not the wish of this Government or of the Premier that this Conference should be held, as the Government were perfectly satisfied to stand by the resolutions adopted at the Conference held in February or March last in Hobart. Those resolutions were the first unanimously adopted by the representatives of the whole of the States. There may have been resolutions carried by a majority of the representatives of the States that probably were as favourable to Western Australia in the allocation of the money by the Commonwealth as those adopted at the Hobart Conference, but they were not unanimously adopted by the whole of the States. It was at the Hobart Conference where there was the first unanimity among the representatives of the different States in regard to this, and we were pleased that our Premier was able to persuade the Premiers of the other States that Western Australia stood in a different position to the other States; that is to say, that she should have more customs revenue returned because she produced more than the other States. The representatives of the other States conceded this and fixed on a lump sum, at first £250,000, and then diminishing for 25 years each year by £10,000, to be returned to this State above the proportion for each State; and the Government have every confidence that such a provision will be made in the agreement that will be arrived at in the coming Conference. Even the late Federal Government, from which we did not get much quarter in that direction, also recog-

nised this principle and were prepared to treat Western Australia in regard to granting her a quarter of a million, but the total sum they were prepared to distribute to the whole of the States was altogether inadequate. Unfortunately, Western Australia has lost considerably in her finances by joining the Federal Union. Now, in this respect, I would like to mention an instance that has just lately occurred in the coming into force of the Old-Age Pensions Act, another matter that is going to affect the finances of Western Australia in a very marked manner. It is anticipated old-age pensions will cost Australia about £2,000,000 per annum. The expenditure on transferred departments, such as the Post Office and Defence, is simply charged up to the particular State in which it is incurred, but the expenditure of new departments, such as new buildings and old-age pensions, is charged on a per capita basis. We stand in a different position in regard to population than the other States as we have a less percentage of old people than they. Our quota of population is about one-sixteenth, therefore we will be asked to contribute to the old-age pension fund from £120,000 to £125,000 per annum. We are not going to benefit to anything like that extent. At the present time there have been received about 2,000 claims from Western Australia for the pension. It is fair to assume that not more than two-thirds of those claims will be granted, and in fact I doubt personally, after going into the matter, whether even two-thirds will be allowed. That means there will be something like 1,300 claims paid for old-age pensions in Western Australia, or, in other words, a sum of about £34,000 or £35,000. We shall receive benefit to that extent, though we will be debited with something like £120,000 or £125,000.

Hon. W. Kingsmill: That is about the cost of our present system.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The present system costs rather less than that. We will not benefit even to the extent I have mentioned, as the Act provides among other things that so soon as a man enters a destitute home, controlled by the

State, his pension shall cease. To quote the words of the Act—

"If a successful claimant of a pension is an inmate of a benevolent asylum or other charitable institution the pension shall become payable as from a date not more than 28 days prior to the pensioner being discharged from or leaving the asylum or institution, but no payment on account of pension shall be made to him so long as he is an inmate of the asylum or institution."

That means this. At the present time we have in the institution close on 700 men and women, and it is calculated that out of this number there are from 400 to 500 over the age of 56 or 60, and therefore are entitled to the pension. Very few of these people can go out of the institution, take the pension and live on it, consequently the State will be forced to keep those men and women in the institution. So that if one deducts the 450, there will be left about 700 or 800 persons who will receive the old-age pension; therefore, in reality, we shall only benefit to the extent of £20,000 or £25,000 from the pension, although, as I said before, we will be debited to the extent of £120,000 or £125,000. A question has been asked of the Commonwealth Treasurer as to whether old-age pensions would be paid to old people in a State institution, and his reply was that they would not be paid. While the Act provides that the pension can be paid to a society or to a person who takes charge of an old age pensioner, it cannot be paid to the State which controls an institution.

Hon. W. Kingsmill: We shall have to turn the institution into a limited liability company.

Hon. W. Patrick: You must find a way to get over that.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Section 31 says:—

"If it appears to the magistrate that the claimant, although otherwise qualified for is unfit to be entrusted with a pension he may recommend that the claimant instead of being granted a pension be sent to a benevolent asylum or charitable institution, and the registrar shall at once notify the Deputy-

Commissioner, who may thereupon cause steps to be taken for the admission of the claimant into a benevolent asylum or any prescribed public or private charitable institution."

In the one section it says the pension cannot be paid while a man is in the institution, while in the other section it is set out that a magistrate can have power to refuse the pension and to send the man to an institution. If the Commonwealth Government decline to pay an institution a way to get over the difficulty might be to discharge the men and women from the home, cause them to apply for old-age pensions and before they are readmitted force the Commonwealth Government to make the arrangements mentioned in that section. I do not know whether that would be practicable.

Hon. W. Kingsmill: It would be rough on the old men.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes. However, so far as we can we are trying to protect the State. We forced all the inmates to apply for the pension so that they may prove their case, and possibly we may get payment from the Commonwealth Government, or if the pensioners desire they may go out of the institution and receive pensions outside instead of staying in the home.

Hon. W. Kingsmill: You should try and get the Act amended.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: An attempt was made in this direction, but it failed. However, this is one of the matters the Premier will go into in the Eastern States, and he will endeavour to obtain redress. No doubt if it is pointed out to the Commonwealth Government how unfairly the Act works in a State like ours, they may feel disposed to alter it. The Act is a copy of the Queensland and New South Wales measures. If we were in the same position as those States were then it would not much matter as the Government controlled both the pensions and the institutions, but when one Government controls the institutions and another Government the pensions, it is a different matter altogether.

Hon. W. Kingsmill: It is an obvious injustice, and assuredly was not meant.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Possibly not, and that was why I was surprised when I saw the answer of the Treasurer to a question put to him by the member for Fremantle, Mr. Hedges. I have been much gratified to hear the very complimentary way in which the lands policy settlement of the State has been spoken of. As you know, this Government have given particular attention to the settlement of land, and it is very pleasing to know and hear that their efforts are being appreciated by the Parliament of the State. I quite agree with the remarks of Mr. Kingsmill that people have not in the past quite realised the cheapness of our lands. That was brought home very forcibly to me a few months ago when I paid a visit to the Eastern States. At that time I noticed that land had increased in value during the previous six or seven years most materially. Land there, which would not produce more wealth than ours, was selling at about £2 or £3 per acre, while our land here was being sold for 10s. an acre, and with terms for payment over 20 years. This meant that our land was practically selling at 6d. per acre. That fact is only beginning to be realised now, and undoubtedly it is helping, to a large extent, to cause the rush for land that is taking place. With the question of land settlement, that of immigration is largely allied. In answer to remarks made by Mr. Randell, I may say I am afraid he does not quite appreciate the care that is taken by the Government in the selection of immigrants. I say without fear of contradiction that there is no State in the Commonwealth, and probably no colony in the Empire, that exercises such care in the selection of immigrants as does Western Australia.

Hon. G. Randell: For all that, we get a lot of undesirable people.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I do not admit that. We may get some, and it is quite impossible, no matter how careful one is when immigrants are coming to a country, to prevent a certain number of undesirables from being included.

Hon. G. Randell: I do not mean by the word "undesirables" anything offensive. I mean unsuitable people.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Take last year, for instance, when 1,200 or 1,300 immigrants came here. We heard of 10, 12, or perhaps 20 undesirable people and that after all, means only one or two per cent. of the total number of new arrivals. Any country which can encourage immigrants and only have one or two per cent. of dissatisfied persons among them, has every reason to be satisfied. We recognise that there is an opening here for only two classes of immigrants, bona fide farm labourers, or farmers and domestic servants, and on no account do we encourage any others. This, undoubtedly, will bear fruit in the future, as every good immigrant one brings to the State provides a magnificent advertisement, for he will induce others to come here also, and so in a very few years the immigration question will no longer be a trouble. On the other hand, if in the first instance the State get too many "undesirables" such persons will induce others of their own kind to come out here, and the number of "undesirables" will grow proportionately. It is very gratifying that side by side with agricultural development our mining industry is looking considerably better to-day than it has for a number of years past. The development in the deep mines in Western Australia, and the extension of the lodes to mines working to the north and south, mean renewed life to the old mines, and will bring into existence mines that do not exist to-day. The Government have endeavoured, as far as possible, to exercise economy in every direction, but naturally in a growing State like this it is quite impossible to cut down every department. In the department which I control considerable economy has been effected, and, as Mr. Kingsmill remarked, I do not know whether there is any other department in which it is more unpopular to make economies than that of the Colonial Secretary. Take the hospitals, for instance. We intend considerably to reduce expenditure in this direction. I recognised when the question was first tackled that in effecting economies in this branch of the service, the Government were undertaking work which would be by no means popular. It is probably the last thing one should tackle, but at the

same time, as Mr. Kingsmill correctly remarked, all the Government should be called on to do in the way of hospital accommodation is to provide accommodation for the indigent people. If they do that no more can reasonably be expected from them. That is what the Government are aiming at. Undoubtedly, in the past the hospitals have grown to enormous proportions. The rush of population of a few years ago was so great that one could not reasonably expect people to make provision for themselves in the direction of hospital accommodation, and the Government had to erect buildings and equip and maintain them. Mr. Randell will know that very well, for he occupied the position of Colonial Secretary at the particular time of which I speak. I think the time has arrived when people might reasonably be expected to bear a greater share of the burden of hospitals than they have done in the past. When one compares the hospital expenditure in the other States with that in Western Australia, it will be seen at once that our disbursements in comparison with the population are altogether out of proportion to the expenditure in the neighbouring States. Take the State of Queensland, with a population just about double ours—530,000 against our 279,000—the Government expended there last year £51,000 while we expended £69,000, that is in administration. New South Wales, with a population of a million and a half expended £95,000 against our £69,000; Victoria, with a million and a quarter, spent only £42,000; South Australia, with a population of 380,000, spent £36,000. From the reduction that has taken place in the hospitals we expect this year to save from £16,000 to £18,000, and I see no reason why that should not be considerably added to next year, and as years go on. Even with that reduction we are on the liberal side as compared with the expenditure in the other States. There has been something said that we are throwing the burden on the people and that the charitable will have to put their hands in their pockets to make up this amount. Such is not the case at all. The amount given to the different hospitals is more than sufficient to pay for all the indigent cases, and that is all the Government

should be expected to do. People other than those I have mentioned, if they so desire, with a small expenditure on the hospital, can make provision for themselves when they become sick. I simply mentioned the economy effected in hospitals, but that is not the sole economy which the Government have effected. I only mentioned the question of the hospitals to show that the proposed economy will not inflict any hardship on the people. Economies are going on wherever it is possible to effect them. At the present time an assistant commissioner under the Public Service Act has been appointed to go through the public service. This is not with the view of inflicting any unnecessary hardship on the members of the service, but wherever economies can be effected they will be effected. As one hon. member remarked to-night, probably the worst time for pruning or retrenching in the public service is in bad times, because it will be quite impossible for those people who may be retrenched to obtain positions outside the service; but the Government have in mind, and the Minister for Lands has the scheme before him just now, of organising a system whereby any civil servant who may be retrenched will be assisted to go on the land. I do not think I need delay members by going through the legislation it is intended to introduce during the session, as that will be dealt with in due course. I do not intend to delay the House any longer at this hour. I had intended to say a great deal more, but I did not think the debate would have extended to this late hour, otherwise we might have adjourned earlier in the evening and met again to-morrow.

Question put and passed; the Address adopted and ordered to be presented to the Governor.

ADJOURNMENT — FOUR WEEKS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. D. Connolly): I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, 31st August.

Question passed.

House adjourned at 10.20 p.m.