

BILL—PENSIONERS (RATES EXEMPTION.)

Second reading.

Order of the Day read for the resumption from the 1st November, of the debate on the second reading.

On motion by Hon. G. W. Miles, debate adjourned.

BILL—FEDERAL REFERENDUM.

Second Reading.

Order of the day read for the resumption, from the 10th October, of the adjourned debate on the second reading.

Hon. J. EWING (South-West) [9.30]: In the absence of Mr. Willmott who secured the adjournment of the debate, I move—

That the debate be adjourned until Tuesday, 21st November.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN (Metropolitan) [9.31]: I am opposed to the further adjournment of this measure. We do not want to trifle with a matter of this sort. Mr. Willmott secured an adjournment for a month in order that members might have before them the report of the Royal Commission dealing with the relations between the State and the Federal authorities. It seems questionable whether we shall get the report. Mr. Ewing has moved for a further adjournment without giving any reason whatever, and I can only assume that his object is to shelve the Bill.

Hon. J. Ewing: No.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: Then there is no reason for further adjourning the debate for a fortnight. If the hon. member presses his motion for a fortnight's adjournment I shall ask the House to divide. We ought to settle this question and know where we are.

Hon. J. EWING (South-West—in reply) [9.33]: Mr. Lovekin has quite misunderstood me in this matter. Mr. Willmott is absent in the country and will not be back for a week. The Royal Commission investigating this question have not completed their deliberations. Therefore I ask for an adjournment for a fortnight. I happen to be a member of the Royal Commission.

Hon. A. Lovekin: Is it bona fide?

Hon. J. EWING: Yes, and there is no intention whatever of shelving this question. I am as anxious as the hon. member to secure finality. I hope that within a fortnight the Chairman of the Royal Commission will call the evidence he requires and present a report which will be satisfactory to the hon. member.

Hon. A. Lovekin: I accept the hon. member's statement.

Motion passed; the debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 9.34 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 7th November, 1922.

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

QUESTION—MIGRATION, PASSAGES.

Mr. LATHAM asked the Premier: 1, Are any free passages granted from Great Britain other than those under the ex-Imperial scheme which closed on 31st December, 1921? 2, Under the scheme arranged between the Imperial, Commonwealth, and State Governments, are immigrants expected to pay two-thirds of the passage money down on application. 3, If so, will not this scheme operate harshly on desirable immigrants, the children of British parents who would be pleased to avail themselves of this scheme? 4, Will the Government consider this aspect with a view to affording relief to parents with children anxious to migrate to this State?

The PREMIER replied: 1, No. 2, 3, The transport of immigrants is undertaken and carried out solely by the Federal Government. 4, It is not a matter for the State Government.

QUESTION—LAND SETTLEMENT, PEMBERTON.

Mr. J. H. SMITH asked the Premier: 1, Is it the policy of the Government to hold all lands south and east of Bridgetown for group settlements? 2, It is not a fact that applications from Pemberton and other parts have been refused with the answer that the land is being held for group settlements? 3, Will he make available suitable lands in the vicinity of Pemberton and other places for men who require no assistance from Government?

The PREMIER replied: 1, No. 2, Yes. 3, Yes, wherever possible. A number of blocks are already open in various parts of the South-West.

QUESTION—EDUCATION, TEACHERS' ALLOWANCES.

Mr. LATHAM asked the Minister for Agriculture: 1, In addition to salaries, what allowances, if any, are made to unclassified teachers in charge of small schools? 2, What is the number of days on which such teachers are actually employed by the department?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE replied: 1, (a) District allowances in gold-fields and North-West schools (list attached). (b) Forage allowance (£10-£15 per annum) when a teacher is forced to reside at a considerable distance from the school and a conveyance has to be provided for her use. 2, The whole of the year, viz., five days' actual teaching each week, except during vacation periods.

SELECT COMMITTEE—WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BANK ACT AMENDMENT (PRIVATE) BILL.

Report presented.

Hon. T. WALKER presented the report of the select committee appointed to inquire into this Bill.

Report received and read.

Mr. STUBBS: As Chairman of Committees I desire to inform the House that the provisions of the Standing Orders with regard to this Bill have been complied with.

SELECT COMMITTEE—CARL LESCHEN CASE.

Report presented.

Hon. T. WALKER presented the report of the select committee appointed to inquire into the retirement of Carl Leschen.

Report received and read.

BILL—NAVIGATION ACT AMENDMENT.

Report of Committee adopted.

BILL—PEARLING ACT AMENDMENT. In Committee.

Resumed from the 31st October; Mr. Stubbs in the Chair, the Colonial Secretary in charge of the Bill.

Clause 20—Amendment of Section 83:

The CHAIRMAN: The Colonial Secretary has moved an amendment as follows:—"That after 'tender' in line 2 of Subclause 2a, the words 'or pearl fisher other than the person authorised by the licensing officer to open she'll' be inserted."

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I ask leave to withdraw the amendment.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I do not press for the carrying of this clause. As

pointed out by the Opposition Leader, it is bad in principle.

Clause put and negatived.

Clause 21—Addition of new section to Part III., Powers of superintendents regarding the employment of masters and pearl fishers:

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Subsection 1 of the proposed section calls for particular attention. It is on the same lines as former clauses of the Bill dealing with the question of suitability. It occurs to me, however, that a man might be described as "unsuitable" simply because he would not agree to the terms offered him by those wishing to engage him.

The Premier: You are quite wrong in supposing that this is a matter of wages.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The subject was dealt with fully on a recent evening. The Premier and the Colonial Secretary then told us definitely that licenses were not issued in respect of qualifications, but by way of controlling the pearling industry. The member for Pilbara pointed out that there was only one justification for the issue of a license, namely, qualification.

The Premier: The object is to prevent dummying.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: It is not a question of dummying at all. The Colonial Secretary also stated that there was a scarcity of men for the pearling industry.

The Colonial Secretary: No; I said I had no knowledge of any scarcity.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The Colonial Secretary said that in case of a man changing from one boat to another the owner of the former boat would have difficulty in getting a man.

The Colonial Secretary: Someone else may have said that; I did not.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Under this paragraph the superintendent might be used to bring about the cancellation of the certificate of a man refusing to accept the terms offered him. What is meant by "unsuitable"? I could understand a man being refused a license because he was of evil fame. The owner of the pearling boat should say whether a man is suitable or not.

The Colonial Secretary: It is right for the superintendent to interfere if he knows the man to be guilty of dummying, or has reasonable suspicion.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: No man should be punished on mere suspicion.

The Colonial Secretary: It is very difficult to prove some of these cases.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Let the case be proved before a man is condemned and punished. The paragraph had better be struck out. Why should the Government be brought into the matter of managing pearling fleets at all? Under the next paragraph their superintendent will have power to refuse to endorse a pearling agreement if he is satisfied the person is unsuitable. But how will the superintendent know the person to be unsuitable?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: It is quite possible that a man might be unsuitable even though a charge of evil fame could not be

proved against him. The weight of suspicion as regards dummying might be almost overwhelming against him.

Mr. PICKERING: Under Part III. of the parent Act "superintendent" means any person or officer authorised by the Government to discharge the duties of superintendent under that part of the Act. The proposed section represents a very vague method of conferring a responsibility. As regards a master of a ship, for instance, the ability to handle a ship would be his main qualification.

The Colonial Secretary: Not necessarily.

The Premier: He might be only an ordinary tender.

Mr. PICKERING: If there are certain objections which the Colonial Secretary has at the back of his mind, why cannot they be expressed in this paragraph? The power given is very far-reaching.

The Colonial Secretary: The superintendent must have discretionary power.

Mr. PICKERING: But this is arbitrary power, against which there is no appeal. Some more specific interpretation should be given in the paragraph, especially seeing that the superintendent may be anyone.

Mr. O'Loghlen: Will there be more than one superintendent?

Mr. PICKERING: The only place where I can find a definition of "superintendent" is in this clause, and I submit that the Colonial Secretary has not made a sufficiently clear statement to warrant the passing of such a strong clause.

The PREMIER: We are dealing with people brought here for a specific purpose, and I consider the superintendent should have wide power. The superintendent in Broome is an excellent man.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: But he might not be there always.

The PREMIER: The Government can always be trusted to appoint someone to see that these men are fairly protected. If the Bill is to be of any use, considerable powers must be given to the superintendent. If the Committee does not pass the clause the Bill will be rendered practically useless.

Mr. CHESSON: The Commonwealth Government have granted a monopoly to lugger owners with regard to indentured labour. Only a certain amount of labour can be brought in, and the power is in their own hands. If the indentured people are not suitable they can be sent back to the country whence they came. At present the lugger owners have a monopoly and if one wants to go into the business he must buy lugger and slaves as well, and they are just as much slaves as the Kanakas were in Queensland.

Mr. DURACK: I admit the power contained in the clause is somewhat drastic, but the business demands drastic measures. It has been found in the past that the superintendent has not had sufficient control, and the men who are there now can be trusted to use with discretion the power that it is proposed to give them. The objection raised

by the member for Sussex with regard to the owner or master is met by Clause 23, which says, "An owner or master of any ship which an inspector has by order forbidden to be employed in pearling or taken to sea in order to be employed in pearling may in the prescribed manner appeal against such order to a magistrate."

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That deals only with the ship.

Mr. ANGELO: The industry which the Bill deals with is abnormal; it is the only one in which coloured labour is permitted to be engaged, and drastic powers should therefore be placed in the hands of the superintendent who is administering the law. Nearly all the masters will be coloured men and we are not in any way going to make it hard for white men to be employed. There is an appeal allowed against unfair treatment.

Hon. P. Collier: Who is the appeal to?

Mr. ANGELO: To the resident magistrate of the district.

Hon. P. Collier: Nothing of the kind.

Mr. Marshall: There is no appeal whatever provided for in this clause. The matter is entirely in the hands of the superintendent.

Mr. ANGELO: Well perhaps provision could be made for an appeal to a magistrate.

Mr. TEESDALE: I cannot allow this clause to go through; there has been a grievous error made here. There is no such thing as a master on a pearling ship except the man who signs under British Board of Trade articles, and he is a white man. I have had somewhat bitter experience of pearling, and I will not permit any clause to go through which will give a superintendent the drastic and serious authority proposed. At these small hamlets on the coast we cannot get away from one another, and there are often strained relations. It is easy for the people to have strained relations with the superintendent. I cannot support what has been said about the popularity of the superintendent, Mr. Stewart, and I do not intend to support the proposal to give him power which will positively damn any white man up there. The superintendent already has sufficient power; in fact too much. On several occasions when I appealed to him he stood with a facial expression like a tin dish. It was not possible to get anything out of him, and I wondered whether he knew anything of the subject. Clause 23 refers to an owner or master. The master is not necessarily the owner, nor is the owner necessarily the master. If the clause would do away with dummying, I would support it, but it will not be effective.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: If the clause were amended to read "no person shall be engaged or employed as pearl fisher in charge of a pearling ship," the objection might be met.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The appeal clause referred to by the hon. member has nothing whatever to do with this clause; it deals with Section 95 of

the Act, which relates exclusively to the gear, tackle and other articles. The Minister is trying to draw the member for Roebourne, by putting up a distinction without a difference. It is suggested to make it read "pearl fisher in charge."

Mr. Teesdale: The white man is not the pearl fisher.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: But it might be construed to mean that he is in charge of the ship. It is not right to punish any man on suspicion.

The Premier: In this case you cannot prove anything.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The member for Roebourne, who knows everything about pearl fishing, has definitely told us that it is impossible to prevent dummying. I move an amendment—

That in lines 3 and 4 the words "is unsuitable for the position or" be struck out.

That will narrow down the refusal to the ground of evil fame, and if an inspector refuses to give a certificate on the ground that the applicant is of evil fame, the inspector will be liable for damages. These words which I propose to strike out, "is unsuitable for the position," make the objection on the part of the superintendent altogether too broad. Only a reputation of evil fame should be a bar to employment.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I realise that this term "master" is not, perhaps, the proper one to use, because it creates a difficult position for the pearl fisher in charge of a boat. I suggest that we strike out "master" in line 2, and insert "pearl fisher in charge."

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I will withdraw my amendment to afford opportunity for the Minister to move his amendment.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I move an amendment—

That in line 2 "master" be struck out with the view of inserting "pearl fisher in charge."

Mr. ANGELO: According to the interpretation section of the Act of 1912, "pearl fisher" means a person employed on board a ship, "and shall include the master when so employed." Therefore, what shall we gain by striking out "master" and inserting "pearl fisher" when, according to the interpretation in the Act, "pearl fisher" includes "master"?

Hon. P. COLLIER: I do not think the amendment meets the objection raised by the member for Roebourne. Moreover, according to the interpretation of "pearl fisher," as read by the member for Gascoyne, the term includes "master." In any case, the whole principle is wrong. It is wrong to give power to any official to say that an employee is unsuitable, and so must go. We know the bureaucratic minds of departmental officers, even when in the city under the eyes of Min-

isters, members of Parliament and others. Very often the man dressed in a little brief authority, the Jack-in-office will go far in asserting his authority, or in claiming authority which he does not possess. If they will do that in the city, what will they do in the remote North-West, where there is no supervision over them? We know that in such places they become little Czars of little kingdoms. So this superintendent will have autocratic power to say to a man, "You are unsuitable for this work, and out you go." That would apply to a master. With the title master is associated all that is greatest in the British merchant shipping service. To say that he shall be subject to the whim of some Jack-in-office is foreign to our conception of fair play and equity. The amendment would not be so bad if it applied only to coloured men, but it may apply to white men.

The Colonial Secretary: The proposed amendment is restricted to coloured men.

Hon. P. COLLIER: White men may be included.

The Colonial Secretary: Where so employed. There are no white divers now.

Mr. Teesdale: A pearl fisher is a diver.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I am opposed to the clause and the whole principle contained in it.

Amendment put and passed.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I move—

That the words "or pearl fisher in charge" be inserted.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The master in charge is not mentioned amongst those requiring to be licensed, and there is no necessity for the amendment.

The Colonial Secretary: The pearl fisher is not always in charge.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: If the pearl fisher is the diver, he must be licensed before he can dive, and if he is not fit for the position his license is refused.

The Premier: A white man is not licensed but he may be in charge.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Evidently this clause is so framed as not to apply to white men.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The term "pearl fisher in charge" is a synonym for "master." This is introduced for the purpose of preventing the adoption of an intolerant attitude on the part of the pearl fisher who may be in charge.

Amendment put and passed.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I move an amendment—

That in lines 3 and 4 the words "is unsuitable for the position or" be struck out.

I have never seen such strong words used in an Act of Parliament. They are altogether too indefinite, and will place far too much power in the hands of one man. They may lead to all kinds of abuses.

Mr. DURACK: The amendment would destroy the whole purpose of the Bill. The measure has been carefully gone into by the Pearlery Association in conjunction with the Fisheries Department, and represents that which is deemed to be in the best interests of the industry.

The PREMIER: I agree that it is unusual to find such words as these in any Bill, but the situation, as well as the position governing the industry, is unusual. Members should realise that dummying is a very serious thing, and the main purpose of the Bill is to prevent it. If the industry is to be continued, coloured men must be prevented from owning pearling boats. These are drastic powers, but they are necessary. In many cases it is almost impossible to get evidence. The superintendent is the only man to whom these powers could be entrusted so as to help in the prevention of dummying. The fact that this provision is in the Bill will have a good effect, and the men in the industry will know that they are likely to lose their employment if they engage in this evil. Hon. members probably know that the member for Roebourne, who was the only white man on a boat with six coloured men, was knocked overboard.

Mr. Teesdale: They hit me out first.

The PREMIER: Had it not been for the fact that a merciful Providence was watching over him and that the dinghy was behind the boat, he might not have been with us to-day.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: What a lot we have had to put up with since then!

The PREMIER: One of these coloured people knocked the member for Roebourne overboard and the culprit got only three weeks' imprisonment.

Mr. Lambert: He should have been compensated.

The PREMIER: I do not know what would have happened had the hon. member been drowned. Probably the offender would have got off scot free. These provisions would not have been brought before the House if we were not anxious to prevent dummying. If all the benefits of the industry are to go to Japan and other countries, it will be better if pearl-fishing be not engaged in at all. It is no good allowing the present system of dummying to continue.

Mr. TEESDALE: No one would be more pleased than I, if we could stop dummying. I am afraid the clause will not have that effect. While I suggest it should be agreed to, I would like to have it read somewhat differently. The wording is a bit too strong, although I will admit that we have a few renegades in the industry with whom no decent man can associate. They are men who hunger after the colour line and stir up trouble. They read anything appearing in the papers that reflects upon coloured men. These wretched people work with the coloured men and I would like to deal with them. The clause will not do that, because they are not always in charge of a boat. They are the men who arrange the dummying and act as the "go-betweens," never coming into the open. It is

rather too much to give the power to the superintendent to say what constitutes a person as being unsuitable.

The PREMIER: It is no good having the Bill if that provision is not in the clause.

Mr. ANGELO: More is being read into the words "is unsuitable for the position" than is intended. From what I have known of the industry, it has not been necessary for the men in charge of the boats to have passed for their master's or mate's certificates. If an owner chose, he could put a blind man in charge of his boat. The provision complained of is more for the protection of the crew and will enable the superintendent to say whether the man in charge is suitable from that standpoint for his position.

Mr. Teesdale: You don't suggest that the Pearlery Association look at the matter from that point of view.

Mr. ANGELO: If a man has not keen sight, he not only risks the boat but the lives of the crew, particularly in the event of a "cock-eyed Bob" coming along. The subsequent words regarding "evil fame" refer to the individual's character rather than the words complained of by the member for North-East Fremantle.

The PREMIER: These words are intended to have a wide meaning.

Mr. ANGELO: The conditions obtaining in the pearling industry are different from those of any other industry. It is necessary for coloured labour to be employed and the man controlling the industry must have a good deal of power to keep the coloured men in order.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The member for Gascoyne has condemned his own argument. Fancy putting a blind man in charge of a pearling lugger!

Mr. Angelo: I will say "shortsighted"; I did not mean a man who was totally blind.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The member for Kimberley has put the matter clearly to show that it is necessary to protect the employees. He said that the Bill embodied the views of the Pearlery Association after consultation with the departmental officers and, therefore, it was all right. I interjected that the Perth City Council had brought in a Bill to establish city markets—after consultation with departmental officers.

Mr. A. Thomson: The Government would not father that Bill in this Chamber.

The PREMIER: In any case, the City Council do not want to market these pearls.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: If the Marketing Bill had been agreed to they would probably have wanted to market them and collect toll. The Bill should be passed in accordance with the views of the Committee, and not of the Pearlery Association.

Hon. P. Collier: It is an impudent thing to put forward such a view.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Members would not be justified in agreeing to the Bill simply because the Pearlery Association say the Bill contains what they require. The pearlery have admitted in the Bill that they are not competent to carry on their own business and they

want the Government to conduct the industry. There must be some reason for that, otherwise the pearlers would not go to the Government begging them to conduct their business.

The Premier: We have provided that it must be a white man's industry.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: But we want fair play and justice to all concerned. I would prefer to see it conducted by white people alone, but we should not provide justice for one section, and neglect others.

The Premier: There is no question about injustice in this matter.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The Pearlers' Association are throwing the responsibility on to the Government and increasing the expenses.

The Premier: You are wrong.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: It has nothing to do with the inspector to say whether a man is suitable or unsuitable; that is entirely a matter for the man who employs him. The Premier said that the intention was to prevent owners from dummying, but the dummying is done through the pearl fishers. Merely because there may be some suspicion that a man is dummying, an inspector may condemn him as unsuitable for his position, although the man may be quite honest.

Mr. Teesdale: The Japs have the industry at Thursday Island.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Irrespective of whether a man is black or white, justice should be done.

Mr. Angelo: If he is honest he can get employment from some other owner.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: But this refers only to suspicion.

Mr. Angelo: He could get employment from some other owner.

Hon. P. Collier: But it would be under the same superintendent.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: He might get some inferior position.

Mr. Teesdale: He would have the right of appeal.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: No, he would not.

Mr. Teesdale: What does Clause 23 say?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: That has nothing to do with this matter. Members should not be misled by that provision.

Mr. Angelo: Well, give the right of appeal.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: A man might be punished on the mere suspicion of an inspector. The words are too strong. The question of suitability should be left to the employer.

Mr. Teesdale: Unfortunately, these men are in collusion with the employer.

Mr. Duraek: That is the trouble.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: This would not overcome it. If a man is working in collusion, he will not tell the inspector.

The Colonial Secretary: But the inspector can refuse to issue a license if he has suspicion.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: No man should be condemned and punished on suspicion. The principle is both wrong and dangerous. In-

jury has been done to the cause of British justice by throwing on an accused person the onus of proving his innocence instead of requiring the accuser to prove his guilt. This proposal, however, goes still further. A man is to be given no opportunity to prove his innocence; he is to be condemned on suspicion. No such power should be placed in the hands of the superintendent.

Mr. ANGELO: I suggest that the Minister postpone consideration of the clause with a view to adding a proviso allowing an appeal to a resident magistrate.

The Premier: Then you may as well not have those words in the clause.

Mr. ANGELO: There should be provision for an appeal in order to prevent an innocent person from being unjustly treated.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: This anxiety on behalf of the pearl fisher is quite unnecessary. There are other avenues of employment in the industry open to such men. The superintendent should have absolute power on the question of whether a license is to be issued. If this power is not given, it will be quite impossible to prevent dummying. If it is necessary to prove a person of evil fame, the position will be difficult, if not impossible. Where there are just grounds to believe that a certain individual is not a fit and proper person to hold a license, then in the interests of the industry the license should be refused. It is essential that such power should be given to the superintendent.

Mr. A. THOMSON: The suggestion of the member for Gascoyne should overcome the objection. The fishing to-day is practically in the hands of the coloured races. The latest report of the Fisheries Department states that licenses to the number of 227 were issued to persons employed as divers. Of these 210 were issued at Broome, 16 at Roebourne, and one at Ouslow. Of the Broome divers, 193 were Japanese, 14 Malays and three manilamen. Of the trial divers to the number of 183, who were given permits, a majority, as in former years, were Japanese. We want to reserve this industry for the people of Australia.

Mr. Teesdale: The damnable part is that our people are dummying for them.

Mr. A. THOMSON: Quite so. So long as we can protect innocent men from being penalised, we should strain a point in the endeavour to prevent dummying.

The PREMIER: If there is an appeal to a magistrate, the superintendent will have to prove that what he believes to be true, is true.

Hon. T. Walker: The clause does not even state "reasonably suspect."

The PREMIER: If the superintendent had to go before a magistrate to prove his case, he could never take action. There are usually six coloured men on a boat and only one white man, and what chance would he have of proving a case. It often happens that a person in Perth is ordered to leave the city because he is considered undesirable.

Hon. P. Collier: There has to be evidence in support of the statement.

The PREMIER: Jolly little.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Will the Minister accept the amendment?

The Colonial Secretary: It is essential for the prevention of dummyming that the words should remain.

Hon. P. COLLIER: It is more essential that this supreme and autocratic and unquestioned power which the clause proposes to confer upon a Government official should not be included in an Act of Parliament, whether the power applies to white men or coloured men. Moreover, the clause proposes to confer that power without any right of appeal. Such provisions are utterly foreign to all the traditions of British legislation. Parliament ought not to interfere at all with this matter, which is largely a question of employment. Why should the Government assume the responsibility of saying whether a man shall or shall not follow a certain occupation? The Minister would not dare to embody a provision of this kind in legislation dealing with any ordinary industry. It would be a different thing if the proposal were to place this power in the hands of a magistrate, who would feel under an obligation to investigate the matter. An ordinary Government official might be actuated by whim, caprice, or petty spite in excluding a man from the industry month after month and year after year. At the very least there should be a right of appeal, and the official should be compelled to make good his grounds for action before a resident magistrate. If the amendment is carried, the superintendent will still have sufficient power, as he will then be able to refuse a license to a person of evil fame.

Mr. Mann: That would cover it.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Even then the clause would give far greater power than I personally would be disposed to grant. It should include a right of appeal.

Mr. Mann: A magistrate would have to deal with the man on a charge of evil fame.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Not as the clause stands; it is a matter of the superintendent's opinion, and the resident magistrate does not come in.

Mr. Mann: I do not think that is what is intended.

Hon. P. COLLIER: But that is what the clause says; it is not capable of any other meaning.

Mr. Mann: It is only a resident magistrate who can say that a person is of evil fame.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Then it is necessary to cut out the reference to the superintendent.

Mr. ANGELO: I again appeal to the Minister to postpone the clause, with a view to adding a proviso allowing of appeal. If the superintendent refuses to allow a man to go on board ship, the man will not appeal, because he will be afraid of further investigation. Of course we want to protect the

innocent man, and an appeal to a resident magistrate will cover everything. The word which the amendment seeks to delete should be retained, subject to a proviso as suggested. The pearling industry wants the clause as it stands now. To that end the right of appeal is essential.

Mr. LAMBERT: Can we go back to striking out words as suggested by the member for Boulder?

The CHAIRMAN: Not unless the Minister agrees to re-commit the Bill.

Mr. LAMBERT: The proposed power is an extraordinary one, and the clause should not be rushed through. Before a man is regarded as of evil fame, he should be convicted of it, and not merely suspected. On mere suspicion no man should be deprived of his livelihood.

Mr. ANGELO: I move—

That the further consideration of the clause be postponed.

The CHAIRMAN: We had better dispose of the amendment first.

Mr. MARSHALL: I wish to say something about the amendment before it is disposed of.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Mr. Chairman, there is a motion before you for the postponement of the further consideration of the clause. That must be dealt with first. It is not for you to say, "Let us dispose of the amendment first" when you have before you a motion for the postponement of the clause.

The CHAIRMAN: The Standing Orders will back me up. The clause has already been amended. I can take a motion to report progress.

Mr. ANGELO: Well, I will move—

That progress be reported.

Motion passed.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1922-23.

In Committee of Supply.

Resumed from the 1st November; Hon. G. Taylor in the Chair.

Department of Lands and Repatriation (Hon. Sir James Mitchell) Minister.

Agricultural Bank, Industries Assistance Board, Soldiers Land Settlement:

Item, Trustees and Board Member, £636 (partly considered):

The PREMIER: I wish to inform the Committee that this board has no power to do anything except recommend. The members of it will inquire only into the position of clients who have outside creditors. Some of these creditors have waited a long time for their money and many of them have fared badly. The board will be able to get useful information, and all that can happen will be for the members to make a recommendation. They may work some good for the farmers who struck misfortune, as in the case of those at Ongerup and in that locality.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I am not convinced that it is necessary to have any board other than that already provided for under the Industries

Assistance Act. That board has administered the Act ever since 1915. They have handled all the clients of the I.A.B. and dealt with accounts aggregating several million pounds. That board ought to be and is well qualified to deal with every aspect of clients' affairs, and I do not consider that any additional board is necessary. Assuming, however, that the appointment of a board composed of men with local knowledge would be of assistance to the statutory board, and assuming it was advisable to appoint such a board, then wrong action was taken by the Government when they handed over the right to a political organisation to make a selection of the members of that board. The Government might well have argued for the selection of local men without appealing to any political organisation. The organisation now are claiming equal power with the board to deal with clients of the Agricultural Bank. That is the plain simple fact of the case.

Mr. A. Thomson: The organisation only nominated the boards.

Hon. P. COLLIER: What is the difference?

Mr. A. Thomson: They have not the power to appoint them.

Hon. P. COLLIER: No, but they selected the nominees and submitted them to the Government. If it were not intended to appoint the nominees of the association, why ask the association to select them? Unless for some disqualifying reason, the Government will certainly appoint the nominees of the association. Without going over the grounds I covered last week, I say my objection is just as emphatic to those appointments as it was then. I hope we shall not see the principle extended to any other department. It means the right to appoint a board to deal with the finances of members of the association.

Mr. A. Thomson: No.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Not in all cases, perhaps, but the majority of the farmers belong to their association.

Mr. Pickering: They ought to.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Of course so, and no doubt the majority do. So it follows that the members of these boards, nominated by the association, will be dealing with the financial affairs of members of their own association. In fact, to-night the members of these boards and the clients of the I.A.B. are meeting as one party, and to-morrow the members of the boards will deal with the positions of clients of the I.A.B. with whom they were associated the previous evening at a meeting of a political organisation.

Mr. A. Thomson: The members of the boards are only there as valuers.

Hon. P. COLLIER: No, they are also to make recommendations as to what should be done to give a farmer a fresh start, as to the attitude to be adopted towards the clients of the I.A.B. The principle is entirely wrong. I do not say the I.A.B. will be influenced by any considerations other than those which they believe to be equitable and in the best interests of the State; nevertheless, they will have given to them the recommendations of these local

boards. The principle is wrong. Men should have been selected in the various districts without delegating the power of selection to the organisation. We are all human, and the personal equation comes into it. A man would be more than human if he were able to associate with his neighbours in the everyday affairs of life, and nevertheless were not influenced when called upon to make a recommendation to the Government concerning the financial affairs of his friend. The I.A.B. have been able to administer the Act for seven years with but very few complaints in the House, notwithstanding which these new local boards are appointed to practically give directions to the statutory board. I register my strongest objection to any political association being empowered to make selections of the kind.

Mr. A. THOMSON: I am sorry the Leader of the Opposition is against the appointment of these boards.

Mr. O'Loughlen: By a political body.

Mr. A. THOMSON: In my opinion these local boards should have been appointed long ago. Those of us representing agricultural districts know the difficulties which clients of the I.A.B. have to contend against. The Leader of the Opposition said the I.A.B. should have power to do all that is required. Unfortunately that board cannot do all that is required.

Mr. Lutey: They have inspectors to assist them.

Mr. A. THOMSON: The inspectors go around advising farmers, practically compelling them to do what they know from experience is not right.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I do not think they interfere with the farmers much.

Mr. A. THOMSON: I know a recent case of a settler in my district being refused further assistance.

Member: A good job.

Mr. A. THOMSON: Would the hon. member like to be in the position of a man who has toiled for years on inferior land?

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You have no bad land in your district.

Mr. A. THOMSON: Unfortunately we have. I have here a letter from a settler which I received only yesterday, as follows:—

Is it possible, or is there any chance of anything being done to relieve or help us unfortunate settlers on these poverty-stricken lands here. I have toiled and slaved to make a living, but have to admit that I am only going back more every year. Besides having poor land I also have flood waters to contend with. To drain the land would require a drain 20 feet by 3 feet, and even that would not take all. At present the place is absolutely useless and will not grow anything. Can you bring it up in Parliament and see if justice cannot be done to honest, hard-working settlers?

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That has nothing to do with the I.A.B.

Mr. A. THOMSON: It is one of the difficulties the settler is up against. One of the functions of the board is to send an inspector and two practical farmers to find out why a man has not made a success.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Could you get those two farmers without being directed by the branch organisation?

Mr. A. THOMSON: That is quite possible. Nevertheless, it has only been as the result of the organisation hammering at this thing continually that we have been able to get these new boards.

The Premier: You have not hammered much yet. You are damning your whole district.

Mr. A. THOMSON: No, there is some good land there.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Is that at Ongerup?

Mr. A. THOMSON: No.

The Premier: Is it at Katanning?

Mr. A. THOMSON: No. I will give the Premier this letter afterwards. The writer continues—

We were induced to take up the land by misrepresentation. It was wrongly classified.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: They all say that.

Mr. A. THOMSON: The hon. member knows that what I am saying is correct. Large areas of land have been wrongly classified, and unfortunately the settler has no redress.

The Premier: Some of them ought to have known the land they were going on to.

Mr. A. THOMSON: The Premier is bringing people out to-day to settle them on the land. Those people know no more about land classification than does the man in the moon. They are sent to the group settlements, and told it is first-class land. Surely the Premier will not say those people ought to know! When a man has toiled and slaved for 10 years he ought to be given some little recompense. Unfortunately, although we can recompense the man, we cannot give him back the 10 years he has wasted on indifferent land.

The Premier: Make it clear that it does not apply to the whole of your district.

Mr. A. THOMSON: When I say that the whole of my district is bad, I will accept correction by the Premier. The letter goes on to say that according to the value, the land was wrongly classified. Had it been classified according to the value it would never have been taken up. The letter points out that it is only grazing land and very poor at that. The writer says he is sorry to be giving any trouble, but that as he is completely ruined his only hope lies in his representative in Parliament. That was his only excuse for writing. He ends up by saying, "For God's sake do something for us."

Hon. P. Collier: What was he asking for?

Mr. A. THOMSON: For relief from debt.

Hon. P. Collier: There are many cases like that, but is the local board necessary in order that the farmers shall get relief?

Mr. A. THOMSON: It is essential. The I.A.B. has no power to write down the securities.

Hon. P. Collier: This board will not do so either.

Mr. A. THOMSON: No, but the board can make a report. I take it a man's position will be classified, an inventory taken, and a recommendation put before the I.A.B. Men have taken up land and complied with all the requisite conditions. True, they have had assistance from the board, but never had any hope of making a success because they were on poor land. They had to obey the instructions of the visiting inspector and put in crops, but had no result. Most of these settlers are willing to carry the burden of what they call their tangible assets.

Hon. P. Collier: Their position must be well known to the statutory board.

Mr. A. THOMSON: Probably it is. I want to go further than this board is going. The board may say they will give no more assistance, and that the settler must go off the land. This farmer may have spent many years of his life trying to make a success, and has accumulated a lot of experience and knows all about the place. The land is then put up for tender and is sold at a greatly reduced price. The man who should get the benefit of that writing down should be the man who has put in 10 years of his life upon it.

The Premier: That would not work. Suppose the man were a loafer.

Mr. A. THOMSON: I have no sympathy with the loafer.

Mr. Johnston: The loafers have practically all gone.

Mr. A. THOMSON: When the board discontinue assistance the settler cannot go on.

Mr. Latham: There should be no loafers under the present system of inspection.

The Premier: No.

Mr. A. THOMSON: There was one case in my district.

The Premier: You will give me the name?

Mr. A. THOMSON: Yes. He is under the I.A.B. He was told to carry on without assistance. He put in 300 or 400 acres of fallow, and applied to the board for manure. The reply was delayed for three months with the result that the settler lost all the benefit of his fallowing. He had to put in his crop without manure. One firm was willing to supply it, but wanted a guarantee of repayment out of the crop.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Would not a telegram to his representative in Parliament have put that right?

Mr. A. THOMSON: He was waiting for a reply from the board. Exception has been taken to members interviewing the board, but in this case much good might have resulted.

Mr. O'Loughlen: A member would save a settler from disaster if that were the case.

Mr. A. THOMSON: That is so. The assistance of the board came too late.

Hon. P. Collier: That has nothing to do with the local board.

Mr. A. THOMSON: No, but if such matters were brought under the notice of the I.A.B. the necessary assistance might be rendered.

Hon. P. Collier: Is it to be a permanent board?

The Premier: Not at all.

Mr. A. THOMSON: I take it there is no need for a permanent board. I know of another case where a man has been dealt with in much the same way.

The CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member discussing the trustees, and the members of the board?

Mr. A. THOMSON: I am discussing their actions, and showing that their bad administration has led to hardship.

The CHAIRMAN: This board's administration?

Mr. A. THOMSON: That of the I.A.B.

The CHAIRMAN: I take it this is a special board.

The Premier: It is the I.A.B.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member may continue.

Mr. A. THOMSON: This settler was also refused assistance. His securities are held by the board, and no one outside will trust him. Men have taken up land and complied with the conditions, but the board has refused to carry them any further.

The Premier: Quite right, too, in many cases.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Will not the co-operative associations carry them on?

Mr. A. THOMSON: I have said before that this board claims the bodies and souls of those who come under it. These words have come true. I admit the board has done a great deal of good work.

Mr. Mann: It has kept hundreds on the land.

Mr. A. THOMSON: Yes. One of the objects was to assist the settler, and the other to protect the assets of the State. Men have been put on poor land, and have had very little chance of making a success. I congratulate the Premier upon appointing these boards. I am sure great good will come of them. I am only sorry they were not appointed before. I trust the provision for these boards will not be struck out.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I am to a certain extent handicapped in this matter, because a select committee is at present holding an inquiry into it.

Mr. Pickering: Do not disclose the result of it!

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: If I did, it would be disclosed only to Parliament. This board was appointed to assist the farmers who were suffering in times of drought. The member for Katanning appears to think it was established to assist farmers in time of flood. It is all very well for members to abuse the board on account of its attitude towards the farmers. If the board has stopped assistance, he can rest assured that it has done so on

good grounds, and that the farmer has had splendid help up to that point.

Mr. A. Thomson: I do not say that is not so.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The board has nothing to do with the granting of the land.

Mr. A. Thomson: The land is very often the reason for the man's position.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The board does not make the surveys or the classifications.

Mr. A. Thomson: The Government do.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: In a large number of instances the surveyor classifies the land.

Mr. A. Thomson: Under the direction of the Government.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Surveyors are supposed to understand the quality of land.

Mr. Pickering: They do not always understand it.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Some of them may have made mistakes, but that has nothing to do with the I.A.B. or its functions. It is the Agricultural Bank that provides the money for improvements, and not the board. The only security held by the board is represented in the chattels and stock, and the crop, if there is any. Farming is a gamble, and the board advance money on the gamble. I have lately had the pleasure of perusing a large number of papers and files, and have been surprised at the leniency shown by the board to its clients.

Mr. Pickering: You are not disappointed.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Not at all. The board has done all it could to keep men on the land. There must be something radically wrong before the board will take any steps that will cause the farmer to leave his block. Unfortunately, there are some settlers who not only want the board to pay their outside creditors, but to wipe off the accounts owing to the Government, and hand their land back free of charge with all the improvements thereon.

Mr. A. Thomson: How many of them have asked for that?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I will tell the hon. member of one instance. A man owes the Government £2,250 at the present moment.

Mr. Pickering: He is a lucky man.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Yet that man wanted the Government to pay his debts and hand his land back to him clear, with all improvements as well. Although we have not framed our report yet, I want to make it clear from my knowledge of the files—and I have gone through many of them—that, in my opinion, the board has done everything possible to keep men on the land.

Mr. A. Thomson: I did not say anything to the contrary.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The hon. member pointed out that sustenance allowances had been stopped and advances had been refused for manure.

Mr. A. Thomson: That is correct.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Every encouragement has been given to the farmers to help them succeed, and the board will not take

a lien over their assets such as sheep and so on in connection with which they have got assistance from outsiders. It has been the object of the board to keep the men on the land. It is true that some men have not been successful on the light land, but no fewer than 1,149 clients of the board have paid off their liabilities and are now free men. I do not think it is fair for a member representing a farming community to make a statement that the board has not dealt fairly with them.

Mr. A. Thomson: That is not correct. You are making an unfair statement. I did not say anything of the sort.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The implication was there.

Mr. A. Thomson: It was not.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: You will remember, Mr. Chairman, that you drew the attention of the hon. member to the fact that he was not dealing with the board and he replied that he was dealing with the mismanagement of the board. The boards, to the appointment of which the Leader of the Opposition took exception, are appointed to advise. The Leader of the Opposition did not object to a board advising the I.A.B., or anyone else advising them if that advice was wanted, but he objected to the principle embodied in the method of the appointment. From my standpoint, I regard the appointment of these outside boards as a vote of no-confidence by the Government in the work of the I.A.B. From what I can see, the I.A.B. has acted more in the interests of the farmers than, to a great extent, in the interests of the finances of the State.

Mr. LAMBERT: It is unnecessary for me to reiterate the whole of the history that occasioned the establishment of the I.A.B. Apparently, however, we must accept the I.A.B. as having become one of the permanent financial institutions of the State. As one of the most important of those institutions, it should be properly protected. What do we find? We find that the dominant political party in power to-day are prepared to barter away every vestige of government control to suit their own political ends. Very shortly we shall be called upon to arrive at a decision regarding other institutions which have crept permanently into the political and economic life of this State. I refer to the trading concerns. The I.A.B. as an institution is almost on all fours with those trading concerns. The Leader of the Opposition is to be commended for drawing public attention to the existence of this position and the political organisation responsible for it.

Mr. Pickering: And to the modesty of it.

Mr. LAMBERT: The organisation is in keeping with the modesty of the member for Sussex. Members can gauge the extent of that modesty! The irresponsibility of their control would do credit to a tenth rate South American Republic. Nothing would lend itself to greater political corruption than if Parliament were to part with the control of

the I.A.B. and it were handed over to any other organisation.

Mr. A. Thomson: Don't you think we are justified in getting justice for men who are suffering?

Mr. LAMBERT: The hon. member is justified in doing that but—

Mr. A. Thomson: That is what we are doing.

Mr. LAMBERT: The hon. member is not justified in trying to undermine and white-wash by insidious influences, one of the permanent financial institutions of the State which is lending the people's money, and which should look for proper protection and security for the investment of money under the Industries Assistance Act.

Mr. Latham: Do you know the profit the State has made under that Act?

Mr. LAMBERT: I know the State has made no profit from the hon. member or from his presence in this Chamber!

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. LAMBERT: It is a deplorable fact that the Government has bowed to the influences which have been exercised.

Mr. A. Thomson: You want to be careful. There is an election proceeding at the present time on this same question.

Mr. LAMBERT: If to-morrow morning another political party were in power, such as the Labour Party—

The Colonial Secretary: Ah!

Mr. LAMBERT: That is no dream, as the permanent smile on the Colonial Secretary's face would suggest. It will not be long before the swing of the pendulum will bring about the event I suggest. If, when Labour was returned to power, we handed over the functions of the Arbitration Court to the unions of the State—

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

Mr. LAMBERT: It has got a lot to do with it, because of the analogy I will draw. If to-morrow morning the unions were to ask the Parliamentary Labour Party, that party having secured the reins of Government, to hand over the administration of the Arbitration Act—

Capt. Carter: They would not do it.

Mr. LAMBERT: The unions would not ask for it.

Capt. Carter: You would all resign.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. LAMBERT: If when an application for assistance in connection with the mining industry was refused, members representing the mining districts were to ask that two members of the miners' unions should be appointed for consultation and advice on the question as to whether the Inspector of Mines was right or not, what would be said?

Hon. P. Collier: That is a fair comparison. Applications have been made to the Mines Department for assistance and have been turned down.

Mr. LAMBERT: It is decidedly on all fours. Mr. Speaker can bear me out in my statement that such assistance has been refused.

Mr. Lutey: In any case, we may try this on after what has happened.

Mr. LAMBERT: In the past, when applications for assistance have been refused, members representing mining constituencies have had due regard for the finances of the State and have believed that when such assistance was refused, the refusal was on sound grounds. On the other hand, what do we find when it applies to the agricultural industry? The primary producers' organisation have had a taste of the financial game in the capacity of acquiring agents, in wheat marketing and so forth. On the strength of that, they ask that local branches of their organisation shall have representation on a special board to assess the amount that a settler should receive from the I.A.B.

Mr. A. Thomson: You should be in the position of settlers who have wasted 10 or 12 years of their lives on rotten country. That is all I can say.

Mr. LAMBERT: The member for Kataning has started at the wrong end. It is not the intention of the I.A.B. to correct the wrongs or mistakes made by the settler.

Mr. A. Thomson: The mistakes have not been made by the settler. That is the unfortunate part of it.

Mr. LAMBERT: Nor is it the function of the I.A.B. to correct the mistakes or misrepresentations made by the Government in selling that land.

Hon. P. Collier: But they ask for a local irresponsible board to review the decisions of a statutory board.

Mr. LAMBERT: That is so. If mistakes have been made through wilful misrepresentation by the Government in selling the land, it is not the function of this permanent financial institution to correct it. Do hon. members realise that the board is operating as part and parcel of the Savings Bank and the Agricultural Bank, inasmuch as the money invested is the people's money and should be properly protected? If we did away with the I.A.B. to-morrow, what protection would the farmers get? What protection do they get from the associated banks, the virtues of which members opposite take every opportunity to extol? What sympathy and consideration would they get?

Mr. Piesse: We get a lot of sympathy.

Mr. LAMBERT: Plenty of sympathy, but that is all.

Mr. A. Thomson: A little bit of cash, too, occasionally.

Mr. Chesson: But the banks want a pretty fair margin of security.

Mr. LAMBERT: I hope members opposite in their zeal to white-wash the constitutional authority of Parliament and the Government will hesitate before they proceed much further. As responsible people, their responsibilities should be reflected in a proper and sound attitude regarding the control of our financial institutions. It is deplorable and unthinkable that responsible men should so far forget the decency and dignity that they owe to Parliament as to give away the con-

trol of such a financial institution in the manner suggested. I hope that some notice will be taken by the people of the State of the desires of this political organisation which seeks to undermine the authority of the Government. We hear a lot of nonsense talked about attempted irresponsible control in the past, that was never adopted on God's earth like the attempts that are made every day of the week now—

Mr. A. Thomson: Be careful, you are on dangerous ground!

Mr. LAMBERT: Attempts that are made by this political organisation to undermine the very foundations of the old-established functions of Government. I believe the organisations are prepared to go to any lengths that the Government will allow in their desire to get further control of the governmental functions of the State. This is a deplorable thing. If the Premier will stiffen his back, he will find Parliament behind him. It is time they were told in no unmistakable language that no matter what party members might subscribe to, they will stand by the head of the Government to protect the financial institutions, even if they cannot protect Parliamentary and governmental dignity and decency. I wish to refer to Part III. of the Industries Assistance Act. It is regrettable that the Government do not take action to assist the secondary industries of the State. A considerable amount of good has been done to the farmers during the times of stress and hardship through which they have passed, and I believe that similar assistance could be given to the growing secondary industries of Western Australia. I regret with the Leader of the Opposition that an irresponsible body without any statutory power whatever are to-day inquiring into the secondary industries and advising the Government as to the extent these industries are of service or value to the State.

Mr. Pickering: To which body do you refer?

Mr. LAMBERT: The Council of Industrial Development. I have nothing to say against the council. They were brought into being by some decision of a past Government and have continued in an honorary capacity, advising the Government as to whether secondary industries could or should be assisted. Every member is desirous of seeing our secondary as well as our primary industries expanded and developed wherever possible on reasonably safe financial grounds. Such expansion can result only if Parliament adopts a right attitude towards them. To-day our industries are burdened with a heavy protective tariff and our relationship to the Eastern States largely resembles our former relationship to the outside world. We have to revise our attitude. I hope the Premier will appoint a competent board similar to that governing the agricultural industry to inquire as to the extent to which secondary industries may be developed.

Mr. O'Loughlen: The present board is an honorary one.

Mr. LAMBERT: Yes. A considerable number of industries could be developed in this State if the proper lead were only given. Recently we have witnessed the development of the porcelain industry and of the cement industry, and now there is being floated a company to start woollen mills. I believe there are many other activities in which the people of this State could engage.

The CHAIRMAN: I have allowed the hon. member considerable latitude, but I do not think he should pursue that line of argument.

Mr. LAMBERT: Then I shall desist. If the Premier followed his own inclinations I feel sure he would achieve a considerable amount of good and would have the backing of all hon. members. I hope we shall not have outside interference in regard to this deserving institution. It could assist the farmer further than it has assisted him, but it is not the function of the I.A.B. to correct any of the mistakes or misrepresentations made as to the quality and value of land. That would be quite foreign to the functions of the board. The farmers should be ever grateful to the Labour Party for all they did and attempted to do. If they did not do all that was not desired, it was not the fault of the Parliamentary Labour Party.

The Minister for Agriculture: It is the function of Government to do that.

Mr. LAMBERT: Quite so. The Industries Assistance Act was passed as a temporary measure in 1915, but the institution has become a permanent one. The interference desired by the Country Party is so serious and far-reaching that it would be regrettable if we failed to taken notice of it and register a solid protest against any bartering away of executive power.

Mr. PICKERING: The member for Coolgardie (Mr. Lambert) said it was not the function of the I.A.B. to redress the errors of other departments. It is a recognition of this fact that has led the Primary Producers' Association to approach the Government with a view to getting a board whose functions shall be to advise the Government as to the true position of certain clients who could not make good under existing conditions. After all it is only an advisory board. It must not be lost sight of that its functions are purely advisory. In my opinion any board who could advise under such critical conditions in such a direction as to make it possible to relieve the settlers who are burdened with debt and retain to them a possibility of making good on the holdings where they have spent years of strenuous toil, would be conferring a great service on the State. The Leader of the Opposition said he had two objections, one was that there was no occasion for another board and the other was that such a board should be nominated by a political organisation. I think I have made it clear that it is necessary and advisable to have such a board. Any reflection on the organisation was quite unwarranted. The

organisation, quite apart from its political aspect, had in view the best interests of the State.

Hon. P. Collier: I made no reflection on the organisation. I was protesting against the principle—an entirely different thing.

Mr. PICKERING: I am not reflecting on the Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. P. Collier: No, but you said I reflected on your organisation.

Mr. PICKERING: I am putting what I understood to be the view he expressed. If I am mistaken I am prepared to withdraw. That was the impression I gathered from his remarks. The hon. member said he thought it only right that every farmer in this State should support the organisation which stood for his representation. I agree with him. Every farmer in Western Australia should realise the great benefit received from the Primary Producers' Association and the members of the Country Party who represent him in this House. If this is so, and I believe a great majority of farmers do belong to this organisation, it would be almost impossible to get a selection of farmers who would not be elected by representatives of the Primary Producers' Association. Therefore it does not matter whether exception is taken to this principle or not. It would be impossible to escape from the position of having on the board representatives elected by members of the Primary Producers' Association and associated with the Country Party. There is the whole position; whether it involves a principle or not, that would in fact be the case. The board would be elected by people directly associated with the organisation we have the honour to represent.

Hon. P. Collier: Not at all; the Government could appoint them.

Mr. PICKERING: I do not believe in Government-appointed boards. In view of the conditions, this scheme is much fairer.

Hon. P. Collier: You believe in a political organisation making appointments to deal with Government securities.

Mr. PICKERING: I believe in boards being representative of the people. If they are elected by organisations, they are more representative than if appointed by the Government. In any case, I maintain that when appointed by the organisation associated with the movement, they would be better fitted to fill the positions. It must be borne in mind that appointees must be farmers in no way connected with the I.A.B. and under no obligation to the board. Therefore, why fear that this organisation would do any greater injustice than any other organisation?

The Premier: They have no power.

Mr. PICKERING: Their only power is to recommend to the Government two nominees.

The Premier: To the board.

Mr. PICKERING: Well to the board. If the recommendations are not satisfactory, and the board have every means of investigating the point, the recommendations will not be borne in mind. I am satisfied there

need be no fear in the minds of the people of this State that any injustice will be done to the country or to its finances by the appointees to the advisory boards, nor do I fear that the decisions of these boards will be other than beneficial to the State which they will be elected to serve.

Item, Assistant Controller, Soldier Settlement Scheme, £456:

Mr. PICKERING: Who is referred to here? I understand Mr. Richardson is the controller.

The PREMIER: Mr. White is assistant Controller now.

Hon. P. Collier: But this is soldier settlement.

The PREMIER: Mr. Richardson, before he became Controller of Group Settlements was Assistant Controller of Soldier Settlement.

Land Settlement for Soldiers and Group Settlement:

Item, Permanent and temporary salaries of officers of other departments, also Lands Department, £14,000.

Mr. A. THOMSON: I assume that this item covers group settlement in the South-West.

The Premier: Yes.

Mr. A. THOMSON: There is another phase of group settlement as regards which the Government, I regret, have so far made very little even in the way of a start. The Premier has stated that he proposed to establish settlers on 10,000 acres of vine growing land. When I returned here on the 15th August, I was under the impression that that branch of settlement was to be proceeded with immediately. Has anything been done yet?

The Premier: You have not said a word to me about it during the last few months.

Mr. A. THOMSON: I made inquiries in the departments. It has been reported that lands along the Great Southern railway are quite suitable for viticulture. I believe that up to date the Government have not even decided when and where to start their viticultural scheme. The State is losing valuable time, and the money devoted to viticulture would yield a quicker and safer return than some of the expenditure on group settlement in the South-West. I will not damn the scheme of group settlement at all; I consider it a wise scheme. The Premier, I understand, has waived the stipulation that all men going on group settlement must have 12 months' experience.

Hon. P. Collier: Has that been waived?

The Premier: Only as regards experience of men.

Mr. A. THOMSON: If we have the right instructors for immigrants intended for group settlement, we need not ask immigrants to lose 12 months at bush whacking.

Hon. P. Collier: But in that way a man learns to rough it a bit.

Mr. A. THOMSON: The great bulk of the people coming out are workers, and are quite prepared to rough it. The Government

might make a greater effort to secure men with capital. We are devoting ourselves mainly to obtaining immigrants who have neither capital nor experience. I am somewhat fearful as regards the groups in the South-West. I wonder what will happen when the period of 10s. per day comes to an end? Of course, if any member dares to stand up here and voice his opinion, the Premier immediately assumes that that member is against the scheme. I am just as good a West Australian as the Premier, and have just as great faith in the scheme as the Premier has.

The Premier: I am glad to hear it.

Mr. A. THOMSON: The Government are paying men who are on land which is going to cost anything up to £40 per acre to clear.

The Premier: Who told you that?

Mr. A. THOMSON: We had that statement made by the member for Collie when moving for a Royal Commission.

The Premier: That did not refer to group settlement at all.

Mr. A. THOMSON: It will be interesting to learn the facts when we get the returns. We have already the statement made by the Premier that £7 per acre has been written off the cost of clearing one estate.

The Premier: That is not group settlement at all. Stick to your point.

The Minister for Agriculture: And that estate was cleared by day labour.

Mr. A. THOMSON: Is not clearing on group settlements being done by day labour?

The Premier: No.

Mr. A. THOMSON: The men are getting 10s. per day, and they work from 8 a.m. till 5 p.m., and they have no guarantee which particular block is going to be theirs individually.

Hon. P. Collier: But it is not the same principle. Paying men 10s. per day sustenance when working for themselves is a different thing from day labour.

Mr. A. THOMSON: I am going to show that they are not working for themselves altogether.

The CHAIRMAN: There is no provision here other than for officers. There is nothing here about clearing land.

Mr. A. THOMSON: Still, we are dealing with group settlement. There is an item for incidental expenses, £1,100, which must refer partly to group settlement.

The CHAIRMAN: But that does not cover the range of the hon. member's remarks. The hon. member must deal with this as administration, and not as a settlement scheme. Here we are dealing only with the officers.

Mr. A. THOMSON: When are we going to get an opportunity to discuss group settlement?

The CHAIRMAN: On the Loan Estimates, where the money is provided.

Mr. A. THOMSON: Well, I want to deal with administration at the present time. Men are sent down to a certain group, and we know that the conditions under which some of

them have had to work were rather adverse. That was shown by the articles of "Politics." We followed them with much interest and also with a certain amount of alarm.

The Premier: You would be sure to say that.

Mr. A. THOMSON: One must not say anything against the Premier's schemes. I contend that the ballot ought to take place as soon as the men are sent down to a group settlement.

The Premier: What for?

Mr. Davies: That would be fatal.

Mr. A. THOMSON: I will show that it is fatal under present conditions, because the men are working under day labour.

The CHAIRMAN: I am afraid I cannot allow the hon. member to do that.

Mr. A. THOMSON: This is all administration, Sir.

The CHAIRMAN: The item does not deal with clearing of land.

Mr. A. THOMSON: But it deals with administration in that connection.

The CHAIRMAN: It deals with salaries of officers.

Mr. A. THOMSON: I want to show how the administration is being carried out.

The Premier: You do not seem to know.

Mr. A. THOMSON: Evidently the Premier does not want me to tell the Committee what I do know. The men work from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., but there is no incentive to them—

Th CHAIRMAN: These officers?

Mr. A. THOMSON: The men under the supervision of one of these officers.

The CHAIRMAN: But the men who are working under these officers are not provided for in this item. The hon. member must keep within the item.

Mr. A. THOMSON: There is a foreman appointed and he is paid to supervise these men. Surely such supervision comes within the purview of the item?

The CHAIRMAN: That is supervision.

Mr. A. THOMSON: I want to inform the Committee what work that foreman is supervising. I want to have him directed differently. At present there is no incentive for a man on a group settlement to work. The blocks should be allocated to the individual settlers when they go there. Then the men could work their eight hours a day, and further, if they liked, they could put in a few hours more on Saturdays clearing their land.

The CHAIRMAN: I cannot allow the hon. member to discuss the whole principle of group settlement under this item.

Mr. A. THOMSON: Unfortunately we do not appear to be allowed to discuss it at all.

The CHAIRMAN: I cannot help that. However, there will be an opportunity on the Loan Estimates to deal with the matter.

Mr. A. THOMSON: Am I permitted to discuss a form of group settlement which the Premier in his speech stated would be introduced?

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member can discuss group settlement.

Mr. A. THOMSON: I was endeavouring to do that.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member can discuss the officers included in the item.

Mr. A. THOMSON: That is what I have been endeavouring to do, Sir.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member has been discussing the whole system of group settlement, and there is no item here for that expenditure.

Mr. A. THOMSON: Is not part of that £1,100 which is being spent for incidentals being spent on the group settlements?

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member knows well that that amount would not go far in clearing group settlements. It is incidental only in regard to the salaried officers and office expenses. The hon. member knows well what it means.

Mr. A. THOMSON: When I returned from England I had the pleasure of introducing to the Premier a gentleman who was keenly desirous of entering one of these settlements. He asked the Premier when a start could be made and the Premier's reply was "to-morrow."

The CHAIRMAN: I cannot allow that discussion at this stage.

Hon. P. Collier: Did that man make a start?

Mr. A. THOMSON: He has gone East. I regret that I am not able to proceed with this discussion. I shall be compelled to move a direct motion at a later stage.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member will have ample opportunity to discuss the matter on the Loan Estimates.

Mr. A. THOMSON: If I were to move to reduce the vote would I be in order?

The CHAIRMAN: There is no vote to reduce. These items are just shown as salaries being paid out of revenue. There is no item and the Committee are not called upon to pass any item.

Mr. LUTEY: I have had a little to do with Mr. McAdam and Mr. Richardson, and I have found both to be able officers. I am pleased to know that the Premier insists that new arrivals must have 12 months' experience before going on to group settlements. The officers in question have had considerable experience.

Mr. O'Loghlen: What experience have you had of their experience?

Mr. LUTEY: I have had some experience on the land, but I doubt whether I would pass muster before those gentlemen. It is only proper that intending settlers should have some experience before taking up areas. I wish to know what has been done in the way of marketing produce. We have heard nothing about that. Has anyone been appointed to deal with that question?

The PREMIER: We must not forget that we are still living on imported produce, and that we are endeavouring to find markets for our stuff all the time. We have £2,000,000 worth of produce to catch up before we can start to export.

[This concluded the Estimates of the Departments of Land and Repatriation.]

Colonial Treasurer's Department—Hon. Sir James Mitchell, Minister.

Votes—Treasury £14,782, Audit £11,994—agreed to.

Vote—Compassionate allowances, £764:

Mr. JOHNSTON: I expected to find under this heading an item arising out of a resolution carried in this House towards the close of last session in connection with the case of Thomas Mable. This matter is familiar to hon. members.

The Premier: It would not come under this vote.

Mr. JOHNSTON: The matter was discussed at great length on the motion of the present Colonial Secretary. I am amazed to find that the Government have made an offer to pay Mable £100 as a compassionate allowance, and it is not surprising to know that this sum was refused by Mable. Mr. Sampson when speaking in January last on this subject said—

The case of Thomas Mable is one which, I believe, will receive the sympathetic consideration of all those who give attention to it.

Then the hon. member went on to describe the circumstances of the case. I merely wish now to quote the concluding paragraph of the hon. member's speech, which fairly covers the case. I shall have nothing to add to that. Mr. Sampson said—

I maintain that a very grave injustice was done to this unfortunate man. He did not receive the consideration which a patient should receive from a Government department. The department should have administered his affairs and protected his interests. I appeal to members to support the motion, because by so doing they will be doing justice to a man who has suffered grave injury.

Mr. Teesdale: Whom is that by?

Mr. JOHNSTON: The Hon. Mr. Sampson. I wish to congratulate the Colonial Secretary on that, so soon after delivering that speech, he finds himself in the fortunate position of administering the department whose duty it would be to give this unfortunate man, Mable, the redress which the Colonial Secretary, as a private member, so ably moved should be given him. In view of the hon. member's speech, I cannot understand why the offer made so far should be only £100. I hope the enervating influence of office has not already damaged the Colonial Secretary's expressed desire to do justice to Mable. If there is one member of the House who might be expected to act fairly and squarely towards Mable, it is the Colonial Secretary, who is now in a position to put into operation his desire to relieve this unfortunate man. The instruction of the House was that a compassionate allowance should be granted to Mable. This was carried unanimously. The Colonial Secretary, then a pri-

vate member, wanted something more than that done.

Mr. O'Loghlen: He does now, too.

Mr. JOHNSTON: I feel sure he does. I applaud the Colonial Secretary for the generous expressions to which he gave utterance, and I ask him to carry those desires into effect now that he has the opportunity. Last week I asked a series of questions on this subject, concluding with, "Will the Government make a full statement of their intentions in this matter?" The Premier replied, "Yes."

The Premier: I told you all about it last week.

Mr. JOHNSTON: I should like the full statement which the Premier said he would give to the House. Since the House carried a resolution on the subject, I hope the Government will give effect to the desires of the House in no niggardly spirit. Whilst only £100 has been offered to Mable as compassionate allowance, we have already spent £825 in inquiring into his case. In view of the recommendations put forward, and of the excellent speech by which the Colonial Secretary so moved the House, it is inconceivable that nothing more than £100 should be offered to Mable. I hope adequate justice will be done to him, and done quickly.

The PREMIER: The hon. member knows than an inquiry is now being conducted into this case by officers of the department. He knows what has happened, and he knows why the item could not come under this vote.

Mr. O'Loghlen: Was the offer of £100 made on the strength of inquiries held?

The PREMIER: No, the inquiry is in process now. I do not know what was done prior to the offer of £100. The hon. member knew what was happening. It is a good thing we have "Hansard," not because of the speech quoted by the hon. member to-night, but because of the record it affords of speeches which the hon. member himself has made. However, nothing more can be said, pending the inquiry now in progress.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I want to bring under notice the case of a man who lost his eye at Newdegate. Three or four deputations to the Government, arranged with a view to securing some compassionate allowance for this man, have been without avail. It is a most distressing case. Because the victim was 40 miles away from settlement, he had to wait three weeks before he could be removed, and so he lost the sight of his eye. Compensation has been refused. He was one of the clearers at Newdegate. He had no means of his own. He was sent there as one of the unemployed, and he received his injury while at his work. The Crown Law authorities rule that he is not entitled to compensation under the Workers' Compensation Act.

The Premier: He was not working under control.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: But on the broad humanitarian grounds on which the Colonial Secretary so effectively appealed in another case last year, I put it to the Premier that a citizen should not be treated so

callously. The accident was largely the result of Government negligence, through which the man has suffered intensely and has lost his eye. If he is not a fit subject for a compassionate allowance on a small scale, I should like to know who is. I hope something will be done, seeing that the stupid law which has just broken down in the courts does not recognise this man's claim for compensation.

Hon. P. COLLIER: We know that under the Workers' Compensation Act the man is not legally entitled to compensation.

The Premier: He was a contractor.

Hon. P. COLLIER: The House, when it passed the last amendment to the Workers' Compensation Act, believed that the amendment covered men engaged in such work as this man was doing, namely, piece work. In furtherance of that belief a case was taken to the High Court, where the Government was good enough to carry an appeal from the Supreme Court finding on this very point. The High Court upheld the decision of the Supreme Court, and declared that piece work did not come under the Workers' Compensation Act as we all thought it did. The House I believe, would have no hesitation in rectifying that omission in an amending Act. I do not profess to be an expert with the details of this case, further than to understand that a man working at clearing at Newdegate lost the sight of his eye. This man has a moral claim for a compassionate allowance, if only large enough to recompense him for lost time and the expense to which he has been put. I hope the Premier will favourably consider the case.

The PREMIER: It was never intended that the law should apply to contractors. The case that went to the High Court was that of the widow of a timber hewer.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Is not this case on all fours?

The PREMIER: No, this man was a contractor. He was not under control. The only control exercised over him would be an inspection of his work.

Hon. P. COLLIER: He was rather a piece worker under control than a contractor.

The PREMIER: It is difficult to draw the line between piece work and contract work.

Mr. O'Loughlin: You will admit that it is rather a sad case.

The PREMIER: I do not know the case. It was not put to me.

Hon. P. COLLIER: The man who is clearing land at so much an acre is on all fours with the man who is hewing sleepers at so much per sleeper.

The PREMIER: A man clearing 200 acres would not be a contractor under control. If the hon. member will supply the man's name I will look into it.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Thompson was the name.

Mr. McCALLUM: There is a distinction between a man working as this man was and a contractor. A contractor enters into a bond to carry out a certain job. This man was paid so much an acre for clearing. It was a piece work job.

The Premier: No.

Mr. McCALLUM: It was clearly a question of piece work. The Government did not call for a price for clearing, but offered the work at a certain price and it was taken by this man. Although no one was supervising the work, it was allotted to him. I know of a case where a man was working for the Kurrawang Wood Company. Although it was a fine point as to whether he was doing piece work, or whether he was a wages man or a contractor, there was no difficulty in arriving at a settlement with the company. There are other employees for whom the Government are paying insurance, but who do not come under the Act. Cases have been fought in the courts, and, often after the jury has given a decision in favour of the injured man and the judge has upheld their decision, an appeal has been made to a higher court. I refer to a case in connection with the State Steamship Service. The Government should not lend themselves to that sort of thing. The insurance company are merely using the name of the State in order to conduct this appeal. If the State's name is used, the Government should insist on the company doing a fair thing.

The Premier: People cannot go outside the law when it suits them.

Mr. McCALLUM: The State should not lend itself to depriving an injured man of an amount which the jury has awarded to him, in this case £480.

The Premier: I know of another case in Fremantle in which the man returned to the wharf after a few months.

Mr. McCALLUM: Not as soon as that. In most cases the Government have been lenient and I hope they will continue to be so.

The PREMIER: The Government have been particularly lenient in nearly every case. Men have been clearly outside the Workers' Compensation Act, but have been assisted in all kinds of ways. We ought to keep within the law. It is a dangerous thing to go outside it. If a man would take out his own policy, it would save a lot of trouble, and, in the case of a person who was earning more than the limit provided by the Act, he would get a lot more money than the Government would give him.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Last year an amount was paid to the widow of the late Mr. F. D. North. Under what circumstances was it paid?

The PREMIER: That would be an amount due for the balance of leave when Mr. North died. He was entitled to long leave.

Hon. P. COLLIER: He had six months long service leave.

The PREMIER: He died before the long service leave expired.

Vote put and passed.

Vote: Government Savings Bank £32,864.

Mr. ANGELO: On two or three occasions I have pointed out the disadvantage of having chartered banks as agents for the

Government Savings Bank. The chartered banks acting in that capacity would not put forth their best energies to get business for the Savings Bank. At one place the manager of a bank approached a depositor who had something like £600 in the Savings Bank, and pointed out that it would be to his advantage to place the money on fixed deposit with his bank for 24 months and receive 5 per cent. instead of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. from the Government.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: He could have got it from the Government on Treasury bonds.

The Premier: There may be one case of that sort.

Mr. ANGELO: I am certain there are other cases. The chartered banks look for their own business, and the business of the Savings Bank must be a secondary consideration.

The Premier: Would you have us give the Savings Bank's agencies to country storekeepers?

Mr. ANGELO: In many cases they would be better agents than the chartered banks. If the manager of the Savings Bank were to appoint better agents, the business would increase.

Mr. Mann: I heard the Under Treasurer give evidence on the Leschen case. He found fault with the late manager, because he had given agencies to country storekeepers.

Mr. ANGELO: In Carnarvon, at the time when there was a large number of men employed on the meat works, the chartered bank that was the agent for the Government Savings Bank would not open on Friday night to accept deposits. The Commonwealth Savings Bank seized the opportunity, and got in deposits at the rate of something like £6,000 a week. In that way we lost a lot of business.

Mr. Mann: We have lost many avenues of business.

Mr. ANGELO: It is not a good thing to appoint as agents people who are doing the same class of business.

Mr. Davies: The chartered bank agents at Midland Junction used to open on Friday night.

Mr. ANGELO: The manager of the State Savings Bank might look into this matter.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Would you supply him with the names of suitable agents that you know of?

Mr. ANGELO: I would readily agree to do that. We are being exploited by the Commonwealth Savings Bank, and do not want to be exploited also by our agents.

Mr. MARSHALL: I am surprised at the attitude of the member for Gascoyne, who I am afraid will be called over the coals by the Associated Banks when he leaves this Chamber.

Mr. Angelo: I do not follow you, but I suppose you are right.

Mr. MARSHALL: Only a few days ago the member for Gascoyne urged us not to in-

terfere with private enterprise in banking. Of recent years the State Government have undertaken the transfer of Savings Bank agencies on the Murchison from the Associated Banks to clerks of courts.

The PREMIER: Undoubtedly our Savings Bank is at a disadvantage through the loss of the post offices as agencies. Still, there are very few managers of banks who, acting as agents for other institutions, would say to a man coming to them for the purpose of making a deposit in one of those other institutions, "Oh, deposit your money with us."

Mr. Angelo: I know of an authentic case.

The PREMIER: Wherever we can use State public servants as agents for the State Savings Bank, we do so.

Mr. LAMBERT: This institution calls for a clear and close review. It is indeed regrettable that we have lost the post offices as agencies. Possibly a greater degree of economy would be attained if it were possible to bring these institutions under one head. Australian banking is largely overdone. It is not easy to determine the extent to which we can promote State interests while working in with the Commonwealth Government; but we can exploit other agencies through which we can secure the control of a larger portion of our people's available cash. I agree with the member for Gascoyne that these agencies should not be placed in the hands of the Associated Banks. It has been suggested that the Premier is negotiating with the Federal Government to take control of our State Savings Bank.

The Premier: When there is anything to tell, I will tell you.

Mr. LAMBERT: It would be interesting for the Committee to know. There can be no negotiations which should not be disclosed to this Committee.

The Premier: There are no negotiations going on now. I told the House long ago that immediately there was anything to communicate I would inform hon. members. However, I do not want the public to get it into their minds that negotiations are going on.

Mr. LAMBERT: I would like to see the State Savings Bank stabilised. In any reasonable sized town we should have a branch of the State Savings Bank, with a manager. The people of this State are sufficiently patriotic to patronise their own bank. While the activities of the bank are circumscribed as at present, we shall not get the funds that we should for the development of the State. In outback districts the State Savings Bank is often represented merely by a metal plate bearing the word "State Savings Bank." We can only garner in the available capital of the country by establishing branches of the State Savings Bank wherever there is scope for them. The financial stringency of this State is due to the fact of almost every monetary agency being handed over to the other fellow. The Associated Banks figuring in St. George's Terrace are far too many for so small a community as this.

Mr. Davies: Do you think we ought to have two savings banks here—Commonwealth and State?

Mr. LAMBERT: That is a question of policy. We should not hand over to the Commonwealth one vestige of power that it is possible for us to retain and properly control. There are too many middlemen in this State battenning on the people. There are 42 insurance companies, besides trustee companies and other institutions, garnering in the surplus cash of the people. The attitude of those enterprises is, "If we think it worth while to lend money to you, we will do so; and if we do not think it worth while, well, be damned to you!" All those companies are performing functions which should be the business of one single authority.

The Premier: You cannot have too many financial houses if you want money.

Mr. LAMBERT: One can have too many people performing the one function.

Mr. Davies: That applies in every walk of life.

Mr. LAMBERT: There is no analogy between the butcher and the baker, on the one hand, and, on the other, the man who has the right to garner in the surplus cash of the people. When the Government want cash for development, they go to that other fellow and say, "Will you lend us money at 5½ per cent.?" Where are the insurance companies operating in this State lending their money? What is the limit to which the Associated Banks are prepared to lend in Western Australia? Half our agriculturalists would be bankrupt if they had to depend on the Associated Banks.

Mr. Angelo: You will find that the advances of the banks here are greater than their deposits.

Mr. LAMBERT: This multiplicity of agencies is a bad thing for the State. I believe that if we showed energy in our savings bank business, establishing a branch in every small town of the State, the Federal Government would say, "We will give you control over the financial affairs of your State." Otherwise the Federal Government will continue to think, "Sooner or later we will take over the State Savings Bank of Western Australia."

Mr. A. Thomson: How can the State Savings Bank possibly compete with the post office? When we open a branch, we have to pay full salaries.

Mr. LAMBERT: The thing is either worth doing well or worth letting alone.

Mr. A. Thomson: Our margin of profit would not be sufficient.

Mr. LAMBERT: The margin of profit would be sufficient if the Government made the State Savings Bank more elastic, if the usefulness of the Bank were increased. Under such conditions a deal might be made with the Commonwealth, but never while our present sleepy attitude in regard to banking continues. A continuance of our present policy will, in my opinion, mean that the State Savings Bank will eventually be handed over

to the Commonwealth. We have State civil servants all over Western Australia, and if they were properly organised in this connection our bank would be a very serious competitor to the Commonwealth Bank and the Federal Savings Bank. I hope the Premier, who is an old banker, will realise the necessity for controlling all the finances possible and that he will regard the discussion as a stimulus to encourage the State Savings Bank business.

Mr. PICKERING: I commend the member for Coolgardie (Mr. Lambert) for drawing attention to this question. It is evident that the State Savings Bank authorities do not do all that is necessary to advertise their business. The argument used by the member for Gascoyne (Mr. Angelo) regarding the non-utilisation of the Associated Banks was also pertinent. It should be possible for many Government officers to act in the capacity of managers of local branches of the Savings Bank without adding very considerably to the cost of that institution. Wherever there are police stations or schools, or other branches of the Government service, it should be possible for someone to take charge of the banking business in the locality. If something were done in that direction it would have a good effect on the operations of the Savings Bank. The present system of merely having an enamel plate affixed to a building indicating that Savings Bank business can be transacted there should be departed from, and more up to date methods of advertising the business adopted. When attending a picture show recently, I was much struck by an advertisement thrown on the screen in the interests of the Commonwealth Bank. There was a picture of the head office of that institution, which was raised so as to disclose a small deposit. The picture of the bank was lowered again and when it was raised it was seen that the deposit had grown. This was repeated a number of times and showed that at the end of 20 years a huge sum had accumulated as the result of the small investment originally made. Such an advertisement carries weight with people and it is only right, when we find the Commonwealth entering into so many avenues which we consider should be reserved for the State, that we should take every step to secure our own ends, thus making the State banking institution more popular. I have never been in sympathy with the suggestion that our Savings Bank should be handed over to the Commonwealth. I have always resented any infringement of the State's functions by the Federal authorities and I trust the Premier will take into consideration the suggestions by hon. members in connection with this vote. When the Premier last spoke on this matter it was in advocacy of handing over this institution to the Commonwealth. I hope, in the light of recent developments, and inquiries that have been made, the Premier will realise the necessity for popularising the State institution. According to the Estimates, we pay away something like £32,864 in connection with the bank and we should have a better

return for that money than we are getting. The suggestion of the member for Coolgardie that branches should be established in every part of the State should be seriously considered by the Treasurer. Before the vote is agreed to, I hope he will be prepared to give the Committee his ideas on the matter.

The Premier: We are in favour of doing more business.

Mr. PICKERING: Well, it is interesting to know that.

The Premier: It is far more interesting to hear from you because you know all about it.

Mr. PICKERING: My remarks have been made with the object of securing some information as to the position of the State's banking institution.

The Premier: What do you want to know?

Mr. PICKERING: What are your intentions regarding the State Savings Bank?

Hon. P. Collier: Are they honourable, for instance?

The Premier: I want more money.

Hon. P. Collier: The discussion is like that of a prospective father-in-law cross-examining a would-be son-in-law regarding his financial position.

Mr. PICKERING: This is a serious matter and should not be treated with levity.

Hon. P. Collier: That is quite correct, but for goodness sake do smile sometimes.

Mr. Lambert: The Commonwealth banking business has made great progress within a very short period.

Mr. PICKERING: Quite so. I hope the Premier will not treat this as a joke. There is no necessity for the two savings banks. The business under that heading should be in the hands of the State and should not be interfered with by the Commonwealth Bank.

Mr. DAVIES: I wish to suggest one way of popularising the State Savings Bank. I refer to the cheques issued in connection with that institution. In the past I have done a considerable amount of business and I know that the cheques of the institution are looked upon with more or less suspicion by the chartered and Commonwealth banks. Why that should be I am at a loss to understand. Recently I have not had much to do with savings bank cheques. Most of the friendly societies and many trade unions in Western Australia invest their funds in the State Savings Bank, drawing interest on their current accounts. These people can draw cheques on their current account and while they are accepted as deposits in the Commonwealth Bank, the chartered banks used to charge exchange even though they were metropolitan cheques. It is customary to charge exchange on country cheques but I did not know till then that it was done in connection with these metropolitan cheques. I do not know whether that practice is being followed to-day. I would like the Premier to make inquiries into that matter and ascertain why the Commonwealth and chartered banks cannot give the same recognition to cheques from the

Government Savings Bank as is extended to the cheques of other banking institutions. Perhaps hon. members do not realise the great difficulties confronting the management of the State Savings Bank. There should not be two such institutions here for there is not the business for two to be done. It is not possible for the State Government, unless they erect their own premises in country towns, to compete on terms of equality with the Commonwealth Government, who have the benefit of the use of post office buildings for their banking operations. An improvement has been effected at Midland Junction, where the clerk of courts is now acting as manager of the local bank and accepts deposits. I hope that system will be extended throughout the State wherever there are clerks of courts.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: In Victoria commissioners have been appointed as a trust to deal with the matter.

Mr. DAVIES: In almost every town in Victoria which is of moderate size savings bank premises have been erected. In the area from Guildford to Perth there is only one clerk of courts. It would not be practicable for the State to erect banks at each intervening suburb but the system of asking storekeepers, or people in similar positions, to take charge of the savings bank operations in their localities is not calculated to popularise the business. I am satisfied that the Government are fully seized of the necessity for extending the operations of the bank and that everything possible to achieve that end will be done.

Mr. McCALLUM: If the cheques for the State Savings Bank were printed in a more attractive form, that would tend to encourage the use of them.

The Premier: The funds are the best criterion.

Mr. McCALLUM: They are not, because there are many people who will not take these cheques. As a consequence, trades union secretaries have to cash the cheques before they can do the business with these persons. The Commonwealth Bank has a rather attractive looking cheque that is accepted by other banks. I think the objection is mainly on account of the appearance of the cheque, because the money of the State is behind it. I do not agree that the advantage in favour of the Commonwealth Bank arises from the fact that the post offices are available for the Commonwealth. The fact is plain that the Commonwealth Bank has made more headway than the State bank, but the explanation is more likely to be found in the fact that the Commonwealth is engaged in general banking business.

Mr. A. Thomson: The use of the post offices assists the Commonwealth.

Mr. McCALLUM: I admit that that helps the Commonwealth, but if the State Government would consider a proposal to either amalgamate the business of the Agri-

cultural Bank with the State Savings Bank, and adopt the principle of a general State banking institution, they would find it would work with considerable advantage to Western Australia. There are no constitutional difficulties in the way, and why should we not have the advantage of a banking system such as we see in New South Wales? There the Government have adopted the rural banking system, which does the whole of the business for the farming community. So successful have the operations been during the past few years that the authorities have purchased an enormous block of land in Sydney in order to erect a palatial building in which to carry on their business. The Agricultural Bank, having financed the farmer, and lent money on securities that no other financial institution would accept, places the man in a good sound position and at a stage when his account would be of some value to a bank, he is told that he must take his business to a private bank as the Agricultural Bank will not do business with him any further. Under existing conditions the Agricultural Bank is really the vestibule of the private banks. The Agricultural Bank has established the farmer and made his account worth having. When he reaches that stage and his securities are substantial, the private banking institutions reap the benefit of what could easily be utilised by the State. If the Government adopted the suggestion to amalgamate the Savings Bank and Agricultural Bank, so as to engage in general banking operations, the money would be available for the development of Western Australia. I hope the Government will make inquiries to see how the scheme has operated in New South Wales and ascertain whether it would not be worth while going in for the same thing in this State.

Mr. ANGELO: Why was the revenue last year only £10,000 as against an estimated revenue of £21,000, showing a shrinkage of 55 per cent.?

The PREMIER: The money from the Savings Bank has been invested and the earnings were less.

Mr. Angelo: Was it all lent to the Government?

The PREMIER: Yes, practically.

Mr. Angelo: Then it is merely a case of going out of one pocket into the other.

The PREMIER: Yes, our business is a very expensive one. I cannot accept the general banking proposal as suggested by the member for South Fremantle, but I would refer him to the general banking figures.

Mr. McCallum: Why should not you, instead of the other people, get the profit?

The PREMIER: I do not know that there is such a big profit in the business. The hon. member sees profit in everything.

Mr. McCallum: The bankers see the profit.

The PREMIER: We are not discussing private banking. The question before us is the Government Savings Bank.

Item, Manager Boulder branch, £345:

Mr. LUTEY: This item shows a reduction of £4. What is the explanation of it?

The PREMIER: There was a change of manager and that doubtless accounts for the difference.

Vote put and passed.

Vote, Government Stores, £16,990—agreed to.

Vote, Taxation, £12,993:

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Seeing that the Premier has given notice of his intention to bring down a taxation Bill, I do not wish to forestall discussion, but is it intended to make provision to carry out the wishes of Parliament expressed last year that reasonable travelling expenses be allowed to persons going to and from their employment. Both Houses agreed to this last year and the intention of Parliament was very clear, but I understand that a ruling has been given both ways. I hope the Premier will make it clear that travelling expenses must be provided for.

The PREMIER: I will make a note of it.

Vote put and passed.

Vote, Workers' Homes Board, £9,291:

Mr. DAVIES: I should like a declaration from the Premier as to the intention of the Government this year regarding workers' homes. Are they going to have a general policy to build homes in the metropolitan area or do they intend to continue as during the last 12 months? The position has been very unsatisfactory in at least one case. A man who has been in the employ of the Government for many years applied for a worker's home. He had a wife and six children living in a hovel and, owing to the scarcity of houses, was unable to find a decent place to live in. This is a discreditable state of affairs.

The PREMIER: Because of one case!

Mr. DAVIES: Members should know the position. This man's application was turned down by the acting Premier, who said it would be filed and would receive due consideration. I was informed that operations had ceased in the metropolitan area, but this rejected applicant told me that a worker's home was being built in his own district. I called for the file and discovered that a home was being erected for a single man. It is true he was about to be married. I found on the file words to this effect, "I know this man has been put to considerable trouble regarding his application and for that reason I recommend that the loan be granted." I do not blame the Premier or the chairman of the board, but someone is to blame.

Mr. A. Thomson: Why was the other man turned down?

Mr. DAVIES: Because it was not the policy to build homes in the metropolitan area.

Hon. P. Collier: How long since?

Mr. DAVIES: That occurred recently. According to the return tabled in the House 38 homes were built in the metropolitan area during the last 12 months.

Hon. P. Collier: What are the exceptional circumstances under which the 38 were built?

Mr. DAVIES: Here is one case in which a single man was granted the full amount of £550. The Premier should ascertain why this was granted.

The Premier interjected.

Mr. DAVIES: This is not a tin-pot affair.

The Premier: I do not know anything about the case.

Mr. DAVIES: I hope members will see that justice is done. I would not have mentioned this case here had I been able to make any headway with the department.

Mr. A. Thomson: Was it because the amount required exceeded £550?

Mr. DAVIES: No. It does not matter what the house may cost, the Workers' Homes Board will not advance more than £550.

Mr. A. Thomson: Perhaps he had not sufficient capital to provide the necessary security.

Mr. DAVIES: The objection was not on that score. It was simply that it was not the policy of the Workers' Homes Board at this juncture to build the place. The price of the house did not affect the position. While that application was being turned down, the other was being granted. The Premier has now promised me that he will inquire into this matter. No officer of the department ought to have more influence than has a member of Parliament; yet such an officer can minute a file to the effect that an application ought to be granted, and straightaway the application is granted.

Mr. McCALLUM: I should like the Premier to tell us whether the Government have any idea of altering their policy in respect to the building of workers' homes in the metropolitan area. There is a very great shortage of houses here and in many instances two or three families are living in the one home. Private enterprise is making but very little attempt to meet the situation. There is urgent need for a considerable number of new houses in the metropolitan area. Can the workers look to the Government for any relief? House rents are higher than they have ever been, the landlords having taken full advantage of the demand. A house which a few years ago was rented for 12s. 6d. now costs 25s. weekly, which is altogether too much to expect a working man to pay.

Mr. A. Thomson: What is your remedy?

Mr. McCALLUM: That the Government, through the Workers' Homes Board, make inquiries in other countries to learn whether any new invention for cheaper houses has been developed. If we continue as we are going, it will be impossible for the working man to ever secure a home of his own. How can an ordinary working man pay £60 or £70 per annum in interest alone, and in addition rates and taxes and upkeep? One cannot get a five-roomed house at much under £1,000. In 1914 I got the price of £670 for the building of a house. A few months ago, on precisely

the same plans and specifications, I got another price. This time it was £1,400.

Mr. A. Thomson: At present prices you cannot expect people to build houses to let, either.

Mr. McCALLUM: We require some cheaper means of construction. I do not know whether the Government have any information as to the advance made in other parts of the world with Edison's patent. The Workers' Homes Board should be in touch with what is happening throughout the world.

Mr. Pickering: Labour is a very big item in building.

Mr. McCALLUM: No, not in proportion to material. Ironmongery, timber, bricks and cement have all gone up tremendously.

Mr. Pickering: Our own joinery is cheaper than the imported stuff.

Mr. McCALLUM: Practically all the joinery used is local. I should like to know from the Premier whether the workers can look to the Government for relief in this direction, whether there is any possibility of enlarging the policy of building workers' homes in the metropolitan area?

The PREMIER: I do not know just what the Workers' Homes Board have done in this respect, but of course they keep in touch with everything going on elsewhere. Building prices to-day are enormous in the city and in country towns alike.

Mr. A. Thomson: Building is cheaper in country districts than in the city.

The PREMIER: No, that is not so.

Mr. Pickering: Take the price of bricks at Katanning as against at Perth.

The PREMIER: A man on £4 per week will cheerfully pay for a house at £550.

Mr. Willecock: It means a quarter of his wages.

The PREMIER: More, because he is not always in work. We have endeavoured to build houses in the country, but, unfortunately, we cannot get people in the country to take a sufficient number of them, and so we have had to build some in Perth. I hope we shall be able to build again in Perth as a matter of policy. To-day a great deal of money is being spent in Perth on war service homes. The people in the country are not making applications for homes. Those that are now being built are being put up at a more reasonable price. I doubt if we could build any more brick houses in Perth with the labour that is available. I do not know the circumstances surrounding the home given to the signalman who has been mentioned. We have a little money at our disposal, and have helped very deserving cases in the metropolitan area. Only to-day I authorised the building of a home for the son of a widow who has a number of children.

Mr. McCallum: Is all the money that is available being used for workers' homes?

The PREMIER: Yes. It is cheap money and we are lending it cheaply. It is the cheapest money that is being lent to-day. We can do no more than we are doing.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—Miscellaneous services, £81,066.

Item: South African relief fund, £135:

Mr. LUTEY: Will the Minister kindly explain this item?

The PREMIER: There are two or three veterans who are getting a small pension. For years we have been paying these small amounts, although it is the responsibility of the Commonwealth.

Item, Parks, Recreation grounds, etc.—Grant for maintenance and improvements—King's Park Board, £2,400; other grounds, £400:

Mr. LUTEY: The sum of £400 is very small to cover all the other parks in the State outside King's Park. Is this all that is allowed?

The Premier: Yes.

Mr. PICKERING: The distribution of this money is unjust. I have applied to the Treasurer for a small amount to assist in completing a recreation ground at Newtown.

The Minister for Agriculture: Only one ground?

Mr. PICKERING: Yes. The local people have collected a good deal of money and have effected a great many improvements. A sum of £10 or £20 is required to complete the work. We are told that no money is available, and yet the Government can allocate £2,400 for King's Park.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: When did you ask for the money?

Mr. PICKERING: In plenty of time for it to be included on these Estimates. When I receive a definite reply from the Premier that no funds are available for this purpose I naturally understand that nothing will be given. The country people are right in protesting against the parsimony of the Premier. I desire to enter a protest against the distribution of this fund. I feel inclined to move that the item be reduced by £1.

The PREMIER: King's Park has always been a charge upon the State, but I agree that it ought to be a charge against the people of Perth. It is, however, a national park and I am sure members would not like to see it go back. I have refused numerous requests for grants from the country, but I have granted more requests than I have refused.

Mr. Latham: Not from this vote.

The PREMIER: We cannot make a park at Bruce Rock like King's Park.

Mr. Latham: You have not given a pound towards one.

The PREMIER: We built Bruce Rock.

Mr. LATHAM: I, too, protest against the allocation of this amount. The Premier does not give proper consideration to these matters. At a time when we are short of money the Treasurer should curtail these grants. If the money is given it should be equally divided between the various parks in the State. The people of Perth should maintain King's Park. Recently I saw a beautiful park in Kalgoorlie, but I see no grant here for it.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The King's Park belongs to the State, not to the city of Perth.

Mr. LATHAM: But the King's Park is here in Perth. The York municipality, having no power to purchase land for the purpose of a park, applied to the Treasury for a small grant of £90, and received the invariable reply, of which we are sick, "No money available."

Hon. W. C. Angwin: A municipality can raise a loan for that purpose under the Municipal Corporations Act.

Mr. LATHAM: On that point there is diversity of opinion. The whole of the parks throughout the State should receive small grants.

Item, Imperial Exhibition, £1,700.

Mr. McCALLUM: What is the Government's policy as to this exhibition? The Press informs us that a Minister has gone East to confer with Ministers there regarding what shall be done by the various States. The chairman of the Council of Industrial Development has gone with the Minister. Probably we shall find ourselves committed to a huge expenditure without Parliament being consulted.

The Premier: We are not committed to any expenditure.

Mr. McCALLUM: According to the High Commissioner, it is not to be an Empire Exhibition really, and foreign countries' goods are to receive preference over those produced in Australia.

The Premier: I do not think that is so. The High Commissioner has protested against that statement, which was made by some person in England.

Mr. McCALLUM: At all events, what is the Government's policy?

The PREMIER: Our share of the total cost will be £5,000.

Mr. Lambert: That is the first instalment?

The PREMIER: That is to provide for expenditure this year. A good deal of preliminary work has to be done. We now have exhibits—of jarrah, for instance—in England. We shall get value for the expenditure.

Mr. Lambert: Is the £5,000 your total commitment?

The PREMIER: It is expected to be.

Mr. Lambert: Do you think it is a function of this State to spend money on an exhibition like that?

The PREMIER: Yes.

Mr. Lambert: It is not worth twopence for us to spend money on. The Commonwealth should spend the money.

The PREMIER: As we pay, we have control of the exhibits in London. The statement mentioned by the member for South Fremantle has been denied. Our products will be duly appreciated.

Mr. McCallum: Was not there a resignation over the matter?

The PREMIER: I do not know.

Hon. P. COLLIER: So far as I have been able to gather from Press cables, the position is not at all satisfactory. It is astonishing that there should be occasion for the High Commissioner and the various Agents General to make an emphatic protest from the public platform against the actions and proposals of the committee in control of the exhibition. I understand that some of the timber used in the erection of the necessary buildings has come from a country outside the bounds of the Empire.

Mr. A. Thomson: That was only £1,000 worth of timber which could not be obtained.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Even so small an item of foreign origin seems out of place in a British Empire Exhibition.

Mr. A. Thomson: That is so. We can supply everything.

Hon. P. COLLIER: As regards the catering the committee in control had decided that the requirements of the ordinary public would be supplied from within the Empire, but that for the comparatively small number of aristocratic visitors to the exhibition wines and cigars produced within the Empire were too inferior in quality—such products must not be permitted to turn sour the stomachs of aristocrats accustomed to high-class tobacco and vintages. What a reflection on the products of the British Empire! I would make those visitors, were they never so lordly, drink wine produced within the Empire. The committee merely say that "so far as possible" they will obtain goods from within the Empire. That announcement really leaves their hands quite free. Probably they think it unfitting that aristocrats should be asked to drink wines from "those beastly Colonies."

Hon. W. C. Angwin: It is all right regarding what they can see and inspect; the trouble comes in when they are asked to drink.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I would like to see some of these gentlemen who want the superior type of liquor, forced to drink some of our "pinkies."

Capt. Carter: What about some of our North Perth water?

Hon. P. COLLIER: Yes, I hope some exhibits will be sent forward to show the British people what sort of fluid is supplied as water to the citizens in the metropolitan area.

Capt. Carter: The exhibits should be adorned with the crest of the Minister for Works.

Hon. P. COLLIER: And, in addition, the "usual Ministerial explanation" should be attached. In this evening's "Daily News" I find a cable has been received regarding the exhibition. It reads:—

A meeting of Agents-General to consider the Empire exhibition decided to confer with the High Commissioner (Sir Joseph Cook) in reference to the following motion moved by the Agent-General

of Western Australia (Sir James Connolly):—"That a committee, consisting of the High Commissioner, Agents-General, and representatives of the Colonial Governments participating in the exhibition, confer with the executive council for the purpose of making a report and recommendations for the carrying out of the following policy: (1) That as far as practicable all building materials used at the exhibition shall be drawn from the Dominions and Colonies with a view to demonstrating the opportunities and prospects offered people for residence, land settlement, and the establishment of industries in the Dominions; (2) that in all contracts for catering and the sale of products, including wines and cigars, none but Dominion and Colonial products be used or sold; (3) that in letting all catering contracts, first consideration should be given to the promotion of an effective permanent selling and catering organisation within Great Britain, having for its sole object the promotion, sale, use, and consumption of Dominions and Colonial produce; (4) that consideration of invitations to confer with the executive of the exhibition contained in the Duke of Devonshire's letter be deferred until the report is received."

It would seem that the Duke of Devonshire had written a letter to the Agents General inviting them to confer on the point raised by those gentlemen during the past week or two. So seriously did the Agents General view the matter, that they deferred consideration of the invitation from the Duke of Devonshire until this question had been considered. Who are the members of the committee who control the exhibition? Have the Governments of the various States and the Dominions any voice in the control.

The Premier: Yes, we have some say in the matter.

Hon. P. COLLIER: It would appear that none of the States or Dominions have representation on the committee which is in sole control of the exhibition. If that were not so, it would never have gone forth to the world that it was impossible to produce within the Empire the goods necessary for consumption in connection with the exhibition. The position has been such that the Agents General have had to make an emphatic protest. Our own Agent General made a strong protest because timber from Western Australia was not employed in connection with construction work, and now we have the same complaint regarding articles for consumption. I do not think Parliament would be justified in passing this vote blindly. We should not agree to an expenditure of £5,000 or more and leave the whole thing to those who are running the exhibition. Apparently we should not be content to leave the sole control in the hands of the committee who have managed things so far. The Press reports show that the position is most unsatisfactory.

The Premier: Probably the papers have made far more of the matter than the facts would justify.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Probably the Premier has received some cables from the Agent-General.

The Premier: I have not.

Hon. P. COLLIER: It is clear that our own Agent General has taken an active part in the protests that have been made.

Mr. Teesdale: Wine, cigars and timber have been mentioned! A lot of the Agents General make a song about these things for their own glorification.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Will the member for Roebourne say that the wines and cigars to be used should be from some foreign country?

Mr. A. Thomson: It will not be an Imperial exhibition if they do that sort of thing.

Hon. P. COLLIER: That is the point.

Mr. McCallum: They should stock the restaurants with goods drawn from different parts of the Empire.

Hon. P. COLLIER: It would appear that these gentlemen who are controlling the exhibition consider that superior wine cannot be produced within the British Empire.

Mr. Teesdale: As to wine, that would refer to champagne, and we do not show up too well in champagnes.

Hon. P. COLLIER: What we produce should be quite good enough for them.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The reference to wines and cigars was only raised after McDonald resigned.

Hon. P. COLLIER: It would appear as though this was an afterthought.

Mr. McCallum: There is the question of preserved fruits being used as well.

Hon. P. COLLIER: When McDonald resigned and some explanation had to be made, the committee said it was only a question of the wines and cigars that would be used. I do not think we should participate in the exhibition if our wines and cigars are not good enough for these people.

The Premier: You will not find Western Australian wines on the table in Parliament House.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I am referring to Australian wines, not necessarily the Western Australian article. We are asked to take part in an Empire exhibition and that should entitle us to say that the goods used in connection with the exhibition should all come from within the Empire. Many of the things affected will not be produced in Western Australia, but we should see that everything used comes from one or other of the parts of the British Empire. I doubt very much if the State's expenditure will stop at £5,000. We are committed to an expenditure on a population basis and the amount of £5,000 is purely an estimate. If the total expenditure for Australia exceeds the estimate, we shall have to pay something extra on a population basis. There will be considerable expenditure within the State before the exhibition is held. We have to run till 1924 and we now have a central committee formed in Melbourne, con-

sisting of Ministers from each State Government. Further, we have a special committee appointed for the State in Perth.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Who are the members of the State committee?

The Premier: That committee has not yet been formed.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I want the Premier to understand that I object to the same men acting on every board and every committee formed in Western Australia. Surely all the brains and intellect are not confined to a little social circle in the city. Surely there are others, besides that small band we see appointed on every committee and board. Take any committee we like such as the Council of Industrial Development or the Empire Committee and we find the general community and large interests ignored. I protest that no one associated with the movement represented by this side of the House is considered good enough to take a seat on any of these committees. We are ignored every time. A few men sitting in offices in St. George's terrace do not comprise all the brains of the community. Judging by the actions of the Government, we are so short of men of capacity that we must appoint members of the Council of Industrial Development to the Empire Committee as well. Incidentally there are many free trips offering to members of such committees, the expense of which will run into £5,000 or more. Already the Minister for Mines has gone to Melbourne, and this in the busy portion of the session when Estimates and Bills affecting his department are awaiting consideration. When he returns we shall probably be asked to sit all night and on additional days, merely to meet the convenience of the Minister, who finds it agreeable to be in Melbourne during the first week of November.

Mr. McCallum: For the Cup.

Hon. P. COLLIER: The Chairman of the local committee, Mr. Nathan, has also gone to Melbourne.

The Premier: I do not think he has gone at the expense of the State.

Hon. P. COLLIER: He has gone as a representative of the State. He is chairman of the State Committee.

The Premier: No committee has yet been formed.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I read in the Press that a committee had been formed and that Mr. Nathan was chairman of the committee.

Mr. Teesdale: Appointed by the exhibitors?

Hon. P. COLLIER: No, appointed by the Government.

The Premier: Not by the Government.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Some of them are getting a leg in beforehand.

Hon. P. COLLIER: How could he be appointed by the exhibitors?

The Premier: I am sorry the exhibition is going to be held. I know the people in London and I am sure they will do the right thing. What has been done is probably the work of some understrapper.

Hon. P. COLLIER: There is no need for the appointment of local committees who will

find business in Melbourne every two or three months, particularly at those seasons when it is agreeable to be in Melbourne. The Minister for Mines is attending a meeting of the central committee in Melbourne, and is hanging up the business of the House as well as of his Department.

Mr. A. THOMSON: I move—

That progress be reported.

Motion negatived.

The PREMIER: A good many things are bound to go wrong in connection with the exhibition. We want to use the exhibition for Empire products, but I do not think we should be too critical regarding what is done. If we go into our own bar, we shall not find any Western Australian wine.

Hon. P. Collier: But there is Australian wine.

The PREMIER: Western Australian wine is evidently not good enough and so we take Victorian. I appreciate what the Leader of the Opposition has said, and I enter my protest against the methods being adopted in England, as indicated in the Press cablegrams. We want to be suitably represented, but we cannot expect everything to work smoothly. In the end I am sure the exhibition will come out well. We need have no fear that those responsible will muddle through somehow.

Mr. McCallum: Who is going to control the work here? You say a committee has not been appointed.

The PREMIER: The Government will control it with the help of the committee. The various industries will be represented on the committee. This is all that will happen here.

Mr. LAMBERT: I do not think we need concern ourselves with the wine-guzzling patriots who consider British wine not good enough to tickle their palates. What I am concerned about is that the expense of the exhibition should be borne by the Federal and not by the State Government. I am not aware that we have much to sell that we could not dispose of without an exhibition. We have our wheat and wool which are greatly in demand. The exhibition authorities are buying timber elsewhere to build the various stalls, etc. The exhibition might be a good thing for the Eastern States, but for us to find the money would be an unpardonable waste of public funds. If it is desired to hold an Imperial exhibition, the Federal Government should pay the cost. We should not allow the financial brigands in the East to dodge their financial obligations.

Mr. Teesdale: All the other States are taking their part.

Mr. LAMBERT: It is the obligation of the other States.

Mr. Teesdale: You would be a miserable exception and not come up to scratch.

Mr. LAMBERT: Surely to God the hon. member knows that the Federal Government have exploited every avenue of taxation in the State and acted like so many Ned Kellys! Now we are being asked to provide £5,000 or £10,000 to send men to the seat of Empire to exhibit—

what? We have wool, wheat and timber which we can sell in any market. Do we require to spend thousands sending irresponsible men like Mr. Nathan to London to represent us at an Imperial exhibition? If it is necessary to have an imperial exhibition, let the central authority pay for it, not this bankrupt State in which every taxpayer is groaning under taxation, direct and indirect, which is imposed on him. It is scandalous, and I hope members of the Committee will realise their responsibility and see that we as a Legislature assert our rights and say to the Federal Government, "If you want an exhibition, pay for it."

Mr. Lutey: Are the Commonwealth Government contributing?

Mr. LAMBERT: I do not know and I do not care. They have never done anything for Western Australia. This is a legitimate expenditure for them. To-day we are maintaining observatories and a lot of other obscure services which should be handed over to the Commonwealth. I am surprised that the Colonial Treasurer should endorse this expenditure. He ought to say, "We will not pay for the exhibition. We have to meet our obligations to the State, and when we can balance the State's ledger it will be time enough to launch out on an expenditure of this description." It is a scandalous proposal. Any man who followed this course in his private capacity would be impeached. I am not taking exception to what the Treasurer has done, but I hope that if Mr. Nathan is sent to London, the Federal Government, not this bankrupt State, will accept responsibility for the expenditure. I trust some member will move for a reduction in this proposed expenditure and so let us register our sense of dignity and decency.

Mr. Teesdale: It would be a splendid advertisement! Thank God! nobody but you would cry stinking fish as you have done.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I am very much surprised at the speech delivered by the hon. member. It appears the boom and burst policy has gone entirely; the party has not only busted up, but the policy has been altered. I am afraid I shall not be able to claim for my party the title of "The Sensible Party." If there is going to be an exhibition for the Empire, Western Australia must be in it. We must not allow our State to be kept in the background. Still, the Federal Government should do a great deal more than they are doing. They have arranged to pay a certain portion of the expense, and they call on the respective States to pay the balance. In any case, I cannot agree with the member for Coolgardie (Mr. Lambert) that we are on the verge of bankruptcy. We have acquired a pretty big overdraft, but that is fashionable, not only with States but with private persons as well. I agree with the Leader of the Opposition that we, as a State, should insist that this exhibition must be

imperial in its products. It is all very well to say we cannot supply goods in Western Australia, in Canada, or in other parts of the Empire. In point of fact we can supply goods from the Empire equal in all respects to those from other parts of the world. The Imperial Exhibition will demonstrate that.

Mr. Money: Would it not be best to confine ourselves to our best goods?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I do not think it would be best to have an exhibition showing what the Empire can produce as a whole, and then go to France for wines, thus leading people to believe that we cannot supply wines equal to those of France, and so, perhaps, to think that, likewise, we cannot supply other goods equal to those of France. Our Agent General is to be commended on the attitude he has taken.

Hon. P. Collier: He is either right or wrong. If he be right, we should back him; if wrong, we should call him off.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I think he is right. No doubt the exhibition committee, in looking to the catering for patrons, will collect goods which are most convenient to obtain. Nobody heard anything of this until Mr. McDonald resigned on the ground that they were not providing imperial goods for the use of patrons of the exhibition. The committee put up the paltry excuse that Mr. McDonald was wrong, that they were dealing only with wines and cigars. Subsequent reports on the activities of the Agents General, particularly the Agent General for Western Australia, prove that Mr. McDonald was right. In confirmation of this, the committee have varied the stand they originally took up. Our timbers are not suitable for all classes of buildings in exhibitions, but there are in New Zealand and in Canada timbers eminently suited to the purpose. Our timber is too heavy for temporary exhibition buildings. Still, there are other purposes connected with exhibitions for which our timber is most suitable. It is our duty to back up our Agent General. We require that the exhibition should be imperial, that all the products should be the products of the Empire. We should not be a party to fraud, or do anything that will lead to people being mistaken in regard to the goods they purchase. We should see that the exhibition is carried out in such a way that every person going there will find goods that are produced within the Empire. I am pleased to hear that the State committee has not yet been appointed although I understand that Mr. Nathan has been appointed to represent Western Australia in the Eastern States.

The Premier: I understand he has already gone.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: But he is not representing the State, and has no right to go there spending the people's money.

The Premier: I do not think he is doing that.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: If he does not spend it in fares and travelling expenses, he is taking part in the expenditure of the people's money.

Hon. P. Collier: He is nothing else than an extra Minister.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: We may have something more to say on this question later on. It does appear that there are only one or two men in the State in whom the Government have any confidence.

Hon. P. Collier: Upon all questions.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: These men have power to recommend the expenditure of public funds.

Hon. P. Collier: To the extent of thousands of pounds.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: They have more power than members of Parliament in that respect.

The Premier: Not at all.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I hope when the committee is appointed it will comprise representatives of all sections of the community.

The Premier: I will see to that.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: If an exhibition is held Western Australia must be in it so that the world may know what goods we can produce.

Mr. TEESDALE: I had the pleasure of acting, ex officio, as the representative of Western Australia at an important committee meeting in the Eastern States connected with the Imperial Exhibition. We sat until nearly 12 o'clock, and I heard a good deal of what was proposed. I feel certain there will be no difficulty about the interests of Australia being safeguarded. I heard Major Belcher and other members talking about it. I have also followed the matter pretty closely since. The Minister for Customs asked me to represent this State, and I agreed as I wanted to hear what was going on. The delegates could not have been more fair in their determination to give Australia every consideration. Their one topic of conversation was Australia. The trouble that has been mentioned emanated from one man in the first instance, and not from the committee as a body. It was some irresponsible individual who spoke about difficulties. Some trouble did occur in connection with the caterers. They refused to put in a tender if they were confined to Australian lines. The situation was a difficult one. There are only about three firms in the Old Country in the position to tender.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: It is an Empire exhibition.

Mr. TEESDALE: I was at the last exhibition. On some days the caterers were called upon to provide food for 100,000 people. It would be a great pity if Western Australia were left out of the exhibition, when a small State like Tasmania can put up its money. I ask members not to take notice of the member for Coolgardie, who is not responsible for his statements. Fancy suggesting that Western Australia has not enough money to enable it to be represented at this

Empire exhibition. It is a disgraceful admission on the part of a member representing a one time important electorate.

Mr. Lambert: One time important!

Mr. TEESDALE: He wants us to emulate the decay of his own town. We refuse to recognise that Coolgardie ever existed, or was once an important place. We are going to maintain our position, despite the fact that Coolgardie has gone to the wall.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I agree that Western Australia should be represented at the exhibition. I hold the opinion, however, that although we have decided to join in, there is no occasion to rush into needless expenditure. I believe that eventually this exhibition will be found to have cost us more for administration in this State than for actually taking our part in the undertaking in Great Britain. The Premier states that so far Mr. Nathan has not been appointed to any position. Either Mr. Nathan has made an incorrect statement, or the Premier's memory is at fault.

The Premier: The matter has not come before Cabinet yet.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Then I am at a loss to understand the statement which appeared in last Thursday's "Daily News"—

By to-night's trans express the Minister for Industries (Mr. J. Scaddan) and the chairman of the Council of Industrial Development (Mr. C. S. Nathan) leave for Melbourne in order to attend a meeting of the Empire Exhibition executive. This morning Mr. Nathan said the object of the exhibition was to take stock of the resources of the Empire, and to show how much of what is yet undeveloped or only partially utilised, can be converted into wealth, to bring to light the possibilities of growing more grain and wool, more sugar and more cotton, more timber and more fruit, of mining larger quantities of metals, and adding in every imaginable way to the production of commodities to meet the world's needs. It was peculiarly necessary that Australia should be thoroughly represented, as an ambitious programme had been laid down. The Government had asked him to act as chairman of the State Committee—

The Premier: Mr. Scaddan may have asked him.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Mr. Nathan says, the Government.

The Government had asked him to act as chairman of the State Committee, which would consist of numerous groups, and the reason for the visit to Melbourne was to find out exactly what programme was being laid down for the Eastern States, so that Western Australia could move along on similar lines.

That newspaper paragraph bears out that Mr. Nathan knows more about the matter than the Premier of the State knows. The Premier is not aware of the fact that Mr. Nathan has been appointed to act as chair-

man. Mr. Nathan always is appointed; so he took it for granted.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I protest against the functions of the elected of the people being set aside by a man who has been elected by nobody. I have no personal feeling whatever against Mr. Nathan, and I believe him to be a very able man, who has of late years devoted considerable time to the development of industries. But, that notwithstanding, I say it is evidence of the insidiously irresponsible way in which the government of the country is being conducted, when we have Mr. Nathan acting in the capacity of an extra Minister, when we find him having almost the final say as to whether public funds shall be devoted to the establishment of industries here. Are we so bankrupt of men capable of action that we have to fall back on Mr. Nathan invariably? He is chairman of the woollen mills, a private concern, and chairman of the Council of Industrial Development, and now he is appointed chairman of this exhibition committee. To-night the Premier himself is found to be unaware of Mr. Nathan's latest appointment. Is not that evidence of the irresponsible manner in which the Minister for Mines carries on?

The Premier: The committee has not been appointed.

Hon. P. COLLIER: But Mr. Nathan says it has. The Premier was not able to tell us, as Mr. Nathan was able to tell the "Daily News," that the committee would consist of various groups. It is monstrous that members of this Parliament have to be nonentities as compared with Mr. Nathan. Why should it be necessary to send two men from this State to the central committee at Cup time, drawing expenses and allowances day by day? Apparently, once a man has been appointed to such a committee, expense does not matter at all. If it was necessary for Mr. Nathan to go to Melbourne, why was it necessary for the Minister for Mines to go, or vice versa? The trip merely means a holiday taken at Melbourne Cup time by two men at the expense of the taxpayers of this country.

Mr. Teesdale: In view of the Premier's statement, Mr. Nathan cannot put in his expenses.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Would anyone expect him to go there as chairman of the committee and pay his own expenses? Before the exhibition opens in 1924, there will be dozens of occasions on which the same two men will find it necessary to attend meetings of the central committee in Melbourne. If Mr. Nathan is to exercise the powers of a Minister, let the Government appoint him an honorary Minister. At present he is elected by nobody, and is responsible to nobody. Mr. Nathan is in this, and in that, and in the other thing. I do not wish to mention it, but invitations to the Straits Settlement trip last year were restricted absolutely to one section of the community. This Parliament consists of all sections of the community, and members on this side of the Chamber represent a

very important section. When a delegation is sent oversea to represent the community, all sections should be included—the goldfields as well as the city interests, which latter desire to push their particular businesses. The cost to the State of that six weeks' trip was £3,000 or £6,000, and the delegation comprised only one section of the community—a small section, though influential and though representing large money interests. I object to that. It savours either of party politics, or of a desire to restrict invitations to the silvertail section. When we reach the item on the Estimates for the Council of Industrial Development, I shall endeavour, with the help of hon. members, to put a stop to that sort of thing. The Council of Industrial Development is a good thing, but an Act should be introduced defining the powers and functions of that body, so that Parliament may have some control over it. It should not be a body appointed by one or two Ministers, a body responsible to no one, a body ignoring Parliament, doing what it likes, and having the power to recommend the disposal of tens of thousands of the public funds. I object to that sort of business and I will have something to say about it later on. I hope the Committee will take a stand and will say emphatically that we will not have an outside individual acting as a Minister and exercising these powers. We will not have this outside individual going to Melbourne and acting on behalf of the State without the knowledge of the head of the Government and Ministers, and ignoring the members of this House. Why should we be treated as children? I object to these powers being handed over to Mr. Nathan who, we hear, has been appointed chairman of the committee in this State. Apparently he has been appointed by the Minister for Mines. It is unthinkable that he alone would have appointed Mr. Nathan as chairman. Yet some Ministers must have done so. The Minister for Mines is responsible for controlling the Council of Industrial Development in his capacity as Minister for Industries. I object to this little clique of men who are appointed to all these committees. Sometimes those connected with the Council of Industrial Development may not be above using the information gained by their position in connection with that body for their own personal and private business. It is wrong, and the House should know something about it.

The PREMIER: Mr. Nathan has done very good work for the State, especially as Chairman of the Council of Industrial Development. It is work of a more or less informal nature and he is quite without authority to commit the Government.

Mr. Lambert: What industry has he started in Western Australia?

The PREMIER: The council can only make recommendations to the Government.

Mr. Lambert: You should go to some of the other members and talk to them about this question.

The PREMIER: The hon. member may know something about the question of industries, but the fact remains that Mr. Nathan had done very good work. I do not suppose he has drawn any money from the State on account of his efforts.

Mr. Lambert: Is he an importer or a manufacturer? Has he a brass plate outside his office to show that he is interested in British goods. He is not even a British importer.

The PREMIER: I do not know anything about that.

Mr. Lambert. You look at the brass plates outside his place. He is an importer of goods from foreign countries.

The PREMIER: It would be almost an impossibility to get a perfect man. In any case, Mr. Nathan is only in a position to advise the Government. He cannot possibly do anything outside that sphere. It is most difficult to get men sufficiently public spirited to take on such work without fee or remuneration.

Mr. Lambert: It is not difficult to get a man who is not an importer of purely foreign goods.

The PREMIER: The same thing can be said of others.

Mr. Lambert: You have some fine old patriots in this State who would act in an honorary capacity.

The PREMIER: If I were to send a notice round to the 50 members of this Chamber, I would probably get 50 different names of persons suitable for this position.

Mr. Teesdale: We will give you the name of one we do not want and that is Nathan.

The PREMIER: I am sorry that this vote has caused so much discussion. It is not a very large amount.

Hon. P. Collier: But two men have gone to Melbourne in connection with the business! Is it necessary that two men should go at the country's expense?

The PREMIER: I did not say that they had gone at the country's expense.

Hon. P. Collier: But Mr. Nathan's statement was that he went as Chairman of the Committee.

The PREMIER: This is the first I have heard of the matter, and that he had gone.

Hon. P. Collier. He said he had gone to attend the meeting as Chairman of the committee.

The PREMIER: I do not know anything about that. I do know, however, that he has rendered the State considerable service, and I doubt if ever he has gone away at the expense of the Government.

Mr. Lambert: Did he draw anything for going to the Straits Settlements?

[Mr. Angelo took the Chair.]

Mr. Teesdale: He presented us with an elephant.

Mr. LAMBERT: No, that was given by the Minister for Mines. I endorse the spirited protest raised by the Leader of the Opposition in connection with this matter. I have

nothing against Mr. Nathan personally. He is an honourable gentleman and within the limits of his remarks I agree with the Premier that he has done a considerable amount of good work for Western Australia as Chairman of the Council of Industrial Development. In the first place, however, I enter an emphatic protest, because I believe the expenditure involved is one that should be borne by the Federal Government. It is stultifying Parliament and the Government that Mr. Nathan is able to make a semi-Ministerial statement regarding his departure for Melbourne. I sympathise with the Premier in that he was not aware of the fact that Mr. Nathan had gone to Melbourne in his capacity as Chairman of the local Empire Exhibition Committee. Apparently he got that position by virtue of his Chairmanship of the Council of Industrial Development. Whatever may be said of Mr. Nathan as an honourable and successful business man, the fact remains that we can look at the brass plates outside his office, and we will see that he has no agencies within the Empire. As the Leader of the Opposition indicated there are men in Western Australia quite capable, and whose sympathies are all with Western Australia and Australian interests who could be appointed to such a position. When a man is acting as agent for many imported goods, it is not altogether fitting that he should express Australian or Imperial sentiments in connection with an exhibition such as that under discussion. Of course Mr. Nathan was not influenced in his decision to go to Melbourne by the fact that the Melbourne Cup was to be run, but there are commercial houses in Melbourne which Mr. Nathan might find it convenient to consult while he is there. American interests are represented there and probably it might be as well for Mr. Nathan to consult them while there. As to whether the committee should tolerate such a position of affairs is another matter. As the Leader of the Opposition has indicated, there will be an opportunity later on to ascertain whether Parliament is going to tolerate such procedure by having gentlemen serving on a committee of this kind. Our financial position is due solely to the financial brigands of the East who are exploiting every avenue of taxation in the State. They are bleeding the State and, so long as members remain indifferent, the Federal Government will continue to usurp the State's functions and powers. Members should exhibit a jealous regard for the autonomous rights of the State and preserve them until the people decide to vote them away. The Premier should take a firm stand and insist upon the Federal Government meeting this expense. I do not think the Premier realises what he is committing himself to; this is only the initial item. We could sell twice as much wheat, wool and timber as we are producing at present and it is not necessary to expend thousands of pounds in advertising those commodities. The wine-guzzling patriots will not pay us one penny more than they would pay to

Germany or any other country for the produce they require, and it is unnecessary for us to dress a shop window at the seat of Empire. If an Australian exhibit is considered necessary, let it be provided at the expense of the blood-sucking Federal authorities, who are saddling the State with all possible expenditure and dodging every constitutional obligation possible and thus running Western Australia to the verge of bankruptcy.

Mr. McCALLUM: I am surprised to find that the spirited speech of the Leader of the Opposition has not drawn from the Premier a pronouncement regarding the constitution of the local committee. Is the Premier prepared to adopt the suggestion of the member for Roebourne (Mr. Teesdale) and let the House appoint the committee?

The Premier: We cannot do that.

Mr. McCALLUM: Does the Premier intend to follow the practice so persistently followed in the past of giving representation to only one section of the community?

The Premier: No, I will promise you that.

Mr. McCALLUM: That assurance is definite?

The Premier: Absolutely.

Mr. McCALLUM: In the past we have been ignored. The Premier said the exhibition would consist of natural products.

The Premier: I said manufactures and raw materials too.

Mr. McCALLUM: We should see that the handiwork of the Australian craftsmen finds a place.

The Premier: I said that.

Mr. McCALLUM: Perhaps so, but I did not hear the Premier say it. We want the skilled artisans who do the work to be represented.

The Premier: There will not be a hundred on the committee.

Mr. McCALLUM: Those who work in the factories are as much entitled to representation as those who own the factories.

Hon. P. Collier: The man whose name has been mentioned represents foreign goods and not Australian goods. Surely the men who represent Australian goods and production are more entitled to be on the committee than those who represent foreign production.

Mr. McCALLUM: We are entitled to representation according to the number of men engaged in the industries. If the Council of Industrial Development is to be fully representative of the industries, surely the skilled artisans should be directly represented. We have been entirely overlooked. This side of the House has had no say, with the natural result that interest is lost amongst those whose interest would be most valuable. I am glad to have the definite assurance of the Premier that this side of the House, or those whose interests we stand for, will have representation on that committee.

Item, Expenses of trade delegation to Straits Settlement—£10:

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I am told that this delegation has resulted in a charge of

£3,500 being made against the State Shipping Service. I understood that the object of the delegation was to show the people of the Straits Settlement and Java what could be produced in Western Australia. It was generally believed that the delegation had resulted in a better conception of the potentialities of Western Australia. But one of the members of the delegation has been to Melbourne recently, representing this State at a conference of manufacturers. He is the president of the Chamber of Manufacturers of Western Australia. When in Melbourne, he made a statement in which he evinced all the spirit of his own particular line of trade.

Mr. Mann: Following the dead!

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I have here the statement made in Melbourne by Mr. W. M. Gray, president of the Western Australian Chamber of Manufacturers and one of the delegation to Java, whose expenses on that trip were paid by the State. This statement was made by Mr. Gray in Melbourne on 27th October, 1922, and was published in the "West Australian," Perth, on the following day. It reads as follows:—

Mr. W. M. Gray (Western Australia) emphasised that the other States were dumping their goods into Western Australia at lower than cost price. Western Australia was, he declared, going back as fast as it could. It had been seriously said that within a year or two they would have to go with bended knee to the Federal Government to help them.

Mr. Teesdale: Where did he say that?

Hon. P. Collier: At the conference of manufacturers, in Melbourne.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: That is the sort of men the Government have selected to represent them in other parts of the world and other parts of Australia. If such a statement was made by Mr. Gray in Melbourne, how do we know it was not made by him also in Java, Singapore, and other places up there?

Hon. P. Collier: He will be appointed to this local committee of the Imperial Exhibition.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: It is necessary that men chosen for State delegations should be men who can be relied upon to say a good word for Western Australia. I would rather have a man exaggerate the advantages of the State a little than have him decry the State. It is not likely that we should go on our knees to the Federal Government.

The Premier: It is nothing short of a filthy statement.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I hope it will not be forgotten by the people of Western Australia. It should be recorded in "Hansard." We cannot put it on a tombstone, but at all events we can put it in "Hansard." Mr. Gray is so closely wedded to his trade or business that he has a tendency to speak dolefully, declaring that Western Australia, like some of his clients, is very

nearly dead. I do not think there are in Western Australia many men who would go to another part of the Commonwealth and talk in the same way.

The Premier: You would not find two others.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: It would be a good job if Mr. Gray remained in Melbourne. It is a pity he was not left in Java. The man who makes a statement of this kind is not a fit citizen for Western Australia. The State has afforded him a good living, notwithstanding which he goes about decrying the State, the State which has kept him and his family. Such a man is a disgrace to any Australian State or to any part of the world with which he is associated. I hope the Premier will deport him as soon as he comes back.

The Premier: If only we could.

Mr. Teesdale: The Chamber of Manufacturers ought to call for his resignation.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Coming from the president of the Chamber of Manufacturers, such a statement might do Western Australia a lot of harm. I really think the Premier should take this up.

Mr. LUTEY: There was on last year's Estimates no provision for the expenditure last year of £970 under this item. We ought to have some information about it. There was also a sum of £2,000 involved in the chartering of the "Kangaroo." We have no definite information as to what value the delegation was to the State, what expenditure was incurred, and who comprised the party.

The PREMIER: I have no information with regard to the £970, but I believe the delegation will bring good results to the State. A considerable amount of trade has already resulted. With cool storage at Fremantle this trade should be greatly increased.

Mr. Lutey: How were the expenses incurred?

The PREMIER: I have no details.

Vote put and passed.

Progress reported.

BILL—ADMINISTRATION ACT AMENDMENT.

Returned from the Council with an amendment.

RESOLUTION — STANDING ORDERS AMENDMENT, PRIVATE BILLS.

Message received from the Council as follows:—

The Legislative Council acquaints the Legislative Assembly that it has passed the following resolution:—"That a Message be sent to the Legislative Assembly requesting them to authorise the Standing Orders Committee of that House to confer with the Standing Orders Committee of the Legislative Council with a view to revising the Standing Orders of both Houses relat-

ing to the procedure in connection with Private Bills." In pursuance of this resolution the Council requests the Assembly to give the authorisation therein referred to.

House adjourned at 12.33 a.m. (Wednesday).

Legislative Council,

Wednesday, 8th November, 1922.

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

QUESTION—ENGINEERING TRADE, HOURS.

Hon. G. W. MILES asked the Minister for Education: 1, Is it a fact that the Federal Arbitration Court has fixed 48 hours a week for workers in the engineering trade? 2, Are the Government in favour of the 48 hours a week working hours? 3, If so, what steps do the Government propose to take to enforce the 48 hours a week work in this State?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: 1, Yes. 2, Yes. 3, The State contends that the Federal Court has no jurisdiction over State activities, and an appeal on this point to the Privy Council by this and other States is now pending, and, consequently, the various Federal awards relating to the engineering trades are not being applied to Government workers. The Government have lodged with the State Arbitration Court a petition claiming, among other things, that the working hours shall be 48 per week, and pending an award being issued existing conditions must prevail.

BILL—LICENSING ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

Hon. J. E. DODD (South) [4.34]: It has been said during the course of the debate that any legislation dealing with the social habits of the people is likely to create a certain amount of feeling, and a great diver-

sity of feeling. I agree with that. The Licensing Bill is no exception to the rule. Certainly it has created a great deal of feeling and a great diversity of feeling amongst the community. When we come to consider the cost of the drink traffic, I think we are justified in trying to arrive at the best possible measures we can, irrespective of the feelings of the community. I have nothing to say against those persons connected with the traffic. Very often we meet people who hold that we should consider individuals rather than systems. I have met a great deal of this in respect of mining legislation. It has been my duty to point out that I had nothing whatever to say detrimental to the owners or managers of the mines. Because of that, I have met with a good deal of criticism. So we are likely to be criticised in connection with all legislation. But if we try to deal with systems and leave out individuals, we shall get along very much better. The cost of the liquor traffic in Western Australia, according to the last returns, is something over £3,000,000 per annum, roughly about £10 per head for every man, woman and child in the State. When we consider that we spend on education only something like 30s. per head, and that many people think even that too much, while we are able to spend £10 per head on drink, we see that there is something wrong. I do not think we are going the right way to get prosperity when we spend over £3,000,000 per annum on drink, while our expenditure on education is only £500,000. We cannot measure the cost of the liquor traffic in money. We all know what the liquor traffic is costing, outside of its monetary cost. Probably everybody here to-day will realise to the utmost the number of brilliant lives that have been lost owing to the liquor traffic, lives of men who would have been ornaments to any society in any country. Probably everyone of us has had friends killed by the liquor traffic. The harmful results of drink are obvious to everybody. There is no need to indulge in statistics or obtain expert opinion as to the harmful results of the traffic, for they are obvious to the veriest tyro. Everyone can see what the liquor traffic is doing for the country, and for individual persons. Mr. Holmes referred to the menace of the trade. He was quite right in what he said. The prohibitions and restrictions laid on the liquor traffic are sufficient to show what the menace is. When we consider that in times of crisis, of war, of elections, on Armistice Day, on Peace Day, when boats were going to the war, when boats were returning from the war, all hotels had to be closed—when one remembers this one begins to realise what the menace of the liquor traffic really is. We all know that liquor is one of the most harmful stimulants we can take. Some say "So long as you do not abuse it, it is all right." However, when it is abused it is one of the most harmful indulgences we can have. At times it has been amazing to me to notice how readily men will drink their senses away, how easy it is for