

ing that it was the opinion of the Country Party. I stated clearly that whatever views I expressed were my own. I thank members for the patient hearing they have given me this evening. There have been no interjections and I have had an excellent hearing. Seriously, though, whatever matters I have discussed have been brought forward in the honest belief that my information was correct. I claim the privilege of expressing my views equally with members on the Government side of the House. Thank God members opposite cannot gag us, though if they had an opportunity, they might do so.

The Premier: You take yourself altogether too seriously.

Mr. THOMSON: I am glad to have had the opportunity once more to speak on the Address-in-reply.

On motion by Mr. Wilson, debate adjourned.

*House adjourned at 9.5 p.m.*

## Legislative Council,

*Thursday, 5th August, 1926.*

	PAGE
Resignation of President ... ..	86, 97
Questions: Mining—1, Miners' examinations; 2, Miners' health, statistics; 3, Compensation to tubercular miners; 4, Cheap power for mines; 5, Gold bonus; 6, Third Schedule, proclamation; 7, Northampton lead miners; 8, Laboratory certificates to A.W.U. miners; 9, Gold flotation process ... ..	86-8
Employment, Norseman-Salmon Gums ... ..	88
South Province election, papers ... ..	88
Flour shipments ... ..	89
Bills: Legislation Act Amendment, 1R. ... ..	89
Supply, £1,913,500, 2R., etc. ... ..	89
Address-in-reply, fourth day ... ..	91

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

### RESIGNATION OF THE PRESIDENT.

The Clerk read a letter as follows:—

Perth, 4th August 1926. The Clerk of Parliaments, Legislative Council, Parliament House. Sir, I have the honour to tender my resignation as President of the Legislative Council and shall be obliged if you will in

form hon. members accordingly. In order that the Council may not be inconvenienced by the absence of a President, and also allow time to select a successor, this resignation will not take effect until the expiration of Monday, the 9th inst. I have the honour to be, Sir, Yours faithfully, (signed) E. J. Wittenoom, President.

### QUESTIONS—(9) MINING.

#### *Miners' Phthisis Act—Examinations.*

Hon. J. CORNELL asked the Honorary Minister: 1, On what date did the medical examination of miners, under the provisions of the Miner's Phthisis Act, commence? 2, On what date is it expected that the initial medical examination of all miners who come within the scope of the Miner's Phthisis Act will be completed? 3, Is it intended that unprohibited miners who have undergone the initial medical examination and have continued working in metalliferous mining, shall be subject to further periodical medical examinations; if so, at what stated intervals? 4, What form of medical examination has any person outside the scope of the provisions of the Miner's Phthisis Act, at its proclamation, to undergo before securing employment, or recommencing employment in metalliferous mining?

The HONORARY MINISTER replied: 1, 14th September, 1925. 2, Approximately the end of September. 3, Yes. The question of the periods at which examination will be undertaken is now under consideration, certain points having to be adjusted with the Commonwealth Government, and in regard to which correspondence is now proceeding. 4, The Mines Regulation Act now requires that no person shall enter a mine for the purpose of working therein unless he shall have submitted himself to a medical practitioner for examination, and obtained a certificate that he is free from tuberculosis.

#### *Miners' Health, Statistics.*

Hon. J. CORNELL asked the Honorary Minister: Are any returns available showing—1, The total number of miners medically examined, on or before 30th June 1926, under the provisions of the Miner's Phthisis Act? 2, The number of miners prohibited from further mining work on account of—(a) tuberculosis complicated by silicosis, fibrosis, or pneumoconiosis; (b)

uncomplicated or pure tuberculosis? 3, The number of miners found free from tuberculosis, but affected with silicosis, fibrosis, pneumoconiosis, and if miners so affected have been graded to show the specific degree of condition, and the number in each degree? 4, If so, will the Minister lay the information on the Table of the House, and if not, will the Government prepare such a return and make it available to the House?

The HONORARY MINISTER replied: 1, 3,355. 2, (a) 106, (b) 8. (Three died before notices could be served.) 3, 560. Information furnished by the medical officer at the laboratory with regard to the condition of the men is treated as confidential. 4, Answered by No. 3.

#### *Compensation to tubercular miners.*

Hon. E. H. HARRIS asked the Honorary Minister: 1, Has any regulation been gazetted, or proclaimed since Parliament prorogued in December, 1925, which provided for payment to workers who have been ordered to leave the mines, because the medical examination disclosed that they were suffering from tuberculosis? 2, Have these afflicted men any legal claim for compensation? 3, If not, when is it proposed to provide security for continued payments to them on the present scale?

The HONORARY MINISTER replied: 1, No regulations are necessary. 2, Yes. 3, Answered by No. 2.

#### *Cheap power for Kalgoorlie mines.*

Hon. E. H. HARRIS (for Hon. H. Seddon) asked the Honorary Minister: Will the Minister lay on the Table of the House the report of the committee appointed to inquire into the proposal to provide cheap power for the Kalgoorlie mines?

The HONORARY MINISTER replied: The Committee has not yet furnished its report.

#### *Gold Bonus.*

Hon. E. H. HARRIS (for Hon. H. Seddon) asked the Honorary Minister: Have the present Government made any representations to the Federal Government with regard to the payment by the latter of a gold bonus, or in connection with the motion—carried by both Houses of Parliament last session—which reads as follows:—"That as

compensation for the disabilities suffered by gold mining through Federal action, this House is of opinion that the Commonwealth should assist the industry by the payment of a gold bonus"?

The HONORARY MINISTER replied: Yes.

#### *Third Schedule, Proclamation.*

Hon. E. H. HARRIS (for Hon. H. Seddon) asked the Honorary Minister: 1, What was the reason for the Government proclaiming that the Third Schedule (Industrial Diseases) of the Workers' Compensation Act would operate on certain mines in the Yilgarn Goldfield before the mining employees had been examined by the Commonwealth health laboratory staff? 2, Is it the intention of the Government to proclaim the Third Schedule operative throughout the Northern Goldfield, where the employees have all been examined? 3, Why the discrimination in these two instances?

The HONORARY MINISTER replied: 1, The Government were advised by the Laboratory at Kalgoorlie that the examinations at certain mines in the Yilgarn Goldfield had been completed, which subsequently transpired was not the case. 2, Yes. 3, There is no question of discrimination, as stated in answer to Question 1; the Third Schedule was prematurely applied to certain leases consequent on wrong information being furnished.

#### *Northampton Lead Miners.*

Hon. E. H. HARRIS asked the Honorary Minister: 1, When did the Government, by proclamation, provide that workers employed in the lead mines in the Northampton mining district, would be protected by compensation under the Third Schedule (Industrial Diseases) of the Workers' Compensation Act? 2, Why was this proclamation withdrawn and another substituted, which excluded these miners from the operations of the Compensation Act?

The HONORARY MINISTER replied: 1, A proclamation gazetted on 30th January, 1925, provided that, as from 1st March, 1925, the operation of the Third Schedule, so far as it related to the diseases set opposite the words "Mining and quarrying or stone crushing or cutting" should be limited to the South-West Division of the

State. 2, After conferences with representatives of the insurance companies, and in an endeavour to meet their desires, it was considered advisable to exclude, for the time being, all mines within the State pending the result of the medical examination of miners. The proclamation giving effect to this latter arrangement was gazetted on 27th February, 1925.

#### *Laboratory Certificates to A.W.U. members.*

Hon. E. H. HARRIS asked the Honorary Minister: 1, Is there any truth in the statement, published in the "Worker" of 30th July, 1926, that "the Premier had promised to make laboratory certificates indicating general health conditions available to members of the A.W.U. on application"? 2, If true, will he grant this privilege to all other persons examined at the Kalgoorlie Commonwealth laboratory?

The HONORARY MINISTER replied: 1, The Premier promised to see if this were possible. 2, If the information is furnished it will be made available to any person immediately concerned.

#### *Gold Flotation Process.*

Hon. E. H. HARRIS (for Hon. H. Seddon) asked the Honorary Minister: Will the Minister lay on the Table of the House the report of the work done by the School of Mines' research staff in connection with gold flotation in the Oroya Links gold mine, and the criticism thereon made by any members of the staff on the gold mines?

The HONORARY MINISTER replied: The reports are available, and will be presented to the House to-day. The Mines Department has no record of any criticism of the work of the School of Mines in this connection by any members of the staff on the mines.

#### **QUESTION—UNEMPLOYMENT, NORSEMAN-SALMON GUMS.**

##### *Attitude of Government.*

Hon. E. H. HARRIS asked the Honorary Minister: 1, Who was the officer sent from Perth to Kalgoorlie, on or about the 26th July, 1926, to engage men to do clearing work in the Norseman-Salmon Gums district? 2, What number of workers were then registered as unemployed with the Kalgoorlie branch of the State Labour Bureau?

3, Why was the unusual procedure adopted of keeping the Government's local officer at Kalgoorlie ignorant of this officer's presence, and advising the Australian Workers' Union and the Trades Hall? 4, Are the Government aware that when the unemployed interviewed this officer, the organiser of the A.W.U. was present and challenged each applicant to produce his A.W.U. ticket? 5, Are the Government aware that members of registered industrial unions who claimed the right to work were challenged because their union was not affiliated with the Trades Hall, and told "if they were not members of the A.W.U., the union representative on the job would stuff them on the bank"? 6, Are the Government aware that by these tactics unemployed unionists were deprived of every pretence of liberty, and were not only conscripted into the A.W.U., but, before being accepted as members of that union, were forced to show a "clearance" certificate from the union they had, for years, subscribed to? 7, As this work was made available to relieve men thrown out of employment by the closing of the Golden Horseshoe mine, was the enrolling officer instructed to discriminate between (a) unionists and non-unionists; (b) members of unions affiliated with the Australian Labour Party; (c) members of registered industrial unions not affiliated? 8, Is it the policy of the Government to discriminate between unionists and non-unionists when selecting men to be employed on relief work? 9, Is it the policy of the Government, while giving preference to unionists, to restrict such preference to members of unions affiliated with the Australian Labour Party?

The HONORARY MINISTER replied: 1, Mr. Engineer Grace. 2, 100. 3, The objective was to relieve unemployment caused by closing down of "Horseshoe" mine, and the readiest means to that end were adopted. If unorthodox procedure was followed, the unusual circumstances justified it. 4, No. 5, No. 6, No. 7, No. 8 and 9, Answered by No. 7.

#### **QUESTION—SOUTH PROVINCE ELECTION, PAPERS.**

Hon. J. CORNELL asked the Honorary Minister: Will he lay on the Table of the House correspondence, papers, etc., dealing with inquiries made by the Electoral Depart-

ment from one C. B. Williams, A.W.U. organiser, Boulder, and ex-postal vote officer, Boulder electorate, relating to his conduct in taking postal votes during the recent South Province election?

The HONORARY MINISTER replied: The correspondence is available, and will be laid on the Table of the House to-day.

### QUESTION—FLOUR SHIPMENTS.

Hon. A. BURVILL asked the Honorary Minister: 1, What was the quantity of flour shipped ex Fremantle from 1st July, 1924 to 30th June, 1925? 2, What was the quantity of flour shipped ex Fremantle from 1st July, 1925, to 30th June, 1926? 3, What was the quantity of flour shipped ex Bunbury during the same periods? 4, What was the quantity of flour shipped ex Albany during the same periods? 5, What was the quantity of flour shipped ex Geraldton during the same periods?

The HONORARY MINISTER replied: 1, 1,397,152 centials. 2, 1,748,298 centials. 3, Nil. 4, Nil. 5, 1924-25, 101,034 centials; 1925-26, 88,891 centials.

### BILL—LEGITIMATION ACT AMENDMENT.

Introduced by Hon. J. Nicholson and read a first time.

### BILL—SUPPLY (No. 1) £1,913,500.

#### *Standing Orders Suspension.*

THE HONORARY MINISTER (Hon. J. W. Hickey—Central) [4.40]: I move—

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to enable the Supply Bill to pass through all stages at this sitting.

Question put and passed.

#### *Second Reading.*

THE HONORARY MINISTER (Hon. J. W. Hickey—Central) [4.42] in moving the second reading said: This is the ordinary Bill that is introduced at the beginning of the session. It gives authority for two months Supply, namely, £350,000 from the Consolidated Revenue Fund, £750,000 from the General Loan Fund, £10,500 from the Government Property Sales Fund, £3,000 from the Land Improvement Loan Fund,

and £300,000 from the Treasurer's Advance, a total of £1,913,500. This is based on one-sixth of last year's expenditure. This year's Estimates are now in course of preparation, and it is intended by the Treasurer to present them at an early date. The results of last year's operations were much as were anticipated by the Treasurer when he presented his Budget. While the revenue was slightly below the estimate, the expenditure also was kept below the estimate, thus compensating for the slight reduction in revenue. The result of the year's operations would have been much better but for the falling off in the estimated receipts from the railways. This was principally due to the harvest proving below expectations. Country members will readily appreciate that fact. It has to be remembered also that the British seamen's strike had a serious effect upon the finances. Both the Fremantle Harbour Trust and the Bunbury Harbour Board returns were below those of the previous year because of that strike. The railway returns were also affected by the strike because the wheat could not be shipped away from the ports. The falling off of revenue in these directions was offset by increases under the headings of income tax and dividend duties. The income tax collections exceeded the estimate by £66,000 and those derived from dividend duty by £15,000. No fresh taxation was imposed, but the receipts on account of stamp duty were also greater than was anticipated, the excess amounting to £17,000.

Hon. J. Nicholson: You will be able to reduce the stamp tax now.

THE HONORARY MINISTER: That is a matter for future reference. Except for the returns on account of railways and harbours, the revenue on the whole was buoyant, despite what has been suggested to the contrary. The prospects for the future are promising and if the present season proves satisfactory, the position should be so much better for the current financial year. At the present time the seasonal prospects are good. The expenditure, although below the estimate, was £467,463 greater than in the previous year. Of that increase, interest accounted for £200,000, the railways for £158,000, and increases in payments to the police for £22,000. There were increases in many other directions, but the amounts involved were not large. Both revenue and expenditure are now reaching large figures. I would like to emphasise the fact that a great por-

tion of the increase was expended in connection with public utilities and not on ordinary Government functions. The total expenditure last year was £8,907,308, of which the public utilities directly accounted for £3,238,683. Of the balance, £5,618,625, interest and sinking fund on the capital invested in the undertakings amounted to approximately £1,600,000, leaving a balance of £4,018,625. This left a little over £4,000,000 as expenditure on interest and sinking fund on the balance of the public debt, £1,689,229; payments under other special Acts, £294,045; and the cost of ordinary government, £2,026,351, these figures making a total of £4,018,625. On the same basis the net revenue for the purpose of ordinary governmental functions would be: gross revenue, £8,808,166, less public utilities and trading concerns, £4,788,354, or a total of £4,019,812. This amount is slightly greater than the expenditure. Consequently it may be claimed that had the public utilities experienced a favourable year, there would have been a surplus. It is generally admitted that the last year was not a favourable one for our public utilities, and owing to the special circumstances that militated against successful operations, the results were as good as could be expected. Generally speaking, the results of the financial year have been fairly successful. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

**HON. J. NICHOLSON** (Metropolitan) [4.52]: I would not like the Bill to be passed without some comment, because it involves our acquiescence in the granting of Supply amounting to a very considerable figure. It is recognised that at this period of the year a Supply Bill is necessary. While the Honorary Minister has presented to us a sheaf of figures particularly difficult for hon. members to follow, his statement lacked some information that I have always contended should be presented to the House. We should have had some information as to the purposes, generally speaking, for which the money is to be expended. I do not say that the Government should specify with accuracy the particulars regarding all the amounts involved, but we could have information that would tell us generally what is to be done with the money. For instance, we are asked to apply out of Consolidated Revenue the sum of £850,000. What is the purpose for which that money is required? The Honorary Minister could have given us general information under that heading, but that in-

formation was lacking. Heads of departments must know the works that are in hand and for which the money is required. If I were connected with a big business concern I would require such information before I agreed to the expenditure of money. Then again, we are asked to vote £750,000 out of the General Loan Fund. Surely the Government know in which directions that money is to be applied.

**Hon. C. F. Baxter**: The greater portion of it will have been spent by now.

**Hon. J. M. Macfarlane**: All the more reason for obtaining some information.

**Hon. J. NICHOLSON**: That will make it all the easier for the Government to give us the information I suggest. We are entitled to receive that information. In the last published financial statement relating to the operations for July there was a deficit disclosed—I am speaking from memory—of £232,000. The Premier mentioned in the Legislative Assembly that £350,000 had been received from the Commonwealth Government following on the report of the Disabilities Commission. The Premier also stated that the money was in hand and had not yet been expended. Will the Honorary Minister state whether that money has been taken into account? Not a word has been said about that, although I followed the Minister closely, hoping to receive some information. Then there was the announcement that the Federal Government had offered the State £300,000 odd per year for five years. I do not know whether any portion of that money has been received. All this is necessary information that we should receive before authorising the passage of the Supply Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### *In Committee.*

**Hon. J. W. Kirwan** in the Chair: the Honorary Minister in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1—agreed to.

Clause 2—Sums available for purposes voted by the Legislative Assembly:

**Hon. V. HAMERSLEY**: I had hoped that the Honorary Minister would have supplied some of the information sought by Mr. Nicholson. I was told recently that some of the funds made available by the Federal Government for main roads had been spent, work having been started in some instances

and subsequently stopped. The reason, I understand, was that the funds available had run out. It is just possible that the moneys voted have already been expended. If that is so, we ought to have some information on the subject; we should know whether the money for the roads is included in the amounts that are before us, and whether those amounts have been exhausted, and what chance there is of the work being continued from the funds we are now voting, and also whether fresh grants are expected from the Commonwealth. It is not economy to keep bodies of men idle along the main roads—idle while fresh funds are arriving from some source or other, be it from our own revenue or from the revenue of the Commonwealth. It is wasteful expenditure to start undertakings of this kind, stop them and then re-start them.

**THE HONORARY MINISTER:** While the Bill is the usual measure that comes before us to provide Supply, hon. members are entitled to seek information. The Government are keen about the roads policy and those of us who take an interest in public affairs know that the State Government entered into a compact with the Federal Government in the direction of getting funds for road construction. Anticipating those funds, the Government now have certain obligations which they will honour. I agree that to stop a job after having started it is economically wrong, but there may be circumstances under which an undertaking may have to be stopped. The position in regard to road construction is wrapped up in negotiations between the two Governments. I think I can say that the road board conference sitting in Perth at the present time is co-operating with the Minister for Works, who realises the position. I appreciate what the hon. member has said and I admit that what he stated may have occurred. I assure him, however, that whatever work has been commenced will be continued sooner or later irrespective of whatever attitude may be adopted by the Federal Government.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 2, Preamble, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment and the report adopted.

### *Third Reading.*

Read a third time and passed.

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

### *Fourth Day.*

Debate resumed from the previous day.

**HON. G. POTTER** (West) [5.8]: From day to day during the sittings of this Chamber there is recorded in the pages of "Hansard" what will ultimately become the history of the Legislative Council, and if those who in the years to come read that history one outstanding fact will be demonstrated in respect of the present debate on the Address-in-reply, and as in all probability I shall be the last member to make anything in the nature of a speech on the Address-in-reply under your Presidency, I cannot but refer to the great regret that members of the Chamber must have felt when they heard read the letter conveying your resignation. I am sure, however, that we may lay this unction to ourselves that the resignation is only from you, Sir, as President, and not as a member of the House. We are glad to know that you will take your place on the floor of the House where we shall hear your sparkling wit addressed in another direction. When one considers the various subjects that are mentioned in the Governor's Speech, I am not altogether surprised that you are resuming your place on the floor of the House, where it will be possible for you to do more for your constituents than you can expect to do from the Presidential Chair. With your departure from the Presidential Chair there synchronises on this particular occasion the presence of quite a number of new members. I feel almost sorry that those new members have not had the privilege that I have enjoyed for a year or two of sitting under your Presidency. I am quite sure that the new members will be accorded by the next President, whoever he may be, exactly the same amount of forbearance and assistance that you have at all times been pleased to extend to other members. In addressing myself to the subject of the motion I do not think it really calls for anything in the nature of an extended speech, because after all, if the Speech that was prepared for His Excellency is considered in all its merits, there is really very little to talk about, because it is usually the conception that the Governor's Speech amounts to a recapitulation of what the Government has done and details in some way the intentions of the Government. For instance, under the finance clauses we find

that the Government takes to itself a great amount of credit for the existing financial position because the deficit was not more than it proved to be on the 30th June. From time to time from the Treasury bench in another place, and from the supporters of the Government in this Chamber, we have had volleys, and thunders of volleys against past administrations for not making ends meet and not wiping away the deficit. But what do we find now? Given most fortuitous circumstances, given most extraordinary assistance from outside the borders of the State, the Government have not been able to make a better showing. When we come to examine the position we find it is not really the Government that are responsible for the alleged improvement. The people the responsible for the improvement, the people developing our primary industries in the country, and they are the people who, the representatives of the Government moving the Address-in-reply on the day of the opening of Parliament, say should be saddled with the same incubus that the Trades Hall has inflicted upon our secondary industries. Instead of giving to the primary producers the right to work out their own salvation, the desire is to hedge them round with artificial means and to place artificial bounds upon the products of the land. It is all very well to say that a certain wage shall be paid, but unless the industry is capable of paying that wage, then it must go to the wall. Whilst artificially, through the tariff, we can continue with our secondary industries to a certain extent, the burden must be upon the primary producers who sell in the world's markets over which we, as well as every other country, have not control. Therefore I think that any Government should be very careful in taking to itself any praise for the improvement in the financial position. But it is well to know that an upward tendency exists. While the present Administration admit that there is an improvement and arrogate to themselves the credit for that improvement, I maintain that the people responsible for the improvement are those engaged in our primary industries. Who was it placed those people in the primary industries? In years gone by the party now occupying the Treasury bench were hostile to any land settlement that was going to cost money. On their part there was no sympathy with anyone who advocated the development of land. At

that time land development was not a conception of the Labour Party. It is pleasing to know, however, that the Labour Party have advanced so far as to take a leaf out of the book of those who may be termed their political opponents. Had it not been for the energetic land development policy of the last two Administrations, the existing position would not have been created. Here may I express my opinion that it is a great pity the administration of the country should be interrupted every three years by a general election. I would far rather see the term of Parliament five years than three.

Hon. J. R. Brown: Make it for ever.

Hon. G. POTTER: We find that the first session of Parliament merely amounts to a statement of what Parliament intends to do. The second session of Parliament is the real business session. The third session really amounts to getting ready for the next general election. The suggestion that Parliament should continue for five years instead of three is well worth exploring. With a term of five years the Government, whatever their political complexion might be, would be given an opportunity of proving whether their policy is sound or otherwise.

Hon. J. R. Brown: If you will vote Labour next time, you will get a term of six years.

Hon. G. POTTER: I am indeed pleased to have advice from the hon. member interjecting, but I think he is crediting me with more imagination than I possess. The present Government are pleased with the position which exists, but had the Mitchell Government, or an Administration representing what the Mitchell Ministry and its supporters stood for, been left in possession of the reins of government, the position would have been improved immensely beyond what it actually is. There was a change of Government, and we found really unconstitutional methods being adopted during the past two years. Those unconstitutional methods have been adopted for the purpose of giving effect to certain planks of the Labour Party's platform. I do not blame the Labour Party for putting into effect any plank of their platform, but it should be done in a constitutional manner. I do not blame the Labour Party for, I will not say, gulling the electors, or for inveigling them to vote in a certain direction. But when the Labour Government

find that they are not returned to the Treasury bench by a majority vote of the whole of the electors of Western Australia, they should hesitate to do many of the acts they are doing. I do not propose to explore in detail those several acts, because other opportunities for doing so will present themselves when various Bills come along from another place. The present Government are in the fortunate position of having, for the purposes of the development of Western Australia, a grant of over £300,000 made as a free gift to the Western Australian Treasury. Though I call it a gift, I consider it a gift well merited by Western Australia's political disabilities. It is a grievous disappointment to find in the Governor's Speech no reference to the manner in which that amount of money is to be expended. There are many quarters crying for assistance. Of this fact we had an illuminating illustration from Albany. However, there is one particular industry which certainly should be considered in the disposition of the grant--the gold mining industry. The Commonwealth Government should make special provision for that industry. Though there are people who say that bonuses represent an uneconomic and unscientific proposition, still bonuses appear to be the fetish of the Federal Government, and if bonuses are going to be distributed we should not stand aside with an academic aloofness, refusing to accept them. In face of the figures which were published a few days ago and enunciated by Mr. Nicholson last night, we should pay attention to the question of a bonus for the goldmining industry. It may seem strange to hon. members that I should mention goldmining, since I do not represent a mining province; but I have the conception that the goldmining industry has meant so much to the development of Western Australia, and may mean so much more to that development, that it behoves the House as a whole to support goldfields members in claiming a bonus for the industry. Had it not been for its gold mines, Western Australia would not have been on the map as it is now. I regret that the Commonwealth Government have not seen their way to give effect to the findings and recommendations of the Federal Disabilities Royal Commission. The personnel of that Commission was wholly impartial. No one could maintain that by virtue of its personnel the Commission was unduly

sympathetic towards Western Australia. When the Commissioners held their sittings in Perth, the evidence was placed before them in a calm and dispassionate manner. Their report went to those responsible for their appointment, and it is regrettable that their findings and recommendations have not been put into effect. It is stated that much propaganda work is now being done for the proposition that the Commonwealth should take over all that portion of Western Australia north of the 26th parallel of south latitude. I should be very sorry indeed to see the Commonwealth Government place their tentacles over that valuable piece of Western Australia. Much rather would I see a scheme worked out for the establishment of something in the nature of a chartered company, of the kind that developed Rhodesia. I do not wish to see our North-West become the plaything for years to come of Federal politicians. Western Australia would be robbed of portion of its rightful inheritance if the Commonwealth Government were granted authority to take over all that tract of country. I am looking forward, Mr. President, to hearing in the near future your views on that question.

Member: Sir James Mitchell says the North-West is worth a hundred millions sterling.

Hon. G. POTTER: It is hardly possible to estimate the value of that enormous tract of country. Let us not give it away; let us develop it as Rhodesia has been developed. Rhodesia is to-day one of the most valuable tracts of country in the world. If the Government of Western Australia do not care to accept the responsibility of finding the necessary money, and of administering the enormous funds which are required for the development of the North-West, then something in the nature of a chartered company would at least do something with that tract of country, and do it speedily. Time is the essence of this particular contract. Those empty spaces are a menace to Western Australia, to Australia, and to the British Empire. We now have extremely able men representing us at the hub of Empire, and the Prime Ministers of the Empire meet from time to time, and the British Empire as a whole has now a full appreciation of the necessity for the development of the outposts of Empire; and therefore now is the time to press for a speedy development of our North-West. Although I hope that the work



will be done under the aegis of a Western Australian administrator, I consider that if the Western Australian Government do not feel themselves equal to developing that territory under State auspices, we should delegate the task to something in the nature of a chartered company under such safeguards as will ensure that the citizens of Western Australia shall not be deprived of their rights. As regards land settlement, the pastoral industry, and wheat production and mixed farming, it is my fervent hope that good seasons will continue to bless the efforts of the people who are so manfully and strenuously carving out the destiny of Western Australia, and adding to Western Australia that amount of security which stands us in such good stead when going upon the London market for money. As to group settlement, my only hope is that the Government will continue to press on that form of settlement. Under the new migration agreement the Government have a great opportunity, by virtue of the extension of the limitations, if one may use the term, permitting the purchase of privately owned estates. Undoubtedly there are available for purchase many large estates which would answer admirably for the purposes of group settlement. In such circumstances much of the present drudgery would be eliminated, and the group settler would proceed with greater heart. Still, the group settler now is undoubtedly making good, and it is my firm opinion that the system itself is sound, and that the people who are the creatures of the system are sound in heart too. I sometimes hear people lament that a certain number have left the groups. I would not worry about that. If half the men were to leave, it would make no difference, provided there were others to take their places. If a man finds he is not fitted for the work, the quicker he gets out the better; and if he complains about the conditions obtaining in Western Australia, the quicker he leaves the State the better. Provided others step in to carry on the security of the Government, it does not matter how often the settlers may change.

Hon. J. Cornell: Like the Israelites, they may not be able to get out of their bondage.

Hon. G. POTTER: There is no trouble about that. If any of the group settlers do not carry their responsibilities and meet their contracts with the Government, they will be promptly removed. One matter to

which the Government might lend a sympathetic ear is the limitation of earnings by the group settlers. It would be a pity if the group settlers were confirmed in the opinion that the money they get for improvements represents wages; for it would then convey to them that they are working for the Government, instead of for themselves. What should be impressed on the group settler is that he is working for himself. The Government can best clear the group settlement atmosphere by not limiting the amount of the so-called earnings, by not limiting the value by which the settler can improve the Government security. As suggested here yesterday, the money over and above a certain figure should be put into a trust fund, to remain to the credit of the group. Then the settler would have every incentive, not only to work harder, but to stay and see the fruits of his labour. Possibly Mr. Mann will tell us something of the aspirations of the group settler in that respect. I am glad such strides have been made in the establishment of the agricultural college. As to the appointment of the controller and the technical staff, I think the best thing we can do now is to drop all criticism and confine ourselves to doing all we can to assist the functions of the college. For this reason: for many years farming has been looked upon as something that one can take up after everything else has failed. In point of fact, it is one of the most scientific industries in the world. To be a real farmer one would succeed best if he were a veterinary surgeon, a botanist and a scientist, all rolled into one. The farmer with the greatest knowledge of science will achieve the greatest success in farming.

Hon. J. Cornell: It all would not be worth tuppence to him if he had not optimism also.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: And the necessary capital.

Hon. G. POTTER: Fortunately, we have the Agricultural Bank, which lends a great deal of financial assistance, and we also have for further assistance the Associated Banks, at least one of which is very wisely governed. It is desirable that our experimental farms should be widely scattered throughout the State. One does not need be a practical farmer to realise that an experimental farm at, say, Merredin is not sufficient for the whole of the State.

Hon. A. Burvill: We haven't one at all in the South-West.

Hon. G. POTTER: The South-West is in process of development, and with the care

lavished upon the holdings down there, each becomes an experimental farm in itself. Incidentally, I have always understood that in the South-West dairying was quite beyond the experimental stage and was fully assured. As I say, experimental farms should be scattered throughout the State so that local conditions can be exploited, and those with money to invest encouraged to do so with the lesser risk of failure. I notice that a considerable sum, £205,000, is being spent on drainage in the vicinity of Busselton. I am glad to learn that, and I hope it will be attended with greatest success. The mention of drainage calls to mind a speech made by the Minister for Works regarding a portion of the West Province, incidentally within his own electorate. When the present Government reached the Treasury we were told that a search of the great chest revealed that it was empty. All sorts of works were held up pending the provision of money, because the Mitchell Government had taken everything out of the safe. However, by a further search the Minister for Works discovered £1,000 set apart by the previous Government for drainage in the Bibra Lake and Coogee districts. The Minister was quite indignant that the money should have been left in the safe unexpended. I hope that when the Leader of the House replies to the debate, he will inform the House whether that £1,000 has yet been expended in the direction indicated, and if so, with what results. The question of draining that district has been discussed for a number of years, and it is time we had a proper understanding as to whether it can be economically drained. As to the provision for forestry, we have in the West Province large areas of land vested in the University. It will be remembered that on a previous occasion I referred to the great incubus those university endowment lands are on the district. They are most favourably situated, with roads running right through them, yet there are no means of taxing those lands, and in consequence the people so unfortunate as to be in juxtaposition to those lands have to pay double taxation for the maintenance of the roads. It has been said by the University Senate that they can sell the land, but that it would require a special Act of Parliament. I am sure that application for such an Act would not be refused. But again, the University Senate has said that it would be unwise to sell any of their endowments. If that is all that is preventing the sale, the

University Senate ought to give to the question of selling those lands the same consideration as, I understand, has recently been given to the selling of a very much more valuable endowment, namely, the University's share in the "West Australian" newspaper. I believe that under the will of the late Sir Winthrop Hackett, the University have inherited the major share in the "West Australian" and I understand also the University are prepared to sell that share. If they are prepared to part with that form of endowment, will they not part with the endowment lands sprinkled throughout the West Province? They could easily invest the resultant money in the same way as they propose to invest the huge sum they will get for their share in the "West Australian" newspaper. Moreover, if they will but sell those lands, they will be doing something, not only for themselves, but in justice to the people who at present are being fleeced for road board rates for the maintenance of roads of which they make but little use. It is gratifying to have the prospect of a marked improvement in roads generally throughout the State. It means, of course, that the State Government will have to find a considerable sum of money in order to secure the Federal grant, but I hope the State Government will endeavour to claim every penny the Commonwealth Government are prepared to make available for the purpose of road building in Western Australia. By so doing they will be assisting primary production and the development of the State, and I am satisfied the money will be returned in full measure to the coffers of the Treasury. I was greatly interested in Mr. Ewing's references to our harbours. I am not one of those who say there is only one harbour in Western Australia. The more harbours we have, the better it will be for the State and the more rapidly the hinterland will be developed. But we must have harbours in the first place, because it is impossible to expect the great ocean steamers to use other ports of call unless adequate facilities are provided for them. I hope the Government will do all in their power to ensure the provision of adequate facilities at Bunbury, Busselton, Albany, and Esperance, and if they do so, their work will be well rewarded. We have a harbour at Fremantle, but we hear little about it because the people of Fremantle are much too busy to talk about it.

Hon. W. T. Glasheen: It is easier to smell it.

Hon. G. POTTER: Yes, particularly when the fruit is arriving from Bridgetown. Reference is made in the Speech to the work of reconstructing Victoria Quay. I have seen the commodious buildings being erected there, but I regret that no provision is being made for refrigerator space. Fruitgrowers are labouring under great disabilities through lack of this accommodation, because the fruit is shipped during the hottest season of the year. On many occasions it is necessary to transport the fruit in open lorries during the heat of the day, and the fruit consequently suffers. Sometimes consignments are shut out by the steamers. Space may be available for a certain number of cases from Fremantle, but Eastern State shippers sometimes book up the whole of the space rather than have the chambers opened at Fremantle. This is due to our fruit not reaching the ship in proper condition owing to the absence of refrigerator space on the wharf.

Hon. J. Nicholson: Would refrigerator cars overcome the difficulty?

Hon. G. POTTER: No; the fruit has to be passed through the sheds which, in summer time, become almost as hot as ovens. The only provision made by the railways in the shape of special cars is the louvered van, but by the time the fruit is transferred to the steamer it is not within one degree of the requisite temperature.

Hon. J. Nicholson: Has there been any complaint on the part of fruitgrowers about the arrangements at Fremantle?

Hon. G. POTTER: Yes, there has been continual complaint.

Hon. E. H. Harris: Are the fruitgrowers always whining?

Hon. G. POTTER: The fruitgrowers do not belong to the particular district which produces that element. I do not propose to speak at length on our railways. Certain excuses have been advanced for the unfavourable railway returns during the past year. Here we have some of the chickens coming home to roost. It is necessary to look outside the department for the cause of the adverse balance. When, by Ministerial act, nearly £100,000 is paid away, it is necessary to be temperate in our criticism of the administration of the Commissioner of Railways. I am pleased that at last the aspirations of people in the South-West are

likely to be fulfilled by the installation of a power scheme at Collie. It must be particularly gratifying to Mr. Ewing that a scheme for which he has worked for years is now about to reach fruition. I look forward to the time when the whole of the electrical power required in the metropolitan area will be supplied from Collie. This would make for cheaper power, and cheaper power will do more than anything else to foster the development of our industries. It is satisfactory to note that the work of the Arbitration Court has been speeded up. Members of this House were criticised most caustically for having insisted upon a president having the qualifications of a judge of the Supreme Court, and we were warned that many dire calamities would result. A majority of members, however, pinned their faith to a president having such qualifications, and experience has borne out the wisdom of their decision. The appointment of Mr. Walter Dwyer as president of the Court shows that this Chamber was not biased in the stand that it took. Seeing that Mr. Dwyer had been prominent in the Labour movement, I trust that those unions which appear before him will accept his advice and carry out the awards for which he is mainly responsible. I shall not refer to the several Bills indicated in the Speech because we do not yet know what form they will take. I support the motion.

On motion by Hon. E. H. Harris, debate adjourned.

## RESIGNATION OF THE PRESIDENT.

**THE HONORARY MINISTER** (Hon. J. W. Hickey—Central) [5.57]: Before I move the adjournment of the House permit me to say a few words regarding the letter read by the Clerk this afternoon intimating your intention, Mr. President, to resign from that position. I am sure I am voicing the opinion of every member when I say that your decision has been received with extreme regret, and doubtless many regrets are felt by you at severing your connection with that high office. Since I have been a member of the House I have always entertained a kindly feeling towards you. Those of us who have been interested in the northern portion of the State for many years remember you as one who made his mark in life by dint of hard work, and who became somewhat affluent only as the result of unsparing

effort. For many years you have taken an active part in the public life of the State, and have consistently and conscientiously carried out the multifarious duties that it has demanded of you. Finally you assumed the office of President of the Council, which represented the greatest honour it was possible for the House to confer upon you. Now that you have seen fit to dissociate yourself somewhat from the hurly-burly of political life, we can only express our regret and the hope that you will always cherish memories of your long and honourable association with the Parliament of this State. I hope you will remember in your happy moments that we shall ever recall your term of office in this Chamber with kindly feelings. There were times when it was perhaps incumbent upon you to call some recalcitrant member to order. We have accepted these little rebuffs in the spirit in which they were given. You have been able to correct us without any jarring note, and this has been greatly appreciated. We offer you our heartiest appreciation for the work you have done in this Chamber. I regret that the Chief Secretary is not here, for he could express the feelings of the House far better than I can. As the representative of the Government in this Chamber allow me to convey to you the hearty appreciation of Ministers for your administrative efforts in the past. Your tact and understanding have always been a marked feature of your regime. You have had a long association with the public life of this State. At the end of your career you were elected to the high position of President of the Council. You have carried out these duties not only with credit to yourself, but with distinct advantage to the State and Parliament. One of your dominant characteristics has been that you have much of the milk of human kindness running in you, and you have been ever ready to appreciate the other fellow's point of view. When he has departed from the beaten track you have made allowances, and we have appreciated your tact in that respect. Your natural abilities and kindly sentiments have greatly contributed to the great success you have achieved. I hope other members will support my remarks.

**HON. J. W. KIRWAN** (South) [6.5]: I support the remarks of the Honorary Minister. Every member of this Chamber appreciates not only the great services you have rendered during the years you have occupied the Presidential Chair in this

Chamber, but the great services you have rendered to your native State during a long and honourable career of public life. Our retiring President is one of that fast disappearing school of public men, who entered the service of the people animated by a desire only to render public service, men who have done a great deal towards the advancement of Western Australia during the past years of stress and difficulty. It was in 1883, some 43 years ago, that you, as a young man in the twenties, first became a member of the Legislative Council of Western Australia. During the years that followed you had charge of many public departments as a Minister. Furthermore, you acted on more than one occasion as Deputy Premier of this State. For many years, as representative of the State in London, you rendered very useful services to Western Australia. At the expiration of that term you did not succumb, like so many Agents General, to the seductions of London, and London directorships which have proved so great a temptation, but returned to your native country, and again performed excellent work as a member of this Chamber. We are sorry for the decision at which you have arrived, but we are consoled by the fact that we are not losing your services altogether. We remember what a strength you were to the debating capacity of the Council. It is satisfactory to know that on the floor of this Chamber you will be able to guide its deliberations, and render considerable services by virtue of your varied experiences and your sound judgment and wise advice. I have to express my gratitude to you for the assistance that you have rendered to me as Chairman of Committees. Since entering upon that office some years ago I have always found you thoughtful and considerate. You have rendered me assistance in many directions. I feel sure that whoever is going to succeed you will always be able to call upon you for any assistance that your experience will enable you to render. We hope you will have a long life as a member of the Council. Irrespective of your years, none of us can regard you as an old man. In many respects you are younger than many of us, and I feel that there is still ahead of you a long career of usefulness.

**HON. J. EWING** (South-West) [6.10]: I very much regretted to hear of your resignation, Mr. President; it came as a great surprise to me. When you first occupied the position of President I was Chair-

man of Committees. I well remember your kindness, generosity, and foresight at all times towards me. I enjoyed working under your Presidency. I am sure that all members thoroughly appreciate the good work you have done as President. It does not come to all men to have such a wonderful life as you have had. Your father was one of the earliest settlers in Western Australia, and the name of Wittenoom is one to conjure with. We know what the public think of the people who bear that name, and how highly they appreciate you. Not only from the personal point but from your long and honourable life in Western Australia, you have done much to advance the interests of the State. I suppose there is hardly one industry with which you have not been connected. It seems that every industry and everything with which you have been associated has prospered. You have risen to the highest position in the industries, associations and businesses with which you have been connected. We are proud of the position you occupy, and feel sorry that you are no longer going to preside over this Chamber. It will fall to the lot of someone to follow you. I am sure whoever he may be will have your assistance and kindly help while you occupy a seat in this House. I am glad that Mr. Macfarlane has given up his seat to you. It was a very graceful act on his part, and one I am sure you will appreciate. I well remember when you occupied that seat before, and it would be strange if you occupied any other. For a short time I had the honour to lead this House. Whenever I was in need of assistance it was always forthcoming at your hands. Every day before the House met we discussed matters, and in every possible way you helped me. I am glad to have been associated with you as President during that time. I wish you long life and great happiness.

**HON. J. CORNELL** (South) [6.13]: As one of the naughty boys of the Council, I have great pleasure in supplementing the remarks that have been made by members. I thank you for the courtesy and consideration that you extended to me in my early days in this Chamber, and for the advice you gave me. In a general sense your departure from the Chair will be greatly felt. I hope I am not disrespectful when I say that there are times when I discerned in you the old war-horse spirit, when it

seemed that you would like to be on the floor of the House instead of in the Chair. That opportunity will now come to you during the next few days. I have always contended that, although you have filled the Chair ably and well, as a debater on the floor of the House and as one who possessed a fund of helpful criticism, you filled that position even better than the one you now occupy. Though we will miss you from the Chair, we shall have the consolation that the debating strength of the Council will be increased. I also wish to express the thanks of Mr. Dodd for the many courtesies and kindnesses that you extended to him.

**HON. V. HAMERSLEY** (East) [6.15]: I, too, wish to express my regret that you have decided to vacate the Presidential Chair. That in your life you have so well succeeded is an incentive to other young men of the country to whom you have set a fine example. I feel sure that many will try to emulate your example, or will make an effort to follow it and to succeed as you have done. Yours has been a great success. I regret that you have come to this decision, and that you have made it so quietly that you have not given us an opportunity to persuade you out of it. I feel that we would have gone happily through the session under your Presidency, and would rather have seen you in the Chair presiding over us. A hearty welcome will be given to you when you take your old seat on the floor of the House. We shall appreciate the added debating ability that you will bring to bear upon the various important matters that will be before us. We have missed you in many of our discussions, but we shall soon have the benefit of your advice and experience on the different questions that we have to deal with. I regret that you have made this decision, but would not attempt to dissuade you from it. You have your own reasons for taking this step, though I am sure every member regrets that you have taken it. You will be able to set a good example on the floor of the House, and check some of those who may be described as the naughty boys

**HON. J. NICHOLSON** (Metropolitan) [6.17]: I have a sense of deep regret that you are severing your association with this Chamber as President. I join in the testi-

mony of appreciation that has been so ably expressed by previous speakers. The record of your achievement is such that I do not think there is any other man in Western Australia who could excel it. It will go down in the history of the public life of the State. Your record will be set up as an example for many others to endeavour to aspire to. You possess many gracious and pleasing qualities. There are very few men whom nature has endowed with so much geniality of manner, and those delightful attributes which have won for you the highest esteem and appreciation of your fellow men. We welcome the fact that we are not going to lose your services from this Chamber. Although we may lose you from the Chair we shall be strengthened by having you once more on the floor of the House, where you will be able to devote your great powers towards further helping forward the destinies of this important State.

**THE PRESIDENT** [6.20] : It would hardly be truthful to say I am not to some extent embarrassed by the many kind remarks that have been made by members. I am deeply sensible of the kind sentiments that have been expressed, and thoroughly appreciate the good feeling that prompted them. My resignation has not been by any means sudden. I had considered it at the end of last session. I felt then that I was getting on in years, and thought I was entitled to a certain amount of leisure. I had, therefore, made up my mind that at the commencement of the session I would make room for someone else. I have to thank you all for the courtesy with which you have treated me, and for the deference you have generally paid to my rulings. There have been exceptions to this, I will admit, but I have to thank you for the manner in which you have treated me during the four years that I have held this position. The other night I was speaking in reply to a vote of thanks to Parliament, and expressed my regret that more young men were not coming forward into Parliament, that there was not more fresh blood taking an interest in the Legislature. I think changes are good even, as Sir Gilbert Parker has said, in the seats of the mighty. In vacating this position I am leaving it open to one amongst you to succeed me. There are several who can do so in a capable manner. At all events my action leaves it open to someone to succeed me, and will

probably also leave open the position of Chairman of Committees, in which position some member will be able to qualify for the higher position of President at a later date. It is pleasant to think that I have met with your approbation during the time I have occupied this office. It must be gratifying to all of us to realise that the reputation enjoyed by this House stands higher in the public mind now than it ever did. I do not suggest that the President is responsible for this, but he cannot help being associated with and acquiring a modicum of reflected glory. It is satisfactory to know that the efforts which have been put forward by this House have been accepted by the public as an evidence of its desire to develop the country. This Chamber represents all classes of the community, and every kind of political thought. The Honorary Minister has referred to the past. I have known Mr. Hickey for many years. He has complimented me on my success, but I wish to return the compliment and say how pleased I am to find him in the position of Leader of the House to-day, if only for a little while. I was born here and all my sympathy is with, and my thoughts are for, Western Australia. All I possess—it does not amount to a very great deal—is in Western Australia. I have not a single interest outside, and I hope to continue living in Western Australia until I am taken a little further down towards Fremantle. I am very fond of the country, and while I am in a position to leave the State and live in England, Melbourne or Sydney, I prefer to dwell, as the late Lord Forrest liked to say, “among my own people.” I intend to remain here, therefore, until I am conveyed elsewhere. Permit me to thank Mr. Macfarlane for the courtesy he has extended to me in allowing me to resume the seat I occupied for many years on the floor of the House. While I will not be able to fill it as amply as he does, I will try to do so with a smiling face such as he is displaying at the present moment. I am pleased to be able to say that, in leaving the Chair, I do so in most excellent health, so that hon. members need not accuse themselves of having impaired it. I have a record to my credit in that I have been absent for two days only on account of ill-health during the four years I have occupied the position of President. Of course, I was away for a few days on most important private business, but that business was such as does not

happen very often. With regard to the presidential position, hon. members are pleased to think that I have filled it with satisfaction. I think they may also have some satisfaction in the way I have represented them as President in other directions, and I feel that they have no cause for complaint. As Chairman of the Joint House Committee hon. members will find that I leave the affairs of that committee in a most satisfactory condition. We have had the help of capable men on that committee for years past and it will be found that the funds have been dealt with as satisfactorily as hon. members could hope. I was able to achieve one of my objectives, and hon. members have the satisfaction of knowing that their corridor has been made as comfortable for them as possible. With the help of the members of the committee, a great improvement has been made there, and I hope later on to take advantage of those conveniences myself. I thank hon. members for their kindly remarks. I hope to be associated with them during the next two years, and I trust that, with our united efforts, we will continue to conduct the business of the State with as much advantage in the future as in the past.

*House adjourned at 6.28 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly,

*Thursday, 5th August, 1926.*

	PAGE
Questions: Charities Department—1, State dependents; 2, Unemployed relief ... ..	100
Migrants deported or repatriated ... ..	100
Railways, Meekatharra stock train ... ..	100
Water Supply, Daglish estate ... ..	101
Repurchased estate, Cumminin—1, Files; 2, Rents payable ... ..	101
Prison farm, to establish ... ..	101
Road construction and Commonwealth grant ... ..	101
Address-in-reply, fourth day ... ..	102
Bill: Supply, £1,913,500, returned ... ..	130

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

## QUESTIONS (2)—CHARITIES DEPARTMENT.

### *State Dependents.*

Mr. MARSHALL asked the Hon. J. Cunningham (Honorary Minister): 1, What was the total number of children dependent or partly dependent, on the State, irrespective of the cause, on the 30th June, 1920? 2, What was the total number of adults dependent on the State at the same date?

Hon. J. CUNNINGHAM replied: 1, 3,897 children, 2, 1,529 adults.

### *Unemployed Relief.*

Mr. LATHAM asked the Hon. J. Cunningham (Honorary Minister): What amount was paid through the Charities Department to the unemployed for the respective months of May, June, and July in the years 1924, 1925, and 1926?

Hon. J. CUNNINGHAM replied: 1924—May, Nil; June, Nil; July, £7 5s. 1925—May, £717 14s. 3d.; June, £949 17s. 6d.; July, £1,288 13s. 1926—May, £651 15s. 6d.; June, £976 12s.; July, £1,346 4s. 6d. Assistance granted in 1925 and 1926 is due to the change of policy of granting relief in deserving cases which previously had been refused.

## QUESTION—MIGRANTS DEPORTED OR REPATRIATED.

Mr. MARSHALL asked the Minister for Lands: 1, What number of immigrants have been deported or repatriated from the State for the five years ended 30th June, 1926? 2, What were the reasons actuating the Government in taking action in this direction? 3, What was the total cost involved? 4, Did the State carry the whole of the financial obligation for this action? 5, If the Commonwealth Government financially assisted the State in this work, to what extent did they do so?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS replied: 1, 175. 2, Migrants were repatriated on medical reports that they were likely to become permanent charges on the State. 3, £5,316 8s. 6d. 4, No. 5, £2,829 18s. 6d.

## QUESTION—RAILWAYS, MEEKATHARRA STOCK TRAIN.

Mr. MARSHALL asked the Minister for Railways: 1, Is it his intention to consider the advisability of giving preference of road to the special stock train ex Meekatharra in