

that until normal conditions prevailed it would be a difficult matter to carry on, and he felt it would be his duty to place the interests of the State first. From that time onward this party has endeavoured to render the Government of the day every assistance that lay in its power. There are some things of vital importance upon which we differ, but on a number of questions we have rendered the Premier every possible assistance.

The Premier: That is so.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Because of that fact, this party has not made a number of claims upon the Government for financial assistance. Since 1916, 12 millions of money have been spent, 13 millions were spent prior to 1916 during the Labour Administration, and close on two millions were left for the Government to take after 1916. By far the greater proportion of that money was spent in the development of the country. During Labour's regime there were railways built all over the State; water supplies were provided wherever required, bores being sunk to find water where none had been found previously, and dams being constructed; farmers were assisted to remain on the land when otherwise they would have been driven off; three millions were spent in bringing the railways into a proper condition to convey the products, the rolling stock at the time being shorter than ever previously. Nearly the whole of that money was spent in land development. The twelve millions spent since have been spent entirely in land development; none whatever in the metropolitan area. If this party wanted to harass the Government, we had every opportunity to do so; but we took the stand of "Country first," and so we felt it to be our duty to assist the Premier. Our action in this respect has offended the head of the executive of the Country Party. The paragraph I have quoted is unworthy of any man who is head of an association that aspires one day to rule the State. In return for the assistance rendered to primary production and the man on the land, the Labour Party have had, not gratitude, but kicks and condemnation. That is the result of the representations made by those who bring down farmers' representatives from the country and tell them wilful lies. I say again that the paragraph I have quoted is a discredit to the man who aspires to be the head of an organisation that hopes some day—I hope the day will never come—to occupy the Treasury bench. If the views of that executive are carried into effect, Parliament is dead, wiped out altogether. Let us have anything rather than a Parliament ruled by an outside executive.

Hon. P. Collier: Country Party members have been in the dock to-day, and will be in the dock to-morrow.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: In reply to the Minister for Mines I quote this paragraph—

I think that if power were vested in the executive to collaborate with, and more fully discuss matters with, the Parliamentary party, better results would accrue. If the executive is to be held responsible in

any way for the acts and doings of our Parliamentary representatives, then they must have the right to consult them and advise them from time to time.

We know that that executive holds sway over members of the Country Party. My reason for raising the matter to-night is that the conference meets again to-morrow; otherwise I should not have referred to it. Outside rule of Parliament is dangerous, and is likely to bring us into financial difficulties, difficulties which we might be able to steer clear of were Parliament free from outside influence. We know that outside influence has already been brought to bear to such an extent as to cost the State thousands of pounds. It is time for everyone to realise that Parliament is going to control the State as long as the people elect a Parliament. I do not care if the Labour Party cast me out for it to-morrow, I will still say that I will use all the power I possess to prevent any outside executive—I care not of what political complexion—from interfering in matters of Parliamentary concern as was proposed by the President of the Primary Producers' Association at the conference to-day.

On motion by Mr. Piesse debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 10.35 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Wednesday, 9th August, 1923.

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

QUESTION—ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, ENTRANCE.

Mr. LATHAM (for Mr. Pickering) asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, Is it a fact that the entrance to the Zoological Gardens has been removed from a situation favourable to the South Perth ferry service to one fav-

ourable to the tram service? 2, If so, upon whose instructions and for what purpose was this done? 3, Is it the desire of the Government to increase the revenue of the new tramway service to the detriment of the South Perth ferry service? 4, What is the policy of the Government with regard to the South Perth ferry service?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (for the Colonial Secretary) replied: 1, No. The entrance has been moved to the position provided in the original plans, and is equally suitable for both ferry and tramway traffic. 2 (a), By instruction of the Zoological Gardens Committee, after consultation with Sir J. T. Hobbs. (b) For the convenience of the general public. 3, This result is not expected. 4, There has been no change of policy.

QUESTION—LOTTERIES AND SWEEPS.

Mrs. COWAN asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, Has his attention been drawn to an advertisement in the personal columns of the "West Australian" of the 3rd and 4th instant reading: "Victoria Park Boys' Club Fund. Melbourne Cup sweep. By permission. Tickets 1s., obtainable at principal hotels"? 2, Has permission been obtained from him or his department to conduct this sweep? 3, If not, will he make inquiries as to who gave permission? 4, Has permission been given within the last few months to any industrial or religious body to conduct lotteries or sweeps? 5, If lotteries and sweeps are illegal, by what authority and in what circumstances can permission be given?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (for the Colonial Secretary) replied: 1, Yes. 2, No. 3, Permission was given by the Commissioner of Police. 4, Yes. 5, Cabinet decided in April last that if the law was enforced in the case of raffles, sweeps, and art unions promoted in aid of charitable and other worthy objects, with the approval and support of a large section of the public, it would mean the closing up of many channels of benevolence, and departing from a rule followed by all previous Governments. It was considered, however, that such movements should be regulated and the Commissioner of Police was entrusted with the carrying out of Cabinet's decision.

QUESTION—FORESTS COMMISSION.

Mrs. COWAN asked the Premier: 1, Can he give an idea as to how much longer the deliberations of the Forests Commission are likely to last? 2, Was it intended, when this Commission was appointed, that its ramifications should be as wide as the evidence published in the newspapers indicates, namely, he investigations of the leasing to the Kurawang Firewood Company of a portion of the Government railways, and also the value of spark arresters and nullifiers? 3, Will he inform the House what the Commission has got to date?

The PREMIER replied: 1, The Commission expects to conclude the taking of evidence within one month, after which the report will have to be prepared. 2, The Commission was empowered to inquire into the administration of the Forests Act, 1913, generally. I am advised by the Chairman that the evidence taken was within the scope of the powers vested in the Commission. 3, £917 18s. 8d.

QUESTION—SEWERAGE, WEST PERTH.

Mrs. COWAN asked the Minister for Works: 1, When do the Government intend to extend the sewerage system to that portion of West Perth which has not yet been connected with the system? 2, Will he explain whether there is any reason for this important work not being carried out?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: 1, The proposal is under consideration. 2, The portion of West Perth referred to cannot be connected with the existing system, and must wait until the scheme for taking in Subiaco is decided upon. The cost would be about £200,000, and household connections would cost at least £250,000 extra.

Mr. Wilson: A mere bagatelle.

QUESTION—TRAMWAYS, DESTINATION NOTICES.

Mr. MUNSIE asked the Minister for Railways: 1, What officer or officers were responsible for the change from the destination notice to the numbers on the tram cars? 2, Was the work done by the department or by an outside firm, and if by the latter, what is the name of the firm? 3, What was the cost per car? 4, What was the total cost?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, The route number signs were fitted to tram cars on the recommendation of the General Manager, Tramways. These will be used in conjunction with the destination signs. Owing to inability to obtain blind material at present, all the signs have not been fixed up. 2, The equipment was obtained under indent and fitted to cars departmentally. 3, Approximately £30, including cost of fitting cars. 4, £3,091.

QUESTION—AMUSEMENT TAX.

Mr. LATHAM asked the Premier: 1, Have negotiations ever been conducted between the State and Federal Treasurers with a view to getting the Federal authorities to forego the amusement tax in favour of the State? 2, If not, will he request the Minister for Education, who is in Melbourne, to approach the Prime Minister to see whether it is possible to secure the tax for the State, to be used for charity purposes through the State Charities Department?

The PREMIER replied: 1, Yes; joint action was taken by all States, but without success. 2, I will ask the Minister for Education to revive the question.

QUESTION—PIER STREET CROSSING.

Mr. MANN asked the Minister for Railways: 1, Is he aware that in addition to the persons reported by the railway authorities as having been killed at the Pier-street crossing, a man named Farrant was killed in June last. 2, Owing to the great danger to pedestrian traffic, more particularly to aged persons and children, will he consider the advisability of having an officer placed in charge of the crossing till midnight, and have the crossing repaired?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, No. But a man named Tennant was killed on the night of the 20th May last whilst walking along the line between Perth Central Station and Pier-street. This man did not pass over the crossing. A signalman was on duty at the time. 2, It is not admitted that there is greater danger than at any other crossing, and, in any case, there is a bridge in close proximity. The gates over level crossings in the metropolitan area are operated by signalmen for two shifts in order to give free access to tradesmen's traffic, and as it would involve an additional shift on each crossing and an expenditure of £1,377 per annum, and is not necessary for trade purposes, further consideration would be necessary before the request of the hon. member could be granted.

QUESTION—INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE BOARD, OPERATIONS.

Mr. STUBBS asked the Premier: As a large number of settlers are obtaining funds from the Industries Assistance Board and receiving the board's protection for an indefinite period in the payment of their accounts to outside creditors, thus creating a thriftless class of farmers, will he have inquiries made by a competent authority into the accounts and management of the board with a view to closing the Board's operations as early as possible and transferring those accounts considered good to the books of the Agricultural Bank?

The PREMIER replied: The management is competent. It is closely investigating the position of each account on its books with the object of closing accounts if necessary, and where possible placing the farmer in a better position to produce from his land that for which it is best suited, not with the object of closing the I.A.B. operations down altogether. The bank and the board accounts are now kept in the one office. Amalgamation of accounts would be difficult, as the security is not the same in each case. I refrain from commenting on the honourable member's statement.

QUESTIONS (3)—IMMIGRATION

The £6,000,000 Loan.

Mr. LATHAM asked the Premier: Is it his intention to lay upon the Table of the House a copy of the papers in connection with the arrangements made between himself, representing the Western Australian Government, and the British Government re the loan of £6,000,000?

The PREMIER replied: I will lay the papers on the Table of the House.

Accommodation for Married Couples.

Mr. STUBBS asked the Premier: 1, Is he aware that among the immigrants who recently arrived in the State are a number of married couples desirous of taking employment among the farming community but unable to do so owing to the farmers' lack of accommodation for them? 2, If so, will he authorise the Agricultural Bank to make available to farmers funds for the erection of suitable accommodation in such cases?

The PREMIER replied: 1, Yes. 2, Yes, every application will be dealt with on its merits.

Arrivals.

Hon. P. COLLIER asked the Premier: 1, What number of assisted immigrants, men, women, and children, respectively, arrived in the State during the year ended 30th June last? 2, How many of the number were married?

The PREMIER replied: 1, 2,317 men, 885 women, 539 children. 2, 467.

QUESTION—ELECTORAL DEPARTMENTS, AMALGAMATION.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN asked the Premier: 1, Have the Government under consideration any agreement for handing over to the Commonwealth authorities the State Electoral Department? 2, If so, what is the Government's reason for assisting to bring about unification without the vote of the electors by handing over State departments to the Commonwealth?

The PREMIER replied: 1, No, but the question of amalgamation of Federal and State rolls has been raised by the Federal Government. The State Government have obtained data from the State officials which is under consideration. 2, See answer to No. 1.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

On motion by Hon. W. C. Angwin, leave of absence for three weeks granted to Mr. McCallum (South Fremantle) on the ground of ill-health.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Fifth Day.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

Mr. FIESSE (Toodyay) [4.42]: The big question before us at the present time is the Premier's immigration scheme. The Premier has reason to feel proud at the good opinions expressed by members regarding his proposals and the results of his work in the Old Country. It is pleasing to find that all parties are so willing and ready to help the Premier in the big work that lies before him. The member for North-East Fremantle (Hon. W. C. Angwin) last evening suggested that a committee representative of all parties, would be of great service to the Premier in carrying out this work. What I would like to know more particularly than anything else is the details of the scheme. Considerable criticism has been levelled at the Premier from outside Parliament with regard to the investment of the large sum of money in question. Fear has been expressed lest the money may not be wisely invested and loss may result. If the money is devoted to the development of existing farms through the Agricultural Bank, much good should result, because the bank officials have had such wide experience of land development that there is no fear of their neglecting the lessons of the past or of the money invested failing to return interest and sinking fund to the State. There is an immense area of good country still available for settlement, a great deal of it being Crown land. No doubt it will be settled if the Government adopt the right course. There is also a large area of good agricultural and farming land comprised in the forest country north of the Bencubbin district. In this district alone there are at least a quarter of a million acres. There is an agitation locally for a parallel railway junctioning with the Wongan Hills-Mullewa line to open up that country. The first essential for the successful development of that big stretch of land from Mullewa to Esperance is an adequate water supply. That being secured, transport facilities must quickly follow. We know that the settlers here have mastered the local difficulties which the earlier settler had to combat, and that being so, it is now safe for the State to build the railways that are required for the peopling of the country. I was relieved to hear from the Premier that it was intended to reserve the wheat belt for Australian settlers on the ground that they have a greater knowledge than the immigrant of the development of and of that sort. Between Westonia and Mt. Marshall railway extension there is another large tract of country which is in need of water supplies and railways in order that it may carry a prosperous community. From Southern Cross to Israelite Bay there is also good land available. I lived on the south-east coast some six years ago, and I now there is an immense area of land there suitable for farming operations. This country too is not supplied with water. Indeed, water conservation is one of the first matters that

should closely occupy the attention of the Government. The Government would be justified in employing a special staff of engineers to watch that particular feature of land settlement. Between Newdegate and Ravensthorpe there is also a large area of good country, possibly exceeding a million acres, which would make really good farming land. The Premier proposes by his immigration scheme to bring to the State 6,000 settlers. I have felt some anxiety as to how he intends to settle these people, for so far we have had no details supplied to us. Members have freely expressed their willingness to help the Premier, and I too propose to assist him as far as possible. With the indulgence of the House I will give members a rough idea of what I believe should be done with the class of people it is proposed to bring here. I assume it is intended to bring to Western Australia a type of immigrant suitable for settlement on the land. No country in the world offers a better opportunity for group settlement, and settlement generally, than Western Australia. According to the Premier we import farm produce such as butter, bacon and other food supplies to the value of, roughly, two million pounds a year. That is almost equal to the value of the wheat exported from this State. The position offers a wide field for the small farmer. My idea is to divide the holdings of small farmers into three classes—the holding of from 50 to 100 acres, the one of 250 to 300 acres, and the other of 600 to 1,000 acres, the last named being in the wheat belt. There is no great need for a Closer Settlement Bill, although it is not my intention to oppose such a measure. There are many estates for sale just now, highly improved, and ranging in value from £1 to £7 an acre, averaging about £4 per acre. Many of these estates I know personally. They are on the market at a reasonable figure. In one case the owners have offered to take Government bonds bearing interest. In the Avon district and the Great Southern there is a stretch of country quite 200 miles long by 50 wide and suitable for closer settlement. I should say that the 50-acre holding could be made profitable to the owner if he were assisted in the planting of 20 acres of vines in conjunction with his ordinary farming operations. Such a farmer should be supplied with a cottage, to cost £250, the full equipment necessary to enable him to properly work the place aggregating less than £700. To that would have to be added the cost of the virgin land, and having found that, we arrive at the total cost to the immigrant without capital. The individual in question would have to be maintained for at least two years. In three years' time, with his 20 acres of vines and the other farming equipment, the settler should be getting from his holding sufficient to maintain himself and his family, and pay the interest and sinking fund on the capital cost of the farm. I have a preference for the 100-acre holding of improved land. That would cost only another £100 or so, making the total cost about £800. The land would

be made available to him on easy terms. To equip a man on such a holding with sufficient stock to enable him to carry on would of course cost a little more, and he should have the same 20 acres of vines as the other man. In four years, if properly directed, he should be in receipt of an income of £500 or £600 a year. If the small settler had, say, three milking cows amongst his stock, he would get sufficient from that source to pay all the grocery bills for his family from the outset. The equipment of a farm of that size would not be much greater than the equipment of the smaller proposition. The 300-acre farm would not cost much more to equip than the 100-acre farm, the additional cost being largely made up of the price of the land. I am of course assuming that the Government desire to assist in the establishment of settlers on farms of these types. In the Avon and Great Southern districts 20 acres of drying grape vines will yield at a moderate estimate at the rate of £25 per acre, which is only a quarter of the estimated yield in the Swan district, and in the fourth year the owner of the vineyard should be in receipt of an income of £400. The vineyard could be worked by the owner and his family. The only extra expense to which he would be put would be the harvesting operations and the drying of the fruit; but this cost would not be great. We have a wonderfully good local market, and almost all produce commands a high price. There is a reasonable profit in fruit except in one or two lines, but dried fruits command exceptionally high prices. A neighbour of mine has a farm of 28 acres. Last year his yield per acre was only half that claimed by the people in the Swan district, but his gross return from that area totalled £650. There is nothing more easy to attain than a yield of that kind. People with 25 years' experience of the districts I have mentioned can affirm that their vineyard is free from vine diseases. For 15 years the man who has had this place has not used one pound of sulphur. It is a well-known fact that in the Eastern States no man can carry on vine growing without using sulphur at least twice a year. This shows that the district in question is free from disease. When visiting the vineyard in question a little time ago, I met there the brother-in-law of the owner, a gentleman from South Australia, who said to me, "You people here enjoy a wonderful advantage as compared with us in South Australia, for this reason, that it is very difficult for us to grow a sultana crop." The sultana is the high-priced grape in the dried fruit market to-day. In South Australia growers have to spray their vines five or six times a year, and even then are not sure of a crop. In Perth this morning I met a gentleman owning 14 acres of sultana vines, from which the yield this year, being the first crop, totalled in value £1,400. That is almost four times the amount of the estimate per acre which I have put up in my small scheme. The gross yield was 14 tons, and the current market value of sultanans exceeds £100 per ton, as the member for East

Perth (Mr. Simons) can confirm. Allowing that the price falls by one half, which would reduce it below the pre-war level, the gross yearly return from that place would exceed £700, for sultanans. The actual values obtained in a district free from fungus disease are really astounding. I myself have taken from two acres of muscatels—Lexia, a low-priced raisin—not less than £85. That was before the war. The Lexia, as I say, is a low-priced product; and yet it produces such a good return. I am not dealing with fabulous figures but with actual facts, and am assuming the lowest probable yield. The opportunity offering in this State by the cultivation of the vine is simply amazing. When the repatriation scheme first started I did my utmost to interest Ministers in the vine business, pointing out to them that a once armed man could cultivate ten acres of vines doing the ploughing and everything else. In fact the work would not occupy him for more than six months of the year. As to the area of 20 acres, I have been questioned by some of my friends in the Swan district. May I say that in the Toodyay district I myself have worked 23 acres. If we bring an immigrant here and put him under the care of a competent instructor, and give him a reasonable chance, he will do well; he can live half the year on the side line. With assistance from the State he would be able to support his family until his vineyard came into bearing. I would much rather see a small farm together with 20 acres of vines and a few cows. The holder of such a farm would be on a very much better footing than nine out of ten people on the land. There is an assured income, and the life is free from worry than in ordinary farming operations. No doubt it seems too good to be true, but I can give instances at Toodyay of men who are to-day getting a living from less than 100 acres. There is abundance of land available, high class and highly improved; and I sincerely trust that the Premier will get into the field early, because these estates are being sold day by day. Quite recently I heard of an estate, which was cleared, capable of being cut into 20-acre farms, being sold at £7 per acre. Western Australia offers splendid opportunities for the small man if only his energies are directed into the right channel. As to the value of local farm products, I omitted to mention that the small settler could develop also egg and poultry production. Prices ruling in the city to-day are high. There is a big demand for eggs, and that demand represents a good opening for the small settler. I know of an instance where for the last 12 years a farmer's wife has had a return of over £1 for each hen. In that case 295 hens last year yielded a gross return of £304. On the price ruling to-day, and which will rule for a good while yet, a thousand fowls will yield a better return than a thousand sheep, taking into consideration the capital cost involved in each case. The present returns from poultry cannot last for all time, but they will last long enough to assist the Government in

settling the people who are coming here from the Old Country. Under proper treatment our soil will produce one commodity or another from the first day of January to the thirty-first day of December in each year. For closer settlement purposes I would prefer those districts in which water is more easily conserved. In the Great Southern district one can conserve water very cheaply, and gravitate it on to small areas. A marvellous return can be obtained from even one acre that has a water supply. The people coming here from the Old Country are used to small areas, and have been reared amongst intense culture. Consequently they have an appreciation for closer settlement, and will adapt themselves to its conditions much more rapidly than our own people will. However, one cannot beat our own people for wheat growing. From my knowledge of the wheat belt I say that it is almost solely adapted for the production of grain. The difficulty of conserving water, and the risk which the farmer takes if he stocks to the full carrying capacity of his land, seem to prohibit investment in stock for a long time to come. Anyhow, that course will be impracticable until we have adopted an effective system of overcoming the water difficulty. Only last year we had a repetition of what happened at the commencement of settling the wheat belt. My friends of the Labour Party will remember that when they came into power the first big work they had to undertake was to carry water by rail to the people in the wheat belt. Tanks were put down at various sidings, and water was delivered there and sold from the sidings.

Mr. Latham: At what price?

Mr. PIESSE: I know that in one year it was found necessary to supply water without payment. Once the water difficulty is overcome, everything will go smoothly; but only a year ago there was another experience of water trouble in those districts. Large quantities of water had to be delivered by rail and carted to the farms. In some cases the carting distance was eight or nine miles. That fact proves that holdings cannot be fully stocked as yet with anything like safety. The cost of living is gradually falling.

Mr. Munsie: Little by little, and very little at that.

Mr. PIESSE: One can purchase good mutton as low as 5d. per lb. Apart from eggs, other essentials are reasonable in price. If only we can convince the people who flock to the cities of the splendid opportunities that exist in the country under closer settlement schemes, we shall soon do away with that drift which is complained of to-day. The drift is, in my opinion, due largely to the fact that those who come to the city feel that they can do just as well, by working for wages in the city, or wherever employment is offering, as they can do on the land. The people I refer to are not those who flock into the city and swell the ranks of the unemployed, but married people with families. I have had numbers of letters from such people who are willing to go on the land if

only the Government will find holdings for them; that is, small holdings. I am convinced that the time is ripe for closer settlement and group settlement. I know very little about such systems as adopted in the extreme South-West, but I feel sure that in this connection greater inducements are offering in the Avon and Great Southern districts than are available to-day in the other districts.

Mrs. COWAN (West Perth) [5.14]: I desire first of all to congratulate the Premier on his success in obtaining money to help us in placing immigration in this State on a reasonable footing. I am not going to say that the arrangement he has made is entirely satisfactory, because that remains to be proved. There are various matters which I am sorry have not been alluded to in the Governor's Speech. One is the need for erecting some sort of a suitable home for the aged women at Fremantle. So far as I am aware, nothing has been done or suggested in that matter. The place known as the Old Women's Home is very far from satisfactory. Indeed, it is well known that the place is not what it should be. Unfortunately conditions have not been improved for the poor old souls there recently, owing to the fact that women are being sent there from the lunatic asylum in order that more room may be provided in that institution. I have no doubt that this course is absolutely necessary; but it seems to me a most pathetic thing that the nice old women who are not troubled mentally should be obliged to live alongside others who are insane, even if they are so only to a small degree.

Hon. T. Walker: The same thing is done at the Old Men's Home.

Mrs. COWAN: I understood it was not so there.

Hon. T. Walker: Yes, I have seen some there.

Mrs. COWAN: They should not be there in either case. Something should be done to prevent the existence of such a state of affairs, and I feel sure men and women will join together in seeking relief for those people from such conditions.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: A lunatic asylum is no place for them.

Mrs. COWAN: No, but there should be provided some building nearer to the asylum for their accommodation. We should not continue the present practice, which disturbs the old age of these poor, worthy souls who have, perhaps, had a hard time during their life and are now, or should be, enjoying the few possible remaining restful years of their existence. Those last few years should not be made unhappy by coming into contact with the mentally deficient individuals who are taken there. It is bad enough to be old, and it is, therefore, important that we should deal with this problem, realising that the finances of the State could be devoted in such a direction rather than in some avenues where expenditure is going on at present. I wish to pay a high tribute to the Colonial Secre-

tary in connection with these matters. I am sorry that Mr. Broun is not here and I regret to hear he is so ill. If we lose Mr. Broun's services, we will be deprived of the offices of one who has been most sympathetic, kindly and helpful in these matters. Those of us who have had to deal with him, realise that nothing was ever too much for him to do in securing kindly attention to these people and other privileges from time to time. Owing to financial difficulties, which, like the poor, appear to be always with us, there is not the possibility there should be of getting many of these things attended to. A home, too, for mental defectives is required. Such an institution is badly needed for women, and I regret that no mention of anything to be done in that direction is made in the Governor's Speech. I still hope that we shall see some reference to this work when the Estimates are placed before us, more especially as there have been one or two additions to the population in this direction, as a result of immigration. It is a great pity that the system of elective Ministries is not in operation here. I think such a system would give most satisfactory results, and I hope it will be introduced as soon as possible. I know there is a great diversity of opinion on the question, but, certainly, if the administration of the affairs of government is to be more satisfactorily carried out, we should have honorary Ministers. I do not agree that the salaries of honorary Ministers should come out of those drawn by portfolioed Ministers. Such a practice is quite unfair. We realise that our Ministers are worked hard enough and deserve all they get. Surely something can be done in this direction. Had I not been a new member, I would have spoken last session when the appointment of a Public Works Committee was suggested, and pointed out that it was more economical to have additional honorary Ministers, rather than have a sub-committee advising without any responsibility whatever. Supposedly advisory, such a committee would practically have constituted a Cabinet within a Cabinet. I am glad to see no mention is made of such a proposal this session. As to cotton growing, speaking from the women's standpoint, I welcome the advent of such an industry, despite what the member for Pilbara (Mr. Underwood) said last night regarding "those two and a half acres of cotton." I cannot help realising that even two and a half acres are better than none at all, if only as an illustration of what can be done. We all owe a debt of gratitude to the member for Roebourne (Mr. Teesdale) for what he has done in connection with this question. It is peculiarly an industry in which women and girls can help, more so probably than in any other industry. Especially is this so, if we can grow cotton in the areas north of Perth towards Geraldton. In my opinion, there is no question but that we can do so. I am all the more of that opinion particularly since I have seen what has been produced in the Bayswater district. There is

plenty of such land available, and, after what has been done at Bayswater, one realises the opportunities available for the employment of a considerable number of our young people, taking them away from those influences which unsteady them at the present time, owing to lack of occupation as much as anything else. I greatly sympathise with much of what the Leader of the Opposition said regarding the waste that goes on in Government departments, but I do not agree with what he and others said regarding the salaries paid to civil servants. It would be of advantage if we appointed as a commissioner a commercial man with banking experience, in whom we would have absolute confidence, who would go into the whole question of the civil service. Those of us who have had something to do with Government departments, either through relatives who have been employed as civil servants, or otherwise, realise that there is room for improvement in the direction indicated. In many instances, I think the civil servants themselves would more than welcome such an inquiry. I know that to be a fact. I always feel sorry when I hear the rather contemptuous references made to civil servants whenever they are mentioned in this Chamber. Such an attitude will not encourage them to do their best. It should be made clear that when we talk about this subject, we refer to the system rather than to the civil servants and the work they do.

Mr. Teesdale: Do you not think a lot of the strong young fellows there would be better employed at farming?

Mrs. COWAN: Yes, certainly I do. I will have something to say about young people presently. A Bill of importance from the point of view of everyone in the State, and more especially of the women and children, is to be introduced this session. I refer to the Hospitals Bill. I am glad we are to have such a measure, and I hope it will prove to be on satisfactory lines. To be such, it must provide that each one of us will share, on a graduated basis of taxation, the cost of these institutions. For my part, I would exempt no one. No matter what an individual's wage or salary may be, each one should be prepared to pay his or her quota pro rata. I do not think we quite realise our responsibilities to each other in this respect. For that reason, I hope the Hospitals Bill will prove to be along the right lines. Allied to that question, is the necessity for providing further accommodation for women at the Perth Public Hospital. I know the Colonial Secretary is supporting us in our request in that direction. I am sorry the Premier is not present, for I would have liked to point out to him that the more immigrants he brings here, especially if the large bodies of women spoken of are to be brought out, the greater will be the necessity for additions to the hospital accommodation. There should be no suggestion

of cutting any amount provided for this work off the Estimates this year. The amount sought is not a large one and this matter should receive the earnest consideration of members when it comes before them. Women especially realise that it is an urgent necessity. We cannot have a satisfactory race unless we pay proper attention to this matter and women should not be kept waiting for months, until they get in such a low condition that they require immediate treatment. They are often kept waiting for months before they can gain admission to our hospitals. Those already treated have to be placed on floors, or turned out of the hospital, because there is not sufficient accommodation to meet the requirements of others in imperative need. Patients have had to be turned out too soon, frequently because of the necessity for taking in particularly bad cases, and patients have often to wait weeks or months before securing admittance. As to immigration, I note that there is nothing specified in connection with the Premier's scheme regarding the number contained in families who are to come out, nor is it indicated what is to be done with single men and single women. I was glad to hear the member for Toodyay (Mr. Piesse) speak of the openings for poultry farmers. This is an important feature and I can believe that his statements are true, particularly in view of the price we are paying for eggs at present, and the prices we pay for many months in the year. On this basis, I can quite realise that poultry farming should be a lucrative means of earning a livelihood. If we could induce women to go in for poultry farming, they should be able to make a good living. They would require to be looked after and educated in the industry, in order that they may be given some idea of how to get the best results. It would be a good thing if people already engaged in the industry would take some of these women and give them the necessary tuition and educate them in the responsibilities attached to poultry farming.

[The Deputy Speaker took the Chair.]

Hon. P. Collier: It is a more suitable occupation for women than for men.

Mrs. COWAN: I do not know that it is not, but I know that a good many men are doing well in this particular industry. For instance, it is rather hard work for a woman when she is asked to clean up and rake over poultry yards, and do the digging that is involved. Apart from that aspect, it is a splendid occupation for them, and I think women should do well at it.

Hon. P. Collier: Most of those who tried it did not do well.

Mrs. COWAN: Regarding settlement in the South-West, I do not know whether the best policy is to settle the new arrivals only in that direction. The Premier, however, should be a better judge of that ques-

tion than most of us. The idea seems to be to settle the immigrants in the South-West and to leave the wheat belt for our own people. It might be a good idea to encourage development also in the North-West and spend some of the money there. When I realise that nothing has yet been done regarding the report from the Surveyor-General, Mr. King, which was before us last year, I confess that I do not know how long it will be before anything can be done for our own young men. If the Australian, and particularly the Western Australian young men are to have the benefit of settlement on the wheat lands, and the newcomers are not to have that benefit, surely something should be done in connection with Mr. King's report. Mr. King told us that there were millions of acres in those districts, that is to say, two and a half million acres within seven miles of the railways between York and Beverley to the westward, and towards Dowerin, Cunderdin and Quairading to the eastward. He pointed out that only one million acres had been developed in an agricultural sense. Would it not be better, in any Closer Settlement Bill to be brought before us, if the line suggested by the Lands Department surveyor and by the Surveyor General also, were followed rather than the proposal set out in the Bill last session and which was thrown out by the Legislative Council? If that were done, we should probably have a better chance of getting the land developed and with greater benefit to the settlers themselves. He suggested that this land should be leased, that negotiations be opened with the owners and an arrangement made to acquire it on deferred terms of payment spread over 20 or 30 years. If the owner refused, the alternative should be a heavy tax. That would be better than running the risk of introducing a Bill similar to that of last year. I did not quite agree with the member for Pilbara (Mr. Underwood) yesterday when he said it was the fault of the women that the men came from the country to the town. The hon. member should have qualified that statement. What inducements are offered a woman to remain on the land until the man has made all his money? At Bunbury the other day I was invited to attend and speak at the settlers' conference then in session. The delegates seemed to have grasped all facts connected with the development of the soil, and to know everything there was to learn about farms and orchards. I could not help telling them it appeared to me that in their study of agricultural problems they had forgotten the human side, forgotten what was due to their uncomplaining women. For instance, one delegate admitted that when he had made a little money as the result of some outside work, he had put that money into super. He advised others to do the same. It seemed to me it would have been even better if he had spent at least half of it on his home. A woman who by a windlass is drawing household water from a well all day

would greatly appreciate the provision of a pump and a few pipes leading to the kitchen and wash tubs. It would mean a tremendous muscular saving for her, and an appreciable difference to the comfort of the home. Again, in back country districts so little is done in the way of providing even proper cooking utensils and washing apparatus. Is it to be wondered at that the wife is bad-tempered and fails to greet her husband with a sweet smile and warm slippers when he comes home for the evening? It must be remembered that the woman on the farm is far more lonely than is the man. She is not the first to be considered when a trip to town is mooted, nor does she have the healthy outdoor occupation of the men of her household. It is not for her to engage in boundary riding and keeping an eye on the stock. I know what I am talking about, for as a girl I often rode after stock, and invariably found it a most exhilarating exercise; whereas I have not always enjoyed the washing and cooking that falls to a woman's lot. Very much more consideration might reasonably be given to the lonely women in the country. Telephones ought to be provided as a means of breaking down their terrible isolation. Mr. Poynton will see that they are provided at reasonable rates in the future—

Mr. Davies: They will all have wireless in their homes presently.

Mrs. COWAN: I do not think you men quite realise the woman's standpoint, or appreciate her unselfishness, which alone enables her to remain on the land. At some of the group settlements I was told that, 18 months ago, women were brought out here from English factories, having no knowledge whatever of the work awaiting them in the Australian bush. They found plenty of food to cook, but no utensils with which to cook it. They knew nothing of the using up of kerosene tins as buckets and cooking pots, had no idea of how to shape a fruit tin into a milk jug. These expedients are all very enjoyable at a picnic and we Australians with our initiative think of them, but it is unreasonable to expect a knowledge of them in people from England whose baking has always been done at the bakehouse and who know nothing of the art of making bread.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Before the war everybody in England knew how to bake bread.

Mrs. COWAN: I am afraid the hon. member is somewhat inaccurate in making such a statement. I agree that there should be better examination of the immigrants coming out here. It is painful to see the condition of some of them. Even tubercular people and mental deficient have been sent out to us. Of these unfortunate classes we have quite enough here without adding to their numbers through our special scheme of immigration. I like the suggestion that we should have our own doctor in England, but in addition I want to see a woman doctor appointed for the women and children. She would get at the root of much which, probably, a man doctor would not have the patience to arrive at. We all know that

the work of Dr. Roberta Jull in our schools was far more satisfactory than that which could be done by any man. Dr. Jull is at present in England. Most of us hope she will return and continue her work in our schools; if she does not come back, her services might be availed of in England.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Dr. D. Montgomery did a great deal of good work in our schools before Dr. Jull took over.

Mrs. COWAN: I do not dispute that. We should be extremely careful to see that no man who is imprisoned in this State and who, by his antecedents, is likely to be of criminal instincts all his life, should be allowed to nominate his wife and children out to this State, when they can get a better living and be much happier among their friends in the Old Country. This sort of thing has actually occurred, and we should see that it is not repeated. I am glad the Arbitration Act is to be amended. I trust the amendments will include a provision making continuity of work an obligation wherever there is continuity of employment. It would be welcomed by many in every walk of life and would do a great deal to allay industrial unrest. Unemployment has been greatly in evidence for some time past. It has proved extremely difficult to cope with, because it is of the kind against which doles can do very little good. Have we ever considered how the go-slow tendencies of so many are to be remedied wherever found, whether in the public service, in industrial circles, or in the commercial world? Until we consider that aspect of the question, I am afraid unemployment will continue to increase. Another evil we require to watch is seen in the effect of unduly high wages paid to boys and girls. I say "unduly high" because there is no corresponding obligation on those young people. I am speaking of all classes. The evil is not more evident in the industrial world than it is in the commercial or in the public service. So long as that condition continues, we shall not get continuity of employment, or induce investors to start industries which will help to employ our young people. No boy or girl should receive better pay than is awarded to many married men. The young people, many of them, do nothing towards the upkeep of the home, nor do they realise that they should be making provision for a home of their own. They are to be seen out enjoying themselves in all sorts of places without any attempt to realise the true responsibilities of life, which sooner or later must be borne in on them. We all realise much more than in the past the necessity for giving attention to these points. I do not wish to see wages lowered, but I do wish to see something done to prevent irresponsible young people from being better paid than are many married men and women. I have often wondered whether the age-wage system is a good one. The results are so unsatisfactory to parents and to the community generally. Why not

grade the workers in all forms of service, and grade the pay accordingly? Is it any wonder that in these circumstances there are unemployed, and would not attention to these details help to remedy the evil?

Mr. Willcock: They would all be on the one grade, just as they are now all on the one minimum wage.

Mrs. COWAN: Not all are getting the minimum wage, but the people getting the bigger wage are being forced to maintain those who cannot equal them in any way and who are not allowed to work to the extent of their capacity.

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

Mr. Richardson: If a loophole be left, somebody is bound to take advantage of it.

Mrs. COWAN: Then again I always understood that the best thing for a community was an eight hours day—eight hours for work, eight hours for recreation and rest, and if you wished it, the development of the mind, and eight hours for sleep. The whole of that idea, however, appears to have broken down, and it seems to be now that it does not matter in the least how much time one devotes to hard and toilsome work beyond the eight hours, provided that double pay is given for it. I cannot see how such a thing can be beneficial to the community, either to the young or to the old. I have watched it for some time and it does not appear to have given satisfactory results, but I am willing, if it is possible, to have it demonstrated that it is not a wise course to work the first eight hours for ordinary pay and a subsequent eight hours for double pay. There are more important things than double pay to be considered, and it would have the effect of reducing unemployment greatly if no one was allowed to work overtime in any avocation, except perhaps in a few necessary cases. At present overtime is worked in almost every form of employment, professional or otherwise. I hope too that something will be done—I do not know whether it can be dealt with under the Arbitration Act or whether unions can adopt it—in the direction of seeing that mothers are given a voice in deciding whether or not there shall be a strike. As a mother I have always held that view and dozens of other mothers have expressed a similar opinion to me. If we were to take a referendum on the question to-morrow it would be carried without any difficulty. Therefore I trust that something will be done to bring this about. Another matter on which I wish to speak, and which undoubtedly leads to unemployment, is gambling. It also leads to going slowly and to a distaste for wholesome work. It cannot be denied that wholesome work is good for us all. This Parliament should discourage carnivals and lotteries by making it illegal for those under 21 years of age to take any part in them. This would be the means of inducing our young people to become steady workers and to give a better return to their employers, as well as to make them happier

than they are, and a more thrifty and saving element in our community. In this regard I would like to quote what Ruskin says on the subject:—

But there is one way of wasting time, of all the vilest, because it wastes, not time only, but the interest and energy of your minds. Of all the ungentlemanly habits into which you can fall—
and I am willing to add to this “unlady-like” as women are now indulging in gambling almost as much as men.

—the vilest is betting or interesting yourselves in the issues of betting. It unites nearly every condition of folly and vice; you concentrate upon a matter of chance, instead of upon the subject of true knowledge, and you back opinions which you have no grounds for forming merely because they are your own. All the insolence of egoism is in this; and so far the love of excitement is complicated with the hope of winning money, you turn yourselves into the basest sort of tradesmen—those who live by speculation. Were there no other ground for industry, this would be a sufficient one, that it protected you from the temptation to so scandalous a vice. Work faithfully, and you will put yourselves in possession of a glorious and enlarging happiness, not such as can be won by the speed of a horse, or marred by the obliquity of a ball.

That puts it very well. There are many in this House who feel as I do on this question, but they are so afraid of being called wowsers that they will not come out into the open and let us know how they view the matter. With regard to picture shows, these too often degenerate into a pernicious force, which makes for disintegration of high character in the young.

Mr. Munsie: They are not too bad; I go very often.

Mrs. COWAN: I, too, go sometimes and I find that occasionally the pictures are very good. But there are some that are distinctly objectionable, and we all know that that is so. The women of this State have for a long time past asked for the appointment of a censorship board. That is one of the things we would gladly see the Government give attention to. If the power to create such a body does not exist the matter could be attended to by an amendment of existing legislation.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Every picture is already censored by the Federal authorities.

Mrs. COWAN: What we want is a censorship such as exists in Tasmania, where the preventive effect arising from that censorship has been most marked. For that reason alone it would be wise to establish such a board here, and its mere existence I think would bring about the desired result. I wish to say a few words in connection with the Como trams. I feel that no member of Cabinet can afford to let people think that his standard of honour is lower than that of the common gambler, whose word has to be his bond, unless he accepts the alternative

of being booted and hooted out from the fraternity to which he belongs. It is not the construction of the Como tramway to which I take exception, it is the breaking of a promise made in this House. Examples of this kind must be detrimental in their effect on the national character. I feel strongly about this matter. An Englishman's pride is that his word is his bond, and any repudiation shocks the community badly and it can only be viewed with disapprobation by all right thinking people. I accept the assurance of the Premier and the Minister for Agriculture that they were not consulted. Surely if it be necessary to get the sanction of Parliament to appoint a nurse at a North-West town—Derby, I think—is it not as important to keep a pledge given to this House before spending even a so-called "paltry" £41,000 on a losing proposition such as we are told the Como tramway is likely to be. Some members think that this tramway may, like other "babies," grow into a fine child, but "babes" of unhealthy parentage, like this one, are apt to wither and become sickly and a costly liability instead. On all these questions of honour and moral dealing we may well recall to our minds the belief held by that great statesman, John Bright, which was—

That the national morality of the nation will in the course of history affect it in the same way that the private standards of an individual affect those with whom he comes in contact.

Bright sums it up in the following pithy words—

If nations—

or, as in this case, "Governments"—reject or deride the moral law, there is a penalty which will inevitably follow.

To hon. members and the members of the Government I would quote these words—

Though the mills of God grind slowly, yet they grind exceeding small;

Though with patience He stands waiting, with exactness grinds He all.

This will sooner or later happen to us as a people and as a Parliament unless we can do something to prevent unconstitutional acts being done in the future. There is one other matter to which I wish to refer. In a recent issue of the "Sunday Times" I read a paragraph in which it was stated that the allowance to State children had been reduced by 50 per cent. I do not think that is true; in fact, I am sure it is not. I would, however, like the Government to give the public an assurance that it is not so because the subject has been referred to by many people, and if it really were carried into effect, a great hardship would be created. I have no intention to-night of dealing with the subject of licensing and other matters, because we shall have another opportunity to do so. The suggestion which has been made in regard to the holding of a conference of representatives of the State Parliaments on the question of Federation is a wide one and I

hope it will take place, and if not, that this Parliament will voice its opinion on the Federal position in no uncertain way and forwards its views to the Prime Minister, so that the injustices which we have suffered for so long may be remedied. I spoke against federation in the days of long ago because I thought it was 30 years before its time, and the words of those who spoke against it then have proved to be absolutely true. Now, however, we are told by way of reply, "We are very sorry. You had all the sense and we had all the sentiment." It is time that some of us with the sense got together and remedied the condition of affairs now existing, because the deficit cannot be satisfactorily coped with until we receive more revenue from taxation now taken unfairly by the Federal Government.

Mr. WILLCOCK (Geraldton) [6.1]: With other members who have spoken, I recognise that the present is a very serious period in the history of the State. We know this because we find it necessary to introduce an entirely new policy with regard to governmental functions. We know very well that the financial position is absolutely serious. It is not necessary for every member to repeat that. It is fully recognised by the whole of the members of Parliament, though I think it is not recognised by the people of the State to the extent it should be. Most of us have seriously considered the position, but the people in charge of the government of the country are the ones to suggest remedies. The Government have got down to the basic facts and they say that the only way to improve the finances is by inaugurating an immigration policy. This being so, a majority of the people of the State have agreed on the broad outline that a policy of immigration will probably relieve the situation. I do not accept it as a fact, as has been expressed in the Press, that because the people recognise that immigration will to some extent relieve our financial position, the methods proposed by the Government have received anything like general endorsement. Every member on the Government side who has spoken has expressed himself pleased that the Opposition is supporting the Premier in his policy of immigration. Speaking for myself, and I think for other members of the Opposition, we are not in accord with the methods of settlement suggested by the Premier. I can see grave dangers ahead. I consider that an entirely wrong policy has been adopted. We could expend the money very much more wisely in other directions, which would result in greater good to the whole State in a shorter time than will be the case under the scheme propounded by the Premier. Whenever the Premier refers to our public utilities he says in effect, "We have too small a population for the public utilities under our control." He also says that the railways are responsible for the deficit, that for the considerable mileage of railways in this State, the insufficiency of people and of production are responsible

for the present parlous condition of the finances.

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

The Minister for Works: In effect, it is so.

Mr. WILLCOCK: Yes, but though the Premier repeats this so often and evidently has it constantly in mind, he now comes down with a policy involving the building of more railways. That is the policy of the Government with regard to closer settlement. There will be a considerable increase in our railway mileage. If the experience of the past counts for anything we can only expect that the construction of more railways will increase our difficulties.

The Minister for Works: Not if the railways are built to induce settlement.

Mr. WILLCOCK: Every railway we have built during the last 20 years has been built to induce settlement.

The Minister for Works: No, there are miles and miles of railway without settlement at all.

Mr. WILLCOCK: The ultimate aim of practically all our railway construction during the past 15 or 20 years has been to increase settlement. The Premier tells us it is owing to our vast mileage of railways that the deficit has increased and that we have got into a financial morass. Yet, in attempting to get out of the difficulty, the Premier can suggest nothing better than the policy which has proved so disastrous in the past, namely the construction of more railways. The Premier attributes the deficit to the provision of public utilities in advance of the requirements of the people. To get out of the present difficulty, he proposes an extension of that policy.

Hon. T. Walker: A bit of the hair of the dog that bit him.

Mr. WILLCOCK: Quite so. If the Government so desired, they could settle numbers of immigrants on land adjacent to the existing railways. There is any quantity of land in close proximity to the railway system not being developed. This land could be utilised for settlement without increasing our railways by a single mile.

Mr. Piesse: And it is under offer for sale, too.

Mr. WILLCOCK: Yes. A considerable area is held up and people anxious to obtain land within a reasonable distance of railway facilities cannot get an acre of it. In my own district there are numbers of young men who have been brought up on farms and who thoroughly understand the agricultural industry from A to Z. If they do not understand it, it is useless to expect newcomers to do so. These young men are clamouring for land within a reasonable distance of railway facilities and cannot get it. The member for Toodyay (Mr. Piesse) expressed similar sentiments when he was speaking. Wherever one goes in the State, he is informed that there are considerable areas of unimproved land not available for settlement. It is held up at the caprice of people, some

of whom desire to profit by the unearned increment which will possibly accrue in after years when other people have settled further out. Some of it is tied up in large estates and a considerable area is held by people who thought they were exhibiting unusual foresight by taking up in the first instance holdings considerably larger than they could properly work. Not including the Midland Railway—I shall have something more to say about that railway later in the session—there are 22,000,000 acres of agricultural land within 11 miles of a railway. From the data supplied to us, we can see that not one half of this land has been cleared or used productively, notwithstanding that all the facilities necessary for its successful development are in close proximity.

Mr. Harrison: A large proportion of it is sandplain and is not fit for cultivation.

Mr. WILLCOCK: I have made allowance for sandplain. Allowing for 10,000,000 acres cleared there remain 12,000,000 acres within 11 miles of existing railways. We can safely assume that one-fourth of this area is first class land. The member for Avon (Mr. Harrison) will agree that the policy in the past has not been to clear the first class land, because to do so is a very expensive matter. The second class land is comparatively easy to clear and the people in developing their holdings have tackled the second class land largely. Of the 12,000,000 acres, therefore, about 3,000,000 acres of first class land are not used to any extent, if at all.

Mr. Harrison: There are miles of sandplain.

Mr. WILLCOCK: I have made allowance for other classes of land to the extent of 15,000,000 acres. Instead of embarking on a policy which will mean increasing our railway mileage through unsettled districts and adding to the already huge area of unimproved land within reasonable distance of railway facilities, the Government should consider a policy which will enable people to get hold of some of this land. The member for West Perth (Mrs. Cowan) referred to-day to a return which she was instrumental in getting tabled last session relating to the Avon Valley land. Thousands of acres of first class land are there held up, land which for 60 or 70 years has been under the ownership of different people and has not been developed at all. What is needed, what would meet with general approval and what everyone expects is an effective policy of closer settlement. The same thing applies to the pastoral areas, and naturally the result is reflected in our railway revenue. Our railways do not pay, simply because there are considerable areas of land served by them which should be utilised and which no effort is made to bring under production. The Royal Commissioner on Railways seriously suggested pulling up the Sandstone railway. Had an effective policy of closer settlement been introduced, there would be any amount of traffic to justify that line, and there would not have been any suggestion to pull it up. All the way from Pindar to Meekatharra, a

distance of over 200 miles, there are huge areas of pastoral land fit for closer settlement. Some of it is held in areas of 1,000,000 acres.

Mr. Teesdale: You mean small stations.

Mr. WILLCOCK: With smaller stations there would be a considerable increase in population, production, and railway revenue with consequent benefit to the finances of the State. We know of these things. The House has been told of them time after time, yet the Government sit down and do nothing.

Mr. Marshall: Did not they do something? They extended those leases for another 20 years.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. WILLCOCK: Before tea I was pointing out that there is an immense area of first-class land within a reasonable distance of railways which remains in an absolutely undeveloped condition. It is estimated this comprises about three million acres. If the average area of farms be 500 acres, this big territory of country would provide for the 6,000 families the Premier is committed to settle.

The Minister for Works: It would take something to buy up that land.

Mr. WILLCOCK: It would cost a great deal to clear all the land in the South-West and place it in a state of productivity, and it would take a great deal longer to do that than it would to place the land I am referring to in a similar position. This area of three million acres contributes very little to the revenue of the country. The land tax paid within the State, most of it on land within the metropolitan area, does not amount to more than about £42,000, and the area I speak of cannot contribute more than a paltry £3,000 or £4,000 by way of taxation. The same thing applies all over the State. We have read in the Press of what has occurred in York and Northam and the Great Southern generally. Within 25 miles of Geraldton there are 10 or 11 estates comprising 120,000 acres, three-fourths of which are of first-class land. Instead of there being 10 or 11 individuals controlling these properties, we should have at least 225 families living upon them. The production that would follow closer settlement there would stimulate trade, and provide a vast amount of employment in far quicker time than will the Premier's policy of settling the South-West at such great expense. There is a lot of land in the Geraldton district suitable for closer settlement.

Mr. Pickering: Do you not believe in the development of the South-West?

Mr. WILLCOCK: I shall have something to say later on with respect to the one-eyed policy of the Government concerning the South-West.

Mr. Pickering: They have kept away from it for a long time.

Mr. WILLCOCK: A Government which is supposed to have a broad outlook upon the whole State should not concentrate

upon one portion of it. In this new immigration policy practically all the money connected with it is to be spent in the South-West.

Mr. Pickering: We can do with it.

Mr. WILLCOCK: The State cannot do with it. We cannot afford to have one part of Western Australia developed and the other part left undeveloped. It is time the Premier awakened to the fact and rubbed the dust from his eyes so that he may see the other parts of the State which can be developed equally with the South-West with more beneficial results, and which can be opened up in considerably quicker time than it will take to get a decent return from the land in the South-West. We must not overlook the fact that wheat-growing has made a great difference to this State, and must accordingly see that our wheat lands are fully developed.

Hon. T. Walker: And the wheat lands around Esperance.

Mr. WILLCOCK: Very little has been done in the way of developing the South-East until quite recently. I do not think much of this immigration money will be spent in that part of the State.

Mr. Pickering: The railway is going on.

Mr. WILLCOCK: The Government are spending more money in railway construction in the South-West than anywhere else. On the Greenough Flats and around Dongarra, and along the Midland railway for a considerable distance, there is land which good judges who have seen it declare is the best in the State.

Mr. Denton: From Gingin north.

Mr. WILLCOCK: I am referring to land suitable for dairying and pig-raising. The Midland lands are the best wheat-growing lands in Western Australia, particularly that portion which has been developed up to the present. The country along the Greenough Flats and around Dongarra is valued at £5 and £6 an acre, but many people from the Eastern States, who have seen it during the past few years, have declared that, if it were situated in the Eastern States, it would be worth £30 an acre. Its value was recognised 80 years ago, when the Imperial Government was sending out pensioners. Even in those days it was found that on 30 or 40 acres the settlers could make a good living. The member for Irwin (Mr. C. G. Maley) and the Minister for Agriculture were brought up in close proximity to these lands, and if they are a sample of what the country can produce from a physical point of view, they must compare very well with anything else in the State.

Mr. C. C. Maley: According to the manager of the Agricultural Bank, there is no land in that area worth more than £3 an acre.

Mr. WILLCOCK: If he says that he does not know his business.

Mr. Denton: It produces good men.

Mr. WILLCOCK: Yes, and grows good grass. It is suitable for closer settlement, and must eventually produce a considerable amount of butter and bacon and other products usual to small farms. The Premier is the champion of vested interests and also of the large landholders.

Mr. Teesdale: That is wrong.

Mr. Lutey: If he is not, his party is.

Mr. WILLCOCK: If the member for Roebourne can prove to me that the Premier is in favour of an unimproved land tax, I will withdraw. The "West Australian," which has always looked upon the Premier as a little tin god, and as the one man in the State—

The Minister for Works: Not a little one, nor a tin one either.

Mr. WILLCOCK: A brass one, at all events.

The Minister for Works: Not even a brass one, but a good solid junk of humanity.

Mr. WILLCOCK: At all events the paper has referred to him as a statesman. I do not deny that he is one, but I do say he is blocking a democratic unimproved land values taxation measure. Even the "West Australian," which sees in him all the virtues that could be possessed by one man, has had a serious disagreement with him upon the subject. This is a measure that is badly needed, in order to bring these estates and the large amount of unimproved land within a reasonable distance of our railways into a state of productivity.

Mr. Teesdale: I will have a talk with him.

Mr. WILLCOCK: It is time every member of this House had a talk with him. If a vote were taken on the desirability of introducing such a measure, I am sure the Premier would find himself practically alone in the matter. Apparently, however, he has sufficient influence in Cabinet to block its introduction. He brought in a measure for closer settlement, which would have had no effect at all. There is no wonder another place threw it out. The country is looking to the Government for some measure of closer settlement. During the past 30 years or so it has been recognised in the Eastern States that the country cannot progress without closer settlement. We should have had such a measure here long ago, so that the large estates might have been broken up. The Government have taken an entirely parochial view of the question of settlement under their immigration scheme. With the exception of some expenditure along the Gascoyne River, which the member for the district does not endorse, and where 17 blocks have been taken up, no money is being spent north of Perth but for some additional funds that are being granted to settlers through the Agricultural Bank. Four or five millions out of the six millions will be spent in that part of the State south of Perth, but practically nothing will be spent elsewhere. No Government which has a broad outlook upon the possibilities of the State and realising the need for straightening our finances, should adopt so parochial a view.

There is land throughout the State requiring development, upon which money could be spent most profitably, and successful settlement ensured. The Premier is ready to spend money here, there and everywhere, provided the money is spent in the south-west corner. Railways are to be built there, closer settlement is to take place there, and all the developmental policy of the Government is to be concentrated there. As the representative of one of the northern districts, I must protest against such parochial action and such a narrow-minded view being taken of the possibilities of the State in general. Reverting to finance, let me say that the Premier painted a rosy picture with regard to the sinking fund and the interest accruing from the amount accumulated therein. He did not say, however, that exactly the same conditions apply to our deficit. Just as we are going ahead in respect of interest accumulating on our sinking fund investment beyond what we expected, so we are going back in regard to interest on the deficit. The interest alone on our colossal deficit now amounts to £1,000 per day. Such are the proportions of the deficit. It may be all right as regards the sinking fund and interest on that fund; but, conversely, the deficit and the interest on it are in a most unsatisfactory position. On the Supply Bill I referred to the unemployed trouble. I said that the immigration policy would have the effect of reducing wages. It will be generally conceded, I think, that this is taking place already. Before the immigration policy came into force, the rural rate of wages was from 35s. to £2 per week; and now we find the New Settlers' League putting forward a ruling rate of 25s. Indeed, but for the efforts of the league the rate would not have been so high as that.

The Minister for Agriculture: That is the minimum rate for new immigrants without experience.

Mr. WILLCOCK: Our experience is that the minimum rate is the ruling rate.

Mr. Mann: It is not so in this case.

Mr. WILLCOCK: The league state that many settlers send applications for immigrants to work on their farms at from 10s. to £1 per week. I know that personally from immigrants, of whom dozens are travelling around the country looking for work. Some immigrants are working for nothing.

Hon. M. F. Troy: Will members opposite deny that?

Mr. Mann: I can neither deny it nor admit it.

Mr. WILLCOCK: The immigration policy has had the effect of reducing wages more particularly in those avocations which are not governed by arbitration awards. When I spoke on this the other night, the Minister for Mines interjected, saying in extenuation, "We must get the farmers to support our immigration policy." Is that a proper method to use for obtaining the support of the farmers for the immigration policy of the Government, by guaranteeing a considerable amount of labour at rates lower than those which have hitherto been paid?

Mr. Mann: Do you know that our own soldiers had to go out at £1 per week in order to gain experience?

Mr. WILLCOCK: Two wrongs do not make a right. It is an absolute disgrace to a community to ask soldiers who have been away fighting to work for £1 per week in the country for which they fought.

Mr. Mann: They were getting experience.

Mr. WILLCOCK: A man with any brains and any energy whatever can earn at least £1 per week in any country. Now as regards immigrants who are not going on the land. The Premier expects only 6,000 out of the 75,000 to go on the land. Before these people come here, it should be known exactly what they are going to be paid. When one gets down to bedrock in talking to a man about immigration, the first question one is met with is, "What wages will I get? How much can I make? What will the difference be to me in wages if I go to work for them 12,000 miles across the ocean?" The Premier admitted the other night that he could not tell anyone who asked him in England what wages were payable in any industry here. But that is the first thing to be considered. The Premier did not think it was of any importance; he was unable to give any information on the subject.

Mr. Teesdale: What do you think a married couple when they first come out are worth on a farm?

Mr. WILLCOCK: I do not think that any man should under any circumstances be asked to work for less than 35s. per week and keep. I stand for labour conditions which will enable the head of the family to keep his wife, and his children if he has any, without the wife having to work. I do not think the married couple business is a proposition which any immigrants should be asked to take on. In Australia the man with a family should be able to earn sufficient wages by the sweat of his brow to keep his wife and children with a reasonable standard of comfort.

The Minister for Works: Would you consider in the case of a married couple the wife should be free to say what she will do?

Mr. WILLCOCK: I do not object to the wife working, but I consider she should get something additional for it. The Premier showed want of grasp of the position when he was not able to inform intending immigrants what wages they would get on arrival. It is all very well to tell people that land will be available for them after 12 months, but that what wages they are to get during those first 12 months is a point on which no information can be given. I do not think half the people who are emigrating to this State would come here if they knew that they would get only 25s. per week wages for the first year. The Labour Party recognise, naturally, that it is impossible to regulate hours of work on the land, that there are so many different duties to be performed in connection with agricultural work as to render it impossible to fix definitely the number of hours per week. But the Labour

Party do stand right up to it that people coming here should know they will get only a miserable pittance instead of a reasonable wage. The wage of 25s. offered by the New Settlers' League is not sufficient to bring people to Australia. One immigrant said he could get as much from the unemployment dole of the Imperial Government as by working in Australia. That is not a set of conditions we should stand up for. I hope, further, that the immigration policy is not going to develop into a practice of immigrants obtaining everything that is to be got in the way of work and land as well. I know of people who have for a long time been endeavouring to get land in this State and have been unable to get it—Western Australian people born and reared on farms. It has been told to me that such people on going to the Lands Department to inquire if there is any land available are told, "You had your opportunity years ago; you should have taken up land years ago."

The Minister for Works: Do you believe that?

Mr. WILLCOCK: The Minister should ask some of his colleagues whether that is not a fact. I do not want a sign hung up in front of the Lands Office saying, "Immigrants only: no Australians need apply." There is a considerable fear among the people of this State that that policy will be in operation during the next few years, because of immigrants coming here on the promise that they will obtain land.

The Minister for Works: Those who have got land you would tax out of existence.

Mr. WILLCOCK: The Minister for Works in effect assures me that as far as he is concerned that policy will not operate, but that people of Australian birth, and particularly Western Australian birth, who have had experience on the land will be given at least equal opportunities with people coming from overseas.

The Minister for Works: They have a birthright, surely.

Mr. WILLCOCK: But it seems to me that that birthright can be taken away.

Mr. Richardson: The Premier said the other night that the Australians had the first opportunity in the Wheat Belt.

Hon. M. F. Troy: There are a thousand soldiers looking for land, and they cannot be supplied.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. WILLCOCK: If all this land is available—and I do not want to discuss that question at present—how is it that we have been obliged to spend three or four millions of money during the past two or three years in repurchasing estates for soldier settlement? That fact seems to show that at least there is no land available close to the railways and with reasonable facilities. I know it has been the policy to settle returned soldiers on partly improved farms; but if we had land available for improvement at small cost, it would have paid us better to spend our money on making that land ready for the soldiers instead of de-

voting three or four millions to the repurchase of estates. In connection with immigration we must give encouragement to secondary industries too. If all these people are going on the land, they will want a market for their produce. If we do not encourage secondary industries, we must take some steps to secure a market for the products of the new settlers. Year after year we hear that marketing is just as important as producing. We know for a fact that some people make considerably more out of marketing than other people make out of growing. The policy of the Government should be to find markets. Only last year the Government sent the Minister for Mines on a visit to Java, Batavia, and other countries to the north of this State in order to find new markets for our products. So far I have not heard of any results.

The Minister for Agriculture: There have been considerable results.

Mr. Angelo: That visit developed new avenues of trade.

Mr. WILLCOCK: Perhaps the member for Gascoyne (Mr. Angelo), who frequently travels on the Singapore boats, knows more about the subject than the rest of us do.

The Minister for Agriculture: We have been selling our grapes in the Straits Settlements for 25s. per case, and have also been selling stock there.

Hon. M. F. Troy: We have been selling stock up there for years.

Mr. WILLCOCK: We should concentrate on those secondary industries which are connected with our primary industries. I would cite the instance of flour. Of the wheat we produce, only about one-tenth is gristed. It would pay Western Australia handsomely if we built up a trade with any other portion of the world in flour, for that would assist our local industries, such as pig raising, poultry farming, and so on. It is a crying shame that we have to export five-sixths of our wheat in the shape of the raw material. If we want to do anything with our poultry or pig raising industries, it is practically impossible under existing conditions. This aspect should be taken into consideration and seeing that we require the offal obtained from the gristed wheat for those industries, the export of flour should be encouraged. As it is, the price of offal is practically prohibitive.

The Minister for Agriculture: We export double as much, comparatively speaking, as any other State in Australia.

Mr. WILLCOCK: I know a grave mistake was made when our people were allowed to export to the Eastern States and a few months later we had to import our products back from the East, at about double the price for which we exported it. We should have some control regarding produce of that description. We know pretty well how much bran and pollard is required for the industries I have mentioned, and yet we allow our products to go to the Eastern States only to import them at en-

hanced prices. The effect of this has been to strangle the poultry and pig raising industries. I was very pleased to have the assurance of the Minister for Works that the Government have not lost sight of the harbour works for Geraldton and that there is a probability that within the next few months something definite will be done in that connection. I had a lot to say regarding that work. Many people have posed as authorities in Geraldton, just as they have in Bunbury and Albany, regarding harbour construction. For my part, I am prepared to leave this question in the hands of the responsible officers of the Government. If we pay the Engineer-in-Chief the salary of which he is at present in receipt—he is the highest paid officer in the State—I am prepared to leave such matters as harbour construction and public works to him and take his word for it. I will not quarrel with him, and if anyone, without possessing any technical knowledge, tries to bring forward counter proposals or other schemes, I will give my support to the scheme propounded by the technical adviser of the Government. The departmental officers have spent some time in collecting all the data available and when they prepare a scheme and advance it as the best, in their opinion, to meet the requirements of a port, if the Government are prepared to back up the opinion of their responsible officers, I am prepared to back up the Government in that regard. I do not want the Government to spend any money in connection with the Geraldton harbour works, in the direction of finding out particulars bearing upon any impossible schemes that may be advanced from time to time. Thousands upon thousands of pounds have been spent in collecting data for the harbour scheme for Geraldton. Now that all that data is available and as the engineers have the confidence of the Government and the majority of the people of Western Australia, I am prepared to agree with their proposals. I hope they will go ahead with the work.

Hon. M. F. Troy: The harbour should have been built long ago.

Mr. WILLCOCK: That is so. Dealing with the question of secondary industries, the Premier has mentioned the establishment of woollen mills. Since his return, he has stated that he interviewed people in Bradford who were prepared to come to Western Australia and establish woollen mills. A few years ago, prior to the election of the Minister for Mines, we had the spectacle of a gentleman, reputed to be an expert, being rushed down to Albany in order to inspect that centre as a possible site for a woollen mill. He did not examine other portions of the State, but said that Albany was the best site for a mill. I contend that before the Government recommend anyone to invest money in the establishment of woollen mills or in any other enterprise, they should get information regarding all portions of the

State, and not be content to deal with only one part, because it happens to be represented by a Minister. From what I can gather, there is no reason why Albany, any more than Fremantle or Baulbury, should have been selected.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Collie was as good a place.

The Minister for Works: There is nothing to say that they must be at Albany.

Mr. WILLCOCK: I say that a man, who was reputed to be an expert, dashed through to Albany and declared it was the best place for the mills.

Mr. Wilson: He was at Collie for six hours.

Mr. WILLCOCK: Most industrial enterprises are established near the source of their supplies. Viewing it from that standpoint, in the Muchison district, of which Geraldton is the natural port, we have about two million sheep. They would be sufficient to keep any mill going that we can establish in Western Australia.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: What is the water like there?

The Minister for Mines: There is nothing to prevent you having woollen mills there.

Mr. WILLCOCK: Nothing has been said about any place other than Albany.

The Minister for Mines: Oh, yes.

Mr. WILLCOCK: Well, let us know about it.

The Minister for Works: Albany is possibly just as suitable as Geraldton.

Mr. WILLCOCK: I will go so far as to say that perhaps Albany is better than Geraldton, but before the Government allow anyone to say that Albany is the best place, they should go into the question thoroughly and inspect sites in other parts of the State. The fact that Albany was declared to be the best place for the mill was blazoned forth before the last election.

The Minister for Mines: What is wrong with that, if it is correct?

Mr. WILLCOCK: I say that no one has made inquiries to see if it is correct. No one went to Geraldton, for instance.

The Minister for Mines: There was nothing to prevent Geraldton getting the expert's advice.

Mr. WILLCOCK: There was no opportunity to invite that supposed expert to go to Geraldton and report.

The Minister for Mines: Why not?

Mr. WILLCOCK: Because no one knew he was here. He stopped for a few hours at Collie and was rushed down to Albany direct.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: They would not let him stay at Fremantle, but rushed him away in a motor-car.

The Minister for Works: You must have water supplies for woollen mills, and you have not got them at Geraldton.

Mr. WILLCOCK: We are getting them now.

The Minister for Mines: I get it in the neck if I do something; I get it in the neck if I don't do something.

Mr. WILLCOCK: I do not want to give it to the Minister in the neck at all. I suggest that inquiries should be made throughout all portions of the State whenever an industry is to be established, so as to get the most suitable site. I do not say that Geraldton is the only place that should receive attention, but before any site is recommended the Government should have full particulars.

The Minister for Agriculture: The expert even went past Merredin!

Mr. WILLCOCK: I will leave this particular question because it seems to create some little disorder. At any rate, I do not suppose I could go much further with it.

The Minister for Mines: We did not send him to Esperance.

Mr. WILLCOCK: I now come to a question which has caused some dissension in one section of the House. I refer to the Como tramway extension. I will say very little about this matter; perhaps enough has been said about it already.

Mr. Clydesdale: Quite right.

Mr. WILLCOCK: When discussing the Loan Estimates, I protested against the construction of this line. When we obtained an assurance from the Premier that nothing would be done until the House had been consulted, I was satisfied. However, the work has been done. I will repeat that I am not prepared to support any proposal to construct a new railway while we have any unsettled land within a reasonable distance of the railways.

Mr. Clydesdale: That does not apply to the trams.

Mr. WILLCOCK: I will not support any addition to the tramway system whatever in the metropolitan area.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: But the people pay for these themselves.

Mr. Clydesdale: Whether they will pay or otherwise, you will not support them?

Mr. WILLCOCK: No, I will not support any further extension in the metropolitan area.

Member: Why?

Mr. WILLCOCK: The money can be spent better elsewhere.

Mr. Clydesdale: You have got the anti-metropolitan Country Party germ too.

Mr. WILLCOCK: It is time too. We have spent sufficient money in connection with trams in the metropolitan area to serve for a considerable time.

Mr. Clydesdale: The evidence we took did not show that.

The Minister for Works: Not half enough.

Mr. WILLCOCK: There is land between Bayswater and Bassendean where between 30,000 and 40,000 people could be settled within reasonable distance of railway facilities.

Mr. Mann: You do not suggest there is sufficient housing accommodation along the existing tram routes?

Mr. Clydesdale: You cannot get a house in the metropolitan area now.

Hon. M. F. Troy: Because the people are coming into the city.

Mr. WILLCOCK: Why spend money to give facilities where they already exist?

Mr. Mann: They don't exist.

Mr. WILLCOCK: I contend that the money could be spent to better advantage than by the provision of more tramway facilities.

Mr. Mann: People who live in Perth should have an opportunity to secure house accommodation.

Mr. WILLCOCK: The Government have the railway system and they are actually building a tramway service in opposition to the railways. It has been proposed that they shall run a tram under the railways at Lord-street and run right alongside the line.

Mr. Clydesdale: The railways are out of date for shifting people.

Mr. WILLCOCK: That is not the fault of the country. We have land within a reasonable distance of railways, boats or tramways at the present time, sufficient to accommodate as many people as we are likely to have here within the next five years.

Mr. Clydesdale: That is not so.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. WILLCOCK: I have already drawn attention to one area and if the Government will only provide a couple of extra stations between Bayswater and Bassendean, land will be bought up there, probably at cheap rates, and so it will be possible to house people within five minutes of the railway line.

Mr. Mann: But half that land is in a swamp!

Mr. WILLCOCK: The other half is not in a swamp.

Mr. Clydesdale: You would not live there.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The people who want the trams are prepared to pay for them.

Mr. WILLCOCK: That is a different matter.

The Minister for Mines: The tramways have paid into the Treasury £53,000.

Mr. Carter: That is no reason why we should build unprofitable lines.

Mr. WILLCOCK: It is one reason why everybody wants to live in the metropolitan area—the conveniences are so great.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: It is a good job you have no say down at Fremantle.

Mr. WILLCOCK: I don't want it.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Give the Geraldton people their harbour on the same conditions, and see how they get on.

Mr. WILLCOCK: We are told that we are to have the water supply on those conditions. It is a crying shame that the Crawley tram was ever built. There is not a house on either side for two or three miles.

The Minister for Works: But look at the prospects!

Mr. WILLCOCK: We cannot afford to pay for prospects.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The tramways manager says it is the best paying line of the lot.

Mr. WILLCOCK: But the people would have gone elsewhere if the line had not been built. It was a useless waste of public money.

Mr. Teesdale: Many thousands of kiddies benefit by that line in summer time.

Mr. WILLCOCK: I can see I am not to be allowed to continue this line of argument. In conclusion I hope the Government will get down seriously to the question of closer settlement. The railways will not pay while we have those huge areas of undeveloped land in their proximity. Unless something is done with that land, we shall continue on our way to bankruptcy.

The Minister for Works: Not as bad as that!

Mr. WILLCOCK: It is as bad as that. The Premier and everybody else recognises that the deficit is due to our having public utilities far in advance of population. As to immigration, I can only say the Government are endeavouring to get out of their financial difficulties by extending the policy which has proved so disastrous in the past. The only feasible way of squaring up the finances is by the introduction of an effective closer settlement scheme, so that we can have developed the lands within reasonable distance of the railways. Then, and not till then, shall we get sufficient production to render the railways profitable, and shall turn the corner of the disastrous street along which we have been drifting to bankruptcy for the last eight or nine years.

Hon. M. F. TROY (Mt. Magnet) [8.20]: Every speaker has begun with congratulations to the Premier on his immigration policy. I do not propose to indulge in such congratulations. This is not the time. The policy has not yet been initiated.

Mr. Teesdale: Well, at all events say you are glad to have him back again.

Hon. M. F. TROY: I am very glad to see him back. If there is one on that side of the House for whom I have respect, it is the Premier. He has never descended to the petty party tactics adopted by the majority of nationalists in Australia. Unlike Mr. Hughes, he has never descended to class hatred or sectarian hatred. I wish his immigration policy well, but this is not the time for congratulations, because the policy is only in its initial stage. Before that policy is through, before the settlers have been established on the land, I have no doubt the Premier will be the subject, not so much of congratulation, but of condemnation by those now associated with him but who have in the past condemned him for less ambitious excursions into the same realm. Inevitably, many of the immigrants will not be successful. The whole thing is experimental. I do not want people to think that everything in the garden is lovely, that we are on the threshold of prosperity, and that the State will soon have forgotten all its difficulties. The road still before us is a long and arduous one. If the Premier sees this work through, he will be entitled to the congratulations of the House and the thanks of the country as a whole.

The Minister for Works: Already he is entitled to all the co-operation he can get.

Hon. M. F. TROY: And he shall have it. In all my experience I do not remember that any previous Government ever received the whole-hearted support which has been vouchsafed the present Government. The party on this side has even been accused of being in support of the Government.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The real coalition.

Hon. M. F. TROY: I admit that at times we have withheld criticism simply because of the State's difficulties. At other times we have allowed the Government to pursue a policy which we did not believe to be in the best interests of the State; we have done that rather than cause trouble when the State was already in difficulties. But if in the future the Government mislead the House, as they did in respect of the Como tramway, if they make promises to the House and then break those promises, we will certainly take the Government to task. The last word has not yet been said respecting the construction of the Lake Clifton railway, the worst piece of political work experienced in this State. I hope we shall soon have an opportunity for discussing that job. If ever there was a work which cried to Heaven against political corruption, it is this business of the Lake Clifton railway.

The Minister for Works: You are not entitled to say that.

Hon. M. F. TROY: I am entitled to say that £70,000 of the people's money was wasted on a work which was never justified, never even proposed to the people, never endorsed by the people. The money might as well have been thrown into the ocean.

The Minister for Agriculture: Did it not serve to establish an industry?

Hon. M. F. TROY: Has the industry been established? How many farmers of the South-West have been supplied with lime from that industry? The industry which was really established is the manufacture of cement. The company which established that, received railway concessions to the value of £240,000, something which has never been given to any other person or firm in this country.

The Minister for Works: That has all been done away with.

Hon. M. F. TROY: The member for West Perth (Mrs. Cowan) spoke of the low moral tone of the community. I do not know whether her remarks were justified. The lady did not ascribe reasons for the condition she complained of. In my opinion the reason is not far to seek. There are no high ideals in the community to-day. There was a time when members came to the House animated by high ideals. But during the last few years what high ideals have been revealed, either in the House or outside? The whole of the country is given over to boodling, to making good anyhow. At one time we heard advocated policies for the benefit of the community. Nobody advocates those policies to-day. The war has not brought us to a better state of

society. Apparently the people have lost their ideals. How could it be otherwise? Has any election within the last five years been fought on any ideal? Has the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth appealed to the people with any high national ideal? Has he not appealed to them rather on the lowest possible plane, on sectarian ground, and on the policy of attacking opponents with the epithets of Bolsheviks and disloyalists? Has he urged the people to take a high ideal, as for instance the building up of the country? No. Only the other day he addressed the conference of Ministers, and his appeal was "We must rally against the Bolsheviks in the country," the Bolsheviks being, of course, his political opponents. Can that sort of thing build up nobility of character, a high moral conscience in the masses? Of course not. That is why politics in Australia have descended so low. None of us have the ideals we had in the past. The most we can do is to say we will go on in the hope that some day the people will come to their senses. Just now they are given over to pleasure. They can be hounded by the Press. Before the war the Press was not so unscrupulous as it is to-day. The war has taught it that it can hound the people, and so it proceeds to hound them. In the Eastern States one can hear and see evidence of Federal extravagance and Federal corruption. In Queensland one can see mills which have been purchased at the cost of half a million, but which have never done a day's work, and are still lying idle. We can see soldiers' home, built by contract, falling down, the soldiers refusing to pay for them or tenant them. We can see in the Eastern States evidences of wholesale extravagance. What worse example could we have of the pass to which things have come and the lack of any high moral purpose in Australia, than the Prime Minister's acceptance of £25,000 as a gift? And from whom? No one knows and no one cares. Could that have happened at any other time in Australia? Would the people of Australia have allowed a politician to accept £25,000 as a gift?

Mr. Simons: And free from income tax.

Hon. M. F. TROY: When the highest statesman in the Commonwealth accepts such a gift, which comes of political corruption, do we expect to find any high moral tone in the community? This is what is wrong with the country. The member for West Perth (Mrs. Cowan) is late in the field in deploring social degradation and the lack of high ideals. The opportunity for building up high ideals was sometime ago. For the same reason the Minister for Mines was able to embark on the Como tramway in defiance of the will of Parliament. What does he care about Parliament? What does he care about anything? What do other Ministers care about Parliament? Parliament on three occasions said the Como extension must not be made. Parliament voted it down three times, and on the last occasion only agreed to money being

placed on the Estimates because the member for North-East Fremantle (Hon. W. C. Angwin) said some money was necessary for duplications and repairs.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That was the session before last.

Mr. Wilson: The district has a very strong member.

Hon. M. F. TROY: I do not blame the member for Canning (Mr. Clydesdale). He is doing his best for his constituency and he is in this House for that purpose, but Parliament is here to do the best for the country.

Mrs. Cowan interjected.

Hon. M. F. TROY: If the member for West Perth were so vitally concerned as she professes to be regarding the action of the Government, she would not be supporting a Government guilty of such an action. During the last few years, I have opposed the expenditure of money in the city. The fact that the Minister for Mines and the Minister for Works, and the Government have been allowed to flout the will of Parliament is due to the fact that Parliament has no control, because the people do not care.

The Minister for Works: When did I flout the will of Parliament?

Hon. M. F. TROY: In connection with the construction of the Lakes Clifton railway. The Minister told the House deliberately that the Government were not constructing that railway at a time when the very construction was in his hands.

The Minister for Works: I was not constructing it.

Hon. M. F. TROY: The work was being carried out by the Government at the time.

The Minister for Works: They were not building it.

Hon. M. F. TROY: Parliamentary rules do not permit me to describe the Minister's statement as I could wish. Regarding the immigration policy, what confuses me is the fact that, while we are talking about bringing a large number of settlers to this country, there are a large number of people already in the State looking for land and unable to obtain it. I know there are large numbers of ex-soldiers looking for land and unable to get it. An estate was purchased in my district recently. There were no fewer than 30 returned soldier applicants for five blocks, and I know 20 others who would have applied had they known in time to lodge their applications. I know hard-working men in my district engaged on clearing, men who would make very good settlers, who have been trying for two or three years to get land and have not succeeded.

[The Deputy Speaker took the Chair.]

Mr. Teesdale: Years!

Hon. M. F. TROY: Yes; I can certify to the truth of that statement. I could point in my own district to six returned soldiers who have been clearing land for two or three years, who have made numerous applications for land, and who have been turned down and cannot get land.

Mr. Carter: Why?

Hon. M. F. TROY: Because the land is not there.

The Minister for Works: How could they make application for land which is not there?

Hon. M. F. TROY: They have made application to the Repatriation Department and the land is not there.

Mr. Carter: Are you sure it was not a technical reason in relation to the Federal Act?

Hon. M. F. TROY: There was no technical reason.

Mr. Carter: There have been many such cases.

The Minister for Works: Probably they applied for land in a district where none was vacant.

Hon. M. F. TROY: They are willing to take land anywhere.

The Minister for Works: I will find out about that.

Hon. M. F. TROY: A man in this city has been an applicant for land five times and has been turned down.

Mr. Munsie: I know one such man.

Hon. M. F. TROY: The man I refer to is in the public service. He finds the occupation uncongenial and is anxious to get on the land and make a home for himself, but he cannot get land. So earnest is he in this desire—he is a young man—that I have done my best to help him.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: They could get land but it is too far from a railway and the Agricultural Bank will not assist them.

Hon. M. F. TROY: The other day a young man came down from the Solomon Islands, accompanied by his wife and three children. They had been engaged in cocoa-nut production. He applied for land twice and could not get it. I introduced him to the Minister for Agriculture, who sent for the Acting Secretary for Lands to look up the plans regarding certain areas. The applicant pointed out areas of land which had been held for years and on which no work had been done. He told the Minister that he had inspected certain areas, and that no work had been done. The Minister asked, "Why cannot he get that land?" And the officer replied, "I do not know; probably the owners hold some other land and the improvements might be on that other land." The whole position is unsatisfactory. That man went away dissatisfied. He had come here to settle. He had been told he could get land here. He went to the Lands Department and was told there was no land and the department did not know where he could get a block. This sort of thing has struck me very forcibly during the last few months.

Mr. Teesdale: You should have gone to his superior officer and asked why he did not know. I have had half-a-dozen cases and I have gone from officer to officer until I found out who was to blame.

Hon. M. F. TROY: We are told that there is no land adjacent to railways in the wheat belt. I say the land is there if proper inspection were made. If inspection were

made by an officer of the Lands Department, he could find out whether improvements had been made, and the land could be found. I know areas of land alongside existing railways and there is no evidence of occupation. That land should be inspected by officers of the Lands Department and, if it is not being utilised, it should be thrown open.

Mr. Teesdale: Undoubtedly, and the sooner the better.

Hon. M. F. TROY: There is the land in the Greenough district, to which the member for Geraldton (Mr. Willcock) referred. There is an estate which has been held for about 50 years, a fine piece of country, but the owners will not sell. I believe that the only improvement made in the last 40 years is a windmill, which has now fallen down. I was told this by an officer of the Lands Department who inspected the estate for soldier settlement. Why are not inspectors sent out to investigate these properties? Why are these large areas held and not utilised? Why are a number of young Australians, anxious to get and competent to work land, unable to obtain it? There seems to be a lack of co-operation between the Agricultural Bank and the Lands Department. Let me give some instances: Two young men, returned soldiers, applied for land near Eridu. The land was granted; they bored for water and got it. Application was made for an advance but they have now been informed that neither the Agricultural Bank nor the Repatriation Department will make any advance on it.

The Minister for Works: What reason do they give?

Hon. M. F. TROY: That the land is not good enough. No area of land ought to be thrown open for settlement unless there is shown the amount the Agricultural Bank is prepared to advance, or a notification that the bank will not advance. These two men should have known better and should not have gone so far without making inquiries. However, they did not know any better. They only knew that the land was there and, in their opinion, it was good country. Not until they had gone to considerable expense did they learn that neither the bank nor the department would grant an advance. There should be greater co-operation between the Lands Department and the Agricultural Bank. One feature of the Government policy is that all the money raised by the Government is to be expended in the development of the South-West. Except an occasional reference to the Gascoyne and to the North-West, there is not a word about any other part of the State.

Mr. Mann: There is three million pounds for the wheat belt.

Hon. M. F. TROY: There is no reference to anything but the South-West. There is not a word regarding mining development. The Government apparently are not concerned about the mining industry. If it swims, it swims; if it sinks, it sinks. If a new field is discovered, the Government will be quick

enough to take credit for it and for the increased production of gold.

Mr. Mann: What about the prospecting parties?

Hon. M. F. TROY: The excessive railway freights and the cost of living are killing mining development. I lately visited a fine field called Payne's Find. It is said by the State Batteries Department to be the most consistent gold producer in the State among the small fields. Families there are working stone containing as much as 2oz. to the ton in some places, and yet the heads of those families found it almost impossible to exist. The member for West Perth (Mrs. Cowan), who has interested herself in the price of sugar, may be surprised to learn that the price of sugar at Payne's Find is 10d. per lb. and that every other necessary commodity is proportionately dear. How can people be expected to carry on industries under those conditions? They are at least a hundred miles from the railway, and have to carry what they require to develop their industries, over three or four hundred miles of railway. The effect of centralising the people in Perth and building up the land values of the city is to depopulate the back country, particularly the mining districts.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: It is the want of gold in the back country that takes people from it.

Hon. M. F. TROY: The gold is there. The Youanmi mine closed down recently. It had employed 400 or 500 men.

Mr. Mann: It has an obsolete plant.

Hon. M. F. TROY: Why cannot the mine replace it?

Mr. Mann: There is not the requisite margin of profit.

Hon. M. F. TROY: It could have been replaced in normal times at a reasonable cost. To-day, the mine has first of all to pay a heavy Federal tariff on the machinery required. A Nationalist Federal Government assisted by the Country Party was responsible for this tariff.

Mr. Mann: And the Labour party.

Hon. M. F. TROY: On all machinery heavy railway freights imposed by the present Government have also to be paid. The workmen employed have to receive higher wages because of the excessive cost of commodities consequent upon such railway freights. That is why the mining industry cannot survive. Mining timber has to be carried 300 miles and heavy charges paid upon it to the Railway Department. For mining explosives high prices have to be paid, as well as for all machinery required in the production of gold.

The Minister for Works: You do not mind wages coming down if the price of commodities also comes down?

Hon. M. F. TROY: But the price of commodities is not coming down. The wages at Youanmi and Payne's Find are not as high as they are at Kalgoorlie. This is why the mining industry does not prosper.

The Government are not concerned about it. They have taken no steps to rectify the position. There are large areas of pastoral country to the north of railway settlement in which the Government have not interested themselves. On the East Murchison, not far from the Sandstone railway, exists the finest belt of accessible pastoral country in the State. The member for Irwin (Mr. C. C. Maley) lived there for many years. It is well watered, well grassed, and there are already many settlers, some of whom are returned soldiers, trying to make a living there. They are endeavouring to build up the cattle and sheep industry, but are handicapped through having to fight the dog scourge. The Government are not concerned about it. The Government pay 10s. for a dingo scalp in the South-West, but on the Murchison pay only 5s. They have never attempted to settle that country, and never will do so. One can appeal to them in vain. An appeal to the Minister for Mines on the spot is referred to the Minister for Agriculture, and that is the end of it. If the Government would only settle that country they would create a million pounds worth of wealth in a tenth of the time that would be required in the South-West. Wool is a commodity that will always bring a good price, and the country is there upon which to grow the sheep.

The Minister for Works: We want closer settlement and more population. We do not want sheep by the million.

Hon. M. F. TROY: The Government had their opportunity for closer settlement on the Murchison and near Carnarvon. When they passed the Land Act Amendment Act of 1917, extending the pastoral leases for another 20 years, they put aside the opportunity. Had they adopted the proper course, they could have had 12 persons settled there for every one there now. Vested interests are too strong in the present Government. They will not adopt a policy that would be far sounder for the country than the wasting of millions of pounds in parts where development must necessarily be slow.

The Minister for Works: This Government was not in office then.

Hon. M. F. TROY: Since 1916 there has been a National Government in office. The Minister for Works was in office then, although he says this Government was not in power. Apparently he is not responsible for the actions of the Government of which he was a member. He repudiates that Government.

The Minister for Works: We got absolutely for that.

Hon. M. F. TROY: They took advantage of the fact that the minds of the people were bent on the war, that they were not concerned about local questions, and seized the opportunity to rob the young Australian of the right he had in that country. The mining industry is being killed by high rates and tariffs and the people who have been engaged in it are coming to Perth. If

this policy continues, we shall soon find people in Perth and Fremantle taking in each other's washing for a living.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Never mind about Fremantle, it will look after itself.

Mr. Mann: Is this Government responsible for the tariff?

Hon. M. F. TROY: I do not hold this Government responsible, but I do hold members on that side of the House responsible for the tariff.

Mr. Mann: Why?

Hon. M. F. TROY: Because they support the Hughes Government.

Mr. Mann: Other parties supported the tariff.

Hon. M. F. TROY: I am referring to the men the hon. member and those associated with him voted for. Theirs is the Government responsible for the tariff.

Mr. Mann: It was supported by the Labour Party in the Federal House.

Hon. M. F. TROY: The Federal Labour Party in the Senate has no power. It is in an absolute minority. There are 30 members in the Senate, and at the time the tariff went through only one belonged to the Labour Party. The Country Party say they are not responsible for the tariff. They blame the Hughes Government and the Labour Party. The Nationalists say they are not responsible, and would have us believe that the Labour Party, which is in the minority, was responsible for passing it! Mr. Monger says the Labour Party, supported by the manufacturers, is responsible for the tariff. Nowadays people can say anything.

The Minister for Works: That is why you are saying that.

Hon. M. F. TROY: hon. members opposite are guilty because they supported the Hughes Government, and would do so again to-morrow. The Country Party is inconsistent and insincere.

Mr. Denton: Cut that out, anyhow.

Hon. M. F. TROY: Let us tell the truth. The Country Party pretend now they are a different party. We are asked to believe that Mr. Monger is a different Mr. Monger when he changes one suit of clothes for another, as he does three times a day; but he is still the same man. The Country Party have only taken off one coat and put on another. They have taken off the Nationalist coat and put on that of the Country Party.

The Minister for Works: Political Josephs, I suppose.

Hon. M. F. TROY: It is that party on that side of the House that is responsible for the tariff. The Country Party, however, is cunning, and is standing from under. While the Hughes Government and the Nationalist Government were spending money and while it was popular to support them, the Country Party did so. At the last election they supported the Hughes candidates, and did so on the previous occasion. The chickens are now coming home to roost.

The people are being heavily taxed and have awakened to the extravagance of the Hughes Administration. They are being brought to their senses and are looking for the culprit. The Country Party have discovered the culprit in Mr. Hughes. The party wants office; it wants power. Of course it does not want the Labour Party in office.

The Minister for Works: That would never do.

Hon. M. F. TROY: Members of that party want to be there themselves. They pretend they are the people who stand for the welfare of the country, but their record shows they have supported every reactionary party in Australia for the last five years. To all corruption, waste and ill-doing they have been a party. Let them take the belt; they are entitled to wear it.

The Minister for Works: I suppose I shall have to change my friends.

Hon. M. F. TROY: The Minister for Works cannot be sure who his friends are. If it is the policy of the Government to devote all their energies to the development of the South-West, let us understand it once and for all. If they do not want to concern themselves about the country we represent, let them cut it off from the rest of the State. We do not want to be associated with them. Their hands are too full. If they have no time for the development of our part of the State, let them tell us so, and cut us off. I will quote an instance of how the Government look upon the country we represent. One or two settlers are going out to that part of the State to fight the dogs and other scourges in an endeavour to open up the back country. They apply to the Minister for Works for wells. He says in effect, "We have no money; let them do the work themselves. You have taken on that responsibility and the obligation rests upon you to put down your own wells and make your own stock route." That is the kind of reply I have to send them from the Minister for Works. I go along to the office of Messrs. Peet & Co., land agents, and see there an extract from the "West Australian" stating that roads are being made up towards Maida Vale. The Minister for Works, it is announced, has made a grant for roads, and this extract from the "West Australian" is used by the agents to indicate that there are blocks for sale there and that the Government are going to make a road. Of course, the value of the land increased.

The Minister for Works: They help themselves by finding the money.

Hon. M. F. TROY: Take the beautiful motor road built by the Minister for Works from Fremantle to Mandurah. Beautiful roads all over the country! And yet he cannot put down a well to encourage settlers in the back country. He says, "Let them do it for themselves." That is the policy of the Government. The Government are not concerned about the people in the back country.

The Minister for Works: I cannot put down a well for one man.

Hon. M. F. TROY: There are always two or three men concerned. I have never made an application for something to be done in the back country yet without being told that there is no money available; yet the Minister for Works goes to Maida Vale, into the Swan electorate, to spend Government money.

The Minister for Works: The Government's policy is to help those who help themselves, not those who helped themselves from the public purse.

Hon. M. F. TROY: A settler takes his wife and seven children out 100 miles into new country. He has to bring his cattle in 100 miles to the railway line in order to get them to market. He takes up virgin country, and fights all the scourges. He takes his children away from school. There is no doctor within 300 miles of him. He deprives himself of all social advantages. That settler puts down his own wells on a stock route, and wants another well. The Minister for Works says the man cannot get it. Other men are developing the country with that man. It will never be developed otherwise; one man must always go out beyond the others. However, that man should have gone to Maida Vale or somewhere within the metropolitan area; then he would have got tramway extensions and all that sort of thing. The man outback is coming to town all right; the back country is being depopulated by the policy of the Government.

The Minister for Works: You should not say that, and you should not be rude.

Hon. M. F. TROY: I know I have been rude.

The Minister for Works: I would not advise you to be rude again.

Hon. M. F. TROY: The Minister might play that sort of thing off on other members. I respect the Minister's grey hairs, but he is not going to bluff me either by insult or by intolerance. While I represent my people in this House I am going to fight for them because I have been associated with those people for 25 years. They are of the salt of this country. They are the backbone of this country. I know these men, I have lived with them. I know the fight they are putting up; and as long as I am in this House I shall fight for them.

The Minister for Works: Very well; that is all right.

Hon. M. F. TROY: With regard to the statements made by Mr. Monger, when I read the Presidential speech of the Czar of all the Country Party—

Mr. Simons: "The speech from the throne."

Hon. M. F. TROY: I was a little incensed by the continual, never-ceasing misrepresentation of the Labour Party. If there is one man in this country who more than another knows what the Labour Party has done for the farmer, it is Mr. Alex Monger. Before Mr. Monger thought it worth while to be associated with the Country Party, the Labour Party were looking after the farmers of this country, who were in a state of desperation, and on the point of leaving their land. I

then said to my people, "You cannot get this work done and that work done, because the farmer's need is greatest; he is stricken by a drought, and the Government must use their resources to restore his position. When he becomes prosperous, his prosperity will help the country and you will become prosperous." Mr. Monger's policy now is to denounce the Labour Party. We put all the resources of the country at the disposal of the farmer. Members of the Country Party who were formerly in the House will tell other members that we were the best Government for the farmer that the country ever had. My objection is that those members say these truths to our faces, but not behind our backs. In the country they claim that they were responsible for the Industries Assistance Board. They were not. This party were responsible.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The Industries Assistance Board was started before the Country Party had any members here.

Hon. M. F. TROY: Yes. Those members say in the country that they were responsible for the measure reducing land rents. They were not. This party had a majority, and did not require the vote of one member of the Country Party to secure the passing of the measure. This party could have refused to pass the Bill reducing land rents; they had the necessary majority. Those other members say they were responsible for the wheat pool. They were not. The Labour Party were responsible for it. Those other members never had the initiative to institute a wheat pool. I remember farmers in my own district saying, "The Labour Party are in a bad way; they want our money to finance on." In the Greenough district the farmer said the Government were out to finance on the farmers. We established water supplies throughout the country. We laid down the principles of the Industries Assistance Board and the wheat scheme. The Westralian Farmers Ltd. as a trading concern got a footing only because the Labour Government gave them the handling of the wheat.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: And we lent more money through the Agricultural Bank than any previous Government did.

Hon. M. F. TROY: Just so. Mr. Basil Murray told me himself that had it not been for what the Labour Party did the Westralian Farmers would never have had a hand in the first wheat pool. Dalgety & Co. and other firms had too strong a grip on the country, and would have got the handling of the wheat. The Primary Producers' Association now have paid agitators going about the country to show up the Labour Party. Yet all the principles the Primary Producers' Association now work on were originated by the Labour Party. That cannot be denied. I challenge denial. I saw the report of a speech made by a paid organiser of the Country Party, named Manners, who made the deliberate statement that the Country Party initiated the Industries Assistance Board and the wheat pool. These people send out to farmers circulars saying that it was the Primary Producers' Association and the Country Party that saved the farmers thousand

ands of pounds in land rents. They did not. This party did it. I say this party is entitled to the credit for it. At any rate, we should not be abused for it. When I read such statements made by a man who was never associated with the Country Party, who is probably more reactionary than any member of this House, I resent them on every occasion. I find now that these paid agitators associate themselves with the visits of the wool expert, Mr. McCallum, and of the wheat experts, Mr. Sutton and Mr. Vanzetti. Those visits draw a crowd to hear about wool or wheat, and then the agitator of the Country Party seizes the occasion to speak of the Labour Party, and what fearful misdeeds they have done, and how they are ruining the country. If the Labour Party had ever done that sort of thing in connection with their organising, they would never have heard the end of it. No Labour Party organiser has ever seized the opportunity of a warden or an official giving a lecture to administer party dope. Let the Country Party by all means have their organisers, but let them go about the work legitimately. Let them pay for their halls and meetings, as every party does, and then they can say what they like. But they have no right to use the visits of Government officers, when halls are paid for with public money, to make attacks on parties in this House. Mr. Monger, in his speech, blames the Nationalist Party for all sorts of ills, but he does admit that the Country Party has had a share of the government of the country during the past 12 months, and that therefore the Country Party must take some responsibility. Mr. Monger does not think the Country Party Ministers are consulted in the Government's transactions. To their credit, the Country Party Ministers have stated that they have always been consulted. Whilst condemning the Nationalists, what does Mr. Monger say in regard to the next Federal elections? He says, "We cannot win seats on our own, but we will make some arrangements with the Nationalists." The modesty and the high morality of this Caesar! He says that he will make some arrangement with the Nationalist Party to run candidates, the Nationalist Party whom he bates, whom he is up against! He is going to make an arrangement with them to run candidates for the next Federal election. Yet for the purposes of propaganda Mr. Monger finds it convenient to say that the Nationalist Party are responsible for a great many ills. This gentleman of outstanding morality is not a bit concerned about descending from his high moral plane. One has to approach him with reverential awe, but he is now prepared to descend right into the dirty pit of politics and make an arrangement with the Nationalists—who are responsible for the tariff—for the next Federal election.

Mr. Clydesdale: This is a cheap advertisement for him.

Hon. M. F. TROY: He is entitled to it. Another reference is made in this "speech

from the throne" to the State trading concerns. The same old bogey is trotted out about the State trading concerns being responsible for all the losses. The Government, we are told, must sell them. We hear all about the disastrous consequences of the State trading concerns, the injury they have done to the country. Did Mr. Monger tell the farmers that the State trading concerns were payable propositions, and that one of the bright features in an otherwise doleful financial outlook is the amount of money paid by the State trading concerns into the Consolidated Revenue as profits?

The Minister for Works: Profits totalling £68,000 last year.

Hon. M. F. TROY: Did he tell them also that the State Implement Works were initiated for the benefit of the farmers? In asking the farmers to abolish the State Implement Works, did he also tell them that once they were abolished the farmer who had bought his machinery from them would have nowhere to go for his parts? What, in the event of any such result, is going to happen to the farmers who have purchased State mills, State cultivators, or State harvesters?

Mr. Mann: They would get them from the private firms.

Hon. M. F. TROY: Who will carry on that work? At what price will they do it? Let hon. members think of that and consider what will happen to the farmers under such circumstances. Do the farmers realise that position? As one who has purchased State implements and who requires spare parts every year, I am concerned about it and so should every other farmer who has pinned his faith to these works and purchased State agricultural implements. That aspect is kept from the farmers. Must we scrap our machinery? Who cares if we do? Would the manufacturers care? Certainly they would not. With other firms, they would enter into honourable understandings, just as is the case with the hardware firms, the bag merchants, the insurance firms and so on. They would all be in the little combine.

Mr. Mann: And the timber mills too?

Hon. M. F. TROY: The more machinery we buy, the better for these people. Of course, Mr. Alex. Monger is a farmer but with him are associated a number of gentlemen who are financially interested in other concerns, to a greater extent than they are in farming. That is a curse to the farmers. Some of these people who are speaking for the farmers, are wrapped up in financial obligations with other people and so they are using the farmer as a political weapon in the interests of those with whom they are financially concerned.

Mr. Maley: Not all of them.

Hon. M. F. TROY: They are men who are on the Country Party's executive.

Mr. Denton: Not here.

Hon. M. F. TROY: I do not refer to members in this House. Some of those men

stand for those who are buying and selling goods in which the farmers are concerned. They are on the farmers' executive and indeed some of those gentlemen are, I understand, directors of firms who are acting in opposition to the co-operative concerns which have been established in accordance with the policy of the Primary Producers' Association.

Mr. Denton: You only understand that?

Hon. M. F. TROY: Is not Mr. Lee Steere a pastoralist and a member of the Country Party? Mr. Lee Steere is a gentleman for whom I have the greatest respect. Is he not a member of the Primary Producers' Association and, at the same time, is he not one of the directors of Elder Smith? Is not the firm of Elder Smith one that deals in wire, bags, wheat, and merchandise generally?

The Minister for Works: And a fine firm too.

Hon. M. F. TROY: A good firm; I say nothing about the firm, but I am criticising a principle. If Mr. Lee Steere is a Country Party supporter and agrees with the platform of that organisation, he should be active in his advocacy of the farmers' co-operative societies. In the face of that, is he not concerned with a big firm operating in opposition to those co-operative organisations? Are not some other members of this association connected with other financial institutions? This will be a grave danger to the Country Party. That organisation came into existence because the Liberal Party had lost its supporters. Many of them had gone over to Labour and the only way to rally that section was the formation of the Country Party. On every occasion members of the Country Party are found supporting these other interests. Whenever a Bill has come forward which has affected the interests of the manufacturers or the merchants in Perth, the Country Party has always rallied in support of it. The Country Party was organised for the purpose of protecting the interests of the men in the agricultural areas. Now we find them rallying on every possible occasion to the support of the manufacturer and importer whose interests are not their interests. Naturally, Mr. Monger will make an arrangement with the Nationalists to win the next election and keep the Labor Party out of power. That is his game.

Mr. Denton: I am glad you warned the Nationalists.

Hon. M. F. TROY: I believe the member for Moore (Mr. Denton) is an honourable gentleman. I believe, too, that he is unsophisticated. There is only one party feared by the merchants, the manufacturers, and the importers, and that is the Labour Party.

Mr. Mann: Why?

Hon. M. F. TROY: Let me inform the honorable member who represents Perth in this Chamber that the Labour Party have no commercial interest with those gentlemen. No monetary support from the manufacturers or the

importers comes to the Labour Party. It avails this party nothing if the manufacturer or the importer succeeds or goes down.

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

Mr. Mann: It should do.

Hon. M. F. TROY: The Labour Party stands for the general community. How can it do that and have common interests with the men who make their profits out of the materials and the requirements of the general community? How could a member of the Labour Party stand for the general community and at the same time stand for these other people. No hon. member could do it. The member for West Perth (Mrs. Cowan) talked about the time when we would have an elective Ministry. What a hotch potch it would be! It would be an extraordinary Parliament.

Mrs. Cowan: It would be.

Hon. M. F. TROY: I do not blame hon. members for having their own opinions or for expressing them. It should be made clear that the Labour Party must stand for the general community. In his speech, Mr. Monger said that the State trading concerns were not giving the people a fair deal. As a matter of fact, the farmer has not been getting a fair deal during the last few years from the superphosphate merchants. I was in the Wimmera district of Victoria a little while ago. There I found farmers paying £5 7s. 6d. a ton for superphosphate supplies. Here we are charged £6 12s. 6d. per ton. In Western Australia there are two firms—the Mt. Lyell Company and Cuming, Smith & Co. There is no competition whatever. You get the same price quoted by one firm as by the other. You simply take your choice and pay your price. One reputable merchant in Perth told me that, having heard that superphosphate was procurable at a cheaper rate in Victoria, he telegraphed across asking for supplies. The reply he got was: "We will not supply you. There are two firms operating in Western Australia." The Labour Party will not stand for that sort of thing. That is why Labour members and the Labour organisations generally have tried to nationalise some of these industries. The only way people will get any advantage from these industries is by getting the control of these commodities into their own hands. The labour Party is opposed to the exploitation of the people by monopolistic concerns or by individuals.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The individual has pretty well gone now.

Hon. M. F. TROY: That is so. Here is the great distinction between the Labour Party and the Country Party or the Nationalists. While there is that distinct line of difference between us, we can never vote together. There is room for a Country Party in this House, no doubt. I am convinced, however, that the Country Party that will succeed and best represent the interests of the country areas, is not a Country Party that will follow Monger and Co., including

Lloyd Blossome, of the Chamber of Mines, and Vincent Shallcross. No Country Party of that sort could succeed. There is room for a Country Party that will fight for country interests but there is no room for any party that, while pretending to fight for the country areas, is out to support the manufacturers and importers. Have we heard a word from members on the cross benches about superphosphates? Not a word! Yet they are prepared to hand over the farmers to these private concerns! Let them do so, if they want to! As one who is tilling the land, I will do everything possible to retain these trading concerns. Mr. Monger has the impertinence to talk about the great loss on the State trading concerns. In the next breath, this colossus of industry, this truly remarkable individual, refers to a business he himself has inaugurated. I refer to the Fremantle Freezing Works. While he condemns the Government for the losses incurred, or said to have been incurred, in connection with the State trading concerns—these losses do not exist—he told the conference that he and those associated with him had fallen down on their job in connection with the Fremantle Freezing Works, the only work he has taken in hand. Are Monger and his meat works attempting to do anything? Nothing at all. The only meat works operating are those at Wyndham which were organised by the Government. Those concerned in the Gaseoyne meat works at Carnarvon have fallen down on their job too.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: And these people are asking the Government to take them over!

Hon. M. F. TROY: That is so. They now want the Government to handle them. They want a voluntary wheat pool, and they come to the Government as well!

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Syndicalism!

Hon. M. F. TROY: Absolutely! It is worse than the Labour Government's policy. I did not intend to speak at any length on these subjects.

Mr. Simons: You are doing well.

Hon. M. F. TROY: No matter what the newspapers say about Labour—and God knows they do not say much, and what they do say is not always savoury—

Mr. Lambert: Nor yet truthful.

Hon. M. F. TROY: Since the war, the newspapers have shut the Labour Party out from fair play, and propaganda of misrepresentation appears in all journals. The only thing that keeps me in politics is the hope that some day the people will arrive at that frame of mind which the member for West Perth looks forward to, when they will strive after some ideal. They will appreciate the humbug that this institution stands for and will realise that men who have stood so much, almost taking it lying down, during the past five years, should not be blanded because they express resentment. To-day, hyro-rites like William Morris Hughes talk about trading with Germany. If a man had talked some years ago as he does now, he would have been thrown into the river or sentenced to imprisonment.

Mr. Teesdale: He was your god once.

Hon. M. F. TROY: What, mine? Never.

Mr. Teesdale: Yes, he was.

Hon. M. F. TROY: Lucifer was once at the right hand of God, but he fell. The extraordinary thing is that some hon. members will make gods of fallen angels. I do not wish to become personal or hurt people's feelings. Is it not remarkable, however, that immediately a man is chucked out of the Labour Party, he is praised by some sections of the community?

Mr. Mann: He walked out; he was not chucked out.

Mr. TROY: We thought they were all martyred. No man can be martyred, unless he is poleaxed. Now we find the truth coming out. After five years we get the information. In any case the walking out of William Morris Hughes has not been good for this nation because, in order to hold power, he and those associated with him have never appealed to high principles. Mr. Hughes can quote Abraham Lincoln, the great American statesman, but unlike Lincoln, he never tried to effect reconciliation. He never endeavoured to settle the differences that existed.

Mr. Mann: Can you not give him credit for doing well at the Versailles Conference when he stood for a white Australia?

Hon. M. F. TROY: The hon. member is surely being humorous!

Mr. Mann: I am not trying to be humorous.

Hon. M. F. TROY: The member for Perth is either humorous or else he is a simpleton. I prefer to think that he is trying to be humorous. Does he not know that they are all trying to run away from the Versailles treaty as fast as they can?

Opposition members: That is so.

Hon. M. F. TROY: In to-day's paper we have statements by Lloyd George and M. Poincare who are attending a meeting in England. We are told that the position is most complex and desperate and all because Mr. Lloyd George wants to run away from the Versailles Treaty! Of course, that is another Daniel come to judgment.

Mr. Denton: Why don't you go Home?

Hon. M. F. TROY: I have never been able to get my expenses paid. All the patriots who have gone Home from Australia have gone at the expense of the country. No patriot has arisen in this country unless well paid for it. I have always paid my own expenses. Mr. Hughes has never appealed to the people on a high ideal. Until the politicians and the political parties appeal to the people on some high ideal, they will never conduce to the betterment of the people. The member for West Perth (Mrs. Cowan) may deplore the moral trend of this country. It is due to the fact that for the past five or six years the people have been led by passion and prejudice. The hon. member may think her views idealistic, but nobody can say that the policies put forward by the leaders have been based on high ideals.

Mr. Carter: What ideals have you put forward to-night? Your criticism has been entirely destructive.

Hon. M. F. TROY: I will give the hon. member a few. I was able to tell the truth. The hon. member does not like it. He never has liked it. We are told he is of the puritanical type; even they do not always like the truth. I have pointed out that the Government have neglected the interests of the back country, that they have done wrong in trying to sell the State trading concerns, that the Country Party has always supported reactionary interests, that the Country Party and the Government have always stood behind the merchants and the importers, that in regard to taxation their voting has always been to allow their own people to go free. I have pointed out that the party on this side is not in a position to enunciate a policy, because its numbers are too few. This party has a definite policy, and when it again occupies the Treasury benches it will enunciate that policy, a policy which will receive the endorsement of the country.

Mr. CARTER (Leederville) [9.33]: I move—

That the debate be adjourned.

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

Ayes	..	..	..	..	19
Noes	..	..	..	..	14

Majority for 5

AYES.

Mr. Carter	Sir James Mitchell
Mrs. Cowan	Mr. Mullany
Mr. Denton	Mr. Piessie
Mr. Durack	Mr. Richardson
Mr. George	Mr. Scaddan
Mr. Gibson	Mr. Teesdale
Mr. Hickmott	Mr. J. Thomson
Mr. C. C. Maley	Mr. Underwood
Mr. H. K. Maley	Mr. Stubbs
Mr. Mann	(Teller.)

NOES.

Mr. Angwin	Mr. Simons
Mr. Chesson	Mr. J. H. Smith
Mr. Collier	Mr. Troy
Mr. Corboy	Mr. Willcock
Mr. Heron	Mr. Wilson
Mr. Lambert	Mr. Clydesdale
Mr. Lutey	(Teller.)
Mr. Munsie	

Question thus passed.

House adjourned at 9.37 p.m.