

gested, I do not desire it either. However, I do not think there will be much of importance before the date mentioned in my motion; and therefore it might be better to adjourn to that date. Hon. members have asked me to adjourn for a fortnight, after which they say they are prepared to come here for as long as I want them.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 8.44 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 23rd August, 1923.

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

QUESTION—WATER AND FIREWOOD PRICES, EASTERN GOLDFIELDS.

Hon. P. COLLIER asked the Minister for Mines: 1, Can he inform the House of the quantity of firewood supplied to the Kalgoorlie and Boulder mines by the Lakeside Firewood Company and by the W.A. (Kurarang) Wood Company for the year ended June last? 2, Is he aware that the W.A. Company have purchased the business of the Lakeside Company, and that in consequence the supply of wood to the mines in this district has now assumed the form of a monopoly? 3, Is he further aware that the monopoly company have given notice of intention to increase the price of firewood to the mines by one shilling per ton? 4, In view of the probability of a considerable proportion of the proposed £40,000 per annum concession in reduced water charges being absorbed by increased fuel charges, will he defer final action in the matter until satisfied that the full benefit will, as intended, be received by the mining in-

dustry, and not by the profit and loss account of the firewood company?

The MINISTER FOR MINES replied: 1, 126,908, including supplies in small quantities to other consumers. 2, 3, I have no official knowledge on the subject, but have heard that such is the case. 4, I am unable to see any warrant for withholding this very necessary need of assistance, but can assure the hon. member that the industry itself must receive the benefits to be derived.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

On motion by Mr. Mullaney, leave of absence for two weeks granted to Mr. Money (Bunbury) on the ground of urgent private business.

BILL—REGISTRATION OF DEEDS ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

The PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [4.38] in moving the second reading said: Under our land laws a title may be either under the Transfer of Land Act or under the Ordinance No. 14 of 1856. In the case of a transfer or mortgage under the Transfer of Land Act, as hon. members are aware, one goes before a justice of the peace, or some other authorised person, and signs the transfer or mortgage or other instrument, which is thereupon deposited in the office of the Registrar of Deeds in Perth. The business is done in that way. Under the old Ordinance, however, one has to appear before the Registrar of Deeds in Perth in order to sign a document. The document can, of course, be signed by a solicitor before the Registrar of Deeds, but it must be a solicitor living in Perth, because he must go before the Registrar to sign. There does not seem to be any reason at all why these documents under the Ordinance should not be signed before a person competent to witness the execution of documents under the Transfer of Land Act. It is not convenient for persons residing in the country to appear before the Registrar of Deeds in Perth, and it is expensive for them to pay someone to appear before the Registrar. The present Bill proposes to extend the conditions of the Transfer of Land Act in this connection to titles under the old conveyancing law. The object is to save people living out of Perth unnecessary trouble and expense. In the Old Country there is very little registration of deeds. In Yorkshire and Middlesex, I understand, deeds are registered as they are in this State; but for the rest of England one is entitled only to such land as is represented by the deeds in one's possession. Here we insist upon registration of all deeds, whether under the Transfer of Land Act or under the old conveyancing law. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

BILL—ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER AGREEMENT ACT AMENDMENT.*Second Reading.*

The MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. J. Scaddan—Albany) [4.44] in moving the second reading said: This is a short measure intended to ratify an agreement made between the Commissioner of Railways and the Perth City Council. The necessity for the Bill has arisen in the following manner: Under the old Electric Light and Power Agreement Act of 1913 the Perth City Council are vested with the right to distribute retail current to any local authority whose boundaries are wholly or partly within a five mile radius of the Perth town hall. But they can only supply with current in bulk any local authority whose boundaries are partly outside the 5-mile radius, thus reserving to the local authority the right to retail outside that radius the current supplied by the city council. Apparently by an error, the city council supplied direct to consumers outside the 5-mile radius but within the Queen's Park Road Board territory current retail, which to an extent was a breach of the Act, and was also taking from the Commissioner of Railways the right which he had. On the other hand, the city council were entitled to supply direct to consumers in that portion of the area within the 5-mile radius. The same thing applied to the Belmont Road Board district, and so it was held desirable that some arrangement be made whereby the city council could supply the whole of the Belmont district, where they have their network of wires, although part of it is outside the 5-mile radius, and that the Commissioner of Railways should supply the whole of the Queen's Park area, where he has his wires, including also that part within the 5-mile radius. Eventually an agreement was arrived at, and on the basis of that agreement the Bill has been drawn. It merely ratifies the agreement. It is exclusively in the interests of the consumers that this arrangement should be ratified. The same thing applies to the supply of current by the city council to the wireless station at Applecross, which was outside the 5-mile radius, but when attention was drawn to it a transfer was made to the Melville Road Board. A similar situation arose in respect of the pumping station along the Fremantle main. There the transfer was made to the Fremantle Tramway and Lighting Board when attention was drawn to the position.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: A portion of the wireless station is in the Fremantle area.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Not within the 5-mile radius. At all events, the Bill has no bearing on that. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. W. C. Angwin, debate adjourned.

BILL—PINJARRA-DWARDA RAILWAY EXTENSION ACT AMENDMENT.*Second Reading.*

The MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. W. J. George—Murray-Wellington) [4.47] in moving the said reading said: The Bill amends the proposals made in 1914 for the laying down of the Pinjarra-Dwarda railway. For various reasons the construction of the line has been delayed. The work was temporarily put aside because it was found there was a large area of land, portions of which have been recently settled by returned soldiers and others, which would be better served if the line could be taken somewhat northwards. An exhaustive examination of the district was made, and ultimately it was found that it would be better to take the line on a deviation which the Bill asks the House to authorise. It will benefit quite a number of settlers whom the limit of deviation provided in the original Act would not allow us to serve. We ask authority to extend it to the limits set forth in the Bill and shown on the plan which I now lay on the Table. The effect will be that after leaving Dwarda the line will gradually deviate four or five miles beyond the original survey, and then will begin to return to the original route at about 16 miles from Dwarda. This will entail a little extra length of line, but no doubt the deviation will, I am sure, serve quite a number of settlers whom the House desires to help.

Hon. T. Walker: Is the deviation within the limits of the original Act?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: No, the original Act gives a deviation of about a couple of miles, whereas we now want to extend it to five miles, so as to take the line into the north-west corner and there pick up a number of settlers. If this be carried out, the line will serve considerably more people.

Capt. Carter: How far is the line from the Noombling estate?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The limit of deviation is five miles. That will enable us to get our line within reach of the Noombling estate and the soldiers settled in that district. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Capt. CARTER (Leederville) [4.53]: I should like a little more information than the Minister has given us as to the deviation and the effect it will have on the settlers at Noombling. When in that district recently, I met all the settlers for many miles around. With them it was a burning question as to whether the line would be so carried as to serve the settlers struggling to make their way. Those I met were principally from the Noombling estate. They were anxious that the line should be taken within easy reach of them. The Minister has not told us

whether the deviation will bring the line within 10 miles or two miles of the estate. It is necessary that the line should afford those settlers the greatest possible convenience.

The Minister for Works: I thought I told you all about it.

Capt. CARTER: Well, I did not understand the Minister when he answered my interjection.

Mr. SPEAKER: If the Minister replies now to the hon. member's question, it will close the debate; so if any other member desires to speak, he must speak now.

Mr. Wilson: Go on Johnston, you know something about it.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Williams-Narrogin) [4.55]: I understand this deviation covers the request of the Noombling settlers.

Capt. Carter: But you are not sure?

Mr. JOHNSTON: Yes, I am quite sure, because the Noombling settlers were specially represented when the Premier and the Minister for Works came to the 14-mile Brook. It was there emphasised to the Minister that the settlers wished the line to go to Narrogin with this deviation. When the line was originally surveyed, Mr. Michael Brown, of Narrogin, owned this property of Noombling, comprising 22,000 acres. The estate being owned by one man, properly enough the survey kept six or seven miles away from it. To-day there are about 30 soldier settlers at Noombling. I visited Noombling when the Soldier Settlement Commission went there. The settlers who gave evidence on this point asked for this deviation.

Hon. T. Walker: The deviation brings the line three miles nearer to them.

Mr. JOHNSTON: It brings it at least five miles nearer. It will give better access from the Noombling estate to a railway station, and will also serve a large number of settlers of very fine type settled on the Hotham River, north of Noombling. While I have always been anxious to see the railway built quickly, I am of opinion that the deviation proposed by the Government is a proper one, that it will result in the railway not only serving that splendid body of soldiers on Noombling, but serving also a large number of people along the Hotham River. The Government have adjusted the dispute as to the deviation of the route of the railway in a spirit of compromise and fairness to all concerned. I congratulate them on the introduction of this measure, and I hope it will be passed without delay.

Hon. P. Collier: This is the swan song of Dwarda.

Mr. WILSON (Collie) [4.58]: Like the member for Leederville (Capt. Carter) I want to help the soldiers on the Noombling estate. For years the estate was held by one man, but now there are over 30 soldier settlers there. We visited the district and took evidence from half-a-dozen of them. Their cry was that the property was of no

use unless it could be brought within easy distance of a railway. It is better to serve the majority of soldier settlers there than to serve one or two favoured persons who may want to get the railway through their properties. Even if the deviation were made 10 miles, it is better to see it made now than to have to go to the assistance of those soldiers afterwards. I should like to see the numbers of the blocks held by those soldiers.

The Premier: Very well, we will adjourn the debate, and you can have a look at the plan.

Mr. WILSON: Thanks. If the railway has to be built, it should be built to serve the greatest number of small farmers and settlers along the line.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (North-East Fremantle) [5.0]: I rise merely for the purpose of denying the accuracy of the statement made by the member for Williams-Narrogin (Mr. Johnston). I wish to tell the hon. member that the Labour Government never considered individuals when they were building railway lines; they considered that which was best for everyone. If my memory serves me rightly this area of land is owned by a small number of individuals, and it was considered by the Advisory Board at the time they made their report, and by others who investigated the matter carefully, that it would be cheaper to construct this railway in as direct a line as possible. Since that time the property has been purchased by the Government and settlement has taken place, and there has been an alteration in the suggested route for the express purpose of serving the settlers. No one can raise any objection to that deviation, but I do object to the statement of the member for Williams-Narrogin that the line was diverted for the express purpose of missing Mr. Michael Brown's property.

On motion by Mr. Mullany, debate adjourned.

BILL--ANZAC DAY.

Second Reading.

The PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [5.3]: in moving the second reading said: In 1919 we passed an Act declaring that Anzac Day should be a public holiday. Queensland passed similar legislation in 1921 and the Act now in force in that State is, I think, much better than ours.

Mr. Latham: It does not go far enough.

The PREMIER: I need not refer to the happenings at Gallipoli and all that occurred on that fateful day and why we now wish to observe the day, not as a holiday, but as a sacred day. The Bill provides that not only shall Anzac Day be a public holiday, but that it shall be observed as something more than that. It will not be possible to hold race meetings and the hotels will have to remain closed.

Mr. Teesdale: What about sports meetings?

The PREMIER: It will be for the House to say whether there shall be any form of sport on that day. There can be no doubt about it that it should be observed as a sacred day, because we know very well that a large number of people suffered on account of the loss of life that took place. I do not think it is a day on which we should hold race meetings, sports gatherings, or jollifications. The day should be observed in a serious manner and the Bill provides that it shall be so observed. I do not think there is any need to say anything more. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. P. COLLIER (Boulder) [5.5]: There is no doubt that the people of this State and of Australia will regard Anzac Day as being in the nature of a sacred day. All the same I am not enamoured of the principle of Parliament laying down the means and the methods by which the people shall observe particular holidays. I prefer that we should regard Anzac Day as being a sacred day and refrain from holding sports of any description and jollifications by the conscious will of the people rather than that they should be prohibited from indulging in such gatherings by an Act of Parliament. Moreover, I do not see that there is any greater sin or crime with regard to horse racing than with regard to any other form of sport or amusement that might be indulged in on Anzac Day. If horse racing is to be prohibited and we allow the picture shows, and theatrical entertainments to take place—

Mr. Teesdale: And football matches.

Hon. P. COLLIER: —we shall be going too far, or perhaps not far enough. If it is considered advisable that the day should be observed strictly on the lines of Sunday, let it be so observed, but we shall not do that by merely saying that there shall be no horse racing and that the hotels shall remain closed. A considerable section of the sport-loving community will devise other means of indulging in pleasure if, by Act of Parliament, they are prohibited from taking part in race meetings. I believe that the desire for Anzac Day being regarded as a sacred day has been growing strongly in the minds of the public and on the public conscience, and that in a very few years the day will be generally observed as Sunday without our having to say to the people, by means of an Act of Parliament, "You shall not do this, and you shall not do that." It is better to train the people to the proper observation of the day.

Mr. LATHAM (York) [5.7]: I endorse what the Leader of the Opposition has said. This Bill does not go far enough. If the Premier had looked up the New Zealand Act I think he would have agreed to accept that as a model for his Bill. It is a short Act, and so short in fact that I may be permitted to read it for the benefit of members. It sets out—

In commemoration of the part taken by New Zealand troops in the Great War, and in memory of those who gave their lives for the Empire, the 25th day of April in each year (being the anniversary of the first landing of English, Australian and New Zealand troops on Gallipoli) shall be known as Anzac Day, and shall be observed throughout New Zealand in all respects as if Anzac Day were a Sunday.

Hon. T. Walker: That covers everything.

Mr. LATHAM: I sincerely hope that the House will carry out the wishes of the people, which are that Anzac Day shall be observed as a sacred day. The Bill we have before us does not provide for that; it simply says that there shall be no horse racing and that the hotels shall not remain open.

The Minister for Mines: The existing Act mentions Sundays.

Mr. LATHAM: The Bill will not prevent foot racing and similar kinds of sport from taking place. I hope the Premier will consider the advisableness of modelling the proposed legislation on the lines of the Act in force in New Zealand. It is beautifully worded, and I commend it to hon. members for their consideration.

On motion by Mr. Teesdale debate adjourned.

BILL—FIREARMS.

Second Reading.

The MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. J. Seaddan—Albany) [5.10] in moving the second reading said: There is in existence what is known as the Gun License Act which was passed in 1885. That provides for the licensing of persons who desire to have and to use firearms. It applies, however, only to municipalities and to five miles from their boundaries. The rest of the State is not covered by the existing statute. The proposal under the Bill is that the whole State shall be covered. At the present time gun licenses are issued by a Treasury officer and there is no proper supervision; indeed there is none at all. It is merely a matter of a person applying for and getting a license, and there are more people in possession of firearms without being licensed than there are those who hold licenses. The Bill follows largely on the lines of the legislation in force in England, New South Wales and Victoria, and it will tend towards uniformity. The main feature is to provide that all persons who desire to purchase, hire, use, or have in their possession firearms, shall take out a license. The present cost of a license is 10s. and it is proposed that in future the fee shall be 5s. The Bill also provides that the Commissioner of Police and his officers shall administer the Act in lieu of the Treasury officer. In this way it will be possible to trace those who are in possession of guns and other weapons, licensed or unlicensed. It does not require a statement from me to convince hon. members that there should be better control over firearms.

Hon. T. Walker: Will the Bill apply to settlers?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: It will apply to every person.

Mr. Heron: Suppose there are several in a family who have firearms.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: If the House desires, it can amend the Bill to provide that the one fee may cover all the firearms in the household.

Mr. Marshall: Do you think that such a heavy fee is required?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: It is 50 per cent. less than the present fee.

Mr. Heron: But the law has never been enforced.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: It is desirable that we should have better control over the use of firearms. Everyone knows that a number of accidents have occurred as a result of the careless use of firearms, and we know too that the person who uses firearms carelessly is a danger not only to himself but to others. I am not aware that there is any greater danger in a person carelessly using poison than there is in the reckless use of firearms, and yet the law compels the person who purchases poison to supply his name and address to the chemist who sells it to him.

Mr. Heron: Do you think the issue of licenses will make people more careful?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: We can restrict the number of persons who can get licenses to use firearms to those who are considered to be sufficiently responsible. Under existing conditions it is not a difficult matter for aliens to become a serious menace in the North by being in possession of firearms. Under the Bill it will be possible and probable that such persons will not be permitted to hold licenses to use and possess firearms.

Mr. Marshall: Is there a clause in the Bill to prevent Europeans from giving blacks firearms?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Yes. A person must be licensed before he can have firearms in his possession. If he is licensed he will be responsible for such firearms except when he sells them, but even then he can only sell to persons who are licensed. If a man lends a firearm to another individual who is not permitted to have one and anything happens he will be held responsible. This will have a salutary effect in many directions. The pea-rifle is a very dangerous weapon that is frequently used by small children. Even in the case of shotguns we know that boys have been permitted to use them with bad results. The other day a boy pointed a gun at another boy, and the weapon went off and shot the boy. If a person goes to a chemist for the purpose of obtaining poison, the chemist has to get a statement from the individual that the poison is for legitimate use. It is easier at present to obtain a firearm and use it for an unlawful purpose against another person, than it is to obtain poison which may be required for an equally unlawful purpose. We can have some regard for the safety of the public by

making a provision of this kind in regard to firearms. No person who legitimately requires to use a gun, and is entitled to have one in his possession, will be prevented from having it. If a man lives in a municipal area he must have a license, and a better record will be kept of those who are in possession of firearms.

Mr. Mann: What about boys being in possession of firearms?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: It is one of the objects of the Bill to see that firearms are kept under proper control. No person under the age of 16 years can hold a license. This will be provided in fairness to the holders themselves and to the public in general. A man may permit his boy to use a firearm, but he will be responsible for seeing that the lives of other people are safeguarded.

Mr. Mann: So that the menace will still exist?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Not to the same extent. Under existing conditions anyone can use a firearm without let or hindrance.

Mr. Mann: But great trouble has occurred with young children.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I do not know that it is desirable to prohibit children under the age of 16 from using firearms so long as there is someone responsible for them.

Mr. Marshall: Is the Bill likely to act in a hostile manner in regard to cadets?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: No. It makes provision for their exemption. A clause sets out that all persons who are connected with the military, air or naval forces are exempt from having to take out licenses to carry firearms. A firearm will not be in their possession for other than use in connection with the duties devolving upon them as citizens.

Hon. T. Walker: Which clause attaches responsibility to the owner of the firearm?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The clause dealing with the liability of the parent or guardian of a child under 16 found using a gun. The Commissioner of Police and his officers may refuse to issue licenses to any person who may be a person thought to be of unsound mind, or one who is liable to frequent fits of drunkenness, such as to make it undesirable to allow him to have a gun in his possession. A person may be an alien at Broome, and it may be undesirable that he should have arms in his possession. It will be within the power of the Commissioner of Police to withhold the issue of a license or to revoke a license that may have been issued.

Mr. McCallum: Do you give the police power to search for firearms without a warrant?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I think not. But that can be dealt with in Committee. The Bill is designed to prevent the improper use of firearms. If it is necessary to place restrictions and proper safeguards upon the sale and purchase of poisons, it is equally necessary in the interests of the general com-

munity to prevent the wrongful use of firearms. In the event of the Commissioner of Police refusing to issue a license or revoking one, the person aggrieved may appeal against the decision to a Court of Petty Sessions. It will be unlawful to sell any gun to an unregistered person. Gun dealers must be registered as such.

Mr. McCallum: What about a gun being loaned for a day?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The person owning it will be responsible for lending it for a legitimate purpose.

Mr. Mann: In what way will he be responsible for any illegal act?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: He would not be held responsible for the actual happening that might occur.

Hon. T. Walker: He could only be fined.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: That is so. If I lend a gun to a person who is not entitled to have it, and he shoots someone, I will not have committed the murder. The person using the weapon would be held responsible. I should, however, be responsible for having committed a breach of the Act in lending a gun to a person not lawfully qualified to use it, and for this I could be fined. Dealers must be licensed so that the police may be able to trace all weapons handled by them. I remember an incident that happened not many miles from the city. This was about three or four years ago. At that time everyone was being disturbed by an individual, who was either a lunatic or nearly approaching it, and who would occasionally enter a house and disturb the inmates, mostly girls in their beds. Evidently he committed no offence except to frighten the lives out of the girls, and having done that would leave the house. He was not caught. Some youths in the East Perth electorate, who were attending the local State school, got up a little organisation, which I believe was called "The Seven Avengers." Their object was to catch this chap because the police had failed to do so. They decided to go to a gun dealer, I believe a pawnshop, and purchase a revolver. They purchased the weapon and the necessary ammunition. They actually went to school amongst the other children with the revolver loaded in every chamber. The eldest boy was only 14. It was only as the result of a mishap that the teacher learned what was going on, and the police were placed in possession of the facts. They caught the boys just in time to prevent a serious accident. In fact, I informed the police, because I received information from one of the children at school. Under this Bill such a thing could not happen. The gun dealer could not have sold such a weapon to a person aged 14. Very serious possibilities arise in cases of that kind. There is evidence in other places than Mt. Lawley, of people using pea-rifles to shoot cats, etc. It may be desirable to shoot cats.

Hon. P. Collier: Now I know where my cat went.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I had a valuable Persian cat shot in an aviary. He had no less than two pea-rifle bullets in his body, and the marks of the bullets were found afterwards. Members of my family were playing close to the aviary, and were on the spot at the time the shooting occurred. Someone ought to be able to trace the holder of a weapon in such a case, and so check the possibility of accidents occurring. Probably members know of many other happenings of the kind. It is undesirable that dangerous weapons, that are manufactured and sold at small cost, should be available to some child to use in thickly populated centres, without there being any chance of tracing the purchase or the owner of such weapon. It is also provided that persons in possession of a weapon must exercise due precautions to ensure its safe keeping. That, too, is very necessary. Most accidents that happen with firearms are due to ignorance of the fact that the weapon was loaded. Members will recollect many such happenings. Persons have not taken proper precautions to see that the weapons have been put away in a safe condition. It is one thing to have a firearm, and another thing to keep it in such a safe condition and place that a child or some person who is irresponsible shall not take possession of it, and do an injury to someone else.

Mr. Heron: Will the police have a right to come to your house?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: No matter what restrictions are imposed by law, there will be times when accidents happen. We have such a thing as capital punishment for murder, and we take every precaution to prevent murders. At the same time, murders will happen. If a person takes a firearm to do an injury to another, we cannot prevent it, but we can reduce the possibility of such things occurring.

Mr. Heron: You said people must take every precaution.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I am speaking now of careless people.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I would draw the attention of members to the fact that a second reading speech is made with the object of outlining the principles of a Bill. Matters of detail are left to the Committee stage. I have allowed members to put questions from time to time, but this has grown to such an extent that I shall have to ask them to cease interrupting the second reading speech, and to leave the details for the Committee stage unless the questions are pertinent.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The interjection have proved that I know the Bill. These are its main features. There is also a provision to prevent the sale or anyone being in possession of a weapon designed to discharge poisonous gases, and to prevent anyone being in possession of maxim silencers. That, too, is very desirable. Whilst we cannot claim that the passing of

this Bill will prevent accidents or other attempts to do injury to other persons by the use of firearms, it will provide better safeguards to the public than now exist. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Mr. Marshall, debate adjourned.

BILL—RECIPROCAL ENFORCEMENT OF MAINTENANCE ORDERS ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

The PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [5.30] in moving the second reading said: Hon. members will remember that some time ago we passed an Act mainly for the protection of women, regarding the enforcement of maintenance orders. We made it possible to follow a person liable for maintenance to other States, and to other parts of the British Dominions. It was generally agreed by the House that we should give effect to that proposal. Some small amendments are required. Since we passed our legislation, every State of the Commonwealth has passed an Act which makes it possible for us to reciprocate fully in this matter. We provided that by way of proclamation we could bring the Act into force as desired. That meant that as each State passed a law similar to ours, we could proclaim our legislation and so reciprocity would be established between that State and ourselves. The first amendment is to delete the words “outside the Commonwealth” wherever they appear in the parent Act. The Act provided that, by proclamation, we could extend its operations to places outside the Commonwealth and within the British Dominions. It has been found, however, that the Act passed by Great Britain is not on all fours with our legislation. We ask in the Bill for a measure of protection for our people so that if judgment is obtained it can be enforced in any other part of the British Dominions where their legislation is substantially the same as ours, although it may not be exactly on all fours. The English Act, for instance, provides for a maintenance order being obtained, but no provision is made for affiliation orders. We claim that we should grant reciprocity with Great Britain, notwithstanding the fact that the English Act does not go as far as our own. If we cannot get quite all we want, we should do what we can to make it impossible for anyone to evade responsibilities of this nature. We know that men leave their wives and their children. The law can follow such men through the Eastern States and New Zealand, and we also ask that it shall apply so that the law can follow such men to the United Kingdom as well. The amendment is needed for the reason I have already indicated. Then again, we require power to make regulations to carry out the provisions of the Act. The amendments provided in

the Bill mean little but are necessary to give effect to the parent Act.

Mr. Heron: You want to follow a man all round the world.

The PREMIER: Every hon. member would agree to follow a man round the world who deserted his wife and children. The power sought under the Bill is necessary and I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. W. C. Angwin debate adjourned.

BILL—GENERAL LOAN AND INSCRIBED STOCK ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

The PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [5.35] in moving the second reading said: A similar Bill is introduced each year. The original Act provides that the interest that may be paid, shall be 4 per cent. During the war, interest charges were higher and this necessitated the introduction of a Bill annually to fix the rate of interest the Government would be permitted to pay for the 12 months affected. For the period ended 31st June last, we fixed the interest in last session's Act at 6 per cent. Money is cheaper nowadays and I am asking hon. members to agree to fix the rate of interest which may be payable on loans at 5 per cent.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: What did you pay for your last loan?

The PREMIER: It was 4½ per cent.; that was, at £98.

Hon. P. Collier: What was it underwritten at?

The PREMIER: It cost about £4 18s. It was a favourable loan. We have no control over the money lender in England as to what he wants for his money. It is not a matter of what we fix the interest at, but what the money-lender asks for his money. It is not desirable to give too much by way of discount. I hope next year that money will be available at 4 per cent.

Mr. Corboy: Or lower than that even.

The PREMIER: If we could get it at that, it would be good for the State.

Hon. P. Collier: In any case, the State has to pay the money-lender's price.

The PREMIER: That is so. We cannot determine the price at this end. We have to face the competition of the world when we go on the money market. We could get money at 5 per cent. to-day.

Hon. P. Collier: By accepting it at £98.

The PREMIER: No, at par. As the member for North-East Fremantle (Hon. W. C. Angwin) indicated, we can buy money at a discount and secure an advantage, but it is not always wise to do that. It is better to fix the rate which is current at par and make arrangements with the money-lenders on that basis.

Hon. P. Collier: We floated a loan recently, at a discount.

The PREMIER: Yes. The system in the Old Land is that if one buys a 3 per cent. bond in London to-day, he gets that on the basis of the present day value of money. It does not matter what percentage is fixed, 3 per cent. or 10 per cent., a person only gets the bond at the present-day value of money. It does not make the slightest difference as to what rate is fixed. At the present time the price of money is decreasing and it is a case of "aces on the down." I move:

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. SPEAKER: Has the Premier a Message?

The PREMIER: No, I have not one with me.

Mr. SPEAKER: In the circumstances, the Bill can proceed, but I would advise the Premier not to go into Committee.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (North-East Fremantle) [5.33]: If, as the Premier says, it is always advisable to get loans at par and it is necessary to get a Bill to provide for a higher rate per cent., why do the Government go on the money market when they may have to pay 6 per cent. interest? It would be much better to get the full amount of the bond issued, than to issue a bond at a reduced rate. If it were done as I suggest, the people would know exactly what amount they were to receive for each loan. If hon. members look through the financial returns they will find that the 6 per cent. loan cost the State £6 5s. and the 5½ loan cost us about £5, and so it goes on. If the loan were quoted at par, people would know the exact amount the Government were paying for the money they raise. Under that method, a £100 bond would be purchased for £100. It is true that it makes no difference regarding the raising of a loan, apart from the fact that a higher rate of interest is provided. If a loan were raised at 4 per cent. it would mean that the Government would have to considerably reduce the price of stock. That being so, they would not realise as much money as if they carried out the transaction on the basis of the higher rate of interest. The Government have not adopted that course. I understood Bills of this description were for the purpose of allowing the Government to raise money at par. That was the intention of Parliament. It was pointed out to Parliament at the time that it was not wise to sell at less than par, and it was necessary to provide legislation to increase the price. That principle has been departed from.

The Premier: It has never been done in the history of the world.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: At any rate, that was the intention when the Bill was introduced, otherwise it was unnecessary. The Premier has stated that the last loan was raised at under 5 per cent. Under the present system, we do not know what the underwriting costs were, what return we got, or what amount was realised.

We cannot get the figures to show what the loan actually cost us. We do not know exactly what interest we had to pay. I hope that when Bills of this kind are introduced, we will endeavour to float our loans at par.

Mr. A. THOMSON (Kalgoorlie) [5.43]: When the Premier gave notice of his intention to introduce a Bill to amend the General Loan and Inscribed Stock Act, I thought he would give the House some information regarding the sinking fund.

The Premier: You will get that information when I deliver the Budget. The Bill has nothing to do with the sinking fund.

Mr. A. THOMSON: We are dealing with the General Loan and Inscribed Stock Act and Section 18 of that Act is affected. Surely we can deal with the sinking fund question under that heading. At any rate, I am entitled to draw attention to the position at the second reading stage. On the 3rd August, 1922, the Premier, when dealing with the sinking fund, said—

Members will realise that the inquiry resolved itself into a very simple one, because it became a matter for the actuary. The actuary is working on it now, and I hope that the result of his investigations will be satisfactory to this State.

We are about to amend the Act. The whole of our sinking funds are vested in trustees who have absolute authority to do as they like.

Mr. SPEAKER: This Bill does not affect sinking funds.

Mr. A. THOMSON: The Bill is to amend the Loan and Inscribed Stock Act.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is a question of amending the rate of interest.

Mr. A. THOMSON: Then am I not permitted to draw attention to the fact that another portion of the Act should be amended at the same time?

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is entitled to deal only with the Bill, but if he wishes to illustrate that point, I shall not be too severe. I do not want him to labour it.

Mr. A. THOMSON: We are dealing with the proposed rate of interest for future loans. It seems to me unnecessary to have a sinking fund as at present—

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member cannot discuss that.

Mr. A. THOMSON: But it has a bearing on the rate of interest we pay. Other States are not providing sinking funds and they can get their loans at a reasonable rate of interest. We ought to be getting our loans at a much lower rate.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member cannot discuss the question of sinking fund.

The Premier: You may discuss it with advantage with the moneylenders in the Old Country, but you cannot gain much by discussing it here.

Hon. P. Collier: What influence have we?

Mr. A. THOMSON: Other States that provide no sinking fund are getting money at the same rate of interest that we are pay-

ing. If our sinking fund is all it is claimed to be, we ought to be getting our money at a much lower rate.

The Minister for Mines: We claim that the sinking fund is to our advantage.

Mr. A. THOMSON: That is a matter of opinion. The Minister did not always think that.

The Minister for Mines. I have never held any other opinion.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon member had better keep to the Bill.

Mr. Corboy: Otherwise there will be more discord over there.

Mr. A. THOMSON: I hope the Premier, when introducing the Budget, will give us information on this question. Last session he promised to consider the matter.

The PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam—in reply) [5.49]: I do not know what the member for Katanning (Mr. Thomson) desires me to seriously consider. I think the member for North-East Fremantle (Hon. W. C. Angwin) was wrong. We always make the best deal possible. If we could get money at £4 18s., we would not think of paying 5 per cent. I think the hon. member understands the position thoroughly; there is nothing I can tell him about raising loans. We fix the rate at 5 per cent. and pay as much under that as possible. It is desirable to get the full £100 when raising a loan but, if it does not pay the State to insist upon getting it, we do the best possible for the State.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

BILL—REDISTRIBUTION OF SEATS.

Second Reading.

The PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [5.51] in moving the second reading said: It should not be necessary to say much in introducing this Bill. Members have the measure before them and there are maps exhibited in the Chamber showing the old and new boundaries. Last session we passed the Electoral Districts Bill after having fully discussed it, and commissioners were appointed in accordance with that measure. Their duty was to divide the State into districts, according to the principles laid down. The report of the commission forms the main part of the Bill; as a matter of fact it is the Bill. It provides for an amendment of the boundaries and states just how the boundaries are to be fixed. This cannot be a party measure.

Mr. Heron: Not a party measure! See how members are laughing!

The PREMIER: It is a measure to give effect to a direction laid down by Parliament last year. It is not a Government proposal. The Government have had no hand at all in fixing the boundaries.

Mr. McCallum: You made the Electoral Districts Bill a party measure.

The PREMIER: That was a different thing.

Mr. McCallum: Was it?

The PREMIER: Very different. It is necessary to have a redistribution from time to time on account of the population of some centres increasing and the population of other centres decreasing. Particularly is it necessary under our system of representation to meet the changes that occur. When the other Bill was introduced it was a party measure, but the House discussed it fully and members admitted that the time for a redistribution was overdue. No one more than I regretted that the Bill had to be introduced. A redistribution is always resented and it always leads to trouble and difficulty. Although we got through our work last year pleasantly enough, we had some very long sittings. As a result of that measure, new boundaries have been suggested.

Mr. Pickering: Not on the lines of our direction.

The PREMIER: The hon. member will have an opportunity to show in what way the commission have departed from the direction set out in the Electoral Districts Act.

Mr. Marshall: It will not be hard to show that as regards the Murchison district.

The PREMIER: The member for Murchison will also have an opportunity.

Mr. Marshall: And I shall take full advantage of it.

The PREMIER: I hope that members, in dealing with this Bill, will remember their duty to the State. We may not like the boundaries; they may not suit us personally, but that is not the question before us. All we have to consider is whether it will be fair to the State to have the boundaries as set out in this Bill.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The new boundaries are almost as bad as the old ones.

The PREMIER: I shall be interested to listen to the discussion.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: There would be no discussion at all if I had my way.

The PREMIER: The hon. member does not like these changes; neither do I; but they have to be made. I think we did the right thing by throwing the responsibility of fixing the boundaries on to officials.

Mr. Hughes: They did not have any discretion.

The PREMIER: They had ample discretion.

Mr. Hughes: They were tied hand and foot.

The PREMIER: Members should realise that the new boundaries were not designed to suit each one of us.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Mine suit me, but they are not fair to the State.

The PREMIER: I cannot anticipate all that members are likely to say.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Look at the Murchison district for a start.

The PREMIER: I hope members will be quite frank. I am anxious to do the right thing for the State, but it is futile to think

t at any measure of this kind could be satisfactory to every member.

The Minister for Mines: Let each member fix his own boundaries.

Mr. Marshall: If that were done, Plan-tagenet would be rubbed out.

The PREMIER: We are endeavouring to give the people fair representation. We are endeavouring to give them a fair share of the responsibility of governing the country. It is unfortunate that we cannot arrange the electorates on the basis of, say, 5,000 votes each. Our population is scattered far and wide over an enormous area with interests not common to any two centres, and so we have provided for single electorates and for different quotas. A distinction is drawn between the outer goldfields, the central goldfields, the agricultural area and the metropolitan area quotas.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You have a majority of only one.

The PREMIER: The hon. member is not entitled to say that.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: It is so.

The PREMIER: The hon. member is wrong for once. I hope members will study the map and Bill with a determination to do justice to the country. We delegated to a commission the power of fixing the boundaries. If this House decided to assume the responsibility of altering all the boundaries, we should be taking upon ourselves a responsibility which we last year admitted was not ours, and I do not know where we should get to. We are not entitled to usurp the powers of the commission. No doubt amendments will be suggested, but we shall get into an awful tangle if every member tries to fix the boundaries for his own electorate. It is my duty to come down to the House and present this Bill, which, if passed, will mean the adoption of the report submitted. The report is part of the Bill, and hon. members will therefore have an opportunity of deciding the question with all the materials before them. At this stage I will say no more than that I hope hon. members will deal with the matter just as they deal with any other matter, that is, having regard solely to their responsibilities to the people of Western Australia. The Government do not expect to be able to please everybody, but I think I can assure the House that justice will be done to the people if consideration is given to a measure of this kind. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. P. Collier, debate adjourned.

BILL—INSPECTION OF SCAFFOLDING.

Second Reading.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. W. J. George—Murray-Wellington) [6.4] in moving the second reading said: A measure of this nature did not appear to be urgent until the last few years, when high buildings

were being erected in the city of Perth. The value of the ground and the growth of the city rendered it quite evident that resort would in future continue to be made to high buildings. Hon. members will know from their own observation, even if they are not connected with the building trade, that when men have to work at great heights it is above all things necessary that provision should be made for the scaffolding not only to be of a substantial nature, but to be placed in position by men who have made a special study of that work and are skilled in it. Many people think it is very easy to tie a knot. It is not, however, easy to tie a knot on which men can rely to support the platform on which they are standing. Nor is it easy to fix ropes and planking so that those who have to work upon them will feel amply secure.

Mr. A. Thomson: I guarantee to teach a child all that in five minutes.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The hon. member may be able to do so.

Mr. A. Thomson: I know how to tie scaffolding.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: No doubt the hon. member does. However, he will have an opportunity of making his say in connection with this matter later. I think there are very few, if any, members of this Chamber who will demur to a Bill which represents an honest effort to render the conditions of work in a hazardous occupation as safe as it is possible for them to be. This measure has been framed with that object in view, and it is the result of consultation with representatives of those who may be called master builders, and also with representatives of the master artisans engaged in building. The Bill is certainly deserving of what I am sure it will get in this House—careful consideration. There is no desire to lay down lines or restrictions which shall hamper the erection of buildings, but there is a sincere desire to lay down such lines and restrictions as are necessary for the protection of life and limb. Moreover, it is not merely those who are on the scaffolding whom we have to safeguard. We have also to safeguard the passers-by on the footpath or on the road, where the buildings are being erected. If it should appear to any member that in any respect the Bill either does not go far enough or goes too far, it will be open for him to lay his views before hon. members in Committee, when, if he can satisfy the Chamber of the correctness of his views, he will be able to secure corresponding amendment of the Bill. I have said that the object of the measure is to ensure the safety of workmen, and hon. members will see that the measure applies to all scaffolding above eight feet in height from its horizontal base. There may be room for difference of opinion in regard to that minimum height. I shall be pleased to hear the point discussed in Committee. Naturally it will be necessary to appoint someone with the necessary experience and skill for the purpose of the administration of the measure. The person to be appointed must not be biased either

on one side or the other, but must keep in view only the necessity for giving security to human life. There will be a chief inspector, who will have responsibility throughout the State; and there will be other inspectors under him. The Bill contains the usual powers to provide authority for entry on all buildings being erected, and it also imposes penalties for obstructing an officer in the performance of his duty. Power is given to inspectors to order the cessation of work if the provisions of this measure are not being complied with. Then there is provision for a court to adjudicate on all matters of dispute. I suppose occasions for dispute will arise. The Bill contains the usual provision as to the qualifications of inspectors and the imposition of fees. It is expected that the fees which will be received under the measure, though they will not be prohibitive, yet will be quite sufficient to pay for the cost of administration. The Bill, being directed to preserve life and limb, cannot be regarded otherwise than with sympathy in a Chamber of this kind. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Mr. McCallum, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 6.10 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 28th August, 1923.

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

QUESTION—TUBERCULOSIS, SPAHLINGER TREATMENT.

Mr. MARSHALL asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, Has the State Medical Department made any individual investigation, apart from that of the Federal Government, into the possibilities of Professor Spahlinger's cure for consumptives? 2, If not, is it the policy of the Government to rely upon the activities of the Federal Government in this very important matter? 3, Will he consider the advisability of the State immediately making a thorough and practical investigation of Professor Spahlinger's alleged cure?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: 1, The State Medical Department is in possession of whatever published data are available in regard to the Spahlinger treatment and has made individual inquiry regarding it of the Director of the Lister Institute, who was recently in this State. 2, The State equally with the Commonwealth can do nothing further in the matter, as no supply of serum is available for distribution. There is a deadlock in European countries in regard to it for the following reasons:—(a) That those countries will not provide money for further work by Spahlinger without properly controlled trial of it. (b) Spahlinger apparently cannot provide the necessary material for those tests owing to financial embarrassment. (c) Spahlinger seems to have been averse in the past to submit to these properly controlled tests. (d) His complete serum takes about four years to prepare. 3, Answered by 2.

QUESTION—HOSPITAL FOR INSANE, LODGE-KEEPER.

Mr. McCALLUM asked the Colonial Secretary: What were the reasons for the dismissal of Caretaker McMahon from the Hospital for Insane, Claremont?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: McMahon was lodge-keeper, not caretaker. The reason for his dismissal was that he was physically unfit to carry out the duties on account of his age, which is between 72 and 75 years.

QUESTION—MIDLAND WORKSHOPS, APPRENTICES.

Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister for Railways: 1, Have all the trades engaged in the Midland Junction loco. workshops their full complement of apprentices? 2, If not, will he state what trades are not carrying the full complement, and to what extent?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, While the number of apprentices employed in the Midland Junction workshops is sufficient for requirements, the full number of apprentices allowable is not em-

ployed. 2, The trades and numbers are as follows:—

Trade.	No. of Tradesmen employed.	No. of Apprentices allowed.	No. of Apprentices and Trainees employed.	No. less than allowed.
Boilermakers ...	75	37	35	2
Blacksmiths ...	45	22	10	12
Carpenters ...	9	4	1	3
Car and Wagon Builders ...	105	52	22	30
Coppersmiths ...	7	3	2	1
Iron Machinists ...	67	33	10	23
Fitters ...	137	68	63	5
Moulders ...	26	14	9	5
Painters ...	23	14	11	3
Plumbers ...	2	1	...	1
Patternmakers ...	7	3	1	2
Turners ...	57	23	18	10
Tinsmiths ...	8	4	...	4
Wood Machinists ...	27	13	...	13
Electric Welders...	2	1	...	1
Totals ...	604	297	182	115

Returned soldier trainees under the Repatriation Scheme are regarded as apprentices.

QUESTION—FREMANTLE PRISON, PRINTING.

Mr. MUNSIE asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, Are any Government departments getting printing work done at Fremantle prison? 2, If so, what are the departments, and (a) the amount of the work, and (b) the class of work being done?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: 1, Yes, in accordance with the practice which has been in force for a number of years. 2, Crown Law Department, Police Department, Registrar General's Department, Education Department, State Implement Works, Fremantle Harbour Trust, State Shipping Service. (a) and (b) Between January-June, 1923, 80,000 record cards, 600 gross school pads, sundry forms and books.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

On motion by Mr. Willcock, leave of absence for two weeks granted to Mr. O'Loughlen (Forrest) on the ground of ill-health.

BILLS (6)—FIRST READING.

1. Women's Legal Status.
Introduced by Mrs. Cowan.
2. Local Authorities (Additional Powers).
Introduced by Mr. Stubbs.
3. Veterinary Surgeons Act Amendment.
Introduced by Mr. Latham.
4. Inspection of Machinery Act Amendment. Introduced by Mr. Wilson.
5. Factories and Shops Act Amendment.
Introduced by Mr. McCallum.
6. Lunacy Act Amendment.
Introduced by Mr. McCallum.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE.

Formal Business opposed.

Mr. A. Thomson formally moved for leave to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the State Trading Concerns Act 1916.

Hon. P. Collier: I wish to debate this motion.

Mr. Speaker: Then it must take its place on the Notice Paper in the order of precedence in which it was received. It was placed among the formal business in the belief that it would not be opposed.

BILL—REGISTRATION OF DEEDS AMENDMENT.

Read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

BILL — RECIPROCAL ENFORCEMENT OF MAINTENANCE ORDERS ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

Order of the day read for the resumption from the 23rd August of the adjourned debate on the second reading.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported with amendment and the report adopted.

BILL — GENERAL LOAN AND INSCRIBED STOCK ACT AMENDMENT.

In Committee.

Mr. Stubbs in the Chair; the Premier in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1—agreed to.

Clause 2—Amendment of Section 18:

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: During the second reading debate I pointed out that this clause will not give effect to the intention of Parliament. Frequently we see announcements in the Press that the Government have been successful in raising a loan, that a loan has been over-subscribed and that satisfactory financial arrangements have been made. Naturally one would conclude that the money was being raised at such a price as to represent a good financial deal, but instead of raising the money at par, almost every loan has had a minimum price considerably below par. For some time the interest rate has been six per cent; now it is to be five per cent. The last five per cent. loan in 1922 was offered at £96, the total cost to the State being £5 9s. 6d. Our six per cent. loan in 1921 was offered at £95 10s. and the total cost to the State was £6 12s. 8d.

The Premier: Go back 20 years and the same thing applies.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Of course, because the interest rate was low, but the Premier must admit that the Act we are now amending allows for the payment of six per cent. At such a rate, it should be possible to raise money at par. If this were done the public would understand clearly what was being paid for loans. It is all very well to say we have been successful in raising a £3,000,000 loan at six per cent., but as a matter of fact the cost would work out at about £6 12s. 8d.

The Premier: That has always been done.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: It has not always been done. During the Labour regime in 1916 the minimum price of five and five and a quarter per cent loans was £100 and the public were able to understand the position clearly. I do not object to the clause, but I think it would be wise to retain the six per cent. rate of interest and endeavour to raise our loans at par instead of at a discount.

The PREMIER: The hon. member desires the public to know exactly what we pay for our loans. As a matter of fact, we tell the public what we pay. Our last loan cost £4 18s. per cent., but it was issued at a discount. The Government always get the best terms possible. It does not matter what interest is offered. If we offered seven per cent. we might get £115, whereas if we offered three per cent. the issue price might be £65. The lenders consider the value of money at the moment and take bonds on that basis. It is impossible to get any other basis. By purchasing our own bonds when the interest rate was high, we secured three per cents. at a very low price. It would not be wise to offer four and a half or five per cent. and insist upon getting the even £100, because we would not be able to make the best bargain. We buy the money at the lowest price, and that is all we can do. This method is followed by every State of the Commonwealth, by the British Government and by all public borrowers.

Mr. A. Thomson: The fact of our having a sinking fund apparently makes not the slightest difference.

The PREMIER: What has the sinking fund to do with the rate of interest? The rate of interest offered buys so much money; four and a half per cent. may buy a £98 bond and five and a half per cent. may buy a £101 bond. Our method of securing money is the right one and the only economical one. The Committee should not insist upon getting loans at the even £100.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: In the 1922 loan you got only £93 17s. 5d.

The PREMIER: Yes; if it pays best to accept £93, we do so.

Mr. Willcock: Due to a little affection lenders have for you.

The PREMIER: No, it is a calm business calculation made by actuaries. I hope the rate will stand and that the present system may be continued.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 3, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment and the report adopted.

BILL—ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER AGREEMENT ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading—Withdrawn.

Debate resumed from August 23rd.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (North-East Fremantle) [5.0]: This is a Bill for the purpose of regulating the supply of electric current in the Belmont Park and Queen's Park road districts, and it has embodied in it an agreement entered into between the Government and the Perth City Council. It is a matter which concerns principally the parties interested. If they are satisfied with the conditions, no doubt members will agree to pass the Bill. I see nothing in the schedule to which any objection can be taken. There is, however, a paragraph in the third clause which is foreign to the title of the Bill. I am not sure I should not raise a point of order. The words I refer to are as follows:—

For the purposes of the Electric Light and Power Agreement Act 1913, and subject thereto, current may be supplied to the city of Perth from the switch house at the Commonwealth Wireless Station in the Melville Road district.

Hon. T. Walker: That goes beyond the order of leave.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The wireless station at Applecross is outside the area over which the Perth City Council have jurisdiction. Portion of the area on which the wireless station stands comes within the area handed over to the Fremantle district. I have no objection to the city of Perth taking current from this switch house in order to supply Applecross, but there is no necessity to embody it in the Bill, or to give the city legal power to do this. The Minister for Mines did not explain why this paragraph was embodied in the Bill. I understand that those who ought to know what is in this Bill are surprised that the paragraph should appear in this way, and do not know for what reason it was inserted.

The Minister for Mines: I am striking out the latter part of the clause.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Then I have no objection to the Bill.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member raised a point of order.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I said I thought I ought to do so.

Mr. SPEAKER: At all events my attention has been drawn to the matter. There is no doubt if the wireless station was either in the Belmont Park or the Queen's Park road district, the reference to it would come within the order of leave, but if it is in the Melville Park district, the Bill certainly goes beyond the order of leave. I do not know that I should be justified in allowing the Minister to withdraw the paragraph

from the Bill as it is now before us. He could, however, withdraw the Bill altogether, and move it later as amended.

Hon. T. Walker: That is the better plan. The Minister for Mines: We have not proceeded very far, and I will withdraw the Bill for the present. I do not know how the paragraph became inserted.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Bill will be withdrawn.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES.

Message from the Governor received and read transmitting the Annual Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the financial year 1923-24, and recommending appropriation.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1923-24.

In Committee of Supply.

The House having resolved itself into a Committee of Supply to receive the annual financial statement, Mr. Stubbs in the Chair,

The PREMIER AND TREASURER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [5.11]: This is my fifth Budget. We have passed through difficult times, but to-day my task is more pleasant than it has been for the last four years. We are now winning through. The estimated deficit this year will be realised, and it will be the lowest deficit since the outbreak of war. I have told members before that our financial troubles are largely due to the war, and the aftermath of war. If they will turn to the figures for the past nine years, since 1914, they will see that we have been in trouble financially ever since the war began. It has been said that finance is government and that government is finance. It is not altogether that, but it is very largely so. Finance is not only the collection and expenditure of revenue, but it is also the careful handling of borrowed money. Revenue and finance generally depend a good deal, in a new country like this, on the wise expenditure of borrowed money, because by that expenditure facilities are provided, as well as the proper means by which such facilities are used.

Finance.

Of course criticism is levelled always at finance and it was said, before the finances began to get straight, that everything was well in all directions except in connection with finance. In all democratic countries I suppose governments are subject to criticism. The more people have to do with the making of governments the greater right have they to criticise: at any rate, they exercise that right pretty freely. And it is not always useful criticism. Public finance is a very difficult thing to understand. People say there is too much taxation and too few ad-

vantages from government. A great deal is asked for by way of grants, even by those who are most opposed to taxation. I confess that taxation is high, and I should like very much to see it reduced. We believe in the work of government, which is to such a large extent financial, that we must allow fair treatment to all sections. Fair treatment, however, is never altogether appreciated. Each section of our people believes that good government means government for that section, but different treatment to others. No section of the people can alone be helped except by a general scheme which benefits all the people. The policy for this country is to build from the bottom. It is the policy that has made us what we are; that will keep us moving forward to better things and better times. When I became Treasurer, I told the House and the people that there were two ways of balancing the ledger—one by taxation, the other by development and production. We did in 1919-20 put on, more or less as a temporary expedient, a 15 per cent. sugar tax, which last year brought us in altogether £80,000. I am sorry that it has not been possible for me to wipe out that sugar tax this year, but I do hope that we shall be in a position to wipe it out next year.

Development and Production.

There have, of course, been increased development and increased production, with the result that I am able to come down to this House to-day and present the statement which hon. members now have before them. The people will endorse the Government's view as to progress. There is no doubt the public accepted the Government's suggestion that there should be progress and development, more work and greater activity everywhere. Since Federation 23 years have past, and only four times during that period have we had a credit balance at the end of the financial year, though it is true that we have more than balanced the ledger on other occasions. Undoubtedly there has been much progress. Last year's financial result shows it. This year's estimated result shows a further improvement, due to the same cause. In 1921-22 the deficit was £732,135, and in 1922-23 the deficit was £405,364. The financial result for last year was £326,771 better than that of the previous year, due to the progress of which I have spoken.

Hon. M. F. Troy: Due to the expenditure of loan funds, and plenty of them. You cannot fool us.

The PREMIER: It would be a very difficult matter to fool anyone so wise as the hon. member. Still, I do not know how we are to have progress without expenditure. If such a thing is possible, I should like to know of it. It would be worth knowing.

Hon. M. F. Troy: You spent loan moneys, and did not spend revenue. That is all.

The PREMIER: One can assert anything.

Hon. M. F. Troy: The proofs are here. Go ahead.

The PREMIER: I am much obliged to the hon. member for his permission to go ahead. I thought perhaps I had the right to make my statement. These improvements are due to the improved earnings of the public utilities. Again, there has been better control by the Treasury. I know these things hurt the hon. member.

Hon. M. F. Troy: They amuse me.

The PREMIER: It is impossible to amuse the hon. member. These improvements are due to better management by permanent heads and by officials generally. This year's estimate shows a further improvement of £106,681. That, coming on top of last year's improvement, is in itself a substantial sum. This anticipated further improvement is again due, as I shall show later, to anticipated better results from public utilities. The Committee will realise that with so much money invested in public utilities, it is very easy for the State either to make or to lose money in that connection.

Hon. M. F. Troy: You can always make money out of the public utilities by charging increased rates.

The PREMIER: The increased rates have not covered the increased cost of wages. Only those who object to increased wages should object to increased rates.

Hon. M. F. Troy: Give us the figures.

The PREMIER: If the wages were put back to what they were a few years ago, the freights would naturally be lower. Bearing the burden of high protection, we must pay higher wages by reason of the increased cost of living. I do not propose, in submitting these Estimates, to use as many figures as has been usual. All necessary information will be found in the printed returns which have been furnished to hon. members.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The estimated revenue for 1922-23 was £7,260,342, and the estimated expenditure £7,649,951, leaving an estimated deficit of £389,609. The actual figures for last year were: revenue £7,207,492, expenditure £7,612,856, leaving a deficit of £405,364. It will be seen that the actual deficit was roughly £16,000 more than I budgeted for. But we included in our Estimates last year additional taxation under the licensing law of £61,000, and we hoped to get from the Hospitals Bill £53,000. Both these taxes were refused by the House. It will be seen, therefore, that I actually did better than I anticipated, because these two amounts were taken into consideration when the Budget was being framed. The figures show that I did better than I anticipated by £98,000.

Mr. Chesson: You got something out of the amended licensing legislation.

The PREMIER: Yes, but £61,000 less than we thought.

Mr. Hughes: But you got more out of taxation.

The PREMIER: In Victoria, on a very much lower rate of tax, the State gets far more than we do, because of the greater pro-

sperty and higher incomes obtaining there. Increased taxation is really obtained by increased prosperity, because with increased prosperity the people have more to pay on. Last year we contributed to the sinking fund £223,917. The total deficit now stands at £5,910,929. For this year the estimated revenue is £7,542,291, and the estimated expenditure £7,840,374, leaving an estimated deficit of £298,683. This last figure represents an improvement of £106,681 over last year's deficit. We shall pay during the year to the sinking fund £221,807. Thus the difference between the payment to sinking fund and the estimated deficit is now only £76,876. I shall feel much happier when the anticipated deficit is not greater than our cash contribution to sinking fund, because in that case we shall not be losing a penny. As it is, and disregarding the earnings of the money already invested in the sinking fund, the loss would appear to be £76,876. The reduced deficit is largely due to improved results from our public utilities. Let me point out that for the month of July and for the month just ending, August, the improvement over the corresponding months of last year will be between £40,000 and £50,000. If that improvement can be maintained we shall do even better than I have anticipated.

Monthly Financial Statement.

Month by month there is issued to the public a statement of Western Australia's finance and revenue position. That monthly statement does not mean very much, and I will tell hon. members why. Each month the State pays a proportion of interest and sinking fund, now amounting to £230,000. We endeavour to pay our debts each month, including this interest and sinking fund. The monthly collections, however, are on a totally different basis. Interest on money loaned is collected periodically, as a rule half-yearly. We get these payments mostly in December and June. The total of them for 1922-23 was £606,053. Therefore, whilst we pay interest monthly, we get it refunded to us only periodically. Land rents, which for 1922-23 amounted to £311,360, come to the Treasury for the most part in two months of the year, namely March and September. Taxation, too, comes in largely during the closing month of the year. In 1922-23 collections from taxation amounted to £987,558, of which £329,466 was received during May and June. Railway earnings also are very much better during the closing months of the financial year. The harvest is in then, and so there is more traffic, with more freight. Last financial year for the six months from January to June the railway revenue amounted to £1,564,488, while for the half-year from July to December the railway revenue was £1,321,882. It will be recognised, therefore, that the monthly statement affords no indication of the position for the year. I make this explanation because last year it was often suggested, not by hon. members but by people outside, that the defi-

cit could not possibly come back, when at so late a period of the year it was so high. The improvement is due to the Government's management of the finances, and also due to the fact that the various collections to which I have referred come in only at stated periods of the year. The Treasurer's real fight is against depression and stagnation. The trouble is that the State does so much here, entering into the life of the people with transport facilities and other facilities to such an extent that if there be stagnation and depression, the first to feel it is naturally the Treasurer. Some countries do not own railways and harbour facilities, and therefore the Treasury is not so immediately affected by a depression in trade. For the financial results of our public utilities the volume of trade is all important.

Incidence of Taxation.

The circulation of money, and the enterprise and activity shown by the people, all count; they all contribute to the financial results. Sometimes we say, "This section of the people are not contributing to the income tax, and therefore they pay no taxation at all." But let us make no mistake about that. No man can do anything without contributing in some way to the revenue. The man who perhaps is not paying income tax will use the trams and trains, and will also be responsible for some of the revenue raised through harbour dues. In hundreds of ways each man is responsible for some proportion of taxation. His trade bears its proportion of taxation, although somebody else pays it directly to the Treasury. So the State gets something from everybody, and something from everything that is done. It does not follow, because a man does not pay the shilling down on the counter of the Treasury, that he does not have it put down there for him by somebody else.

Mr. Willcock: It is just as well you admit that the trader passes taxation on.

The PREMIER: I hope I will always be honest enough to admit a thing which I can see and which is obvious. I have always contended it is from activities of various descriptions that our best revenue comes. Victoria has proved that. In Western Australia, with our small population, we depend very largely upon primary production. I do not refer to agriculture alone, but to all forms of primary production, including mining, pastoral, agricultural and other industries which are essentially primary. Our troubles have been added to because our scanty population is scattered. We have to provide facilities for the people and naturally facilities are more costly in a country where the population is scattered than in one where the population is denser. The Estimates have been designed this year to meet the growing needs of a growing State. There is much to do in providing facilities for the people and we mean to do it if we can, and as we can. We have put our hands to the plough: there can be no

turning back. I shall deal with the various industries and their possibilities in proper sequence.

Economy in Public Service

While we are discussing the question of finance, I wish to point out to hon. members that economy has been effected within the Public Service. That result has been possible only by good management by the departmental heads and those generally in control. It is common knowledge that it takes a lot of money to make up for bad management. Too often in Government departments the management has been a little careless. This has been due, I suppose, to the stringency of the times and the depression that has been evidenced. The management exercised by departmental heads has much improved. The public imagine that a Minister watches over every detail of his department, including all items of expenditure. It is the duty of a Minister to see that the organisation of his department is as perfect as possible, and that his departmental chiefs do their jobs. These officials have been made to feel their responsibility and I believe most of them have a full sense of their responsibilities nowadays. Perhaps not all these officials possess that full sense of their responsibilities but all have given evidence of it to some extent. At any rate, all have shown a lively interest in the work that comes under their control. The Treasury, through the officials of that department, control the finances of the State, including the expenditure and the revenue collected in all departments. This is so to an extent hitherto unknown. This, again, has been brought about by real necessity. We have had to economise, and if hon. members look into the matter they will see there has been great improvement. They will find that the Public Service Commissioner and the departmental heads of the Public Service generally, are responsible for much of the good work that has been done. It is only right that the responsibility should be placed upon the officials and that they should shoulder the responsibilities for which they are paid. Nothing in the direction of details of management can be too well attended to, and I desire to acknowledge the work the officials are doing.

Actual Revenue and Expenditure.

I shall tell the Committee what our revenue really is and what we are doing with it. Last year the actual revenue was £7,207,492. Of that total, £4,000,147 was derived from public utilities: £73,775 from trading concerns, receipts: £606,053, being refunds of interest on moneys loaned through the Agricultural Bank, the Soldier Settlement Scheme, and so on: £250,821, to cover the loss on public utilities. These amounts total £4,930,796, which is not true revenue at all. That money merely represents sums received at the Treasury and paid away again for services rendered, and which have cost more than we received for the services we rendered. Deducting these items from the total revenue, we

have a clear, actual revenue of £2,276,696. Hon. members may ask how the Government have used the money. On educational, medical and other free services we spent £1,133,393. Interest and sinking fund on money not loaned to the public nor charged up to the public utilities represented an expenditure of £573,525, and on payments under special Acts, which provide for amounts we must pay each year to the Mint, for the cost of Parliament, the upkeep of aborigines, and so forth, we spent £217,725, or a total of £1,924,643. That left us for all other services, £352,053. Against that item we expended on ordinary governmental services £757,417, creating a deficit of £405,364. Of that amount, £223,917 was paid into the sinking fund. The point I wish to make is that our revenue is a little over two and a quarter millions and of that we spent nearly half on free services, including education and so on. We cannot escape from those payments, and no one would desire to see that expenditure cut down. The actual expenditure for 1922-23 in connection with the public utilities was £2,923,477; the estimated interest and sinking fund charges amounted to £1,327,491, or a total of £4,250,968. The revenue totalled £4,000,147. There was, therefore, an actual loss on the public utilities of £250,821. The estimated expenditure for the current financial year is £2,937,311, and the estimated payments for interest and sinking fund, £1,371,136, or a total of £4,308,447. The estimated revenue from these public utilities for the current financial year is £4,160,434, leaving a shortage of £148,013. That shows an improvement, as against last year's figures, of £106,681. I quote these figures because I want the Committee to realise how important the public utilities are in the general scheme of State finance. The main items covered in the estimated revenue show the following increases:—Railways £138,630; other public utilities, £21,657; taxation, £28,442. Hon. members need not be alarmed regarding the last mentioned item because the increase is due to the liquor tax. Last year taxation under that heading came in badly during the last six months. I expect there will be a big improvement.

Mr. Pickering: Is that the amount you expected?

The PREMIER: No, to date the receipts have been much less than we should have received. We will get the liquor tax for the next 12 months. Other main items included in the estimated increase in revenue are:—Departmental, £139,485—this represents largely transfers—timber, £21,255. Other items show decreases, which bring the estimated increase down to £334,799. The main items covered by the increased expenditure include £216,334 under special Acts; £8,620 on education; £9,858 for the Crown Law Department—this is due to the election to be held later—and £24,149 on account of the railways. The State batteries, which I will explain later, and other items show decreases bringing the net increase down to £228,118, thus leaving an improvement of £106,681.

I have already indicated that the expenditure in connection with the Crown Law Department shows an increase of nearly £10,000. Of that amount, £7,545 represents the estimated expenditure to be incurred during the forthcoming election. Another special decrease of revenue affects the Fisheries Department to the extent of £15,000. This is occasioned because there has been no royalty on opossums this year. An increase of £11,000 is shown regarding the Public Service. We have provided for two sections in connection with that service. One includes the officers who receive automatic increases until they get £284 per annum. The other section includes those who get grade increases. Officers in the latter class claim that they should be in receipt of automatic increases. I do not think the claim is justified, but the value of their positions is fixed and by grade increments the officers reach their maximum salaries. This year we provide about £11,000 for grade increases. The estimated expenditure on education for the current financial year is £571,802; for medical and health, £176,313; for police, £179,489; for gaols, £23,302; lunacy, £88,864; State children, £93,907; aborigines, £6,815; or a total of £1,140,492. The estimated receipts from taxation represent £1,016,000, and £94,823 which will be received as revenue by these departments. These figures show that the estimated expenditure will be £29,669 more than the total of the departmental collections and the taxation together. This means that we spend much more on free services than we get by way of taxation. I trust hon. members will realise what that means. Last year the deficiency was £30,952. The additional revenue we will receive from the liquor tax will improve the position this year.

Taxation comparisons.

While I am on the subject of taxation expenditure I would like to mention that I am often confronted with this statement, "But Victoria is very much more lightly taxed than Western Australia." I am also told that Western Australians who remain here and pay taxation, advise other people not to invest their money in Western Australia but to invest it in Victoria because taxation is lighter there. That is not so, really, and I cannot understand why people who pay income tax do not know that there is something more than income tax that they must pay. When people talk of taxation, of course they always have in mind income tax; it seems to be always income tax and no other form of taxation. I assure hon. members that taxation is actually higher in Victoria than it is in this State.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: In 1921 it was about 6s. per head.

The PREMIER: Two of my friends, members of another place, have stated that they have advised some of their friends to invest their capital in Victoria because they would be very much better off there. The

people of Victoria are just as heavily taxed, under the heading of income taxation as we are here, because whilst we tax the man on the higher rung, Victoria levies most of her taxation from the man on the lower rung. I wish to compare taxation in Victoria with taxation in Western Australia. Hon. members know full well that there is little difference between the per capita taxation in Victoria and that of Western Australia, but my desire is that the public also should know.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The public do not know because they have been told differently by the chief.

The Minister for Agriculture: Whose chief?

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Yours.

The PREMIER: In Victoria in 1920-21 the taxation per head was £2 10s. 4d. and that of Western Australia £2 17s. 9d., or a difference of only 7s. 5d. In New South Wales it was £3 10s. 8d. and in Queensland £4 17s. 11d. South Australia's figure was £3 6s. and that of Tasmania £3 6s. 7d. Thus members will see that taxation in Western Australia was the lowest except that of Victoria.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: We become the highest when the Federal taxes are imposed.

The PREMIER: In 1921-22 Victoria's taxation per head was £2 7s. 8d. and that of Western Australia £2 11s. 5d., or only 3s. 9d. more than that of Victoria. In 1920-21 Western Australia collected 7s. 5d. per head more than Victoria and spent 6s. 11d. per head more on education than did Victoria. Hon. members will thus see that one item alone nearly balances the amount. But there is something more than income tax to pay in Victoria, and do not let us be deceived. It is my desire that we should have lower taxation because I think it is too high at the present time. At the same time we must have money with which to carry on and with which to balance the ledger. I wish to point out what taxation really does mean. For instance, taxation includes probate and succession dues. In Victoria in 1920-21 this source produced £702,463, while in Western Australia the total was merely £42,407. Thus Victoria raised under that heading alone sixteen times the amount collected in this State. Of course I do not lose sight of the fact that the population of Victoria is four and a-half times greater than that of Western Australia. By means of stamp duties Victoria raised in the same year £930,221, whilst we raised £177,404. Victoria's collection was five times greater than ours. By way of land tax Victoria received £331,756, whilst we collected £57,791.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You will have to increase that.

The PREMIER: In Victoria licenses yielded £274,020 whilst we recovered £41,020. Under the heading of "Other taxation" Victoria received £17,170 and Western Australia collected £57,448. We impose a tax on the totalisator which was responsible in the year under review for the figure I just quoted.

That tax does not exist in Victoria. The total receipts in that year came to £3,846,833 in Victoria, while our figures were £953,359. As I have told hon. members, Victoria's population is four and a-half times greater than ours, and hon. members will see that the taxation in that State is also four and a-half times greater than ours. I am not defending our taxation and I do not desire to have more than I require for the purpose of carrying on the government of the country. At the same time I hope to be able to reduce taxation some day.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: When you occupy this side of the House?

The PREMIER: I will do it before I leave this bench.

Mr. Heron: Then you have not much time.

The PREMIER: We are used to sitting on this side and we intend to remain here.

Opportunities for Investors.

Having compared the taxation in Victoria with that of Western Australia, I think I am entitled to ask that those people who make money in this State should invest it here. We give them cheap rents for leases of all kinds, and we supply cheap land for farming, and it is not right, when the time arrives for them to give up work, that they should take their money away to a country where they think the taxation is less. Neither is it right that any of our legislators should say to those people that they would be better off if they invested their money in a State like Victoria. I think I have convinced hon. members that taxation in that State is not lighter than ours. I admit that the income tax is lighter in Victoria for the man with a big income. We in Western Australia start with a 2d. rate, while Victoria starts with 3d. My friends, too, have a bad habit of quoting the rate of the tax levied on incomes from personal exertion. In Victoria on a £500 taxable income derived from personal exertion the rate is 3d., while on property it is 6d. In Western Australia it is 4.8d. It will be seen therefore that for the average person there is not much difference. Up to £1,500 there is not a great difference in the tax on property. In Victoria it is 10d., whilst in Western Australia it is 11.8d. I have been told that we shall not be able to secure the investment of money in Western Australia while the income tax is so high. But a man who has money to invest will ask himself where he can best place it. If he is a wise man he will not say, "How much income tax will I have to pay?" He will ask himself, "How much can I get for any money I may invest in Western Australia?" If with £20,000 the investor can make £5,000 a year in Western Australia, as against a lower return in Victoria, he will willingly pay our income tax. The fact remains that money is coming to Western Australia for investment. Let me ask hon. members how is it that money is going to New South Wales, as it is going to no other State in the Common-

wealth. We know that in New South Wales taxation is higher than it is in Victoria. When we examine the position thoroughly we find that Victoria raises money by means of taxation to the same extent as we do, though by different methods. In these days of high taxation, if there is a tax to which we might take exception, it is the probate duty. Previously income taxation was very light and it was proper that an estate, on the death of the owner, should pay heavily to the State. But when an individual, as he does to-day, pays nearly half his income, chiefly to the Federal Government, it becomes a little hard that probate duty should be as high as it is to both State and Commonwealth. This tax produces considerable revenue for Victoria.

Mr. Davies: But it does not matter so much when a man is dead.

The PREMIER: But it does matter. A man may leave a business to three or four sons and the probate duty may impose a considerable strain on that business. I believe that, given some capital, a man will make far more money in Western Australia than he could in Victoria, for opportunities here are greater, trade is good, and he can rent business premises at a lower rate.

Mr. Willcock: There are not many business premises at a low rental in Western Australia.

The PREMIER: Victoria was developed on cheap money many years ago—her public men saw to that—and to-day her people are rich because of that. But, taking all forms of taxation, and the greater cost of land in Victoria, it is clear that land men are much better off in Western Australia. This State was standing still while Victoria was developing.

Mr. Harrison: That was before 1894.

The PREMIER: And since then, Victoria took full advantage of cheap money, cheap labour, and cheap land to secure cheap development.

Mr. Angelo: Would not South Australia, with her higher taxation of 1s. 9d., provide for us a better comparison than Victoria?

The PREMIER: I specially told hon. members that I was taking the lowest taxed State of all.

Mr. Angelo: South Australia's development is more akin to our own.

The PREMIER: How hopeless it seems to make the hon. member understand! I have been endeavouring to point out that income taxation is not the only taxation, and I have been to some trouble to show what the other taxes are. I have purposely taken Victoria, as the lowest taxed State, to compare with Western Australia. In South Australia the average income tax is more than it is in this State. I am sorry that I should have wasted my time.

Hon. P. Collier: Even the wise men nod sometimes.

The PREMIER: Let me tell hon. members what is happening. Notwithstanding the taxation, people are coming from the East to take up station properties and buy farms in Western Australia.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Of course, you are now talking to your own supporters. We over here know all about it.

The PREMIER: Also they are coming from the East to set up in business here, and I venture to say that before very long they will be coming in greater numbers. Of course, 4s. 7d. in the £ is enormously high taxation. Nobody wants to have it so high, but we must get straight before reducing taxation.

Hon. T. Walker: You will never get straight until you reduce taxation.

The PREMIER: There was a time when the hon. member thought taxation a blessing in disguise. I hope hon. members will examine for themselves the figures I have given, and that those figures dealing with taxation in Victoria, as compared with our own, will be fully understood.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: If hon. members will take the Commissioner's report, they will see it all there. The President of the Primary Producers' Association can go and hide himself.

The Deficit.

The PREMIER. To the 30th June last the deficit was £5,910,929. Of this, there was funded £3,785,341, while £2,125,588 was not funded. We have authority to fund another £301,364, and an Act will be necessary to fund £1,824,224. When speaking on the Address-in-reply I omitted to say that I would deal with the deficit in the Budget. However, I do not propose to touch upon it at any great length to-night, nor to deal exhaustively with loan expenditure, because we shall have the Loan Estimates down in the course of the next few days. During last year we spent from loan £3,660,514. Of that amount £2,368,428, or 65 per cent. of the total, was granted to farmers. I do not think it necessary at this stage to deal further with last year's expenditure, but I should like to point out that our net loan indebtedness, as at the 30th June, 1923, was £49,704,803, the gross loan indebtedness being £58,483,854, and the sinking fund £8,781,051. Against our net loan indebtedness we have, well invested in revenue earning concerns, advances to individuals £10,900,000; public utilities and trading concerns, £32,400,000; transferred properties, money owing by Commonwealth, £829,000 and group settlements £40,000, or a total of £44,569,000. From this have to be deducted water supply debentures not included in the public debt, £545,000. In addition many other works are directly or indirectly revenue producing, works such as the outer harbours at Geraldton and Albany, representing £527,000; public buildings £918,000; rabbit-proof fence £329,000; plant and stock suspense £115,000, and other small amounts, the complete list representing £1,925,000. The total net indebtedness, therefore, not covered by investments is less than £4,000,000. So it will be seen that our loan money has been well invested. That is the point I wish to make. For the most part it is earning interest. Sometimes people are heard saying that the State is on the verge of bankruptcy. Why, if we

were to sell our public utilities to-morrow, we should get for them very much more than we owe, and in addition, we would have the right to all our land or, alternatively, to tax so much of the land as has been sold. I have already said that finance does not mean merely the collection and expenditure of money. It means the expenditure of loan moneys, as well as of revenue. We borrow money, first to loan to individuals, secondly to construct public works that will pay, and thirdly to meet expenditure not directly interest earning. Loans to individuals for developmental work, if wisely controlled, must result in great good to the general taxpayer. We lend money to construct public works that will pay. We know that public works can only pay if they are utilised, and that their utilisation is only possible through increased production. When we lend money to individuals for developmental work we lend it to everybody, because it means increased trade, and increased revenue to the Treasury from a greater number of people. The utmost care has been exercised in the expenditure of borrowed money. It is clear that we cannot develop the State without borrowed money. Moreover, if the money is invested in the making of farms we cannot expect it back in 12 months or two years. Probably we have to carry the loan for a number of years. But for the Agricultural Bank there would have been very little agricultural development in this State. We should not be getting the millions we are from the agriculturist each year, but for that bank. Just as it was good to loan money for this work in the past, so it is good and necessary to-day.

Borrowing.

I repeat that as the result of war we found our invested money costing £700,000 more than the investments brought in. This was due to the fact that the interest had been increased during the war period. To bring back again into profitable use the facilities provided by loan money has been our great concern. We had to face an annual loss or to increase our population, our trade and our production. That annual loss of £700,000 would have gone on indefinitely had not special efforts been made to right the position. This has been done to a great extent. During the last eight years we have spent £54,000,000 in getting the State where it is to-day. I believe that with an additional £20,000,000 we can double the production resulting from the expenditure of that £54,000,000; indeed it can be done with much less. Settlement of the people on the land means greater trade activity, work for the railways and for the harbours, greater opportunity to all sections of the community. The army of taxpayers is increased, and in consequence the burden of taxation is decreased. If we merely sold land and loaned money for the exclusive benefit of the individual farmer, it might well be that objection would be raised to our work. But we do not do that. It is not a question of giving a man land

and lending him money to develop the land for his own use; it is a question of producing wealth which is to be used by all people. It is the all-round advantage of this work which makes it possible for us to come down here year after year and ask authority for the securing of more money to be loaned to farmers. We hear criticism of the new settlers. Year after year we hear people cry, "Buy your butter, your eggs and your bacon in Victoria. For goodness' sake, do not let your own acres produce it." But with the aid of this borrowed money we are going to make our own acres produce it.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Sinking Fund.

The PREMIER: Our sinking fund has now reached the respectable total of £8,781,051 as against our loan indebtedness of £58,485,854. I wish to stress the difference between our sinking fund and the sinking fund in any other State. Our sinking fund is in the hands of trustees in London, and the Government have no control over it. At June, 1922, the five other States had a combined sinking fund of £5,777,046 as against a loan indebtedness aggregating £451,920,848. If the sinking funds of the other States had been equal to ours, there would have been in the sinking funds of the Australian States not fourteen and a half millions, but eighty-one millions. Therefore, the Eastern States have not done so well as we have. Further, their sinking funds are not invested in London. For the most part they are kept in the public accounts. They set aside an amount from revenue that is left in the public account and therefore their sinking fund is under the control of the Government. Our sinking fund represents a very large sum against our indebtedness; it is three million pounds more against our indebtedness than the whole of the other States have against an indebtedness eight times as great.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Seeing we are paying interest on that money, do you think the sinking fund is of very much benefit?

The PREMIER: There may be no benefit at present. For 19 years out of the 23 years we have been federated, we have had a debit balance. There is no benefit at the moment, but we get interest on the sinking fund, the difference being that the interest earned by the sinking fund is added to the sinking fund, whereas we have to endeavour to square the ledger each year after paying the statutory requirements to the sinking fund.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That is, we are paying as much for interest as we are receiving by way of interest.

The PREMIER: Yes, but it is included in our indebtedness. But for our sinking fund, we would have a very small deficit indeed. If the other States of the Commonwealth had provided sinking funds in proportion to ours, they would have been in a similar position financially.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: They are saving the amount of interest to their people.

The PREMIER: No, they are not saving a penny. The sinking fund belongs to the State and is earning for the people of the State as much as they are paying on the deficit.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Not during late years.

The PREMIER: Yes; the hon. member has struck a bogey for once.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: There is no bogey about it.

The PREMIER: Yes, a bogey, absolutely. I do not contend that we are gaining very much by the sinking fund. The point is that our deficit would not be so large if we had not to provide a sinking fund. If the other States had contributed in a similar proportion to sinking funds, they too would have had deficits.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: And if we had not contributed, our deficit would not be so large.

The PREMIER: Quite so.

Workers' Compensation Fund.

The money necessary to provide a sufficient guarantee against possible losses for workers' compensation, unlike the sinking fund, is in the public account. It is computed by the statistician that the amount necessary to guarantee against any possible call on this fund is £50,000. I do not know why that sum should be wanted, but the fund now stands at that amount. The ordinary rate is provided on this year's Estimates, but if there be an overpayment during the year, it will be transferred to revenue. If the claims during the year be greater than the fund, the shortage will have to be made good. It is quite useless to build up the fund beyond £50,000. As a matter of fact, we have never needed that amount. The fund was started in August, 1913, and the annual contribution from all sources amounts to £18,000 to £20,000. The rates vary according to the different classes of employees. For clerical employees the rate is 1s. while for sawmill employes it amounts to 45s. I mention this because there is £50,000, which has been taken out of revenue, to the credit of this fund, that amount having been more than was necessary to meet claims under the Workers' Compensation Act. We insure our own workers, and I think we have been paying in more than was necessary.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You have paid out less than has been paid in.

The PREMIER: The idea is to keep the fund with a £50,000 reserve.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: It is a good advertisement for State insurance.

The PREMIER: I do not know that it has any bearing on State insurance.

Public Utilities in Metropolitan Area.

The public utilities that are entirely a responsibility of the taxpayers of the metropolitan area are water supply, sewerage,

tramways, and electricity supply. These services are specially charged against the metropolitan area. Such works are designed to serve that area, and the people whom they serve have to meet the charges. These works are not to any extent a charge against the general taxpayer. When we have a large number of people congregated in a small area, these works are more necessary and costly than they otherwise would be. We regret the increase of population in the metropolitan area, but for all that, it keeps on increasing. Our manufactures are few and small, but are steadily increasing, and I hope in time we shall be able to supply most of our requirements. More than half the population of the State is congregated within a radius of twenty miles of the G.P.O. and, notwithstanding that, we also maintain about 100,000 people in the Eastern States, people engaged in supplying our wants.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: We must try to overcome that.

The PREMIER: I entirely agree with the hon. member; we must endeavour to manufacture our own requirements. The raw material passes our door, finds its way to factories in the Eastern States and is then returned to us in the shape of finished articles.

Mr. Willcock: It is all nonsense to talk like that. If private people will not find the capital, how can you alter it?

Mr. Mann: Are not they finding the capital?

The PREMIER: I think private capital will come in and establish these works. As a matter of fact, works are being established. The other day I inspected Sandover's factory where a hundred men are employed making furniture. Many other factories have been established.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I thought they would come our way after the warning you gave employers the other day in the event of their not starting certain works.

The PREMIER: God forbid that I should go all the way with the hon. member.

Mr. Willcock: There is a smaller proportion of industrial population in Perth than in any other capital city in Australia.

Mr. Mann: The reason is obvious; there is no market except our own.

The PREMIER: There is another factor to be considered; the people in the Eastern States engaged in supplying our wants are fed by the farmers of Victoria and New South Wales. If those people were living here, our farms would have a bigger market for their produce. That would be a great advantage to our producers. I hope there will soon be many more factories in our metropolitan area, and that more employment will thus be provided. It is difficult to understand what the large population in our metropolitan area find to do. Unless more factories are established, I fear we shall have more people in our metropolitan area than we can find work for.

Lands Department.

I do not intend to deal at length with the Lands Department, because I spoke fully upon it during the debate on the Address-in-reply. During 1922-23 the applications approved, including group settlement, numbered 3,930 for areas aggregating 1,943,681 acres, an average of 495 acres each. This constitutes almost a record, the figures having been exceeded in 1911-12 only, when the area approved was 1,970,082. The pastoral leases last year represented 5,738,359 acres, but the territorial revenue is less by £4,360, due to the fact that during the first five years of occupation, conditional purchase land pays interest on only the cost of survey. The leases issued five years ago are coming into full payment now, but selection in 1917-18 and 1918-19 was very small indeed and so our revenue from this source must decrease for a year or two until we reach the period when the larger sales will come into full payment. Of course, year by year payments for land are being completed. For these reasons, our territorial revenue will be less this year by £4,360.

Agricultural Bank.

The Agricultural Bank has outstanding authorisations amounting to £1,505,199, representing chiefly work to be done in the wheat belt. There are some people who argue that we are developing only the South-West. As a matter of fact, our authorisations for the wheat belt are twice as great as the authorisations for the wetter portions of the State.

Mr. Willcock: All the same, that money is not being used.

The PREMIER: Yes, the farmers used nearly a million pounds last year. During the eight weeks ended the 21st August, the authorisations amounted to £165,950. This means that a tremendous amount of work is waiting to be done, and I would be very glad if the clearing could be done at once, because we want the increased production that this expenditure will bring to the State. I need not discuss the Agricultural Bank more fully, because a further opportunity will be afforded when the Loan Estimates are considered. It has done magnificent work. If it had not been for the Agricultural Bank we should have been in a bad way from the point of view of wheat development.

Mr. Latham: You are putting too much work upon it.

Mr. Willcock: It is a State trading concern.

The PREMIER: I do not know what the member for York means.

Mr. Latham: You are putting the group settlements upon it now.

The PREMIER: I do not think the bank has too much work to do. Under the system of decentralisation the work is made much lighter. The principal of the bank on the ordinary account to the 30th June last

was £2,949,427 and the soldiers' account £4,216,992. The interest owing on ordinary account was £261,805 and on soldiers' account £289,378. The repayments to the bank on the ordinary account, apart from the soldiers was £1,611,003. Soldiers have repaid £156,388, but they have not yet covered the period of repayments.

Industries Assistance Board.

The Industries Assistance Board advances for 1922-23 amounted to £1,103,085. Since its inception the board have advanced £7,204,160. Wheat collections for the year ended 30th June last amounted to £520,332, and since the inception of the board, £6,501,291 has been received on account of wheat grown by the clients of the board. The balance outstanding to date is £1,349,653. Altogether 70 men paid off their indebtedness to the board last year. Since the inception of the board 1,190 men have paid off their indebtedness. Including soldiers there are now 1,797 men on the board. We have decentralised the work and now have offices in such centres as Northam, Bruce Rock, Kununoppin, Kellerberrin, Geraldton, Narrogin, Katanning, Banbury, and Perth. These offices are doing good work. It will be possible for them to collect the interest and redemption money as it becomes due from time to time. When all the accounts were paid in Perth the system was more difficult to control. By decentralisation alone can we achieve any good results.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: There is not much trouble in collecting interest when the Government pay it.

The PREMIER: Under the Soldier Settlement Scheme, from its inception to the 31st July last, there have been 8,155 applications for land, 6,644 certificates issued, and 4,941 loans approved. The Agricultural Bank approvals amount to £5,957,671, and the advances to £4,414,805. The Lands Department expenditure on this account was £1,112,973, on the purchase of estates, drainage, clearing, etc., including expenditure on estates not yet settled. The Public Works Department expenditure on roads and drainage amounted to £118,474.

Group Settlements.

We now come to group settlements. There are 72 groups established, comprising 1,401 men, and the expenditure has been, to the 31st July last, £476,500. Group settlement was decided upon as the best means of developing the wet South-West. We always have advanced for clearing land, for fencing it, for erecting houses, etc. We are doing no more than this under the group settlement scheme. What we are doing, and we did not do this in the case of the wheat lands, is to provide supervision. The men on the group settlements are not working as the wheat farmers did. The wheatgrower went out, took up his block, and managed his own concern, and he got full value for the work he did.

Mr. Willecock: And provided his own sustenance.

The PREMIER: Not at all. He was paid for all the work he did. If his clearing was worth 30s. an acre, he received 30s. an acre.

Mr. Willecock: If he liked. Thousands of people developed their holdings without getting what they should have got.

The PREMIER: A man is foolish who takes more than he needs. Between them all they got nearly 10 millions of money, including that spent on soldier settlement. Under the group settlement scheme nothing more is done in the way of advances than the bank has always done. It is the bank system applied in a different way. We supervise the work and pay a living allowance, as well as transport the goods. We control the work until such time as the settlers can live by means of their own crops. The system is the same.

Mr. Pickering: But there are more advantages.

The PREMIER: Yes. We advance the cost of the work done, and advance in a way that is more comfortable and convenient to the farmer. We adopt this system in the South-West, because a man cannot go alone into that area and make much impression on the forest. As one of a group of 20, he can clear his land under supervision much more economically than he would otherwise do, and can expect to produce more quickly than under any other arrangement. The question we have to ask ourselves is whether the land is worth developing, and whether it is capable of producing wealth in sufficient quantities to make it pay.

Mr. Pickering: Unquestionably!

Mr. Willecock: That is not the question. The question is, how soon we can get our money back.

The PREMIER: The question is, do we come from the North or do we belong to the South?

Mr. Latham: We belong, first, to Western Australia.

The PREMIER: If we come from Geraldton the scheme is not quite so good.

Mr. Willecock: The question is, do we get our money back?

The PREMIER: I have taken 1,400 men, principally working men and those who have been in the State some little time, and given them a chance. They are working well and I believe will make good. Some people say, "Go on importing your foodstuffs from the East." Here, at the end of 93 years of development in this State, we are buying two million pounds worth of foodstuffs annually from the Eastern States.

Mr. Lutey: There is no necessity to go on doing that.

The PREMIER: People are asking if they can continue to find this sum in cash each year. Is the land of this State to lie idle while the lands in the Eastern States produce all this stuff? Is it any wonder that in Victoria taxation is less than it is here, when that State is living upon the people in this

country and in all the other States? If we are content to buy our food from Victoria, whilst our own lands, which are equally as good as theirs, are allowed to lie idle, we ought to say so.

Mr. Willecock: I do not think people do say that.

The PREMIER: The question is: do people oppose the development of our lands which can produce all this foodstuff? It will be difficult for us to find this cash every year. Last year we imported £7,700,000 worth of foodstuffs and manufactured goods from the Eastern States. They levy a toll on all these goods, and our money is going out all the while. The time has arrived when we should feed our own people with the stuff we now buy elsewhere. We must stop this outgoing every year. I know the South-West is good, and that the people on the groups are working well. The other day a member of another place said they were earning about 2s. 6d. a day. As a farmer, I do not think the gentleman who made that remark has worked as hard as these men are working.

Mr. Teesdale: He never worked in his life. He has been talking all his life.

The PREMIER: Not only will the South-West provide the foodstuffs we require, but provide export commodities in the shape of meat, butter, cheese, fruit, etc. We can guarantee the land, and can guarantee that the men on the groups are working. New Zealand, a country that produces just the things the South-West will produce, exported in one year £37,000,000 worth of butter, meat, cheese, bacon and produce of all kind, as against 7½ millions exported from Australia. There is some value in a country like the South-West. We cannot let it lie idle any longer. It must be developed and settled. The people who opposed wheat development, and must now acknowledge that they were wrong, are now opposing the settlement of the South-West.

Mr. Marshall: Who are opposing it?

The PREMIER: I will not name them. The hon. member can read the papers.

Mr. Underwood: Which paper, the "Primary Producer"?

Mr. Marshall: That is not a newspaper.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Read the report of the primary producers' conference.

The PREMIER: They are not the only people opposing it.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: They are the principal people.

The PREMIER: We shall be settling British migrants very soon, and during the next five years shall be using money on which Western Australia will pay one-third of the interest, and the Commonwealth and the British Government between them the other two-thirds. This arrangement will apply to the railway to be built from Pemberton to Denmark. This will be the cheapest money for land development that has ever been used for that purpose in Western Australia. The group settlements are under good supervision. The type of settler is good, and likely

to change the face of that country very speedily. If there is any better method of developing the South-West the Government will be glad to hear of it.

Workers' Homes' Board.

I now come to the Workers' Homes Board. The total amount invested is £505,705, plus Treasury bills, etc., £27,321, a total of £533,026. Last year 85 country cottages were erected at a cost of £23,000 and 43 other cottages at a cost of £20,000. Next year there will be available for investment £44,000 from repayments and £25,000 which is now held as Treasury investments, making a total of £69,000. Last year we approved the building of 152 houses, 128 of which were erected. Wonderful results have been achieved by the Board. It is a splendidly managed department. The amount outstanding from the investment of this large sum of money is about £1,700 at the end of each month, this being current interest and repayments.

Mr. Marshall: Who inaugurated the scheme?

Mr. Teesdale: It was won at a raffle.

The PREMIER: I know who suggested it; I also know who inaugurated it and who now manages it.

Hon. P. Collier: It is one of the disastrous things you inherited.

The PREMIER: When my hon. friends now opposite were sitting here with the will of the people, they did this work. We have not inherited anything. We have had the work passed on to us as managers for the people. The results are not due to the Government at all. The managing board, together with the secretary and staff, are to be credited with the results.

Mr. Marshall: It is a blessing this has no resemblance to State trading.

The PREMIER: We can thank heaven for that. Payments of interest and repayments of capital have been regularly made. Lately the board have not erected any homes in the city, and that is, in view of the circumstances, a good thing. About £25,000 per month is being spent on war service homes, which, with the other work going on in the city, absorb all the tradesmen we have. Moreover, the erection of buildings is costing altogether too much just now. It is not a bit of use asking a working man to pay interest, repayments, rates and taxes on a house costing £600. If we are to do anything, it should be something that will be a real help to the man. I trust we shall induce some of the local authorities to allow wooden houses to be erected. This will enable workers' homes to be put up at reasonable cost. I do not think any man earning £4 or even £4 10s. per week can afford to pay 30s. per week for his home. Such a deduction from his wages is altogether too great.

Mr. Marshall: If the working men go far enough out, they can build aboriginal mia-mias.

The PREMIER: I am very pleased to be able to report the wonderful results which have followed the operations of the board.

Hon. P. Collier: Notwithstanding the good case we were able to produce to the Commonwealth people, they would not place the work until they had had the experience.

The PREMIER: The soldiers would have been very much better off if our Workers' Homes Board had had the handling of the war service homes scheme.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You might tell us how much the Workers' Homes Board have paid to Consolidated Revenue.

The PREMIER: We are lending money for the erection of workers' homes at 5 and $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You did that at the start, when you were paying $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for it.

The PREMIER: The Government paid six per cent. for money while the board were lending money at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You have been after the board's money.

The PREMIER: We have taken care of it for them.

Agriculture.

Agricultural development is proceeding very satisfactorily. In a few days the Minister for Agriculture will tell the Committee all about what is happening. Meantime I wish to mention that the estimated area under crop this year is 2,773,000 acres, as against 2,273,000 acres last year, or an increase of 500,000 acres. I hope that increase will be regarded as satisfactory. I am anxious to raise our wheat production to 30 million bushels as soon as possible. We should now realise that wheat production does mean the bringing of a great deal of work into the State. It is helpful to all sections of the people, and we cannot possibly have too much of it. Every acre of good land in the wheat area should be cleared and brought under crop as speedily as possible. The expenditure on agricultural development will be fully justified by increased production. The Department of Agriculture are now, as always, paying special attention to wheat production and the breeding of new wheats, as well as to the development of our agricultural areas generally and to the education of a number of our young men, who will become the agricultural experts of the future. The Minister is taking a very keen interest in the marketing of our produce.

Fruitgrowing.

It is a strange thing that in this State, which produces so much fruit, so few of the people get enough of it. I have thought that one-half of the people in Western Australia do not get any fruit at all. However, the Minister has taken in hand the question of marketing fruit not only within the State, but elsewhere as well. I do not

know how in America they get rid of their dried fruit production. Only recently I noticed that the United States have an immense and increasing export of currants and raisins. The member for Kanowna (Hon. T. Walker) is not here, or probably he would tell us how they manage to dispose of their raisins. The United States being a prohibition country, I suppose the people have found some other use for the grapes than turning them into wine. Our marketing arrangements should be so designed as to get the produce of the people to the consumer as cheaply as possible. The Public Works Department have been particularly active in the building of railways, roads and bridges, and in providing water supplies and drainage. I think no man is more necessary to the development of a country than is the engineer. It must be borne in mind, too, that after the work of development there are other works which must follow, and which require the services of the engineer and the architect.

Mining Development.

Now I should like to say a few words about mining development. We all acknowledge the great advantage the mining industry has been to this State. It was the first thing that brought Western Australia into prominence. It induced a great many people to come to the State. Some of them have remained here, settling in our agricultural areas and cities. Unfortunately many of those who came in the early days paid the penalty, I am sorry to say. However, gold mining has done a great deal for Western Australia. The gold production, which a few years ago represented an annual value of 8½ millions sterling, has, I regret to say, decreased in value to £2,236,325 for 1922, this being the lowest for many years. For the first six months of 1923 a further decline was shown, the production for the half-year being only £1,016,227. The Government realise the importance of the industry and realise that it is their duty to do everything possible to assist in the maintenance of the industry at least on its present level, in the hope of better things to follow. The trouble now is to keep the industry just where it is, and not let it slip back any further.

Goldfields Water Scheme.

The Government have determined to ask Parliament to agree to a reduction of water charges as a means towards reducing mining costs. The capital cost of the Goldfields Water Scheme is £3,432,000, and the sinking fund now amounts to £2,741,000. The general taxpayer has contributed towards the scheme a sum of £1,712,556. If the sinking fund were invested at 3½ per cent. it would in 1927 amount to £3,032,000, leaving a total indebtedness against the scheme of £400,000.

Hon. P. Collier: That is without any more payments.

The PREMIER: The sinking fund has been altogether too much in respect of a loan of which the greater part was obtained at three per cent., only a small portion being at four per cent. I propose to ask the House to agree that the capitalisation shall now be fixed at £600,000, in view of the stage which will be reached in 1927. Had the gold mines kept fully going instead of striking this time of trouble, we should by 1927 be in a position to reduce very materially the cost of water. We are paying interest on the capital cost of the scheme, £3,432,000, to-day. We have to go on paying interest on that amount until 1927. On the other hand, if we could by some means capitalise the balance owing, we should be in a position to assist the gold mining industry now to the extent that in ordinary circumstances we should be able to do in 1927. The fact that the sinking fund was fixed at far too high a rate is proved by the present position of that fund. I propose to ask the House to agree to a reduction of £40,000 per annum on the water to be supplied for mining purposes, and, in addition, to some reduction in the cost of water supply to residents of Kalgoorlie, because one cannot continue to charge the present rate of 7s. per hundred gallons to the householder if the cost of water to the mines is reduced. I do not know that we can give the householder quite the same reduction, but we can give him some relief. I do not propose to say to-night just what the reduced rates for water will be, but the total assistance to the goldfields supplied by the Kalgoorlie main will be £45,000 for the year—£40,000 to the mines and about £5,000 to the householders. I hope that that will be regarded as satisfactory and will result in considerable advantage to the mining companies. The companies will not be allowed to put any of this money into their pockets. They will have to do solid work for the advantages they are to get. I hope that the result of the concession will be to enable them to treat lower-grade ores and do some development work. At any rate, the matter is one for arrangement. The Government have discussed the subject to some extent, but to-night I merely wish to tell hon. members how we propose to make it possible for the reduction to be effected straight away. It ought to be made now, and the industry ought to be helped in every way possible.

State Batteries.

We have many State batteries doing excellent work, and the Government buy from them the tailings. The Government treat the tailings, and the proceeds, less treatment charges, are paid into revenue. Sometimes the Government have held parcels of tailings for years. When the gold premium was being paid—

Mr. Chesson: The Government have the big end of the stick. They do not pay anything under three pennyweights.

Mr. Underwood: Why do the Government hold the tailings for years?

The PREMIER: The proceeding I have described is not right. The tailings should be purchased and kept in a separate account, and the proceeds of tailings treated should be paid into a separate account.

Mr. Underwood: The money should be paid to the man who gets the stone.

The PREMIER: In future this will be done from a suspense account so that we shall control the investment from the Treasury. It is really an investment. It will make a difference to the revenue this year and will put the matter on a proper footing. The tailings on hand to-day cost the revenue nearly £16,000. These tailings are lying at the State batteries awaiting treatment. They will be dealt with in the course of time and the proceeds will be paid into revenue from which the purchase price of the tailings came.

Improved Financial Position.

I have already informed the Committee that the improved financial position is largely due to the railways. I believe that with improved trade and the better management that now obtains in connection with the railways, this result will be obtained. I am able to tell the Committee that we expect the deficit to be decreased this year to the extent of £298,000, due largely to the earnings of our public utilities, and principally the railways. I hope hon. members realise that it is all important that these public utilities shall be made to pay. They should pay working expenses and interest charges. I hope that with increased production and trade, we shall be able to reduce freight charges. The land adjacent to the existing railways is being rapidly improved, especially in the wheat belt. I hope the goldfields will revive and the earnings in that industry markedly increase. This year the estimated deficiency in connection with the working of the railways is £110,000, as against a deficiency of £217,725 for the financial year 1922-23. This shows an estimated improvement this year compared with last year of £107,725. This is satisfactory. It reflects credit on the management. In all great concerns, such as the Railway Department with its enormous earnings and enormous expenditure, it is principally a question of management and I think the management of the Railway Department now is quite satisfactory. The increase in the Education vote this year is £8,620. This is due to the opening of new schools. The policy of land settlement and the development of the back country generally—to some extent the opening up of new goldfields also affects the position—make it necessary for the Government to open new schools, and each extra school means added cost. It is realised that the wealth of the State is largely added to by the wonderful success of the pastoral industry in the North-West, particularly by the success of the sheep stations. Some hon. members have complained about the rate of tax we charge on the higher incomes. I admit that 4s. 7d. in the £ is a high tax,

but as against that it has to be urged that we charge a very low rental for our pastoral lands.

Mr. Underwood: The State charges a lot more than the Federal Government charge for pastoral lands in the Northern territory.

The PREMIER: But our lands are worth a great deal more! It has to be admitted, however, that lease rents are fairly low and it is because of this that the sheep men are in a very satisfactory position. I should be very glad indeed to reduce taxation but I do not quite know how it can be done. Men having sheep stations in Western Australia are particularly fortunate. So much is this so that men with holdings in the Eastern States are coming to the West to buy stations here, because they realise our sheep lands are so valuable and safe, and constitute a desirable form of investment. I am sorry I cannot say the same regarding the cattle stations in the North. They are under a cloud for the moment and certainly are not having so good a time as the sheep men. I hope their good time will come.

Mr. Underwood: The cattle stations are doing well in these parts where they have markets.

The PREMIER: Some have not got markets. I have been referring to the cattle stations in the Kimberleys, where they have no markets.

Mr. Underwood: The cattle stations in the North-West are all right.

The PREMIER: At the Wyndham Meat Werks we will treat 25,000 head this year, but the price to the squatter is not a fair one. It will represent far less than he should receive.

Cotton.

A good deal has been said about cotton growing. I am glad indeed that it has proved successful at Wyndham. There are one or two growers there and it is certain that cotton can be grown from Wyndham to Derby, particularly in the wetter portions. It can be grown satisfactorily at any rate from Camden Harbour to Wyndham.

Mr. Underwood: We got some this year.

The PREMIER: We did not get much, but what we got showed that cotton will grow there. Four tons of our cotton will be sent to England for exhibition purposes. I know that the question whether cotton can be grown successfully here has been discussed, but I think it has been solved by the experiments at Wyndham. The experience at Derby was not so satisfactory.

Hon. P. Collier: The experiment at Wyndham was carried out by private enterprise and the one at Derby by the Government.

The PREMIER: Not by the Government.

Hon. P. Collier: But under Government supervision.

The PREMIER: Quite so.

Mr. Underwood: That is against State trading!

The PREMIER: The experiments carried out at Wyndham were much better.

Hon. P. Collier: It does not speak well for the management of the North-West Department.

The PREMIER: It speaks well for Wyndham.

Hon. P. Collier: That is so.

More People.

The PREMIER: I want to say a few words regarding migration. We have had a lot of discussion on that question. We must realise that increased population means increased opportunities for all. We must get that into our minds. We must realise that Australia has 5 per cent. of the population she should have and the development of the Commonwealth as compared with the possibilities, is very little indeed. It is less in Western Australia proportionately than in any other part of Australia. Population means work for everyone, and it does not mean taking work from anyone. I believe it means raising everyone to a higher standard of living; it means the provision of better markets and better facilities. If we would only realise how difficult it is with our small population so scattered throughout the State, to provide those facilities that civilisation demands that people should have, then we would see to it that we secured more people. It goes without saying that in this State we have all the elements necessary for the creation of wealth in abundance for all our needs. What we require is population. Our lands from the metropolis to Albany, from here to Geraldton and the goldfields are, for the most part, idle for want of people. We cannot make those lands produce unless we have more population. We cannot create wealth without population or provide comforts that the people should have at the various centres. There are some people who think that if we bring more people to Western Australia there will be less work available. Nothing of the kind! There will be work for all, so long as we direct the policy wisely. It has been said—it was said at Fremantle yesterday—it is good to have immigration but we must have careful selection. The migrants in England are selected carefully. Last year 3,000 people paid their own passages to Western Australia and we brought out about 6,000. They were carefully selected by our own people. We must be content with the Englishman as we find him.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: If you saw some at Fremantle yesterday, you would not say that.

The PREMIER: I cannot see everyone. The Englishman as I saw him at Home is not a giant but he is a useful worker. Of course, if we can get better men, we should get them. The fact remains that the selection is made carefully by our own people who were sent home for that purpose. It is said that we must provide markets and that we should produce more. Over-populated countries must buy foodstuffs and raw materials. Surely we can sell to the Old World much of the foodstuffs, clothing materials, and raw

materials generally that they require. I have already pointed out on many occasions that we buy food that should be produced here. This is the first time in our history when we have been able to bring out migrants without cost and helped with money for the development of the country. That means work for all. By the cost of transport and by the interest we shall have saved, we will have nearly £2,000,000 to help in the work of settlement and development. I cannot understand how anyone can object to immigration, particularly if they believe Australia should remain a white man's country.

Mr. J. Thomson: Who objects?

The PREMIER: I believe if Australia is to be kept white and kept safe, we must have more people. The member for Claremont (Mr. J. Thomson) asks who objects. He does not object to it. He did wonderful work for us in England. He addressed many meetings and he went to Scotland where he advised every man and woman to come to Western Australia. He told them that Scotland was a wonderful country, but Western Australia was a much better place. He told them there was no need for them to have a great deal of agricultural experience. He told them they could come to Western Australia from their trades and from the cities and that they could make a living here and do well on the land. He did very great work for Western Australia. He addressed the members of the House of Commons—not in the House itself but in one of the Committee rooms. The member for Claremont faced hostile gatherings. He displayed great courage in confronting irate Scotsmen, who did not want to know anything about Western Australia. The hon. member knows how difficult it is to get migrants.

Mr. Pickering: He has slipped a bit since he came back.

The PREMIER: Hon. members have expressed satisfaction with the arrangements and I am content to leave it at that. Some people, including Sir Walter James and Mr. Lee Steere, say I should have got better terms from the Imperial Government. No one suggested I should get even the terms I did before I left for London. It is easy when one has made a bargain and got a million pounds, for someone else to say that I should have got two millions. It would have been better had these gentlemen made their suggestions before I left the State. I certainly heard no suggestion from them. However, I did my best for the State while in London. It was difficult for me to get the Imperial Government to give me the terms I got. I believe they will have to find more money and send more of the British people to the Dominions. In Britain they have millions too many, while in Australia we have vast empty spaces. England must take food to her population or else take her people to the food. I hope that if the British Government adopt the latter course they will send their people to Western Australia.

Federation and the State.

I want to say a few words about the effect of Federation upon Western Australia. A fortnight ago the Minister for Customs, Mr. Austin Chapman, when delivering a speech at the Commercial Travellers' Club in Melbourne said:—

Australia had 12 superfluous Parliaments, and, as they would say in business circles, six ditto Governors. He expressed his own views and not those of his Government. "In Australia," said Mr. Chapman, "we have seven Governors, 14 Parliaments—I thought we had seven Parliaments, but Mr. Chapman says we have 14—

— and 750 members. No business could remain solvent on those lines. I have the greatest respect for our Governors; they help to keep alight the lamp of culture and to strengthen the links of Empire, but there is no necessity for this kind of thing. We are as British as they are in Britain."

There is in Australia one Parliament, not seven, too many. I refer to the Federal Parliament, from which is emanating the smaller States movement.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I see they are starting a committee with the object of creating more Parliaments. On that committee Mr. Prowse represents this State.

The PREMIER: I cannot think what possessed Mr. Chapman to make this speech. While in Melbourne I met him. He is a very nice man.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: It was to further the policy of unification.

The PREMIER: Yes, all part of the movement for the cutting up of Australia into smaller States. The small States movement is identical with the unification movement. The Federal Government have very little authority in Australia. They have control of defence, of health, of the post office, and of one or two other things. But they have an unlimited right to tax, and apparently their great desire is to do far more than they have already done in that respect. There is no restriction to their power of taxation. Nor could there be, because the Government controlling defence, responsible for war, had to be provided with the right to collect money to meet war costs. But it was never intended that they should exercise their taxation right except for essential purposes, such as war.

Hon. P. Collier: Our war debt is four hundred million, as against Canada's war debt of three hundred million.

The PREMIER: The Federal Government have the right to tax to meet war costs, but they are not justified in using that right for any other purpose. Their responsibilities are as nothing as compared with the responsibilities of the States. Yet Mr. Chapman made that speech! If the people of Australia had understood what Federation meant, they would never have federated. Nothing that the advocates of Federation said would happen has happened, while everything they said

would not happen has come to pass, with the result that we are in our present position today. The Federal Government have no right to do more than carry on the government of the country under the Commonwealth Constitution. They have no right to spend their time trying to cut up the existing States into smaller States, like so many glorified municipal council or road boards. Of course, if they succeed in setting up new State Governments, in our North, in our South-West, and away east at Eucla, they will have some control, because they will then be able to dominate the position. At present they have no control. The States have 95 per cent. of the responsibility. We are sovereign States, and our rights over many things are absolute. The Commonwealth Government cannot come into this State and own an acre of territory, except by purchase of the State Government. They cannot put a penny into the ground, build a yard of railway, or do anything else of the sort. Mr. Chapman's speech has prompted me to look into this question. I find that the war costs, that is the interest on war loans, pensions and repatriation, etc., for 1923-24 represents £28,439,635. I find that in 1913-14 the Commonwealth expenditure was £15,458,776, while in 1923-24, or ten years later, the expenditure, excluding war costs, had risen to £33,456,463. That £33,000,000 which the Commonwealth Government have to spend is clear revenue, and is not far short of the total clear revenue of all the States of the Commonwealth put together. That is revenue which does not mean earnings by railways and other public utilities; it is just money received and paid out. It means that during the last ten years the Federal expenditure, apart from war costs, has gone up by £18,000,000. I ask any hon. member to say in what direction Federal activities are helpful to the people of the State? We have control of this territory of Western Australia. Every acre of the country is in the control of the State Government. We are responsible for the State's development, for its railways, for the education of the people, the health of the people, and for the opportunities afforded to individuals. We are responsible for increasing the population, for increasing production, for all the things that do anything for the country. And every step we take adds to the Federal revenue, without charge against the Federal Government. The first cup of tea or glass of beer which a new arrival drinks in Fremantle, pays toll to the Federal Government, but nothing to the State Government. It is a happy position for the Federal Government, because the increased revenue is theirs, while the increased charges are ours. It is true the Federal Government pay us a per capita amount of 25s., a special grant of £120,000, and £29,000 interest on transferred properties. From these three sources last year we received a total amount of £583,156. This year the estimated amount is £585,331. But let us look at taxation. Last year, the Federal Government collected in this State

£2,359,443. In taxation they received £715,224, and in Customs £1,002,452.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I am not so sure about the Customs, for a lot of our goods came from the Eastern States.

The PREMIER: But that was the amount they collected from Customs in this State. The goods transhipped from the Eastern States to Western Australia paid duty in the Eastern States. From Exeise, they collected £572,590, and from other sources £69,177. So, after paying the per capita amount, and the special grant, totalling £554,231, they got last year £1,805,712 in taxation from our people, as against the £987,558 taxation collected by the State Government, which, added to the per capita payment and the special grant, gave the State Government a total of £1,541,789 as against the £1,805,212 paid to the Federal Treasurer.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You can add to that a quarter of a million for duty paid in the Eastern States on goods transhipped to the West.

The PREMIER: Yes, they took that amount quite apart from Customs dues and other collections on goods transhipped from the East to Western Australia. Now I ask hon. members if they think we are getting all we should from this enormous sum collected each year by the Federal Government. When Mr. Chapman said there were in Australia 12 Parliaments too many—he meant six—he ought to have said there was one too many, and that the one getting all the money but doing none of the work. Under Federation, three-quarters of the Customs revenue was to have come to the States. It did, when first we federated. Now we get 25s. per head of the population. Western Australia was to receive a special grant of £250,000 per annum, decreasing by £10,000 per annum. It is now down to £120,000 for this year. If there was good reason for that special payment of £250,000 ten years ago, there is an even better reason for it to-day. Mr. Bruce, when he was here, said we should get £100,000 more than we were getting if we accepted his financial proposals. I asked for that £100,000, but I am afraid we are not likely to get it. In 1911 the Federal Government took control of banking and deprived the State of the tax on note issue. In 1912 they opened a savings bank, and on the 30th June last the deposits in that bank represented £2,002,023. In 1913, they opened an ordinary bank and on the 30th June this year the deposits in the Western Australian branch of that bank represented £1,500,899. The Commonwealth Bank has loaned this State an aggregate of £1,733,386, whereas the total loans by the Commonwealth Bank to the Australian people represent £51,515,524.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: In that loan to the State, have you included municipal and road board loans?

The PREMIER: Yes.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Because the Commonwealth Bank has been very good to the local authorities.

The PREMIER: The bank could afford to be good to them. I am not complaining of the bank; I am endeavouring to point out what has happened to us under Federation.

Mr. Munsie: It would have been a bad job for Australia if we had not had that bank when war broke out. The other banks would have collapsed.

The PREMIER: I am afraid none of us is a high authority on great financial questions, such as banking. I do not see why the finances of Australia could not have been carried on without the Commonwealth Bank. In many ways the effect of the bank has been good, and I readily admit that the bank was very well managed by the late Sir Denison Miller. I do not object to what the bank has done to help Australia, but I strongly object to that speech by Mr. Chapman. He was talking against this Parliament, amongst others.

Financial Relationship—Commonwealth and States.

A little while ago we held a conference to consider the financial arrangements between the States and the Commonwealth. Several proposals were submitted to us, one being that we should forego the per capita payment. Indeed, that was the basis of all the Commonwealth proposals, the surrender of the per capita payment which, the Prime Minister said, now comes not from Customs, but from revenue. We contended it was part of the amount collected through the Customs. Several proposals were made, one being that the Federal Government should forego their right to taxation on incomes under £2,000. That was not welcomed. The next proposal was that we should collect from individuals, and the Federal Government from companies. None of the proposals was deemed satisfactory, and all were abandoned. The people of this State got it into their minds that the Federal Government were going to surrender the right to tax incomes up to £2,000, and that this right had been handed exclusively to the States. As a matter of fact, nothing happened, and so we are just where we were, we getting our per capita payments, and the Commonwealth getting their taxation.

Mr. Munsie: It would have been a cunning move on the part of the Federal Government if they could have persuaded you to accept the proposal.

The PREMIER: It did not come to anything. I hope members will see the people understand that we are a sovereign State, and that we are charged with the responsibility of government. Ninety-five per cent. of the responsibilities of government are with us. We must stand by that position. Any encroachment upon our rights should be resisted. The people should be told that we are a sovereign State and that our power is as great as that of the Federal Government over the things we control.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The people have more power in the Federal Parliament than in the State Parliament.

The PREMIER: They have no more power.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Yes, they have.

Mr. Munsie: Only a handful of people elect one of our Houses and that House can nullify anything we do.

The PREMIER: We are not discussing our Constitution at present. I am endeavouring to make it clear that we are solely responsible for most of the things that count in the government of this country.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: But you ask us to tell the people we are a sovereign State, and have the power. What are we to say when they tell us we have not the power?

The PREMIER: Advise them to stick to the power we have. The Federal Government have certain limited powers, and we have certain powers that are unlimited and we ought to stand by them. We should resist any attempt to split the country into small States, or to whittle away any power we possess. We should stand firmly by the position we occupy as a sovereign State.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: But those people to whom you refuse political power here have power to alter the Federal Constitution.

Mr. McCallum: I have not a vote for the Upper House.

The PREMIER: But probably the hon. member's wife has.

Mr. McCallum: No, she has not.

The PREMIER: I do not know that the vote for the Upper House is greatly appreciated, because at none of the elections do we get a very big percentage of polling. A while ago, of 13,000 electors on the roll, only 2,500 voted, and the other day a 30 per cent. vote was recorded.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That would justify wiping out the other House entirely.

The PREMIER: I do not know that the people are anxious to have a vote for another place; those who have it certainly do not exercise it. Let us resent such tactics as those adopted by a Minister of the Federal Government. He has no right to say there are six Parliaments too many. The good government of this country is our concern and the right of government is certainly ours.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I referred to it at a public meeting in Fremantle last night.

The PREMIER: I am glad to hear it; these Cornishmen are always to the fore. A Federal Minister has no right to talk in that way. The people who pay revenue to the States do get value for their money. They also pay revenue to the Commonwealth, and I doubt whether they there get value for their money. I do not wish to say more than that I was greatly annoyed when I read the statement. It should not have been made. We agreed to federate for certain definite purposes and we ask that the Federal Constitution be observed in word and in spirit. We ask no more and we ought to receive no less.

Stocktaking.

It is very difficult to persuade some people that our country is as good as it is. It would be a capital idea to have a national stock-taking, as suggested by the Prime Minister. Such a step should have a good effect in silencing the croakers and the doubters. It should demonstrate to them that we have a mining country great in a wealth not only of gold but of copper, lead, tin, manganese, and a hundred other things that man requires. It might convince them that we have great timber areas, the largest in the Commonwealth; it might convince them that our agricultural possibilities are enormous; it might convince them that we have great scope for intense cultivation, that we have great opportunities for tropical agriculture and stock raising, and that there is great wealth in the waters of this country. It might convince them that all these things are to hand for the work of man. For these reasons, therefore, I hope it will be possible to arrange for a national stocktaking.

Conclusion.

I have already said Parliament must decide whether there is to be progress or stagnation. To me there seems to be no middle course. We have accepted the responsibility of governing this great, rich territory and the question is whether we intend to do our duty by it. We have doubters and destructive critics in our midst, but I question whether there ever was a Parliament which so whole-heartedly devoted itself to the progress and good of the country. For the past three years every section has done its best for the development of the country. There never was a time when party interests received so little consideration and when the interests of the country generally received so much consideration, and my remarks apply not only to those members who sit with me but also to those who sit opposite, all of whom have applied themselves to the good of the country as no other Parliament ever did. We are sufficiently handicapped in the development and settlement of the country by high protection, which is the curse under which Western Australia is suffering. Protection may suit the great manufacturing centres of Victoria and New South Wales, but it is very harmful to this undeveloped State of Western Australia, where our manufactures are so few. We suffer, too, because of our isolation. When we go East and find five million people settled in that small eastern corner of the Continent, and remember that 2,000 miles away 350,000 people are settled in the great western corner of the continent, we realise what isolation means and how necessary it is to build up the population of Western Australia. I visited Sydney and there met a great many people. As the representative of this State, I was wonderfully well received, and was conscious of a feeling of good will and well-wishing towards this State. The people there seemed most anxious that Western Australia should progress and develop.

Of course they carry on a considerable trade with us, but they did show a wonderful interest in Western Australia. We are better known in the East than ever we were before.

Mr. Munsie: It is a pity that the Eastern Press does not take a little more interest in us.

The PREMIER: In Sydney the Press gave me splendid notices and "talked" Western Australia just as much as the newspapers of this State. The Press was wonderfully good, and Western Australia is better known and understood than it was before. People are coming here from the East, bringing their money here and settling here. They know we are making progress—progress that I am certain is solid and will be lasting. I am glad that this Budget shows a considerable improvement upon the Budgets of the last few years. The financial trouble through which

this State has passed has been due to the war and the aftermath of war. We have our war debt in the deficit; there is no escaping that. The trouble began after war was declared. When we remember that 40,000 of the 100,000 men, who formed the male population of this State, enlisted for service and that the State was deprived of their services for years, is it any wonder that we made little progress during the years the great war lasted and for some years afterwards? We can find consolation in the knowledge that so far as Parliament could aid the development of the country, this Parliament has done it. I now move the first item on the Estimates, namely—

Legislative Council, £1,091.

Progress reported.

House adjourned at 8.56 p.m.

[Return No. 1.]

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1922-1923, COMPARED WITH THE ESTIMATE.

REVENUE.

The Treasurer's estimate for the year was	£	7,280,342	£
The actual amount received was		7,207,492	
Or a total net over-estimate of			52,850

EXPENDITURE.

The Treasurer's estimate for the year was	7,649,951
The actual amount expended was	7,612,856
Or a net over-estimate of	37,095

DETAILS.

HEADS.	REVENUE.		EXPENDITURE.	
	Over-Estimate.	Under-Estimate.	Over-Estimate.	Under-Estimate.
	£	£	£	£
TAXATION—				
Land Tax	...	4,983	...	...
Licenses	61,346	...	...	...
Income Tax	...	10,008	...	...
Dividend Duty	...	12,057	...	...
Totalisator Tax	2,589	...	...	...
Stamp Duty	...	3,468	...	...
Probate Duty	29,003	...	...	...
Commonwealth	...	1,851	...	...
TERRITORIAL, ETC.—				
Land Revenue	26,640	...	...	...
Mining	1,420	...	...	...
Timber	...	14,446	...	...
Law Courts	...	1,609	...	...
SPECIAL ACTS—				
Interest	...	...	22,084	...
Sinking Fund	...	...	57,045	...
Forests Act	...	...	...	14,840
Pensions	...	...	...	3,109
Residue	...	...	1,860	...
DEPARTMENTAL—				
Parliamentary	...	...	...	785
Premier	6,019	...	...	3,542
Colonial Treasurer	...	23,043	...	23,605
Minister for Lands	...	2,552	...	688
Minister for Mines, Forests, and Police	...	11,191	251	...
Minister for Education	...	1,254	...	3,649
Minister for Agriculture	...	4,385	2,051	...
Minister for Public Health	...	6,528	...	52,751
Minister for Justice	...	545	1,709	...
Colonial Secretary	...	19,332	8,183	...
Minister for Works	...	4,174	2,850	...
Minister for North-West	212	...	2,842	...
Residue	...	...	...	...
State Trading Concerns	...	27,708	...	...
PUBLIC UTILITIES—				
Railways	63,630	...	37,149	...
Tramways	...	2,668	453	...
Electric Works	10,068	...	4,443	...
Freemantle Harbour Trust	12,577	...	...	...
Bunbury Harbour Board	1,200	...	...	...
State Batteries	985	...	...	8,155
Water Supply and Sewerage	...	11,523	1,599	...
Goldfields Water Supply	2,891	...	...	...
Yandooka Estate	...	1,522	26	...
Royal Mint	...	1,396	...	...
Butter Factories	6,513	...	4,378	...
Government Refrigerating Works, etc. (net)	...	...	955	...
Aborigines Cattle Station	2,905	...	...	27
Residue (net)	2,129	...	335	...
Totals	219,122	166,272	148,246	111,151
Net over-estimate	£52,850		£37,095	

Return No. 2.]

REVENUE.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS FROM 1914-15 TO 1922-23 AND ESTIMATE FOR 1923-24.

Heads.	1914-15.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	Esti- mated, 1923-24.
TAXATION—	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Dividend Duty ...	93,918	103,585	105,554	109,492	133,062	144,749	244,969	177,005	189,057	180,000
Stamp Duty ...	64,308	64,858	67,035	80,719	112,104	173,543	177,404	164,928	173,453	174,000
Land Tax ...	36,433	47,711	42,431	63,388	94,182	46,415	57,791	42,549	79,983	75,000
Income Tax ...	80,648	91,630	90,067	98,501	228,560	271,350	334,320	320,874	390,003	390,000
Tollalator Tax ...	12,125	12,442	14,775	18,713	42,499	45,811	57,446	57,792	54,411	57,000
Probate Duty ...	40,156	44,284	40,063	38,710	40,329	121,951	42,406	76,817	45,997	60,000
Licenses ...	44,288	43,448	40,912	39,963	40,325	40,243	41,020	41,164	54,654	80,000
Total ...	371,062	407,958	402,337	449,456	620,061	844,107	955,358	881,159	987,558	1,016,000
DEPARTMENTAL—										
Land ...	296,608	322,670	282,223	257,368	300,604	350,740	342,362	338,729	311,360	307,000
Mining ...	56,935	23,408	20,547	19,201	17,643	24,050	24,108	22,929	19,880	20,600
Royal Mint ...	28,389	29,215	30,610	30,213	30,092	37,318	23,005	24,446	22,898	17,500
Timber ...	43,003	35,367	27,379	39,248	26,818	54,010	70,798	73,529	72,095	93,350
Departmental Fees, etc.	334,421	395,540	431,008	418,537	453,938	564,934	759,702	864,848	992,989	1,132,391
Law Courts ...	23,140	21,217	21,279	20,754	19,724	23,407	25,210	28,353	28,609	29,000
Harbour Dues ...	36,952	34,564	37,384	31,705	32,930	38,790	49,150	46,000	53,017	53,100
Commonwealth ...	631,237	616,104	594,467	599,239	585,668	598,273	593,834	583,767	583,186	585,331
Total ...	1,450,733	1,478,091	1,445,503	1,416,355	1,468,317	1,669,612	1,888,176	1,980,610	2,084,032	2,238,272
PUBLIC UTILITIES—										
Harbour Boards ...	115,739	102,234	87,355	85,168	106,227	157,687	185,470	173,188	168,223	178,000
Railways ...	2,049,762	2,098,304	1,878,434	1,828,853	1,878,753	2,275,426	2,088,611	2,805,335	2,886,370	3,025,000
Tramways ...	114,028	118,946	125,714	141,480	134,058	187,709	225,000	248,924	263,668	275,000
Batteries ...	39,562	70,014	61,200	69,355	57,876	49,007	69,497	57,663	56,691	41,050
Avondale, Harvey, and Yandanooka Estates ...	17,545	28,279	26,675	29,346	19,529	14,865	12,020	7,543	4,043	2,334
Water Supply and Sewerage etc. ...	404,501	414,580	404,737	379,925	371,615	361,583	402,354	406,151	416,633	424,000
State Dairy Farm... Refrigerating Works, etc. ...	3,108	2,700	2,924	2,576	3,476	2,844	3,250	2,514	a	a
Cave House, etc. ...	15,068	20,377	30,651	27,542	28,726	32,138	35,735	40,615	43,918	40,550
Electric Works ...	...	10,414	8,053	6,463	8,457	11,079	13,884	14,482	13,576	14,500
Butter Factories ...	...	...	10,007	32,580	47,164	62,972	95,350	119,120	128,938	143,000
Total ...	2,759,913	2,805,848	2,635,750	2,619,059	2,675,130	3,174,087	3,758,689	3,893,291	4,000,147	4,160,434
TRADING CONCERNS—										
Ferries ...	5,385	5,609								
Hotels ...	23,511	27,051								
Steamships ...	101,919	158,167								
State Fish Supply...	4,890	10,555								
Saw Mills ...	303,118	230,818								
Shipment of Nor- west Cattle ...	...	26,835	93,417	137,666	172,343	175,605	187,342	152,047	135,755	127,585
Brickworks ...	991	10,220								
Quarries ...	10,306	11,101								
Meat Stalls ...	29,275	30,272								
Implement Works...	73,718	88,453								
Total ...	558,117	605,081	93,417	137,666	172,343	175,605	187,342	152,047	135,755	127,585
GRAND TOTAL ...	5,140,725	5,350,978	4,577,007	4,622,536	4,944,851	5,863,501	6,789,565	6,907,107	7,207,492	7,542,291

a Included in Departmental.

Return No. 3.]

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE FROM 1915-16 TO 1922-23, AND ESTIMATE FOR 1923-24.

Head.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	Estimate 1923-24.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Special Acts	1,821,159	1,910,901	2,012,927	2,112,108	2,232,199	2,416,565	2,644,609	2,702,793	3,009,128
His Excellency the Governor	1,540	2,094	1,549	1,807	1,935	2,343	2,227	2,166	2,278
Parliamentary and Executive Council	12,198	12,320	11,597	9,520	10,111	11,581	11,423	12,258	11,677
Remuneration	1,326	1,488	1,744	1,706	2,111,540	2,404,044	18,185	15,522	10,333
Treasury	11,803	12,667	11,150	9,946	12,627	11,967	14,900	14,677	14,546
Audit	8,206	8,847	8,946	9,023	10,337	11,597	12,618	11,701	12,293
Compassionate Allowances	3,002	3,700	4,882	4,167	6,425	6,460	4,964	2,509	1,099
Government Motor Cars ...	2,690	2,366	1,868	4,450	3,006	2,500	1,703	2,103	2,186
Government Savings Bank	21,240	21,752	21,515	22,423	26,474	30,470	31,798	38,150	33,407
Government Stores	15,368	18,359	10,980	12,172	14,810	15,580	21,480	15,878	16,238
Literary and Scientific ...	9,353	10,597	10,442	8,280	8,750	8,900	9,250	9,250	9,250
London Agency	7,933	8,472	7,871	8,210	10,840	12,502	12,032	14,190	11,744
Public Service Commissioner	1,706	1,853	1,555	1,192	1,623	3,408	2,553	2,701	2,647
Taxation	14,305	17,861	18,001	21,040	25,404	38,872	14,486	13,200	13,473
Workers' Homes	4,554	3,556	1,312	3,230	3,515	4,048	6,047	11,366	12,567
Miscellaneous and Refunds	47,784	590,203	48,717	47,338	75,210	77,873	117,156	104,229	93,144
Mines, Explosives, Geological, etc.	62,694	64,998	60,030	57,302	63,957	73,551	67,010	67,817	64,338
Forests	5,565	10,086	11,220	10,873	12,962	16,129	16,439	15,246	15,291
Land and Surveys	45,565	46,286	46,326	44,708	59,816	90,132	108,182	101,056	96,446
Land Settlement for Soldiers	...	...	...	2,860	14,432	11,753	13,207	13,196	10,100
Agriculture	46,275	57,900	54,433	62,455	68,410	65,863	58,973	58,293	60,056
Abattoirs and Verman ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Stock	30,736	22,341	38,394	41,130	52,224	53,134	61,016	68,804	72,196
Agricultural Bank and L.A. Board	74,527	68,615	69,597	59,069	71,760	87,186	78,077	76,819	86,126
Brown Law and Branches	317,850	334,132	353,793	366,054	414,330	400,160	556,026	563,183	571,802
Office of Colonial Secretary	30,252	31,189	32,297	27,322	27,655	37,718	394,814	332,277	332,151
Aborigines	8,449	9,710	9,422	12,647	6,134	10,423	10,244	6,103	6,815
Charities and State Children	87,545	86,575	88,411	90,485	113,352	86,231	93,563	95,626	93,907
Fisheries	4,106	4,464	4,728	6,277	9,438	7,146	6,377	5,789	5,632
Tools	22,295	20,765	20,126	21,596	25,791	23,684	26,088	24,022	23,302
Harbour and Light and Jetties	23,758	26,247	27,087	19,527	21,985	22,479	22,073	20,466	20,726
Lithographic	5,262	5,742	4,718	4,885	...	...	...	...	...
Lunacy	59,197	62,770	60,533	64,578	80,146	97,422	89,840	87,847	88,864
Medical and Health ...	118,898	131,087	129,922	155,673	210,868	197,640	180,993	181,277	176,313
Police	126,699	120,560	130,568	132,157	164,097	174,829	173,005	175,332	176,489
Printing	46,937	44,484	30,085	32,216	54,740	78,688	71,881	68,270	66,434
Public Works	86,505	107,161	98,702	104,615	116,488	123,988	93,587	76,042	81,557
Department of the North-West	...	...	...	...	...	270	2,942	20,939	22,007
Group Settlement ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,000
Total Departmental...	1,369,081	1,470,556	1,440,324	1,486,892	1,808,201	2,012,320	2,049,278	2,026,554	2,031,104
PUBLIC UTILITIES.									
Railways	1,515,613	1,455,879	1,454,650	1,372,107	2,009,823	2,427,075	2,387,391	2,210,851	2,235,000
Tramways	81,244	90,571	104,931	107,705	144,023	198,264	202,995	207,542	215,000
State Batteries	17,839	83,367	71,642	56,574	61,552	66,221	64,891	72,149	44,000
Water Supply	234,172	248,208	220,112	227,232	245,967	234,495	231,846	275,447	276,466
Yandavooka	35,022	26,771	8,281	10,041	8,342	4,561	2,311	94	...
Refrigerating Works, etc.	15,780	21,364	19,078	19,099	20,505	24,228	27,707	24,967	26,577
Avondale and Harvey Estates	4,519	3,796	3,768	3,376	1,853	1,461	1,671	1,534	1,721
Tourists	11,957	10,231	6,415	8,476	10,935	13,115	14,176	13,841	12,909
Aborigines Cattle Station...	4,426	4,962	5,010	5,219	8,079	1,814	12,030	10,560	7,638
Electricity Supply ... ..	...	8,254	20,466	23,297	43,019	83,088	95,784	91,557	99,000
State Dairy Farm	3,152	3,141	2,776	3,066	4,664	4,338	3,940	...	...
Butter Factories ... ..	...	...	15,666	20,537	18,620	26,503	15,073	16,433	16,000
Trading Concerns ... ..	...	...	...	...	8,446	...	...	...	...
Total, Public Utilities	1,975,724	1,956,544	1,934,415	2,064,415	2,586,383	3,145,173	3,059,815	2,925,025	2,937,311
TRADING CONCERNS.									
State Steamers	139,592	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
State Brickworks	9,927	...	1,430	...	...	...	...	...	...
State Implement Works ...	150,875	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
State Quarries	8,884	...	1,450	...	...	...	...	...	...
State Sawmills	231,862	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
State Hotels	26,497	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
State Fish Supplies	14,792	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
State Meat Stalls	26,216	...	3,200	...	...	...	...	...	...
Shipment of North-West Cattle	...	...	34,489	...	...	...	...	...	...
Less Rebates, etc.	69,297	81,237	99,956	66,864	95,058	97,767	114,400	131,516	137,270
Total	5,705,201	5,276,764	5,328,270	5,506,865	6,531,725	7,476,761	7,639,242	7,612,856	7,840,273

a Includes transfer from Miscellaneous.

b Includes £45,071 for loss on operations Royal Commission Control

of Trade. c Includes Registry, Friendly Societies, Immigration, Messengers' Exchange, and Observatory,

and Labour Bureau. d Increase in rebates £3,091. e Included under Printing. f Includes Tourist

and Publicity. g Included in Lunacy.

[Return No. 4.]

STATEMENT SHOWING SPECIAL EXPENDITURE AND REDUCED REVENUE NOT FORESEEN WHEN ESTIMATES WERE PRESENTED, YEAR 1922-23

Department.	Increased Salary or Wage.	Other Special Expenditure.	Loss of Revenue.	Remarks.
Mines	£ 3,500	£ ...	£ ...	Appeal Board decisions.
		1,500	...	Increased contribution to Mine Workers' Relief Fund.
Licensing ... ..	...	...	61,346	Amendments to Act.
Medical	52,651	...	...	Hospital Bill not passed.
Lands ... ..	...	...	26,640	Effect of reappraisement, etc.
Total	56,151	1,500	87,986	

[Return No. 5.]

STATEMENT SHOWING ANNUAL SURPLUSES AND DEFICIENCIES OF CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND, ALSO ANNUAL AGGREGATE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS 1900-01 TO 1922-23.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Annual.		Aggregate.	
			Surplus.	Deficiency.	Surplus.	Deficiency.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance, 30th June, 1900 ...	...	...	...	...	12,372	...
1900-01 ...	3,078,033	3,165,244	...	87,211	...	74,839
1901-02 ...	3,668,049	3,490,026	198,023	...	123,184	...
1902-03 ...	3,630,238	3,521,763	108,475	...	231,659	...
1903-04 ...	3,550,016	3,698,311	...	148,295	83,364	...
1904-05 ...	3,615,340	3,745,225	...	129,885	...	46,521
1905-06 ...	3,558,939	3,632,318	...	73,379	...	119,900
1906-07 ...	3,401,354	3,490,183	...	88,829	...	208,729
1907-08 ...	3,376,641	3,379,006	...	2,365	...	211,094
1908-09 ...	3,267,014	3,368,551	...	101,537	...	312,631
1909-1910 ...	3,657,670	3,447,731	209,939	...	...	102,692
1910-1911 ...	3,850,439	3,734,448	115,991	...	13,299	...
1911-1912 ...	3,966,673	4,101,082	...	134,409	...	121,110
1912-1913 ...	4,596,659	4,787,064	...	190,405	...	311,515
1913-1914 ...	5,205,343	5,340,754	...	135,411	...	446,926
1914-1915 ...	5,140,725	5,706,541	...	565,816	...	1,012,742
1915-1916 ...	5,356,978	5,705,201	...	348,223	...	1,360,965
1916-1917 ...	4,577,007	5,276,764	...	699,757	...	2,060,722
1917-1918 ...	4,622,536	5,328,279	...	705,743	...	2,766,465
1918-1919 ...	4,944,851	5,596,866	...	652,015	...	3,418,480
1919-1920 ...	5,863,501	6,531,725	...	668,225	...	4,086,705
1920-1921 ...	6,789,565	7,476,291	...	686,725	...	4,773,430
1921-1922 ...	6,907,107	7,639,242	...	732,135	...	5,505,565
1922-1923 ...	7,207,492	7,612,856	...	405,364	...	5,910,929

[Return No. 6.]

SYNOPSIS AND BALANCE SHEET AT 30TH JUNE, 1923, AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
DE.				
Westminster Bank, Ltd.	461,200 14 3	1,805,000 0 0	...	735,000 0 0
Commonwealth Government ...	...	27,937 6 9	118,600 0 0	...
Sinking Fund	6,846,128 1 5	7,742,692 0 11	8,356,962 5 9	8,744,353 9 5
General Loan Fund	589,132 12 3	369,167 14 6	2,230,318 10 0	740,675 0 11
Australian Wheat Board ...	...	...	400,000 0 0	400,000 0 0
Government Savings Bank ...	5,797,619 4 8	5,018,475 4 3	5,801,447 5 6	5,951,382 17 9
Insurance Companies Act, Deposits	220,000 0 0	245,000 0 0	260,000 0 0	265,000 0 0
Trust and Deposit Accounts generally	3,038,329 8 10	2,457,095 11 6	2,478,958 6 0	2,959,122 16 9
	£16,952,410 1 5	£18,565,367 17 11	£19,646,286 7 3	£19,795,534 4 10
CR.				
Investments	13,510,060 6 4	14,642,912 5 4	15,256,334 3 2	15,774,801 2 1
Stores on hand	551,762 18 11	792,007 3 0	932,140 15 10	822,838 0 1
Treasurers' Advance, and other	...	...	...	...
Advances	55,422 7 1	524,871 0 5	453,772 8 6	204,948 7 6
Cash in hand—				
Treasury ... ..	...	4,507 5 5	5,888 6 2	10,065 10 4
Wheat Certificates	164,118 13 2	41,985 5 6	...	...
General Account	568,591 18 2	351,080 18 7	393,977 5 3	478,880 6 0
Government Savings Bank Account	360,819 18 2	154,770 9 11	141,410 3 8	126,016 14 5
Fixed Deposits with Bank ...	10,000 0 0	...	...	...
Eastern States	74,199 13 11	70,320 9 10	490,813 3 6	143,585 19 10
London	376,345 16 2	10,555 15 2	83,354 18 8	5,857 15 3
Remittances and Drafts in transit	...	...	48,371 8 10	5,075 6 2
Consolidated Revenue Fund ...	668,224 12 7	686,725 11 4	1,418,860 6 4	1,824,224 5 9
Deficiency Account	610,827 0 10	1,279,051 18 5	421,363 7 5	301,363 7 5
Sundry Debtors, etc.	3,038 16 1	...	...	97,899 4 0
	£16,952,410 1 5	£18,565,367 17 11	£19,646,286 7 3	£19,795,534 4 10

a Includes £191,500 temporarily advanced for redemption of Debentures and Treasury Bonds.

[Return No. 7.]

STATEMENT SHOWING RECEIPTS FROM COMMONWEALTH FROM 1909-10 TO 1922-23.

Year.	Payment per Head, 25s.	Special Payment to W.A.	Interest on Transferred Properties at 3½ per cent.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1909-10	703,723a	...	Nil	703,723
1910-11	569,578a	...	Nil	569,578
1911-12	365,614	232,265	40,648	638,527
1912-13	382,591	222,554	30,465	635,610
1913-14	400,855	212,751	27,358	640,964
1914-15	403,772	203,127	24,388	631,287
1915-16	398,076	193,544	24,485	616,105
1916-17	386,008	183,974	24,485	594,467
1917-18	386,779	174,350	38,110	599,239
1918-19	391,809	164,696	29,163	585,668
1919-20	414,068	154,937	29,268	598,273
1920-21	419,448	145,287	29,099	593,834
1921-22	418,966	135,738	29,063	583,767
1922-23	428,193	126,038	28,955	583,186
Totals	£6,069,480	2,149,261	355,487	8,574,228

a Surplus Revenue returned.

[Return No. 8.]

LOAN AUTHORISATIONS AND FLOTATIONS.

					£	£
Authorisations to 30th June, 1922 (adjusted)	...	...	...	...	57,155,968	
Do. 1922-23	...	...	...	...	3,888,464	
Total Authorisations						61,044,432
Flotations—						
General Loans	...	...	...	...	36,578,253	
Local Debentures	...	...	...	...	1,228,110	
Local Inscribed Stock	...	...	...	...	6,942,903	
Treasury Bills	...	...	...	...	5,446,320	
Treasury Bonds and Inscribed Stock under Deficiency Acts	...	...	...	...	3,884,310	
Commonwealth Advances	...	...	...	...	5,198,782	
						59,278,678
Balance available for Flotation						1,765,754
Actual Loan Indebtedness—						
Gross Debt on 30th June, 1922	...	...	...	...	54,959,778	
Flotation during year—						
Treasury Bonds	...	...	...	...	214,410	
Local Treasury Bills	...	...	...	...	41,425	
Inscribed Stock (Local)	...	...	...	...	528,405	
Commonwealth Advances, Soldiers' Settlement	...	...	...	...	780,000	
Inscribed Stock, London	...	...	...	...	3,000,000	
						59,524,018
Less Redemptions—						
Bonds Loans, 1878, 1881-4	...	...	...	...	10,900	
Commonwealth Advances, Soldiers' Settlement	...	...	...	...	2,896	
Treasury Bonds	...	...	...	...	8,260	
Local Inscribed Stock	...	...	...	...	964,128	
Treasury Bills	...	...	...	...	51,980	
						1,038,164
						58,485,854
Less—						
Sinking Fund (as on 31st March)	...	...	...	...		8,781,051
Net Indebtedness, 30th June, 1923						49,704,803
Net Public Debt per head of Population on 30th June, 1923						
Do.	do.	do.	do.	1922	142 9 6	
Do.	do.	do.	do.	1921	*124 15 11	
Do.	do.	do.	do.	1920	119 7 3	
Do.	do.	do.	do.	1919	116 7 0	
Do.	do.	do.	do.	1918	118 0 8	
Do.	do.	do.	do.	1917	116 5 8	
Do.	do.	do.	do.	1916	109 19 9	
Do.	do.	do.	do.	1915	101 12 10	
Do.	do.	do.	do.	1914	94 4 11	
Do.	do.	do.	do.	1913	85 17 2	

* NOTE.—Compared with the previous year, £2 16s. 11d. of the increase is due to an adjustment in the figures of the population at the Census.

[Return No. 9.]

LOAN FLOTATIONS, DEBT AND EXPENDITURE ON 30TH JUNE, 1923.

Works and Services.	Flotations.	Actual Indebtedness on Works.	Actual Cash spent.
	£	£	£
Railways and Tramways (including Electric Power Station)	21,500,033	21,069,786	19,970,356
Harbours and Rivers	4,686,213	4,591,712	4,143,634
Goldfields Water Scheme	2,903,078	2,876,182	2,689,824
Water Supply Generally	2,028,399	2,023,693	1,731,828
Sewerage	1,278,185	1,277,273	1,189,336
Erection of State Batteries and Treatment Plants	328,335	328,059	304,205
Development of Goldfields	1,768,986	1,743,560	1,625,246
Development of Agriculture	3,885,616	3,859,631	3,347,503
Agricultural Group Settlement	575,959	575,959	506,803
Assistance to Settlers	1,819,950	1,819,950	1,872,000
Agricultural Bank	2,487,182	2,487,182	1,952,542
Telegraphs	276,721	222,503	269,308
Roads and Bridges	606,785	578,919	459,468
Public Buildings	1,021,944	1,012,010	917,319
Immigration	63,752	63,752	656,392
Workers' Homes—Working Capital	553,244	553,244	525,500
State Hotels	78,223	78,223	71,506
State Steamships	500,171	500,171	478,630
State Saw Mills	258,968	258,968	238,784
State Implement Works	149,716	149,716	135,771
South Perth Ferries	24,447	24,447	12,967
State Milk Supply	4,590	4,590	4,496
State Brickyards	42,620	42,620	30,242
State Quarries	19,500	19,500	16,450
State Fish Supply	3,286	3,286	3,162
Crawley and Dalkeith Estates, Aborigines Stations, Savoy House, Purchase of Land at Nedlands, and Purchase of House for Residence of Agent General	123,761	123,761	103,502
Stores and Stock Suspense Accounts	121,629	121,629	115,000
Miscellaneous	186,723	186,638	88,802
Wyndham Freezing Works (Working Capital)	376,615	376,615	286,013
Fisheries	12,208	12,208	11,807
Land Settlement for Soldiers	5,481,519	5,449,757	5,700,802
	53,228,368	52,435,544	48,859,178
Redemptions ... ..	...	792,824	...
Cost of Raising ... ..	...	...	c 2,166,301
Loan Proceeds outstanding ... ..	...	...	c 1,191,000
Unexpended Balance ... ..	...	...	1,011,889
	53,228,368	53,228,368	53,228,368

a Includes £717,877, expended at Wyndham Freezing Works. b An additional amount of £364,427 was expended upon Agricultural Immigration from Development of Agriculture.
c Estimated, pending final advice of London, £3,000,000 issue.

RECONCILIATION WITH PUBLIC DEBT (RETURN No. 8).

Indebtedness as above	£
Local Inscribed Stock, issued under Agricultural Bank Act, for conversion of Mortgage Bonds	52,435,544
Issues under Treasury Bonds Deficiency Act	1,566,000
Issues under Insurance Companies Act, 1918	3,884,310
Commonwealth Advances unallocated	265,000
	335,000
Gross Public Debt	58,485,854

[Return No. 10.]

LOAN EXPENDITURE FOR 1922-1923 COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS YEARS.

Undertakings.	1922-1923.	1921-22.	1920-21.	1919-20.	1918-19.	1917-18.	1916-17.	1915-16.	1914-15.	1913-14.	1912-13.	1911-12.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Railways, including Land Resumptions ...	519,557	323,296	145,724	75,788	154,720	181,394	246,894	350,855	520,344	1,080,910	1,406,602	1,320,300
Tramways—Perth Electric ...	72,057	95,935	84,419	27,473	7,239	3,073	29,445	33,523	22,909	16,028	497,389	...
Electric Power Station ...	87,761	184,345	18,783	17,890	25,386	23,506	61,033	93,170	140,865	89,048	...	...
Fremantle Harbour Works ...	42,726	40,009	40,089	51,855	46,345	42,449	49,004	53,704	106,055	66,142	77,379	35,813
Fremantle Dock and Slip ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	1,291	1,858	11,330	80,842
Harbours and Rivers generally ...	77,411	42,632	72,245	50,322	28,803	42,485	72,854	55,510	53,014	21,800	61,790	99,109
Sewerage—Perth and Fremantle ...	47,190	21,348	19,436	...	...	15,167	11,059	47,268	120,473	140,532	160,331	93,572
Water Supply ...	163,667	196,231	194,172	49,115	46,636	58,080	65,426	118,275	127,689	101,528	234,184	31,417
Development of Goldfields ...	64,618	43,530	43,902	32,581	18,152	10,061	19,829	19,142	47,263	50,659	78,143	92,345
State Smelter, Ravensthorpe ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	73,987	80,000	...	...	...
Development of Agriculture ...	1,550,887	1,042,606	1,000,739	62,060,579	442,740	166,083	160,483	185,727	79,271	166,762	155,432	362,406
Assistance to Settlers ...	400,000	74,674	31,698	5,458	80,000	478,170	...	199,890	602,110	...	...	...
Immigration ...	11,209	8,278	12,024	5,205	1,867	1,107	2,352	4,840	16,665	69,218	63,447	96,805
Steamships ...	6,658	200,000	10,000	14,591	...	...	409	141,005	...	5,907	100,000	...
Workers' Homes Working Capital ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	97,500	278,000	150,000	...
Saw Mills ...	...	...	58,863	...	...	...	214	511	28,089	126,416	43,691	...
State Hotels ...	3,108	6,858	5,056	2,767	1,793	117	639	10,000	6,546	17,091	17,680	...
Agricultural Bank—Working Capital ...	286,410	13,516	181,825	118,285	73,948	26,000	99,165	172,335	271,612	506,038	259,808	...
Agricultural Implements Works ...	...	...	59,629	16,772	...	...	1,292	4,627	18,436	43,070	...	...
Brickyards ...	141	...	705	1,326	1,165	20	...	547	11,507	13,710	1,121	...
Forries ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,974	2,000	4,998	...	...
State Fish Supply ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	131	3,031	...	...	...	...
Public Buildings ...	18,680	44,440	24,963	10,602	21,570	17,536	23,350	40,661	81,004	44,166	38,699	91,707
Roads and Bridges ...	34,331	12,560	32,121	14,719	4,231	2,473	2,557	6,152	5,026	6,167	37,818	23,106
Perth-Fremantle Road Reinstatement ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	839	7,663	...	...	...
Purchase of Plant and Stock (Suspense Account) ...	10,000	...	50,000	...	...	...	...	...	55,000	...	...	...
Fremantle Road and Railway Bridge ...	...	19	...	1	79	108	2,482	4,622	1,582	...	...	...
Sundries ...	13,892	9,710	7,841	3,039	2,262	1,729	2,676	2,738	5,225	17,652	5,881	12,121
Wyndham Freezing Works—Working Capital ...	14	86,000	...	100,000	100,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fisheries ...	...	32	5,870	5,904	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Urgent Minor Works throughout the North-West ...	2,979	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	3,389,299	2,454,925	2,536,404	2,663,320	1,049,736	1,054,178	855,183	1,584,842	2,521,603	2,919,010	3,409,218	2,809,552

a Includes Land Settlement for Soldiers, £283,319.

b Includes Land Settlement for Soldiers, £1,947,772.

c Exclusive of Loan Suspense Expenditure, £83,063.

d Includes

Land Settlement for Soldiers, £1,527,664.

e Exclusive of Loan Suspense Expenditure, £30,107.

f Includes Land Settlement for Soldiers, £683,014.

g Includes Land

Settlement for Soldiers £258,132 and Agricultural Group Settlement £506,802.

h Includes Loans to Local Authorities for erection of Country Hospitals, etc., £8,057.

[Return No. 11.]

PUBLIC DEBT AND SINKING FUNDS.

Loan.			Sinking Fund.		Remarks.		
Year.	Amount.	Maturity.	Rate per cent.	Accumulation.			
LOANS CARRYING SINKING FUNDS.							
Inscribed Stock.							
	£			£ s. d.			
1899-1915...	998,353	1934	1	714,612 13 3	Controlled by Crown Agents. Stock issued for conversion of Debentures.		
1896 ...	1,500,000	1935	1	641,775 2 1			
1897-1900...	3,500,000	1935	1	1,319,231 15 3	G.S.R. Purchase.		
1897 ...	1,100,000	1936	1½	801,181 0 9			
1896 ...	2,500,000	1927	3	2,480,761 9 1	Coolgardie Water Scheme Loan.		
1900-1902...	680,000	1935	1	202,127 13 10			
1902-1905...	2,600,000	1935	1	714,899 17 10			
1907-1908...	2,000,000	1947	1	367,065 8 6			
1909 ...	1,445,000	1955	½	101,497 1 2			
1910 ...	1,342,000	1955	½	86,696 8 8			
1911 ...	1,650,000	1955	½	169,063 3 6	Issued for redemption on £1,876,000 stock; balance taken from Sinking Fund.		
1912 ...	1,000,000	1960	½	51,269 11 6			
1912-1914...	6,000,000	1962	½	244,717 2 10	Sinking Fund represents premiums paid on Assurance Policy for redemption of principal amount of 5 per cent. Stock issued for purchase of M.S. "Kangaroo."		
1916 ...	140,000	1936	3½	36,697 10 0			
1922 ...	914,798	1940	½	6,583 15 3	Issued for redemption of Local Stock; £172,407 was taken from the Sinking Fund.		
1923 ...	502,500	1965	½				
Local Inscribed Stock.							
1904 ...	322,470	1924	1½	836,861 3 5			
1911 ...	1,922,305	1926	½				
1912 ...	528,908	1932	½				
1913 ...	867,965	1934	½				
1915 ...	78,185	1935	1½				
1913 ...	309,130	1933	½				
1914 ...	1,566,000	1964	½				
1922 ...	16,340	1938	½				
Debentures.							
1904 ...	246,100	1924	1			...	Issued for redemption of portion of Debentures matured 1st January, 1921.
1921 ...	116,710	1924	½				
1922 ...	306,345	1933	½	...	£139,839 was issued for redemption of Local Inscribed Stock. Redeemable by Annual Drawings; Controlled by Crown Agents.		
1918 ...	697,000	1927	½				
1872-1888...	41,900	...	1	6,010 2 6	Consisting of Local Inscribed Stock (£845,192), Debentures (£168,300), Inscribed Stock, London (£8,082,703), Issues under the Treasury Bonds Deficiency Acts (£3,884,310), for which Sinking Funds have not commenced, Treasury Bills (£5,446,320) which carry no Sinking Funds, and Commonwealth Advances (£5,167,020).		
	34,892,009						
BALANCE OF DEBT.							
Various ...	23,593,845	Various	...	...	
Total Debt	58,485,854	Accrued Fund	Sinking	8,781,050 19 5			
Previous year's totals	54,959,778	...	...	8,370,159 17 9	
Increase on year ...	3,526,076	...	...	410,891 1 8	

[Return No. 11]—continued.

a Consisting of—										£
Treasury Bonds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	214,410
Commonwealth Advances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	780,000
Local Stock, 5½ per cent.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	306,345
Local Stock, 6½ per cent.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	170,000
Local Stock, 4½ per cent.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	52,060
Inscribed Stock, London	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,000,000
Treasury Bills	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41,425
										4,564,240
Less—										£
Treasury Bonds, redeemed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,260
Debentures, London, redeemed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,900
Commonwealth Advances—										
Soldiers' Settlement, redeemed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,896
Treasury Bills	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	51,980
Local 4 per cent. Stock	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	964,128
										1,038,164
										3,526,076

[Return No. 12.]

SINKING FUNDS AND INVESTMENTS.

ANALYSIS OF FUND.

										£
Contributions from Revenue	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,815,889
Interest on Investments	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,829,062
Discounts on Purchases, less Brokerage and Expenses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,020,028
										9,664,979
Less utilised for Redemptions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	883,928
Total of Fund, 31st March										£8,781,051

INVESTMENTS.

Maturity.						Rate.		Nominal Value.		
								£	s.	d.
Western Australian Stocks	1935	...	...	...	...	3	per cent.	1,347,275	8	9
	1936	...	...	...	...	3	per cent.	434,185	12	2
	1927	...	...	...	...	3	per cent.	814,215	1	7
	1935	...	...	...	...	3½	per cent.	1,320,625	12	3
	1927-1947	...	...	...	...	3½	per cent.	458,747	8	0
	1935-1955	...	...	...	...	3½	per cent.	944,805	17	10
	1940-1960	...	...	...	...	3½	per cent.	87,165	19	7
	1942-1962	...	...	...	...	4	per cent.	992,850	15	7
	1930-1940	...	...	...	...	5½	per cent.	445,106	16	7
Western Australian Debentures	1930-1940	...	...	...	...	6	per cent.	251,600	0	0
	1935-1945	...	...	...	...	5	per cent.	207,990	5	9
	1939	...	...	...	...	4½	per cent.	8,295	0	0
Total						...	...	£7,312,863	18	1
Other Stocks—Crown Agent's Investments						...	...	683,661	12	5
National War Bonds, 5 per cent., 1927						...	...	582,951	0	10
War Gratuity Bonds, 5½ per cent.						...	...	145,131	10	1
Payments on Assurance Policy towards redemption £140,000						...	...	36,697	10	0
Cash						...	...	19,745	8	0
Total Sinking Fund						...	...	£8,781,050	19	5

[Return No. 13.]

SINKING FUND AND DEFICIT.

Year.	Contributions.	Interest and Discount (less Brokerage and Expenses).	Total Accretions.	Redemptions.	Increase in Sinking Fund.	Deficit on Year.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1911-12 ...	245,274	136,148	381,422	7,500	373,922	134,409
1912-13 ...	244,555	153,756	398,311	7,700	390,611	190,404
1913-14 ...	250,100	140,558	290,658	7,900	382,758	135,411
1914-15 ...	258,792	126,193	384,985	8,200	376,785	565,817
1915-16 ...	265,457	206,842	472,299	12,755	459,544	348,223
1916-17 ...	280,883	239,445	520,328	7,600	512,728	699,757
1917-18 ...	306,782	237,405	544,187	9,300	534,887	705,743
1918-19 ...	319,101	257,457	576,558	8,400	568,158	652,014
1919-20 ...	319,692	386,628	706,320	12,200	694,120	668,225
1920-21 ...	342,277b	460,761	803,038	10,300	792,738	686,725
1921-22 ...	322,130	416,066	738,196	9,600	728,596	732,135
1922-23 ...	242,319	351,879	594,198	183,307	410,891	405,364
Totals ...	£3,397,362	3,113,138	6,510,500	284,762	6,225,738	5,924,227

a The Actual Deficit on 30th June, 1923, was £5,910,929, the difference being due to a credit balance of £13,298 at the commencement of the period included in the return. b Includes £21,375 by Trading Concerns.

[Return No. 14.]

ESTIMATED CASH POSITION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES FOR YEAR ENDING 1923-24.

Items.	Estimated 1923-1924.		Balance.	
	Receipts.	Payments.	Dr.	Cr.
	£	£	£	£
Avondale and Buckland Estates ...	2,134	1,721	...	413
Bunbury Harbour Board ...	17,000	...	...	17,000
Fremantle Harbour Trust ...	161,000	...	...	161,000
State Batteries ...	41,050	44,000	2,950	...
Albany Cold Stores ...	200	...	...	200
Aborigines Cattle Station ...	5,000	7,638	2,638	...
Government Refrigerating Works ...	5,150	6,438	1,288	...
Kalgoorlie Abattoirs ...	4,200	3,431	...	769
Metropolitan Abattoirs, etc. ...	24,000	15,590	...	8,410
Perth City Market ...	2,000	1,118	...	882
Yandanooka Estate ...	200	...	...	200
Butter Factories ...	17,000	16,000	...	1,000
Cave House, etc. ...	14,500	12,909	...	1,591
Railways ...	3,025,000	2,235,000	...	790,000
Tramways ...	275,000	218,000	...	57,000
Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage ...	210,000	116,777	...	93,223
Goldfields Water Supply ...	182,000	131,892	...	50,108
Other Hydraulic Undertakings ...	32,000	27,797	...	4,203
Electricity Supply ...	143,000	99,000	...	44,000
Total ...	4,160,434	2,937,311	...	1,223,123
Net Surplus ...	...	...	...	...

[Return No. 15.]

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC UTILITIES FOR YEAR 1922-23.

	Capital Cost.	Working Expenses.	Interest Charges.	Sinking Fund (a)	Total Cost.	Revenue.	Surplus.	Deficiency.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Railways	19,160,202	2,210,851	768,244	125,000	3,104,095	2,886,370	...	217,725
Tramways	850,965	207,542	40,419	3,500	251,461	263,668	12,207	...
Electricity	754,921	91,557	26,475	2,300	120,332	128,937	8,605	...
Metropolitan Water Supply	2,426,376	114,678	81,638	16,222	212,538	204,935	...	7,603
Goldfields Water Supply	3,056,926	131,381	79,223	6,059	216,663	182,109	...	34,554
Other Hydraulic Undertakings	397,964	29,388	19,248	7,805	56,441	29,589	...	26,852
All Other	3,172,006	138,079	121,359	30,000	289,438	304,539	15,101	...
	29,819,880	2,923,476	1,136,606	190,886	4,250,968	4,000,147	...	250,821

(a) Estimated only.

[Return No. 16.]

RETURN RELATING TO RAILWAYS.

	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.
	miles.	miles.	miles.	miles.	miles.	miles.
Number of miles open ...	3,491	3,539	3,539	3,539	3,539	3,555
Capital Cost of Construction and Equipment of Lines open } Loan ...	£ 16,914,106	£ 17,147,931	£ 17,211,977	£ 17,318,344	£ 18,073,088	£ 18,297,240
	Revenue 846,460	848,010	850,377	851,636	862,515	862,962
Working Expenses	1,454,650	1,572,107	2,009,823	2,427,075	2,337,391	2,210,851
Interest Charges	654,059	665,100	690,818	716,398	756,737	768,244
Total Annual Cost	2,108,709	2,237,207	2,700,441	3,143,473	3,094,128	2,979,095
Gross Revenue	1,828,853	1,878,753	2,275,426	2,688,611	2,805,335	2,886,370
Deficiency debited to Consolidated Revenue being burden on Taxpayers ...	279,856	358,454	425,015	454,862	288,793	92,725

These figures do not include Sinking Fund.

[Return No. 17.]

RETURN RELATING TO TRAMWAYS.

—	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Capital Cost of Construction and Equipment	586,900	592,361	619,874	654,047	779,081	850,965
Working Expenses	104,931	107,705	144,028	198,264	202,996	207,542
Interest Charges	27,274	27,007	28,223	29,767	35,524	40,419
Total Annual Cost	132,205	134,712	172,251	228,031	238,520	247,961
Gross Revenue	141,480	134,058	187,709	225,000	248,924	263,668
Surplus	9,275	...	15,458	...	10,404	15,707
Deficiency ... ..	...	654	...	3,031	...	...

These figures do not include Sinking Fund.

[Return No. 18.]

RETURN RELATING TO ELECTRICITY

—	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Capital Cost of Construction and Equipment	393,865	419,308	437,362	456,274	530,997	754,921
Working Expenses	20,486	28,297	43,018	83,088	95,784	91,557
Interest Charges	17,382	18,726	19,643	20,644	24,684	26,475
Total Annual Cost	37,868	47,023	62,661	103,732	120,468	118,032
Gross Revenue	32,580	47,164	62,972	95,350	119,120	128,937
Surplus ... ..	...	141	311	...	...	10,905
Deficiency	5,288	...	...	8,382	1,348	...

These figures do not include Sinking Fund.

[Return No. 19.]

RETURN RELATING TO METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY, SEWERAGE
AND DRAINAGE.

	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Capital Cost of Construction and Equipment	1,983,039	2,014,762	2,054,913	2,182,403	2,277,802	2,426,376
Working Expenses*	83,440	84,959	95,090	111,276	113,550	114,678
Interest Charges	53,384	56,736	63,633	67,167	74,504	81,638
Sinking Fund	12,379	12,931	13,353	14,052	15,167	16,222
Total Annual Cost	149,203	154,626	172,076	192,495	203,221	212,538
Gross Revenue	162,728	150,065	155,996	181,376	194,145	204,935
Surplus	3,525	...	...	...	...	...
Deficiency ... ..	...	4,561	16,080	11,119	9,076	7,603

*Includes Interest and Sinking Fund on debentures, £33,510.

[Return No. 20.]

RETURN RELATING TO GOLDFIELDS WATER SUPPLY.

	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Capital Cost of Construction and Equipment	3,005,472	3,005,464	3,013,437	3,039,232	3,044,178	3,056,926
Working Expenses a	104,920	98,476	116,938	136,898	132,502	131,381
Interest Charges	97,611	97,685	97,679	99,098	86,448	79,223
Sinking Fund	80,236	80,260	80,255	80,645	43,448	6,059
Total Annual Cost	282,767	276,421	294,872	310,641	262,398	216,663
Gross Revenue	200,170	196,974	180,464	195,975	187,122	182,109
Deficiency	82,597	79,447	114,408	114,666	75,276	34,554

a Includes interest on Debenture Capital.

[Return No. 21.]

RETURN RELATING TO OTHER HYDRAULIC UNDERTAKINGS.

	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Capital Cost of Construction and Equipment ...	186,182	184,413	201,505	231,500	295,837	397,984
Working Expenses ...	31,752	30,005	33,939	42,321	31,456	29,388
Interest Charges ...	7,970	8,044	8,416	10,027	12,509	19,248
Sinking Fund ...	4,808	4,822	4,798	5,055	5,508	7,805
Total Annual Cost ...	44,530	42,871	47,153	57,403	49,473	56,441
Gross Revenue ...	27,026	24,576	25,126	25,003	24,888	29,589
Deficiency ...	17,504	18,295	22,027	32,400	24,585	26,852

[Return No. 22.]

RETURN RELATIVE TO OTHER UTILITIES FOR 1922-1923.

	Capital Cost, etc.	Working Expenses.	Interest Charges.	Total Annual Cost.	Gross Revenue.	Surplus.	Deficiency.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fremantle Harbour Board	2,118,578	...	83,387	83,387	151,423	68,036	...
Bunbury Harbour Board	451,234	...	16,000	16,000	16,800	800	...
Batteries ...	396,186	72,148	13,866	86,014	56,691	...	29,323
Estates ...	7,978	1,677	523	2,200	4,944	2,744	...
Aborigines Station ...	25,605	10,500	850	11,410	8,595	...	2,815
Albany Cool Stores ...	20,915	...	937	937	193	...	744
Government Refrigerating Works	51,849	5,690	1,000	7,706	5,287	...	...
Perth City Markets ...	54,010	1,016	...	...	1,972	...	447
Metropolitan Abattoirs...	15,145	15,145	2,608	17,753	23,332	5,579	...
Butter Factories ...	8,353	16,433	510	16,943	17,187	244	...
Tourist Resorts ...	22,174	12,290	998	13,288	13,576	288	...
Kalgoorlie Abattoirs ...	15,124	3,120	680	3,800	4,539	739	...
Total ...	3,172,006	138,081	121,359	259,438	304,539	78,430	33,329
Net Surplus ...	...	...	...	...	...	£45,101	...
Less Estimated Charge on account Sinking Fund ...	...	...	...	...	...	30,000	...
Total Surplus ...	...	...	...	...	...	£15,101	...

RAILWAYS.

STATEMENT SHOWING TONNAGE AND EARNINGS OF GOODS CARRIED.

Class of Goods.	1918-1919.		1919-1920.		1920-1921.		1921-1922.		1922-1923.	
	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.
Coal, Coke, and Charcoal ...	179,613	7.80	215,779	8.58	270,227	10.71	248,227	9.97	214,274	8.46
Ores and other Minerals ...	242,182	10.52	281,367	11.18	347,448	13.78	322,743	13.06	404,745	15.97
Wool ...	31,915	1.39	33,089	1.32	15,836	.62	19,526	0.79	16,134	.64
Hay, Straw, and Chaff ...	83,245	3.62	114,677	4.56	100,802	3.99	99,462	4.03	111,500	4.40
Wheat ...	410,852	17.85	467,009	18.56	299,483	11.87	367,637	14.88	323,399	12.76
Other Grain and Flour ...	183,344	7.97	223,995	9.10	128,019	5.07	132,856	5.38	134,233	5.30
Firewood ...	535,282	23.26	426,011	17.05	475,434	18.85	464,781	18.82	439,865	17.36
Local Timber ...	299,360	13.01	349,076	13.87	497,345	19.72	443,396	17.96	454,138	17.92
Imported Timber ...	942	.04	2,325	.09	4,547	.18	2,280	0.09	3,759	.15
Fruit and Garden Produce ...	45,826	1.99	50,153	1.99	50,607	2.07	54,007	2.19	61,936	2.44
Fertilisers ...	61,363	2.67	79,457	3.16	87,649	3.48	96,081	3.89	112,326	4.43
All other goods ...	227,385	9.88	265,033	10.54	243,659	9.66	220,747	8.94	257,754	10.17
Total ...	2,301,309	100.00	2,515,971	100.00	2,521,256	100.00	2,469,753	100.00	2,534,113	100.00

Class of Goods.	1918-1919.		1919-1920.		1920-1921.		1921-1922.		1922-1923.	
	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.
Coal, Coke, and Charcoal ...	£ 53,355	5.12	£ 70,795	5.51	£ 129,815	8.61	£ 129,895	8.19	£ 114,750	7.02
Ores and other Minerals ...	48,094	4.62	58,699	4.57	87,170	5.78	87,691	5.57	99,293	6.08
Wool ...	54,972	5.28	47,475	3.69	41,266	2.74	47,684	3.03	48,581	2.97
Hay, Straw, and Chaff ...	49,455	4.75	68,773	5.35	67,047	4.44	70,615	4.49	79,543	4.87
Wheat ...	138,948	13.34	173,056	13.46	166,694	11.05	222,264	14.13	185,911	11.56
Other Grain and Flour ...	75,884	7.28	99,481	7.74	71,607	4.75	77,419	4.92	75,739	4.64
Firewood ...	56,050	5.38	40,924	3.18	50,272	3.33	50,553	3.21	51,070	3.13
Local Timber ...	126,700	12.06	167,432	13.03	319,666	21.18	299,687	19.04	311,946	19.10
Imported Timber ...	569	.06	1,103	.09	2,302	.15	1,735	0.12	2,913	.18
Fruit and Garden Produce ...	48,074	4.61	52,358	4.07	60,966	4.04	64,031	4.07	74,892	4.58
Fertilisers ...	12,501	1.20	19,709	1.53	26,303	1.77	30,406	1.93	34,791	2.13
All other goods ...	378,152	36.30	485,609	37.78	485,160	32.16	492,422	31.30	551,186	33.74
Total ...	1,041,840	100.00	1,285,418	100.00	1,508,858	100.00	1,573,301	100.00	1,633,596	100.00

	1910-11.	1911-12.	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.
Railway Revenue ...	£1,858,914	£1,806,579	£2,047,823	£2,382,022	£2,163,700	£2,217,250	£2,004,148	£1,970,333	£2,012,811	£2,463,136	£2,013,611	£3,054,258	£3,150,030
Railway Mileage ...	2,376	2,508	2,854	2,907	3,332	3,332	3,425	3,491	3,539	3,539	3,539	3,539	3,555
Wool exported ...	£1,047,456	£1,009,858	£984,938	£907,363	£817,630	£1,273,183	£1,420,291	£535,819	£1,052,141	£3,937,106	£2,388,110	£3,202,145	£3,232,596
*Wheat produced (bushels)	6,807,540	4,358,904	9,158,594	13,331,350	2,024,190	18,236,353	16,103,216	9,303,787	8,845,387	11,222,950	12,246,080	13,004,721	13,857,432
*Hay produced (tons) ...	178,891	299,095	255,751	278,585	156,932	395,172	236,089	267,163	250,014	370,025	264,244	368,720	457,371
Gold produced ...	£6,003,789	£5,634,004	£5,493,072	£5,478,032	£5,195,732	£4,803,206	£4,361,698	£3,924,197	£3,580,650	£2,637,032	£2,425,852	£2,385,753	£2,204,257
Timber exported ...	£932,800	£1,001,593	£965,308	£1,142,280	£808,392	£442,014	£310,983	£274,280	£332,980	£465,734	£1,137,223	£1,040,040	£907,454
Coal produced ...	£104,016	£121,109	£150,184	£153,374	£137,575	£140,388	£182,852	£192,248	£219,200	£311,731	£393,424	£404,521	£372,130
Other Minerals (exported)	£165,277	£150,400	£195,764	£215,819	£169,094	£155,213	£189,124	£275,856	£247,691	£218,067	£199,394	£75,534	£143,898
†Number of Sheep ...	5,158,516	5,411,542	4,596,958	4,421,375	4,456,186	4,803,850	5,529,960	6,384,191	7,183,747	6,697,951	6,532,065	6,506,177	6,604,135
†Number of Cattle ...	825,040	843,638	806,294	834,205	863,835	821,048	863,930	927,086	943,847	880,644	849,803	803,108	830,606
†Number of Horses ...	134,114	140,277	147,629	156,636	161,625	163,066	169,730	178,151	180,094	174,919	178,064	180,334	181,150
Area of land selected (acres)	1,022,112	1,973,565	1,408,108	908,851	602,551	308,590	235,840	547,583	611,135	1,469,684	1,728,465	1,024,129	1,839,270
Area of land leased (acres)	9,314,310	11,595,445	21,170,037	8,622,488	7,855,984	8,175,594	9,845,516	20,383,357	30,571,708	19,178,124	20,354,785	28,641,668	7,605,22
c Area of land under cultivation	6,309,832	6,650,628	6,717,226	7,320,538	7,648,768	8,056,374	7,822,549	7,587,820	7,582,716	7,325,519	7,683,272	7,704,242	8,304,009
*Area of land under crop (acres)	855,024	1,072,653	1,199,991	1,537,923	1,867,547	2,130,456	2,004,944	1,679,772	1,605,088	1,828,163	1,804,986	1,901,680	2,273,785
Tonnage Shipping, Inwards	2,408,803	2,597,156	2,767,276	3,381,304	2,366,855	2,491,537	2,548,339	1,694,000	2,122,439	2,860,040	2,843,470	3,231,392	3,166,544
Tonnage Shipping, Outwards	2,419,978	2,615,952	2,755,500	3,375,232	2,794,822	2,462,875	2,557,986	1,102,295	2,111,894	2,659,392	2,825,680	3,231,386	3,153,737
Exports, including Gold ...	£8,177,272	£10,443,570	£8,845,030	£10,415,095	£5,352,140	£8,040,484	£14,683,027	£5,807,335	£10,023,675	£10,008,790	£12,258,639	£13,028,883	£10,973,833
Exports, excluding Gold ...	£3,752,783	£3,300,473	£4,549,126	£5,429,064	£3,082,276	£4,795,057	£5,562,066	£3,607,335	£5,927,471	£12,619,962	£10,440,617	£10,647,324	£8,886,333
Imports ...	£8,450,855	£9,233,722	£9,598,745	£9,727,473	£8,301,280	£8,983,000	£9,385,010	£7,649,233	£8,023,990	£12,368,331	£14,839,241	£12,037,779	£12,944,048
Savings Bank's Deposits d	£3,170,345	£3,504,626	£3,716,184	£4,551,872	£3,743,135	£3,640,874	£3,523,851	£3,606,075	£4,415,732	£6,045,930	£6,142,756	£5,276,218	£5,321,616
Savings Bank's Withdrawals d	£2,667,377	£3,316,113	£3,084,046	£4,600,884	£3,878,854	£3,828,187	£3,471,959	£3,549,233	£4,128,161	£5,936,575	£6,223,806	£5,571,830	£5,880,578
Excess of Arrivals over Departures	11,567	9,069	5,244	3,663	6,816	6,146	6,121,17	6,2811	7,433	6,746	6,123	1,523	3,920
‡ Population ...	287,746	301,904	313,223	323,047	321,227	312,785	305,980	307,858	310,207	320,694	333,120	340,020	348,868

* Season ended 28th February.
 ‡ Population over Arrivals.

† Year ended 31st December.
 c Area cropped, cleared, fallowed, ringbarked, etc.

§ As on 30th June.

¶ Including Perth Tramways.
 d Not including School Savings Bank.

a Preliminary figures liable to revision.
 e Exclusive of premium realised on export sales.