

**ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.**

**THE CHIEF SECRETARY** (Hon J. M. Drew—Central) [10.11]: 1 move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday next, 5th August.

Question put and passed.

*House adjourned at 10.12 p.m.*

**Legislative Assembly.**

*Tuesday, 1st August, 1933.*

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

**ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.**

*Seventh Day.*

Debate resumed from 27th July.

**MR. LAMBERT** (Yilgarn-Coolgardie) [4.34]: I desire to join with other members in congratulating you, Mr. Speaker, on your elevation. I feel confident that, like those who have preceded you in your high office, you will uphold the traditions surrounding it. Also I wish to refer to the loss, either by death or election defeat, of some of those who were so familiar with the House in recent years. Particularly do I deplore the death of the late Mr. T. A. L. Davy, who endeared himself to all of us by his charming and graceful personality, and his many other qualities and capabilities. I would refer with feelings of pleasure to the speeches on the Address-in-reply that we have heard from new members. While it is more or less traditional to regret the passing of some of the older members, we must admit that the speeches delivered by

new members have been of so high an order as would lead us to believe that those members are destined to play a useful part in the public life of the State. On the other hand, one could not conscientiously suggest that the speeches delivered by the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the National Party need be printed upon gold. In the State-wide problems with which we are confronted, generalities can hardly carry a great deal of constructive worth, and are not likely to get us very far. In a sense, I admired the able speech delivered by the Leader of the National Party, but in his flights of oratory he carried us into mid-air and there left us dangling, with the conviction that he himself believed that some of the generalities in which he indulged would solve, at all events, a few of the problems with which the State is faced. He went to considerable pains to criticise the pre-election speeches of the then Leader of the Opposition, and alleged that what he termed specious promises made by the then Leader of the Opposition had led to the defeat of the then Government. If not declared in actual words, at all events that was implied. May I remind the hon. member that, prior to the making of any supposed pre-election promises that would be likely to influence the electors, there was a conspicuous mutiny in the ranks of the Nationalist Party, and the lieutenant of that party not only mutinied, but eventually scuttled the ship. To-day we see him trying to discipline the remnant of his crew. Of course, under his capable leadership there is just a possibility that, notwithstanding that regrettable episode in the life of the previous Government, he may yet rally his forces. It is remarkable how the present state of affairs has created all kinds of political economists from A to Z, from Ananias to Zola, not forgetting our Dick Turpin of Australian finance, Professor Shann. At all events, at present there is so little doing for the Professor of Economics at the W.A. University that he can be relieved from duty in order to place his wide knowledge, both theoretical and practical, of world economics at the service of the World Economic Conference. If the economists there attending were all of the same degree of learning as is possessed by Professor Shann, the conspicuous results reached by that conference are not to be

wondered at. However, in the matter of the University and its professors and their general usefulness in the scheme of things, I shall have opportunity to say something further on the Education Vote when we reach the Estimates. The plain truth of currency and credit is that in the old days they were more or less reduced to simplicity. As long as the ordinary currency of the country was kept intact, as long as it was not debased, either by the old monies or the clippers, or by the kings that desired to halve the currency, or at least to profit by its debasement—as long as they kept their currency intact, until the end of the 17th century, there was no problem whatever in currency or credit. Indeed, until towards the end of the 17th century there were but 40 odd banks in England. It was not until after the close of that century that the Bank of England was established. Then, following the dawn of the machinery era, and within 40 years there were over 400 banks distributed over England. From that time forward we mark the evolutionary growth of credit and bills of exchange and, of course, successful bank brokers, to an extent out of all proportion with that which had existed a century or two before. By an ancient indenture, not more than six people could gather together to carry on the business of banking. That in itself led to the creation of the joint stock banks which were so much in evidence a century or two ago. Many of them still exist to-day. If we give any body of people, whether banks or any other corporate body, the right to be the custodians of the people's credits, then if we want credits we must go to that place of business to get them. To-day we find ourselves in so anomalous a position that, while we have certain sovereign rights, and the Commonwealth have certain constitutional rights, actually we are all being governed by those entitled to release credits throughout the Commonwealth. Until people believe in the release of credit, an increase in the wholesale world's parity prices, and a very marked departure from the present position, the Parliaments of their respective countries will have little or no authority, and will be undermined by banking institutions which are shaping the policy of Governments. I agree with the remarks of the present Leader of the National Party made on the 12th September, 1931, when he dealt with what he considered to be the minor considerations

that had absorbed the attentions of the Government. He gave a summary of his judgment in connection with our affairs, and stressed the burden of interest that we were paying in Australia. He said that with a proper conversion of our loans, both internal and external, we could save no less than £12,000,000 a year. There was a considerable amount of constructive thought in that statement, and in the democratic outlook that there was very little hope for Australia until the bondholders realised that to-day we had not the capacity under any monetary scheme to finance such big amounts; nor could we finance the top-heavy rate of interest we have to pay each year. Every week to meet our external interest we have to send out of Australia half a million pounds, and we have to pay within Australia a corresponding amount. It will be realised how impossible it is, with the loss of national income, for us to meet these commitments. It is no use humbugging ourselves into the belief that we can graft new ideas on to old institutions. There must be a radical overhaul of our present monetary system, a rational overlooking of our system of banking, and a definite relationship established between our rights to govern and the rights of banks to dominate us. It must be one or the other. The suggestion of the Leader of the National Party might afford considerable help in alleviating some of the distress and misery brought about by the excessive interest burdens, but that is only a palliative. The time will surely come when there will have to be a rational stock-taking of our relationship, in the hope that ultimately public opinion will be educated to a realisation of the fact that Parliament must stand supreme in the matter of finance, if it stands supreme in anything. We cannot afford to hand over to irresponsible trading concerns, banks or otherwise, the functions of Governments, the lifeblood of our people, their happiness or misery, merely for the sake of enabling those institutions to pay dividends. I admit our banking institutions have done excellent work, and have been the most honourably conducted of all the institutions that are trading in Australia. The mere acknowledgment of that, however, will not take us out of our difficulties. We heard the suggestion of the member for Claremont (Mr. North) with regard to the Douglas credit system. I commend the hon. member for his venturesome thought and democratic

outlook, and his belief that by a reversion to a system of monetary control of that description, we can get out of our troubles. As credit has progressed to-day, as the use of paper currency has extended, and as the people of the world, particularly of the older world, are garnering in all the gold they can for the future, in order to get some relief in Australia, we must have an overhaul of our banking system. It does seem like coming down to earth to deal now with parochial affairs, but I wish to stress some of the claims for attention on the part of my district. I would urge the Treasurer to give immediate consideration to the necessity for building the South Yilgarn railway. It is here that a considerable number of ex-miners were formed into what is known as a miners' settlement. They have given the better part of their lives to the industry. They were called upon for health reasons, as their vitality had been seriously affected whilst engaged in the mining industry, to endeavour to settle themselves into a new class of activity. Those who have an intimate knowledge of these fine fellows will agree that the greatest assistance this country can afford them would neither be mis-spent nor regarded as an extravagance, especially if it will help them to carve out a home for themselves, get some little compensation for the ill-health from which they are suffering, and leave some small legacy for their sons and daughters. These settlers cannot make good until they are equipped with water supply facilities. It is a pressing need.

Mr. Stubbs: Have they not surface supplies there now?

Mr. LAMBERT: There is a small supply, but unfortunately, the pipes, which were laid down for mining purposes, have corroded and are inadequate for the requirements of the district. Until water supplies are provided at Moorine Rock, Bullfinch and other parts of this district, the enormous amount of money that has been advanced by the Agricultural Bank will not be recoverable. There is little or no chance of these farmers replacing foreign tractors and foreign oil by horses until they have sufficient water. I urge upon the Treasurer to see that Cabinet gives serious consideration to this matter. I know there are pressing needs all over the State. Because I believe water supplies should be established

in my electorate and other facilities given to needy settlers, I do not decry the works of beautification that are being carried out around our capital city. Whether it be the National Park, the Yanchep Caves, the Zoological Gardens, or Mount's Bay-road, I believe that many of these schemes of beautification are justified. The people of this fair city owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Shapeott, Chairman of the State Gardens Board, for his unselfish and self-sacrificing work. It is evident from the many schemes he supervises that he must sacrifice a great deal of his own interests. One has only to look at National Park to see the artistic mind of the directing hand of someone, who is evidently getting value for the expenditure and making presentable the environments of Perth. The Agricultural Bank has frequently been discussed of late, particularly during the recent elections. In my district it was hardly safe to mention the institution. In my view the head of the bank (Mr. McLarty) has done wonderful service. I would not attempt to decry the work he has done, because I think few men would have carried it out in such an efficient, impartial and honourable manner. The time, however, has arrived when there should be a thorough re-organisation of this institution. Over £14,000,000 has been spent by the bank, and I venture to say that not 30 or 25 per cent. is recoverable. This may be due to some extent to the lack of a fixed policy. That is not the fault of Mr. McLarty or the other trustees associated with him. It is very difficult for anyone to ignore the overtures of constituents who have put up a fairly good case, however embellished and coloured it may be; if they are in trouble, it seems to be one's duty to assist them. But the position to-day is too serious to allow of further drift in the matter of a fixed policy. I am convinced that if Parliament had laid down for Mr. McLarty a cast iron policy to follow, there would have been little trouble with regard to the Agricultural Bank. Mr. McLarty's efforts to give relief to the needy should have been buttressed by Parliament, but further—what is more difficult—that officer should have been supported in eliminating some of the misfits who have been assisted by the Agricultural Bank and are still holding up progress in the agricultural areas. The Leader of the National Party has outlined forcefully how the Common-

wealth Bank, as a national institution, has fallen short in not establishing long ago a branch as a rural credits bank. If it is the duty of the people of this country to pay extortionate Customs and Excise duties in order to help the Eastern States manufacturer, much more is it the duty of the National Government to advance the rural districts. That duty ought to have been realised ten years ago. In the last analysis we are dependent upon rural production; and therefore there should have been, at least ten years ago, a rural credits branch of the Commonwealth Bank. Those intimately connected with the State Agricultural Bank must realise that until Parliament passes under review the probable amount of capital and accrued interest owing to the Agricultural Bank which must be written off as irrecoverable, our primary producers cannot be placed upon the footing which they ought to be upon. If the Government carry out their intention, as I believe they will do, of appointing a Royal Commission to inquire into the ramifications of the Agricultural Bank, the Commissioners should have it as part of their functions to inquire into the amounts of principal and accrued interest to be written off, so that Parliament may prepare to face the inevitable loss and place our farmers upon a sound footing. The Leader of the Opposition expressed approval of the creation of the Economic Council by the Minister for Employment. It is easy to realise that the hon. gentleman would not find fault with the creation of such an advisory body. In connection with the last Government it was conspicuous that each Minister operated virtually as a separate unit. Each seemed to have his own scheme or his own ideas, and someone else did the bossing. But nobody did the advising. This situation created discontent and distress among the people generally, and so contributed largely to the downfall of the previous Government. Another strong contributing factor to their defeat was the lack of any concrete statement of the late Government's views as to the best means of altering the condition of affairs then existing. No single individual—be he Hitler or be he Mussolini—can effect the needed alterations; the problems of to-day can be solved only by team work and by the advice and assistance of those most competent to render such services.

Mr. Latham: You will remember that we appointed one of those councils, and that the Trades Hall people refused to go any further with it, though they had representation on it.

Mr. LAMBERT: Then probably they feared it would be an uneconomic council. I do not remember it. At all events, I am not responsible for the decisions of the Trades Hall.

Mr. Latham: You are only responsible for criticising now.

Mr. LAMBERT: I shall be responsible for criticising the Trades Hall too, if I think that institution does wrong. If the previous Government invited the Trades Hall to join a council of the kind, I am not aware of it. A State-wide stocktaking is necessary if new avenues of employment are to be created in Western Australia. Since Federation, from 1901 to 1931, Western Australia has bought no less than £167,000,000 worth of goods from the Eastern States, which during the same period have purchased from Western Australia £53,400,000 worth, leaving an adverse trade balance against Western Australia of about £115,000,000.

Mr. Thorn: It is about time we had secession.

Mr. LAMBERT: With regard to secession we will have a friendly chat later. That adverse trade balance represents a tremendous drain upon people who have been developing almost solely primary industries, beginning at a time when commodity prices were considerably inflated, and opening up a territory such as this, equal to a third of the Australian continent. In view of those facts the task before us must be regarded as, under existing conditions, absolutely impossible. I would be the last man in the world to believe that even at this late hour the differences existing between Western Australia and the Eastern States cannot be reconciled, and we remain an integral portion of this great Commonwealth. However, unless the East is prepared to acknowledge that Western Australia is faced by tremendous, and in fact insurmountable, difficulties as a small State. I shall be prepared even to march behind the member for Nedlands (Hon. N. Keenan) to seize the Customs at Fremantle. I should not then regard such an action as of too hostile a character. It is necessary to impress upon

the pussyfoots of Canberra that we are in real earnest as regards the defence of our own people in this sovereign State. It is a painful thing to look back over the history of Federation and realise that in thirty years Western Australia has contributed from its primary industries no less than £115,000,000 of real wealth to pay for goods manufactured in the East behind tariff shelter; and I quite understand the resentment of secessionists when a delegation from Footscray and Woolloomooloo was suggested by Mr. Scullin and Mr. Lyons to inform Western Australians that they were not suffering from any disadvantages or disabilities whatsoever. One can easily understand the almost unanimous vote recorded against interference from Footscray and Woolloomooloo and from the pussyfoots at the seat of Federal government, Canberra. I am reminded that recently we in this State took out a machine gun or two to eradicate some pest, whereupon pussyfoots in West Sydney and other industrial centres of the East asked all sorts of questions in what is called the National Parliament as to the destruction of a few innocent emus which were merely eating up the crops of Western Australian farmers. That is the position which has been reached. The framers of the Commonwealth Constitution permitted a State member of Parliament to contest a seat in the Federal House without resigning his seat; but as soon as the East became stronger in numbers, that provision of the Federal electoral law was repealed and members of State Parliaments were deprived of their undoubted right to contest Federal seats. Members of State Parliaments who by experience, age, or knowledge would have buttressed and strengthened the Federal Parliament, found the front door slammed in their faces; and the back door was opened to all the riff-raff rejected from the public life of this and the other States. Can one expect any high order of public morals and public conduct from men in a Parliament of that description? I do not assert that the description applies to all Federal members, but a large percentage of the membership of the Federal Parliament did not of its own volition leave this or the other State Legislatures, but left as the result of a forceful sting from the electors. Another great and real difficulty Western Australia has to face lies in the

fact that although Federal monetary contributions have been made in order to strengthen our State finances from year to year, no such concession has ever been made as would have been given by the big men of Australia's public life, men of broad outlook, men who believed themselves to be laying a sound basis for the establishment of a nation under the Southern Cross. As soon as the successors of those men of vision found the Federal Treasury bulging almost to bursting point with revenue, they passed the Surplus Revenue Act. That iniquitous measure reached the Federal statute-book about 1911. Prior to its enactment the Commonwealth had returned to the States no less a sum than £73,792,000. That money was returned under provisions of the Commonwealth Constitution which were believed to be iron-bound. But the Federal High Court, of course, then as now, interpreted the Commonwealth Constitution in favour of the Federal Parliament. To-day we are being deprived of countless millions through the Commonwealth Government's desire to lavish expenditure on mandated territories and on Canberra, the capital city of Australia, the construction of which could well have been held over for half a century.

The Premier: Mr. Hughes on one occasion when Prime Minister, attempted to make an additional appointment to the High Court Bench to secure the services of a gentleman likely to give decisions that he desired.

Mr. LAMBERT: Anyone who knows Mr. Hughes would not expect anything else. We can remember him as though only the other day, parading around in a digger's hat and pointing to a big picture with the words: "What did your daddy do in the Great War." There was the big hat and the face underneath it that looked like that of Mr. Hughes. To-day the position is that future generations will be asking the old men of to-day, "What did your daddy do to change the present order of chaos?" The generation in these days look out only on a world of chaos and uncertainty. Can it be expected in countries like Germany and France, that the public mind will not be guided along evolutionary or revolutionary lines, although in Italy the public feelings are so stringently suppressed? Can we interpret anything else from the position in

Russia? All this unrest is due to the uncertainty and chaotic state of the world. It is the old men of the world who have more or less muddled up the position. They used to talk about "the good old times." That reminds me that in 1800 William Pitt the Younger said—

There is scarcely anything around us but ruin and despair.

Even in 1800 the old men were muddling the affairs of the world.

The Premier: That is what the Leader of the National Party said.

Mr. LAMBERT: Yes. In 1819 the great Lord Grey said—

Everything is tending to a convulsion.

Lord Shaftesbury, in 1848, said—

Nothing can save the British Empire from shipwreck.

I think His Lordship must have had the member for Nedlands (Hon. N. Keenan) in mind when he scuttled the ship. Even Disraeli, in 1849, said—

In industry, commerce and agriculture, there is no hope.

The great Wilberforce, in 1888, said—

I dare not marry; the future is so dark and unsettled.

Fancy the great and distinguished Wilberforce, whose work led to the emancipation of slaves throughout the world, being afraid to marry a simple lady just because the future was so dark! For my part, I suggest that the future becomes dark only when a person ventures on the sea of matrimony. I do not know that a man is guided by any great beacon light when he changes his estate and becomes married!

Mr. Stubbs: It did not frighten you.

Mr. LAMBERT: No. Then let me quote what the Duke of Wellington said in 1849—

I thank God I shall be spared to see the consummation of the ruin that is gathering about.

Those are some of the opinions of a few old men of the world, and they believed that ruination was all around them.

Mr. Hegney: What did Mr. Lyons say?

Mr. Raphael: He said, "Eat more fruit" and "Eat more candy."

Mr. LAMBERT: Much as I like Mr. Lyons, I will not attempt to associate that great and distinguished personality with the mediocrities whose opinions I have quoted! I do not think it would be fair to Mr. Lyons! In my opinion, it is necessary for the Economic Council to undertake a State-wide stocktaking to ascertain definitely what we can and what we cannot manufacture. We must appreciate the fact that until there is a change, we have to bow our heads humbly before the iniquitous tariff that operates so detrimentally to the interests of Western Australia. I believe that the members of the Economic Council are earnest men, charged with the responsibility of investigating many of the questions I have indicated. There are many industries throughout the State that should contribute successfully to our economic salvation, if they were but encouraged and developed. That reminds me that an announcement appeared in the Press recently indicating that the Government intended to remove the railway that was constructed from Meekatharra to Horseshoe. A comparatively small amount of money was provided by the State Government for the purchase of rails, and about £150,000 was raised by the people themselves, and was sunk in that venture.

Mr. Griffiths: Do not the Government intend to use the rails for the construction of a railway to the miners' settlement?

The Premier: No, for the Yarramony-Eastwards railway!

Mr. LAMBERT: If the Premier's rejoinder, which I am afraid is ironical, were correct, it would be the unkindest cut of all. If the rails are to be used for the railway suggested by the member for Avon (Mr. Griffiths), I hope my constituents will benefit to that extent. This matter serves as an object lesson. There are few minerals in this State, upon the recovery of which we are spending money, that we can transport over long distances and sell at world's parity, or in the world's market at remunerative prices. I could give the House a list of the minerals that are referred to in the yearly pamphlet issued by the Mines Department, enumerating the useful minerals of Western Australia. With the exception of two or three that are very rare minerals, there is no possibility of exporting consignments of one of

those minerals from Western Australia. The exceptions may be those few rare minerals that are found in very small quantities. When it comes to minerals such as gypsum, manganese and alunite, which are used extensively in industry, there is no possible hope for successful operations in placing our minerals on the world's markets. It is not mere sheer humbug but rank hypocrisy to publish pamphlets enumerating the useful minerals of Western Australia, seeing that there is no possible hope of the minerals being exported. People should not be deluded into thinking it is possible to do so. This is a serious position. Although my company spent £150,000 with the best of intentions, backed up by State Government reports, nothing can be done at present. I know a million pounds' worth of manganese is at the Horseshoe, merely waiting to be quarried and railed to the seaboard. Instead of pulling up that line, perhaps the Government could do something to enable the mineral to be marketed at a remunerative rate. I hope that the policy of pulling up railways will not be pursued regarding other industries if unpayable prices happen to rule. I trust that the present Government, or any future Government, will not embark upon a State-wide campaign to pull up railways because prices are not satisfactory. Certainly such a policy would provide some work, but if a year or two ago the Government had commenced to pull up agricultural railways merely because the price of wheat fell 2s. a bushel, we would have had most of the farmers off the land to-day. The Government must realise that either the industry must be subsidised by a bounty, or the Commonwealth Government must be asked to extend that financial assistance, if any of these useful minerals that can be found in such abundance throughout Western Australia, are to be placed on the world's market, after being conveyed over long distances to the seaboard. Unless something of that description is undertaken, such minerals cannot be placed on the world's markets in competition with supplies from elsewhere. If the Government are not prepared to take action along those lines, then let the Minister for Mines once and for all instruct the Government Mineralogist and Chemist that there is no further need to issue pamphlets that will mislead people in other parts of the world. Such statements should not be

issued leading them to believe that we can produce these minerals economically, whereas, in fact, it is impossible to do so. Although I am a director of the Manganese Company and have devoted years of my life to opening up the deposits, it was in the hope that, while giving me a return for my efforts, it would mean the opening-up and development of a big national asset. The policy I have indicated regarding the railways is wrong and far from sound. If there is £1,000,000 worth of ore at the Horseshoe merely waiting to be quarried, and transported to the seaboard—I have not the slightest doubt that such a quantity is available—even if my company did not benefit to the extent of one shilling, would it not be far better for the Railway Department to make concessions for the transport of the ore, instead of imposing a rate of 18s. a ton? If something of that sort were done, the Government could provide employment for many men. They could quarry the manganese, either by contract or by day labour, or even by means of some co-operative scheme. That could be undertaken, even if my company, which spent £150,000 on the proposition, did not benefit to the extent of one shilling.

The Minister for Justice: The Government did not stop anyone from carrying on work there.

Mr. LAMBERT: No, but the Railway Department levied a rate for the transport of the ore from the mine to the seaboard, which made it impossible to market the mineral at a profit. I do not blame the Minister for the position; I am merely stating the facts. In India the Government convey minerals from the inland provinces to Bombay or Calcutta for 5s. or 6s. a ton.

The Minister for Justice: Can any Government in Australia do that?

Mr. LAMBERT: I do not say that they can.

The Minister for Justice: Why, you can buy a man, woman and family for a couple of shillings in India.

Mr. LAMBERT: That is foreign to me. I have never attempted to buy a man, nor have I attempted to buy a woman. I do not know what the charges may be, but I do know that we cannot remove the economic factors that are operating against the successful mining of big tonnages of lower-priced ores unless the Government realise it is a sound policy to mete out the same treatment to mining as they do to wheat-

growing and other primary industries. In making that point, I am not finding fault with the State Government.

The Minister for Justice: If the railways provided transport without cost, would you quarry the manganese.

Mr. LAMBERT: I would send down 10,000 tons immediately, before the railway is pulled up. The Minister would then see the foolishness of the policy I am combating. Of course it will have nothing to do with me, because I have lost interest in it.

Mr. Latham: Many others have lost interest in it, too.

Mr. LAMBERT: Let us look at the reverse side of the picture. We find the Commonwealth Government lavishing bonuses on other industries and making them available to those who produce butter, dried fruits, sugar, and other commodities. In this State there is mineral wealth to be quarried and mined and shipped overseas. On account of the economic conditions obtaining throughout Australia to-day and the high cost of haulage, that wealth has to remain untapped. It is essential for the Government to realise the position. Members speak in this House with their tongues in their cheeks, and there is too much bluff and hypocrisy. There is no possible hope of sending our minerals to the Eastern States. An overseas shipping committee regulates the price, and whereas we should get a freight from Fremantle to Hamburg of 16s. per ton, the overseas shipping ring charges a minimum of £1 15s. Thus we are shut out of the world's markets by the high cost of transport. I do not say that the day will not come when a better co-ordination of our transport and power activities will enable us to give the needed facilities for the development of some of the big mineral deposits, and permit of their being opened up. This brings me to the question of the necessity for co-ordinating power and transport. The time has arrived when there should be a clear co-ordination along lines that will ensure the greatest security to the railways in which so much money has been invested by the State. This remark applies equally to power. The future development of this country depends upon transport and power. Unfortunately, we have lagged behind in the matter of co-ordinating our power schemes. Let me give an idea of our lamentable position. A few months

ago the Municipal Council of Bunbury—I have heard its members referred to as bungling bumbles—circularised other councils throughout the State asking them to support a scheme designed to economise in and simplify the domain of the State Government and Parliament. They suggested that 20 members of Parliament at £50 per year each would be quite sufficient. While making that suggestion, the council purchased a foreign manufactured crude-oil engine for its electric generation, and committed the ratepayers to the purchase of crude oil as long as that engine runs, notwithstanding that within 40 miles of the town is the largest known coalfield in the State. The same remark applies to Albany. The time has arrived when we should adopt a national policy that will not permit of tinkers and tailors elected to a town council deciding to use imported crude oil in preference to native fuel. What a scandalous position! What hope is there for us when a council adopt such an attitude?

Mr. Withers: Are not the members of the council appointed to protect their own interests?

Mr. LAMBERT: There is no interest that is not subordinate to the national interest. Those busybodies and know-alls who comprise the Bunbury council take such a pride in their country that they use their town clerk, his time and postages, and probably some of the 3 per cents., to circularise other councils and try to hold Parliament up to derision for not economising sufficiently. You can go back and tell that to your friends at Bunbury.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member must address the Chair, and not the member for Bunbury.

Mr. LAMBERT: The hon. member should tell them that they have a State-wide responsibility, not a parochial responsibility. It is essential that the power schemes of the State be co-ordinated in the matter of current, direct or otherwise, to ensure the utilisation of native fuel. We must curb town councils when they merrily meet over the convivial glass and decide to import crude oil engines, thus forcing us farther to leeward when we are exerting all our efforts to balance the national accounts. I disagree with the idea of spending another shilling on the Perth-Fremantle-road.



Mr. Thorn: Before you finish with crude oil, what about having a go at the dredge at the Causeway?

Mr. LAMBERT: The dredge will be useful later on to deepen the river and bring down the dried fruits from the hon. member's district.

Mr. Withers: Deal also with those who use American cars instead of British cars.

Mr. LAMBERT: That does not refer to me, because mine is only an apology for a car. The Perth-Fremantle-road contains many bottle-necks, and rather than spend any more money on it, the question of pulling up the Perth-Fremantle railway should be considered. The line could be pulled up and a national highway constructed with the material available. There is ample reservation to provide a fine national highway for two-way traffic, and the material salvaged could be used to construct the railway on the south side of the river. The existing railway bridges could be demolished, and instead of building extravagant structures, a bridge of wood would be sufficient to meet the needs for 30 or 40 years.

Mr. Raphael: Would you pull up the line between Perth and Fremantle?

Mr. LAMBERT: Yes. Owing to the bottle-necks on the Perth-Fremantle-road, it will always be unsafe. A railway for heavy transport between Perth and Fremantle is not required. I suggest, with all modesty, and having regard to the modesty so characteristic of some of the officers of the Works Department, that the time has arrived when this matter is of paramount importance. Such a highway would contain sufficient space for trolley buses, and their operation would eliminate much of the competition now being experienced. I noticed with a good deal of pleasure that Sir George Pearce was in Perth the other day. He made, I understand, a courtesy call upon the Premier. Knowing the Premier's pronounced affection for him, I did not like to ask whether that was so or not. I take it, however, that the newspaper reports were reasonably correct, and that Sir George Pearce did broach the idea of establishing a great northern State. This question should have been considered long ago. The Commonwealth lavishly spent money at Canberra while leaving the most vulnerable portion of Australia open to possible attack. In addition, money was spent lavishly in

mandated territories and in the Northern Territory, thus absorbing funds which should have been paid to the States under the per capita provisions of the Constitution. It is time we considered the establishing of a tropical State across the north of the continent. I would not say what the boundary should be. The member for Gascoyne (Mr. Wise) gave a forceful address on the problems and difficulties of the North, and he could deal with the question in far more detail than I could. I believe we should encourage the idea of establishing such a State across the north of Australia, and that it should be governed and controlled by the State so constituted. I would not concede one foot of State territory to the Commonwealth Government, not even to bury one of the pussyfoots emanating from Woolloomooloo, or thereabouts, that comprise the Parliament. The Commonwealth's incapacity to control or develop any area has been magnificently exemplified in the Northern Territory, and I hope that no State Parliament will agree to concede any territory to the Commonwealth authorities until they show their capacity to develop it. I am pleased with the assurances of help given by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Latham) and the Leader of the National Party (Hon. N. Keenan), whose viewpoint has been marked by a fine democratic outlook. When the history of the present Parliament comes to be written, I hope it will be possible to say that much of the existing chaos and unhappiness has been removed, and that the State is in a sounder and more prosperous condition.

MR. THORN (Toodyay) [5.45]: I desire to join with other members in congratulating you, Mr. Speaker, on your elevation to the high office you hold, and to wish you a happy term of office. I also wish to congratulate the new members. I have listened with interest to what they have had to say and congratulate them on their contributions to the debate. They have undoubtedly spoken their own minds and have brought forward new ideas. I cannot agree entirely with all their ideas, but nevertheless they are worth analysing. Members have dealt very extensively with the difficult position in which our farmers find themselves, and undoubtedly everyone in this House is greatly concerned about that industry. I know and

feel sure the Government will do, as their predecessors did, their level best to alleviate the troubles of the people on the land. We have also heard the North-West freely discussed and I agree that the time is long overdue when we should give serious attention to that part of the State by rendering assistance to those industries that are natural to the North-West. The member for Pilbara (Mr. Welsh) dealt very capably with many North-West subjects the other evening. I do not suppose we could select a man who has a wider experience of the North than has the hon. member. The member for Roebourne (Mr. Rodoreda) and the member for Gascoyne (Mr. Wise) contributed suggestions which in their opinion might assist the North-West in getting out of its difficulties. The industries that are associated with that part of the State are principally pastoral and mining. With regard to mining in that territory, we can safely say that the country has been barely scratched up to the present time, and the industry should receive all the consideration and help possible. There is also pearling, which is an important industry of the North, whilst there are also possibilities in respect of fish in its fresh and preserved state. I wish to deal with the dried fruit industry, more so for the information of the new members of the House. We have heard a good deal about control legislation. I know that some members are unfavourably disposed to it, but during the present debate we have heard quite a lot about the economic position and many members have claimed that we should bring about monetary reform. I believe the time has arrived when we should effect changes in our marketing conditions. It is no good sticking to our own methods of marketing because we realise that Western Australia and Australia, as a young country years ago, produced only its own requirements. In our own State to-day we have reached the stage of over-production and now must find markets overseas. Consequently, we require control of our industries. Many members are of the opinion that the dried-fruit growers of the State are to-day on a sound footing. Last year the dried-fruit growers enjoyed good prices, but this year the prices are down £12 10s. a ton. Another point I wish to make clear is that the growers have not all their eggs in one basket;

they are engaged in producing wine and table grapes. This year Western Australia has exported 40,000 cases of fresh grapes, more than half of the total export of the Commonwealth. The position with the growers, however, is very sad indeed. Sales have been low and they have found themselves in difficulties. Then we come to the wine industry. In Western Australia it is being carried on in a small way only, but we find that the producers are struggling for an existence. The production of wine in Western Australia is 350,000 gallons, whilst the consumption is 440,000 gallons. During the past year quite a number of Eastern States wine makers bought grapes at £1 and 15s. a ton. In the Barossa district alone 8,000 tons of grapes were purchased at £1 and 15s. a ton. That quantity of grapes would make 1½ million gallons of wine, and in all probability come into competition with the wine of this State next year. The winemakers of Western Australia are in the position that it will not be possible for them to compete. They have paid £5 a ton for grapes for distillery purposes and between £7 and £8 a ton for grapes for wine making. They have religiously stuck to their contracts. Another matter of importance is that in South Australia an exclusive license to sell local wines is obtainable. We have asked previous Governments in Western Australia for a similar right and we have been informed that to grant this would be contrary to Section 92 of the Commonwealth Constitution. Consequently, the license holders have to sell the wines that are made throughout the Commonwealth. Yet South Australia boldly goes on selling its own wines exclusively. I am hoping that the Government will give consideration to the matter.

The Minister for Lands: You are asking this Government to do everything; why did you not ask the previous Government?

Mr. THORN: That is not the right way to look at it.

The Minister for Lands: That is the way you put it.

The Minister for Justice: How does South Australia get over Section 92 of the Commonwealth Act?

Mr. THORN: That is what I cannot understand. I have it on the authority of a well-informed person that in South Australia exclusive licenses are granted.

The Minister for Justice: We have a license that allows of the sale of purely Western Australian wines.

Mr. THORN: But the position here is that the licenses are not exclusive.

The Minister for Justice: Will you assist us by giving us the facts regarding the position in South Australia?

Mr. THORN: I will go into that matter. An Act that is in existence in New South Wales does not permit wine to enter that State which is fortified under a strength of 34 per cent. This is usual and applies in Western Australia. We fortify to the extent of 34 per cent. and yet South Australian and Victorian wines come here in competition with our wines fortified as low as 28 per cent., and that gives those States an opportunity to undersell us. All the wine from the other States is sent in for quick sale. Recently I had an opportunity of testing and examining a sample of Eastern States wine taken from shelves in a local shop. It looked perfect to the eye but it was most unhealthy in the bouquet, and when examined in the glass it was found to be full of bacteria. It was cheap wine and under fortified. I am going to endeavour also to obtain a copy of the New South Wales Act and see whether the Government will consider the introduction of similar legislation here in that way allowing only wine to enter the State that is fortified to the standard of our own product. One can realise how we are seriously crushed by the competition of Eastern States interests. Take Victoria. There are in that State 32,000 acres under vines. South Australia has 58,000 acres under vines, whilst in Western Australia we have a modest 4,900 acres and our growers are struggling for an existence. I wish to bring these facts under the notice of the Government as forcibly as I can. When we find wine makers buying grapes at £1 and 15s. a ton, and know that the wine made from those grapes will come into competition with ours next year, it will be recognised that the outlook for our growers is very black indeed.

The Minister for Justice: Very black indeed, for we cannot grow grapes and sell them at that price.

Mr. THORN: I could say a great deal more about this subject, but I think I have said enough to show how serious the position is for the industry in this State. Victoria carries stocks amounting to between 13,000,000 and 14,000,000 gallons, whilst

South Australia makes between 10,000,000 and 12,000,000 gallons annually.

The Premier: They export a lot.

Mr. THORN: We have a compact little industry here and I am hopeful that we may be able to preserve it. A good deal of capital has been invested in it.

The Minister for Justice: The abandonment of prohibition in the United States may improve the position.

Mr. THORN: That is so. With reference to the Dried Fruits Act, I should like to give a brief outline of it for the information of the new members. We have control of this industry and by reason of that we are able to pack standard lines and send them overseas. The buyers in the London and other markets can always rest assured that they can buy the brand described on the case. The Western Australian product is held in high favour on the London market, and is regarded as superior to that of the Eastern States. But we have to export 80 per cent. of our product, and accept world parity for it. A little while ago the member for Yilgarn-Coolgardie tried to compare our freights with those in India. We have to compete with foreign countries employing black labour and paying for it a penny or two-pence a day. Yet, owing to our high standard, we are able to command a price that at least covers the cost of production. Some members think the growers should receive more for the fruit sold on the local market. They cannot understand growers receiving a flat rate of only 4d. per lb. for currants that are selling at 7d. per lb. on the local market, but it must be realised that the 20 per cent. sold locally has to be pooled with the 80 per cent. sold overseas, and it is the pooled price that the growers receive. I am not going to make out that we are entirely satisfied with the position, but at all events we get a fairly good return. Like the member for Murray-Wellington (Mr. McLarty), I am pleased with the operations of the Milk Board, which I think is carrying out its duties very well. Of course it has to clash with many interests, and there can be no doubt it was justified in delicensing some of those small shops, many of which were not sufficiently careful in the handling of milk.

The Minister for Health: No other food is so easily contaminated as is milk.

Mr. THORN: That is so, and we understand that bacteria from fruit or vegetables or fish will serve to contaminate it. I congratulate the Milk Board on the way in which it is doing its business. I know it is an instruction from the Government that all our unemployed, and especially those on sustenance, shall use local products. I am afraid a lot of them are not doing so, and I hope the Government will police that order a little more closely and see if they cannot enforce it. I understand that in Victoria and New South Wales it is considered a crime for sustenance workers to purchase commodities from other States. I am pleased to know the Minister for Employment is actively urging the use of local products, for I regard that as one way out of our difficulty. If we can foster such secondary industries as are natural to our primary industries, and push our local products it will materially assist us. The member for Yilgarn-Coolgardie spoke of the treatment meted out to this State by the people of the Eastern States. As in politics, the manufacturers of the Eastern States are the masters of the situation here. Whenever we start a secondary industry in this State it is very quickly crushed out. The fact that we can purchase Eastern States jam in this State at 8s. 6d. per dozen proves that the stuff is being dumped here, for it is impossible that the manufacturers can profitably sell the jam here at that price. In my electorate, Mr. Speaker, we have many requirements, but I think they can be dealt with in a much more efficient manner by my conferring with the Ministers of the various departments and discussing those requirements with them. This I propose to do at the earliest opportunity afforded me.

**MR. PIESSE** (Katanning) [6.8]: I desire to congratulate you, Sir, on your elevation to the Speakership. I am convinced that during your term of office you will worthily carry out your duties. Also I congratulate Ministers, especially the Premier, upon their return to the Government benches. We on this side of the House have been disappointed with the results of the last elections, but we have no quarrel with the decision of the electors. We consider it was not wise to interfere with the stability of Government at a time when that stability was most needed. However,

I feel sure the earnestness of purpose of the present Ministers is such that for the time being we can very well leave the destiny of the State in their hands, hoping they will not be stampeded into extreme legislation by the large following they have. I congratulate new members upon their excellent speeches in this debate, and I feel sure their entry into Parliament will be of some assistance to the deliberations of the House. If the contributions made to the debate assist to bring about a permanent solution of our monetary difficulties, they will be of very great service to the State. For the moment I am concerned about the everyday troubles with which we are faced, more particularly those brought about by the sudden fall in the prices of our primary products. This Parliament cannot too early take into consideration the special disabilities under which the State is labouring, and assist the Government in unravelling the various difficulties and so placing our industries on a better footing. I desire to congratulate Sir James Mitchell upon his selection as Lieut.-Governor. I have been surprised to hear that the Government were not consulted in the matter. I think one can say that at no opening of our successive Parliaments have we had a more cordial spirit in listening to His Excellency's Speech than was evidenced when Sir James Mitchell as Lieut.-Governor submitted the opening Speech two weeks ago. That spirit, I take it, was due largely to the very wise choice of Lieut.-Governor. So far the only discordant note has come from members sitting behind the Government.

Mr. Sleeman: Do you believe in that method of appointment?

Mr. PIESSE: I think a very wise choice was made. I have never agreed with the suggestion that a Lieut.-Governor should for all time supplant an Imperial Governor. I think it was never more necessary that we should have an Imperial Governor than it is to-day, because after all he is the only connecting link we have with His Majesty, the King. Under our Constitution there are sovereign rights reserved to our State by which we can go direct to His Majesty. We have been sufficiently long without an Imperial Governor.

Mr. Sleeman: Have we been any the worse for that?

Mr. PIESSE: Especially at this period, the State cannot afford to dispense with Imperial Governors.

*Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.*

Mr. PIESSE: Whilst the appointment of Lieut.-Governor was popularly received throughout the State, it was expected that the office would be filled only temporarily, and people hoped that the Government would, before the present Parliament terminated, carry out their duty under the Constitution and arrange for the appointment of a Governor from the Homeland. There is very little in the Speech that is debatable. It deals largely with the past, and with statistics concerning the primary industries and gold production. It is a very noble and splendid tribute to our producers, who have faced so much adversity during the past three years, that our primary products should have assumed such large proportions as to play an important part in the settlement of our oversea debts and in providing our national wealth. I am grateful that we have enjoyed good seasons in the past three years, and that our crops on the whole have given good results. Unfortunately they have been unpayable and unprofitable to those engaged in growing them. It is our hope that with the aid of this Parliament, and the united efforts of us all, we may be able to induce the Federal Government to assist us in bringing down the cost of production, and that the improvement in the prices evident during the past few weeks will soon enable our primary industries to get on the high road to recovery. It is pleasing to note that the goldmining industry has been so well developed of late at a time when we most needed its help. In the early days it was due to that industry that this State had an opportunity to develop its agricultural resources. Two important matters are referred to in the Speech, namely, the material reduction in our oversea interest, and the economy in our railway expenditure. I am somewhat disappointed that more direct reference was not made to the policy the Government are likely to pursue in assisting our farmers under their present disabilities. I refer to primary producers, the growers of wheat, wool and other products. One would have thought that with the probability of such a large loan expendi-

ture, as is anticipated by the Treasurer, something would have been said in the Speech with regard to the future development of our agricultural industry. I am pleased that the deficit for the past year has been kept fairly well within the amount arranged for under the Premiers' Plan. I hope the Treasurer will conform to that Plan, and that in the near future he will be able to balance the Budget, so that we shall not have to look forward to an annual recurrence of deficits such as we have had in the past. We know the great difficulties under which the country has to be carried on. We have not yet arrived at the end of all economies. It is expected by those who are producing crops at a loss and helping to provide our national wealth, that the greatest economies will be practised by both the Government and Parliament. The policy of embarking upon loan expenditure of such magnitude as outlined at the last Premiers' Conference, is rather alarming, considering that while we are cutting down wages and the salaries of Government employees on the one hand, we are building up a huge deficit out of all proportion to what should be undertaken in times of difficulty. We have left too much to posterity. In effect, posterity is almost with us now. We have to pay debts instead of being able to pass them on to posterity. Our public debt is out of all proportion to our population and present production of the country. I hope the Premier will at an early date take the House into his confidence, and show how the proposed loan expenditure is to be laid out. We are informed in the Speech that every penny Western Australia has this year has been allocated from loan funds, an amount slightly larger than that of last year, will be devoted to providing employment on reproductive works. If these works are largely reproductive, there will be little to complain of. Whilst I sympathise with the Government and those who are out of employment, I do not think it is the duty of any Government to provide full-time work merely because we have unemployment.

The Minister for Employment: You want the people to starve.

Mr. PIESSE: If we are going to carry out that policy we shall soon have here all the unemployed in Australia.

The Minister for Employment: Is that an argument in favour of letting our own people starve?

Mr. PIESSE: The Minister has no right to make that interjection. Nothing is further from my thoughts than that.

The Minister for Employment: Then why do you oppose full-time work?

Mr. PIESSE: If full-time work can be made reproductive, well and good. If the Minister had a business, would he be able to carry out certain works unless they were reproductive, and unless he had a reasonable chance of paying interest on borrowed money? The State is borrowing double the amount that was borrowed two years ago, in the worst year of our unemployment. The Government should ponder over this question. Members have a right to know how the £2,400,000 of loan money will be spent.

The Minister for Employment: Do you not think the community will want to see that the unemployed are cared for all the same?

Mr. Latham: If they can be cared for.

The Minister for Employment: If they cannot be cared for civilisation must break down.

Mr. PIESSE: We shall all be on the same level in a short time if the Minister carries out that policy.

The Minister for Employment: There could be worse things than that.

Mr. PIESSE: Then we shall have to look somewhere else outside Australia to get us back on to the right road. If we are all on the same level there will be no employers, for we shall all be working for the Government. I have no desire to delay the Government in the carrying out of any policy that is likely to give immediate relief to those who are out of work. We want to know from the Minister for Employment what he means by providing work for married unemployed for four weeks, and standing them down on the dole without work for three to seven weeks. If we are going to get back to the dole system we shall soon have the worst possible form of relief. I have been closely associated with unemployment in the country districts. I have always found that men out of work were more ready to do something than to accept sustenance from the Government without work.

The Minister for Employment: All the more reason why you should support a policy for getting them back on to full time.

Mr. PIESSE: No one would be more pleased than I if we could get these men

back into profitable employment, and if that was within the borrowing powers of the State to do. No one should be allowed to starve. I do not think anyone has starved, although we have been through a worse time than we are going through this year. I do not say the Government were unwise to appoint a Minister for Employment. In the last Cabinet there was no Minister able to give his time wholly to that matter. I hope the present Minister will be ready to accept suggestions from this side of the House. We who represent constituencies where there is a considerable amount of unemployment from time to time are only too pleased to give all the assistance we can. There is, however, strong resentment in the State at the proposed suggestion that after working four weeks an unemployed married man, according to his family responsibilities, will stand down without work from three to seven weeks. Another point which has been mentioned to me in the same connection is that Western Australia is paying the highest sustenance rate of all the Australian States. If rich Victoria can pay only about half the sustenance rate we pay, Western Australia is not doing too badly in that respect. I do not know what taxation is contemplated to meet the expenditure involved, but the Government may look forward to strong objection against increased taxation for the purpose of increased sustenance. I hope the Minister for Employment is not taking a prejudiced view against the local authorities, whose co-operation from the beginning of the unemployed trouble has enabled the State to do much better than otherwise it could have done in the matter of providing work. There may be differences of opinion; the Minister may be right, or he may be wrong. At that period there existed special circumstances, which do not enter into the consideration now. I have no objection to the Minister's making provision for local authorities to pay the basic wage, but I do object to sustenance without work, or the dole, the latter word, I am aware, being disliked. The dole system has proved demoralising in other parts of Australia, and I hope the Minister will reconsider his decision on the point. Possibly he may receive suggestions from this side of the Chamber as well as from his own as to how the Loan funds can be best expended. The appointment of the Advisory Council I regard as an excellent

move. In the last Parliament members of this Chamber worked most amicably together, and I hope that any suggestions now put up will be viewed by the Minister for Employment apart altogether from any party considerations. Without any party feeling, I am warning the hon. gentleman of the situation.

The Minister for Employment: The provision of work for the people is above all party politics.

Mr. PIESSE: That should be so. I think it was so in the time of the late Government. Party spirit is not likely to make itself felt, in view of the seriousness of the unemployment situation. No one knows better than members of Parliament the suffering that unemployment has brought about, especially during the past two or three years. I do not think any member of Parliament has shirked his responsibility in regard to unemployment. Fully half of my time, as I have mentioned here previously, has been occupied in looking after the workless in my district. However, there are other directions in which the Minister could more advantageously expend sustenance funds. The Government might look into the advisability of making advances to farmers at a low rate of interest in order to create new work in the form of clearing and so on. A large part of the loan funds to be raised this year should be set apart for the Agricultural Bank, which has been starved for new money, and whose resources have been further restricted by the fact of many farmers being unable to meet their interest commitments. Instead of being placed on the dole, men could be put on small blocks of land to clear them. Many of the men who opened up this country, especially the Great Southern district, would have considered themselves indeed well off had they been guaranteed 15s. or £1 per week sustenance. This is a better method of expending money than paying it to unemployed to do nothing. Western Australia's outstanding difficulties to-day are unemployment and farmers' disabilities. I trust that before many days have passed we shall hear from Ministers in charge of various Government departments what they propose to do in order to ease the position of the primary producer. With the low prices ruling for the past three years, many of our farm-

ers have lost faith in their industry. Although prices have improved during the past two or three weeks, there is no guarantee that the rises will hold, though we hope they will. The time has arrived when the Government should formulate a policy of giving relief to the farming industry. In the light of our experience of three years of low prices, it is plain that the Government should do something in the way of legislation to give farmers protection for their securities and as regards carrying on in future. Various suggestions have been made as to reconditioning of farmers' debts. It is certainly time that that question was taken in hand seriously. While farmers do not expect to have their debts written down indiscriminately—each case should be dealt with on its merits—the Government ought to give serious consideration to the introduction of legislation somewhat similar to that recently passed in New South Wales or to that which has operated for some time in South Australia. That would lead business people and other creditors of the farmers to make voluntary offers of re-adjustment. If years are to pass by before such steps are taken production will be held up and many farmers will be in the unfortunate position of not knowing how they stand financially. The appointment of a Royal Commission to investigate the operations of the Agricultural Bank is a step in the right direction, and should be the forerunner of more adequate legislation to meet the unfortunate position of many of our primary producers. On the discussion of the report Parliament would have an opportunity of suggesting that the operation of the banking section of the Agricultural Bank should be separated from the trading section. When the institution was first inaugurated, it was never expected to be a trading institution and a board of control to carry on farmers in difficulties. That aspect first arose as the result of the trouble of 1914, which resulted in the establishment of the Industries Assistance Board. Unquestionably the board did great work at the time, but their operations have continued indefinitely, some farmers having become chronic clients of the board. Later, when the Estimates come down, there will be opportunities to deal with matters of local concern. I hope the Government will soon take the House into their confidence as to what is to be done to meet the competition of road

transport with our railway system. Something should be stated as to the Government's intentions with regard to amendment of the Electoral Act. On that subject I speak somewhat feelingly. What happened to me might happen to any other member of the House. It is deplorable to think that a sitting member—

The Premier: There is not any sitting member. The life of Parliament expires before a general election, and there is no such thing as a sitting member at an election.

Mr. PIESSE: The retiring member, then. Frequently the retiring member has some claim to re-election. It is not the duty of the Electoral Department to put a candidate in the position in which I was placed. As is well known, owing to relief work in my electorate, a number of single and married men were transferred there just prior to the election. I do not blame any Government for attempting to restore the equilibrium of the labour market.

The Premier: There was a good deal of method in that transfer, because the unemployed were transferred to an electorate that was pretty safe for the party that made the transfer.

Mr. PIESSE: There is no reason why candidates should be called upon to pay money out of their own pockets for the purpose of purifying the rolls. When the registrar became aware that men had been enrolled illegally, seeing that they could not have been enrolled in compliance with the Electoral Act, it was his duty to take action on his own initiative, and not leave it to candidates affected to incur expense in purifying the roll.

The Premier: It would not have made any difference to your constituency.

Mr. PIESSE: I want to prevent that sort of thing recurring. Thirty pounds or £40 means something to me as, probably, it means to the Premier. Why should we have to go to that expense when the machinery is at the disposal of the Electoral Department to cleanse the rolls? It is a serious offence to witness claims such as I have referred to, and the penalty involves the liability to a fine of £50. The Premier would not countenance anything of the sort in his own electorate, nor would he countenance it anywhere else. I hope amending legislation will be introduced with the object of preventing such irregularities and thus avoid the difficulty in future. It is a mean, low-

down way for any candidate to seek to enter Parliament. Such a man presuming to be a law-maker commences by being a law-breaker. Such a man should be doubly punished as a deterrent against the manipulation of the electoral rolls. I hope the Premier will ask the Minister for Justice, who is in charge of electoral matters, to give consideration to the suggestions I have made. If there is one thing that should be kept free from abuse, it is our electoral system. I hope the Government will not be unduly embarrassed by the financial situation during their term of office, and that when the Premier is framing his Estimates of Loan expenditure, he will see that sufficient money is provided to enable the Agricultural Bank to be conducted as it should be, and that Loan money will be expended, as much as possible, on a reproductive and profitable basis.

MR. NULSEN (Kanowna) [8.4]: In common with other hon. members, I congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on the high office you have attained. I am sure you will always be just and impartial while you occupy that position, and that your decisions will be given without fear or favour. I congratulate the Premier on his assumption of his present responsible office. In doing so, I echo the sentiments of 95 per cent. of my constituents, who are fully aware that the present Premier will give every possible consideration to the requirements of all sections of the community throughout the whole State. My constituents are pleased to see him at the head of the Administration. I also add my joyful congratulations to the member for York (Mr. Latham) on his assumption of the duties of Leader of the Opposition and Leader of the Country Party. He has always been sympathetically inclined towards the Esperance district and has at all times given our requests the consideration possible in the circumstances confronting him. I congratulate the member for Nedlands (Hon. N. Keenan) on his official position, although the party sitting behind him is not a large one. Perhaps at some future time the swing of the pendulum will be in his direction.

Mr. Raphael: A hundred years hence.

Mr. NULSEN: I also congratulate the Leader of the Independent Party, the member for Mt. Marshall (Mr. Warner), who



should have a smooth passage in his dealings with the House because there is little chance of a split in his ranks.

Mr. Moloney: He is even without a whip!

Mr. NULSEN: And he will not have to bother about caucus. I desire to thank the member for North Perth (Mr. J. MacCallum Smith) for allowing the agricultural editor of the "Sunday Times", Colonel Fitzgerald, to visit my electorate, accompanied by a photographer. My electors are grateful to the hon. member for permitting his employees to make the trip. I thank the Minister for Agriculture for making it possible for Mr. McCallum, the sheep and wool expert, to visit the district and also to thank the Westralian Farmers Limited for allowing their expert, Mr. Hopkins, to make the trip at the same time. The reason I mention my thanks is that the Esperance district has had to contend with much adverse criticism and I have been anxious to secure visits by people in a position to discuss with authority the possibilities and potentialities of that part of the State. I regard Esperance as the pivot of my electorate, and I will not say much regarding the disabilities from which the people there suffer, as I outlined the position fully last session. I know the present Government understand our requirements and will give us every consideration within their power. The port of Esperance is one of the finest in Australia, and has every natural advantage except shipping facilities. I have a copy of a letter that was received by the Wheat Pool from the West Hartlepool Steam Navigation Company Limited, and embodying an extract of a comment from the captain of the s.s. "Kepwickhall." The letter reads—

The following is an extract of letter received from the Captain of the s.s. "Kepwickhall":—

"Esperance Bay is quite an open port and main steam is kept to two hours' notice. On the 11th instant bad weather set in, and the ship did some damage to the coir springs hired from Messrs. Nicholls & Co., Ltd., also incurred extra mooring expenses as per enclosed account. I had to leave the pier for 36 hours, it was unsafe to stop alongside."

We might add that in addition to the charge for mooring springs of £2 per spring per day, and we understand four of them were employed, the ship was charged £12 for the above damage and £10 for mooring and unmooring on account of the bad weather referred to on March 11th and 13th.

This report, taken in conjunction with one of a similar character from the Captain of the "Grantleyhall" in 1929, further confirms that Esperance Bay is not a suitable place for overseas vessels of large size, and in view of the fact that we understand Mr. Tadman is shortly leaving for Perth, we would respectfully suggest that his utmost influence be used to get this place excluded in the future.

The charter party stipulates that the loading places shall be safe ports, and we certainly do not think Esperance Bay comes within this category by any means.

We are quite certain you will have condemnation of it from all other owners whose vessels have been ordered there.—Yours faithfully, for the West Hartlepool Steam Navigation Co., Ltd. (Sgd.) R. T. Slinn, Director.

Members will see the seriousness of the position, and I trust that action will be taken by the Government to conserve the interests of Esperance and its hinterland. Recent events have lent point to the position that has been created. When Mr. Simms, the secretary and engineer of the Esperance Road Board, was in the city recently, we waited upon the Minister for Works to discuss the position and the Minister is to give consideration to the provision of facilities essential for the well-being of the district. Last year I outlined what can be grown in the district, particularly at Esperance, and on the Treeless Plains. The former Minister for Lands, the present Leader of the Opposition, was good enough to name the area, "Treeless Plains" instead of the "Sandplain," because the latter suggested a desert. I have said before that if that tract of country were nearer to Perth, the plain would be one of the great assets not only of Western Australia but of the Commonwealth. I have heard and read a lot about the North-West. I agree to a great extent that the North-West deserves development and I do not begrudge anything that is done for that part of the State. It has produced a lot of real wealth and it is clear that no Government to date have extended to that area all the consideration it should receive. On the other hand, I will never agree to conceding any portion of the North-West to the Federal Government, to a chartered company or to anyone else. We have plenty of wealth in Western Australia with which to develop the North-West in the time to come. The symbol of wealth is not available for the time being because the monetary system is obsolete. In my electorate there are millions of acres of land with a good rainfall that stretch from Es-

perance to Israelite Bay. That area, including Treeless Plains, has proved to be truly prolific wherever it has been efficiently worked. The former manager of the Pine Plantation Company has every confidence in the district, and by way of confirmation of his opinion, I wish to read an extract from the "Sunday Times" under date 28th February, 1932:—

Esperance excels: A serious rival for the South-West: Without the cost of timber clearing: There is a natural harbour at Esperance and astride the railway line to Kalbarrie, less than 10 miles from the port, is a veritable province which may yet prove a serious productive rival to the much vaunted South-West. The Cape Le Grande Grazing Co. has during recent years been carrying out very useful experiments on its holding of 45,000 acres in this extensive district details of which are hereunder given by Mr. A. D. Helms, M.D.F.D., forester and manager of the company. He writes: Stretching along the coast, east, north and west of Esperance, there is a large, almost treeless plain of several million acres in extent. At present it is vacant land and almost totally uninhabited. The railway connecting Esperance and Coolgardie passes over the plain from south to north, closely associated with the main road, along which the motorist usually finds more interest in his speedometer than in the surrounding landscape stretching, like the sea, an endless waste, on either side.

I do not begrudge anything that has been done in the South-West, but if a fourth of the money spent there had been expended in my electorate, the production in the latter part would now be prolific and would be one of the greatest assets of the State. That result could have been achieved with even one-tenth of the expenditure that was incurred in the development of the South-West.

Such was the casual visitor's first impression of what some day will be a highly productive province in this State, and such was the material with which Esperance Pine Forests, Ltd., set to work some years ago, a few miles north of Esperance.

During the years 1928-1929, 500 acres were planted with pines (*Pinus pinaster*), and 400 acres of this plantation is now growing vigorously and looking as well as anything in the State of a corresponding age.

The pines have not realised expectations. It is disappointing that they have not proved as successful as we thought they would be. The article continues—

The block of dark green foliage,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles by  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile, is a definite break in the otherwise monotonous landscape. Notwithstanding this apparent success, the company ceased planting

operations in 1929 owing to serious technical and financial difficulties, which made pine planting on a large scale an extremely hazardous undertaking. Reviewing the position the company's management formed the opinion that this coastal plain had a good many attractive features well suited to the establishment of pastures on an intensive scale:

(1) A mild climate with even temperatures and, for Western Australia, a well distributed rainfall of  $25\frac{1}{2}$  inches per annum.

(2) Soils looked relatively poor as such, but the gravelly clay subsoil underlying the surface of sandy loam gave promise of being retentive to moisture and fertilisers. Water was also available at shallow depths either by wells or dams.

(3) The native vegetation, consisting as it did of low scrub, made it possible to bring clearing costs down to a very few shillings per acre.

(4) Transportation facilities were already built; railway and main road traversed the area from north to south, while the port of Esperance adjoined it.

Provided the contention that pastures of sufficient quality and quantity could be grown at competitive costs as compared with the South-West was correct, there was an immense tract of country here awaiting development.

In 1928 30 acres of thoroughly representative plain country was selected as an experimental area. It was cleared, ploughed and fallowed. In 1929 the main efforts were directed towards obtaining information in relation to the possibilities of the plain producing payable grain crops. The results were not encouraging. Rye was the most promising, with oats a close second. During this season 10 acres were also sown with two strains of sub clover and various varieties of lupins, of which the Geraldton blue developed best and seeded heavily. The clovers seeded but looked rather miserable, although there were encouraging indications.

During 1930 it was decided to concentrate on the establishment of a series of pasture plants, of which the most important were sub clover (early and mid-season strains), drooping flowered clover, white clover, Tangier pea and Geraldton blue lupins; perennial veldt grass, cocksfoot and perennial rye grass. Dressings of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cwt. super. were used when top-dressing or seeding in April.

The results during 1930 were most encouraging, and indicated plainly the line of approach in bringing this country into production. The main features were:—

The clovers mentioned above developed exceptionally well. The sub clover area, which the previous year looked miserable, carried a mat reaching to the running boards of a car, while the Tangier peas formed a wall 4 to 5 feet high, and the lupins a clear even stand 4 feet in height. The suitability of this plain for leguminous crops was very clearly demonstrated. The grasses also looked promising, but it was apparent that lack of nitrogen hampered their satisfactory development.

In order to test the permanency of these pastures all plots, 30 acres, were grazed heavily with 160 sheep for three months during the

summer of 1930-31 and top-dressed during April, 1931, with  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cwt. of super. The results last October were again most encouraging. All the clover plots were entirely successful, carrying a dense mat of vegetation, almost knee deep in places. White clover and drooping flowered clover were outstanding. The self-sown plots of Tangier peas were also quite satisfactory.

The perennial grasses developed well when top-dressed with a nitrogen fertiliser in addition to superphosphate, or when they were associated with clover. The main conclusions to be drawn from the last three years' work on the Esperance plain are as follow:—

1. There are two main soil deficiencies causing this country to be unproductive in its natural state—(a) lack of phosphates, and (b) lack of nitrogen.

2. With the aid of superphosphate dressings from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 cwt. heavy pastures of various clovers and other legumes can be grown.

3. Good pastures of perennial veldt and ryegrasses can be produced by top-dressing with a nitrogenous fertiliser in addition to superphosphates, or—with the aid of suitable clovers associated with these grasses—the nitrogen deficiency can be brought under control at small cost and a well balanced pasture produced.

It will be realised that this 30-acre plot, with the experience gained during the last three years, represents the key to the intensive and profitable development of the company's 45,000-acre property and the plain in general.

Abundance of food and water is the mainstay of successful stock raising, and it can be obtained at Esperance at a fraction of the cost usually associated with such development in the South-West.

My reason for reading the article was to point out that Mr. Helm, who was manager there, had no axe to grind and that his judgment was a fair one. He had every confidence in that plain if it were only given a fair chance. We know not the possibilities or the productive capacity of that part of the State. The mallee country is improving. I will not labour that question because last year I dealt fairly fully with the disabilities. I should like to correct the average given by the Statistician. The figures supplied to him, apparently, have not been accurate. Last year quite a lot of wheat, not only in the Esperance district but in every district, was marketed under the lap and in consequence the Statistician did not get the correct figures. The declared average for the Esperance last year was 11.4 bushels. The mallee country is improving despite the adverse times and conditions being experienced by the settlers. Dr. Teakle and his staff are completing an

analysis and classification of the soil throughout the district. Not only members of Parliament but experts have expressed doubt as to the value of the results that would be obtained from the soil analysis. I am pleased that Dr. Teakle is continuing his work there. When it is completed we shall know exactly what land is suitable for wheat, for oats and for pasture, and in fact we shall know more about the Esperance district than will be known of any agricultural district in the State. I doubt whether many districts would care to have the same grueling examination that is being conducted in the Esperance district. I agree with the member for Mt. Marshall (Mr. Warner) and other members that all possible consideration should be given to the primary producers. I intend to support any measures for their assistance. One guarantee that I should like to see granted them is security of tenure. The farmer has to work and is producing real wealth under adverse conditions. With security of tenure he should be assured of a decent living allowance. In granting him those two boons they should be conditional on his doing a certain amount of work and doing it in season. We could not give him security of tenure and a decent living allowance unless we had an assurance that the farmer would do something to compensate the Government for those concessions. I favour also bringing the Agricultural Bank up-to-date. The institution has done wonderfully good work and has done it conscientiously, but it has been in vogue since about 1905 and is out of date. The first consideration of the Government now should be for those farmers who are clients of the institution. A consolidation of the farming industry, as it at present exists, is necessary, and there should be no extension of operations for the time being. I shall have something more to say about the Agricultural Bank later in the session. I urge the Government to consider the advisableness of appointing a Royal Commission to inquire into the question of stored wheat. There is a good deal of dissatisfaction about it. It would be better, not only for the farmer, but for all concerned if there were a Royal Commission and the existing doubts were cleared up. Last year I spoke at considerable length on the Farmers' Debts Adjustment Act. I still say the Act is too cumbersome and too costly. There should be some scheme worked

in conjunction with the Agricultural Bank whereby farmers who have the personal equation in their favour and yet have been unable to carry on might be brought under a trusteeship operating in conjunction with the bank and enabled thereby to continue. The sooner we can bring about a reconditioning of farmers' debts, the better it will be. By reconditioning all their debts and putting the farmers on a better basis, we shall secure better control over them. Many farmers are taking advantage of the present system and the State appears to have no redress. I congratulate the Minister for Mines on his adventurous scheme. It has been the means of absorbing many of the unemployed, directly and indirectly. I compliment the Minister on the fact that he has not had very much to say about it. Action is what we need and this the Minister has supplied. I hope he will not cramp the scheme by having insufficient supervision. It will need a good deal of supervising. Miners are no different from other sections of the community and, if they can take advantage, they will do so. It would be better to spend a little more to ensure closer supervision so that the scheme will be given a fair chance. I am more than ever satisfied that we shall not be able to get back to prosperity unless we have a complete reformation of the present obsolete, antediluvian monetary system. It seems to me that the real wealth we can produce in abundance cannot be enjoyed by the people until their representatives are replaced by younger and more modern men. I am not speaking of the present Parliament, but it seems to me that the old men are really retarding progress.

Mr. Raphael: Knock them all on the head.

Mr. NULSEN: No, there should be a fair leavening because the younger men need to be kept in hand. From what I can learn Governments in Europe and other parts of the world are composed mainly of men whose mental faculties have lost their elasticity. They cannot cope with the radical changes that are necessary, because they think differently, perhaps 40, 50 or 60 years back, instead of the present period.

Mr. Stubbs: Don't they gain by experience in life?

Mr. NULSEN: They do; there is no question about that, but the trouble is they cannot change because their minds are not plastic.

Mr. Stubbs: You have not changed your Ministers because of age?

Mr. NULSEN: I am not saying there is anyone old in this Parliament. I am quite satisfied that we cannot get back to prosperity, despite what our efforts might be, unless we have a complete reformation of our present obsolete monetary system. The modernisation of the distribution of the real wealth that we can produce in abundance through science and invention, the people will not be able to enjoy until gerontocracy is replaced by younger and more modern brains. The problem is domestic or national, not inter-national, because inter-nationally the rational prejudice, traditional, psychological, cultural and other sentimental factors are to be contended with. Given goodwill on all sides, I believe the economic question could be settled to the mutual advantage of all. But that will never be, owing to traditional prejudice and lack of confidence to trust each other internationally. Now this sort of thing must be broken down before we can expect or hope to co-operate, and economic forces find an opportunity for a general understanding. I agree with the member for North-East Fremantle that we must have monetary reform. If we could get our people back to work we could produce more, develop and populate Australia, increase our security and in consequence have a greater surplus to export to liquidate our debt. It would not matter if we had to export our real surplus under financial cost, so long as the people of Australia had the necessities of life. Supply and demand is a thing of the past. The complete failure of the World Economic Conference strengthens the Federal Government's absolute necessity to solve its problems on economic lines. I hope the Government will give us the opportunity to discuss the monetary system. The member for Claremont (Mr. North) has given great consideration to the Douglas credit proposals, and I am pleased to see that there are some members who have also given the question of monetary reform some attention. To my way of thinking it is very necessary now to have an alteration in our monetary policy. It is just a matter of the distribution of real wealth. I am an advocate of the nationalisation of finance. The Douglas proposals have been condemned by many, but mostly by those who really do not understand what they are. We know also that they have

been condemned by those who have been paid to do so. I do not understand the proposals but there are many who do. I do say, however, that the Douglas scheme is the only one that seems to have any foundation at all. Power, we know is a great thing, and there are many who do not like to lose it. Retiring on pensions means a loss of power and consequently we find that there is no wish to retire. The same thing applies to our financial system. We have not a fiscal policy in Western Australia, but we have a voice, and at the next Federal election I will not give a candidate any support unless he has considered the question of changing the monetary system.

**MR. RAPHAEL** (Victoria Park) [8.35]: May I be permitted, first, Mr. Speaker, to join in the congratulations that have been extended to you on your assumption of the high office you now hold. I also congratulate the Ministers elected by the Labour Party to their various offices. It is not my intention to labour any question or to criticise the Government in any way, although we had the spectacle of the member for Nedlands (Hon. N. Keenan), who did not allow five minutes scarcely to pass without making a heated and personal attack upon them. I wonder whether the hon. member considered the attitude adopted by the Leader of the Opposition who declared that he would give the Government the opportunity of carrying out their election promises? As the member for Yilgarn-Coolgardie (Mr. Lambert) stated, the hon. gentleman scuttled the ship of the National Party, and if he had the power I have no doubt he would scuttle the ship of the Labour Party as well. In dealing with several matters, I propose to touch upon one particularly and that is the political jobbery that takes place in the different States of Australia, and to refer to political derelicts who have been raised to high positions. Take the case of the former Premier of South Australia. There is no doubt about it that the people in that State, if they had had a voice in the matter, would have emptied him out from the high position he held. Very wisely, however, that gentleman, before the elections made provision for himself in the event of his being turned out. Are we not to take it also that the Governors who are appointed from the Old Country

to the different States are derelicts from the House of Commons? May I go further and ask you, Mr. Speaker—I am sure you will put me right if I am wrong—that the political derelicts from the Old Country—

Mr. Thorn: You are not referring to the member for Northam?

Mr. RAPHAEL: I am not alluding to those who have gone before. I shall come to them afterwards. The Governors that have come out have been found wanting in the eyes of their electors and we become saddled with them by their being appointed to high positions. I have no wish to refer to the representative of the King in the State at the present time. That is a matter I would not deal with although I view with alarm the position that has been created by it. I am not going to make apologies for touching upon that appointment though I cannot say I like the gentleman personally; I do not, but I do say that it is a pretty hard thing that we should have a man foisted upon us after he has been cast out by his electors.

Mr. Thorn: It may be your turn one of these days.

Mr. RAPHAEL: I look forward with anticipation, may I say, to the time when promises made to the King by his representative in the State will perhaps have to be broken. I do not hold with the views of the Lang kind, but we had the spectacle in Sydney of the Governor, Sir Philip Game, being told by those in control of the money bags in that State that he must oust Lang from the position he held. I am looking forward to the time when that same position may arise in Western Australia. Perhaps all this was arranged before Sir Hal Colebatch went to the Old Country. I suppose one good job deserves another.

Mr. Thorn: Reciprocity!

Mr. RAPHAEL: I am not going to suggest that we should now let sleeping dogs lie; I shall have something further to say when the Estimates come along. The big problem facing the State at the present time is that of absorbing the young boys and girls leaving school. To-day on sustenance work there are over 4,000 single men. The state of society existing at the present time shows that they must accept a certain small remuneration for their jobs. I always think of what Helen Keller wrote "They build large cities with their hands

but they know not whether there be a roof to cover them." It is the same with these young men. They have been put into the world with the same right to live as we have. I agree with the member for North-East Fremantle (Mr. Tonkin) who declared that the state of society existing to-day is wrong. Last session the member for Netherlands (Mr. Keenan) and others were talking about socialism and communism. We are being forced into that position, into a state of society where all people will be provided with work. That is being forced on us by all those compelled to pay to maintain those who cannot find employment to-day. The time is arriving when those people who are being taxed to the utmost—in England it has reached 14s. or 15s. in the pound—will endeavour to bring about that change of society, to see that all persons are put on the same basis and shall have to do an equal amount of work for the money they receive. I hope that at an early date the Government will take in hand the position of the Fairbridge Farm School. At present that institution is entitled to bring from the Old Country up to 300 boys to work the farm, and the Government of Western Australia have to subsidise the scheme to the tune of 3s. 6d. per boy. Yet we have thousands of single men and women who cannot be provided with sustenance and cannot get work, while all of us in Western Australia are helping to maintain those boys at the Fairbridge Farm School, boys who presently will be added to the list of unemployed. We are told we must populate this State, but when we have to populate it with such children as are coming from the Old Country, I think it should be the responsibility of the authorities in the Old Country to maintain them.

Mr. McLarty: Did you see what Haywood said about it?

Mr. RAPHAEL: No, thanks. Another matter I want to deal with is the administration of the Whole Milk Act. We fully appreciate that those persons putting milk on the market are entitled to a fair amount for their labours. Until the present Act was passed, the various local authorities were in control of the milk supply in their respective districts. The new Milk Board consists of a number of men trying to earn the money paid to them after having been filched from the producers' pockets.

Mr. Thorn: You cannot say that.

Mr. RAPHAEL: I have said it, and it stands. The Perth City Council, through their by-laws have attempted decent supervision of the conditions under which milk is sold. The inspectors now in control of the Act are pin-pricking, putting on pressure where it is not necessary, and introducing all sorts of bugbears on the persons selling milk, especially the small shopkeepers. They are the people for whom I am trying to put in a word. The Minister is not here to-night to hear what I am saying, but I hope that in the near future some investigation will be made into the administration of that Act. First of all the shopkeepers are told that vegetables must not be sold in the same shop as milk, and now it is something else, until the shopkeepers do not know what they are allowed or not allowed to do. During the election campaign the member for York (Mr. Latham), from the point of view of his party, put his foot in the bag. He clearly indicated what his intention was, and the intention of his Government, if returned to power. The member for Katanning (Mr. Piesse) has gone one further to-night, being a newly admitted member to that party after having been excluded for so long. He told us one of the caucus secrets when he declared that the people receiving sustenance were getting far too much.

Mr. Hawke: What about the member for Swan?

Mr. RAPHAEL: We can leave it to him to bring Maltese into this country.

Mr. Piesse: Those who can work should work.

Mr. RAPHAEL: If the hon. member is satisfied that a man should work hard for 19s. a week in order to keep his wife and children, I am not. When I was visiting the Eastern States, my morbid curiosity led me to investigate the home conditions of the unemployed of South Australia.

Mr. Hawke: Now, be gentle.

Mr. RAPHAEL: We were both born there.

The Premier: And left your country for your country's good.

Mr. RAPHAEL: Yes, the same as the hon. member. I found the conditions of the unemployed in South Australia something awful.

Mr. Hawke: That is since we left.

Mr. RAPHAEL: Yes. It was pitiful to see how those people were degraded through living on the extremely low sustenance granted to them. Within the next few months members opposite will be appealing to the Premier to do something for the starving cockies. However, I should like to know from the member for Katanning whether he wishes to see sustenance workers in this State brought to the same level as those in South Australia. I hope the Government will listen with deaf ears to the unwarranted attack the hon. member made this evening. The member for Guildford-Midland (Hon. W. D. Johnson), in conjunction with members on the other side of the Chamber, attacked the Government on their resumption of the Causeway work. That is practically the only work that has been done out of general revenue for the past three years.

Mr. Latham: What has been done out of revenue?

Mr. RAPHAEL: Well, out of Loan money; perhaps that will suit the hon. member better.

Mr. Latham: You tried to persuade us to do that Causeway work.

Mr. RAPHAEL: But I did not try to persuade you to make a darned eyesore of it. The scheme is one that should be lauded from the housetops, and one that we hope will eventually do away with the algae nuisance. The member for Guildford-Midland attempted to deal with the Minister for Works for having put that job in hand again. But for the member for Guildford-Midland, it might have been quite unnecessary; for if the septic tanks had not been installed on the foreshore when that hon. member was Minister for Works, there would have been no occasion for the work going on in the vicinity of the Causeway. However, I hope the Minister will go right ahead with the work and so give a decent approach to Victoria Park.

The Premier: Then it has nothing to do with the city?

Mr. RAPHAEL: In my eyes, Victoria Park is the city. I hope the Minister for Railways will carry out the needed extension of the Victoria Park tramway. At present, the existing line is the second highest revenue-producing tramline of the system, only the Beaufort-street line, in the city area, producing more revenue. In the extension of the Victoria Park line practically nothing but labour will have to be provided, for the Government have sufficient rails on hand for

the work. Also I hope the Government will see to it that the route of the new trolley buses is extended at least a mile beyond the present terminus. The member for Nedlands (Hon. N. Keenan) told us that machinery was replacing man power and brain power. I expected next day to see that member attempt to secure a seat on this side of the House, for he was using one of Labour's chief arguments in its attempt to restore the 44-hour week. The time is rapidly approaching when a 32-hour week will be the accepted working period. Machinery has been invented for the use of mankind, but it has developed into a curse because people are not permitted to work under decent conditions. The powers-that-be say that although machinery has replaced man, a certain proportion of manpower must stand down because they insist that the men should work a 48-hour week. Some time ago the Perth City Council attempted to purchase a machine for street-sweeping. This was to be operated by one man, and would have meant putting 11 men out of employment. If machinery the world over is to replace man, we can come to no other conclusion than that the hours of work per week must be reduced. I would draw the attention of the Minister for Health to the conditions under which nurses are expected to work during their training at the King Edward Memorial Hospital. This is not a free institution, for those who receive treatment are expected to pay for it, and do pay.

Miss Holman: What do they pay?

Mr. RAPHAEL: About £3 a week.

Mr. Latham: It is free to those who cannot afford to pay.

Mr. RAPHAEL: They should pay. They get the baby bonus, and in 95 per cent. of cases the fees are deducted from that.

Mr. Latham: Frequently the bonus is paid over direct to the mother.

Miss Holman: On many occasions the money is given back.

Mr. RAPHAEL: I have never known of a case. In the course of their training the nurses are expected to work 10 months for nothing on obstetric work and three months on child welfare work. I hope the Minister will see that they receive some remuneration for their services. If that were so, many girls would fake up the training who cannot now afford it. There were recently 800 ap-

plications for 30 vacancies in the police force. Over 100 men were written to and asked if they wished to become applicants for the vacancies. For the third time a son of Inspector Johnson was chosen out of 105 candidates. Senator Lynch's son was another, and Dr. D. S. Mackenzie's son was another. The Minister might look into this matter and determine who shall be the selectors for the future. It seems rather queer that these three parents should have such a pull as to ensure 100 per cent. of efficiency for their sons.

Mr. Hegney: They may be efficient.

Mr. RAPHAEL: I say nothing to the contrary; I do not know. The member for Katanning (Mr. Piesse) referred to the stacking of rolls. If he infers that some inquiry should be held and a cleaning up take place in the Electoral Department, I am with him. I do not know whether the attempt to disfranchise workers in the country was due to the dictation of the Minister in charge at that time, but I know that if strong pressure had not been brought to bear upon the department, thousands of workers would have been disfranchised so that the Government might retain office. If the hon. member likes to move for an investigation into that department, I will stand behind him. The Government should also inquire into the positions of various heads of departments. Many of these officers will retire on £50 a month. I hope the Government will see that, although these officers may have done excellent service, such huge pensions are not paid in future. We are being taxed to the utmost to relieve the unemployment problem. The Government are responsible for seeing that those who cannot get work in private capacities are afforded the opportunity to get it departmentally. Whilst we are paying out huge sums to provide work for the unemployed, we are also finding money for big pensions, and keeping dozens of other men out of work. I hope the Premier will see that something is done in this matter. Showers of congratulations would fall upon him if he were to sack Mr. Shapecott on the spot.

The Premier: Incidentally, I have no power to sack anyone.

Mr. RAPHAEL: I wish the Premier had, although I know it is a difficult matter. I wish to say a few words about the dental treatment of children. Dentists have been

given the protection of the law and a board. That board has the right to charge fees and collect moneys for registration. It receives two guineas a year from every registered dentist. That is a source of revenue which could be taxed by the Government. Instead of the fees being paid to the board, they should go into Consolidated Revenue. I hope the Minister for Health will increase the number of dentists now attending school children. In thousands of cases parents cannot afford to provide the necessary dental treatment for their children, and the Dental Hospital cannot or will not cope with the work. Less money ought to be paid to the Dental Hospital in subsidies, and more should be paid in the salaries of dentists who would be under the control of the Minister, so that the mouths of the children may be kept in a healthy condition. I wish the Government every success during their term of office, and you, Sir, a happy time as Speaker.

On motion by Mr. Wilson. debate adjourned.

*House adjourned at 9.12 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly,

*Wednesday, 2nd August, 1933.*

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