

says he will do something, he should do it, or else he should not make the promise.

Hon. C. B. Williams: We were not at war ten years ago, and the promise should have been carried out.

Hon. L. CRAIG: Yes, or else it should not have been made. There is a vast difference between wanting something done by someone and that someone, having been responsible for the original position, then losing interest in the matter. I understand a somewhat similar position arises in connection with the nurses' trouble at Claremont. Their organisation wanted to allow the girls to go to Claremont for a month and now the authorities will not allow that month to be treated as part of their course of training.

The Honorary Minister: You are wrong.

Hon. L. CRAIG: The reason for their attitude is that they were assured that some promise had been made by the department, and now they will not accept the department's assurance. An impression is growing that one cannot trust a department unless one gets something in writing. On the other hand, I am sure that any promise made by a Minister is carried out. I do not believe that any Minister would make a promise and not carry it out. Mr. Cornish raised the question of education, and I am very glad the hon. member did so. The subject has been chopped to pieces for years, as regards the need for better education. Mr. Cornish, however, raised a point which has been worrying several members for a long time—accommodation for high school pupils. I fail to understand the Education Department's attitude in regard to that matter. If the high school system is to be extended to certain areas, accommodation for pupils is just as important as the school itself. The school is of no use unless accommodation is available for pupils.

Hon. J. Cornell: The major question is to get primary education into the country.

Hon. L. CRAIG: It is useless to provide high schools in country centres unless accommodation is provided for children, resident at a distance from the centre, to stay at. That must be done. It is really part of the scheme. In the past schools like the Bunbury High School have proved reasonably satisfactory, children being accommodated all over the town. The Country Women's Association has promised to conduct a hostel for the high school children in Bunbury;

but why should women be expected to spend their time and energy in running hostels? I do not know. The feeling of the women is that somebody has to do that work. I trust that in any future scheme for the expansion of the high school system, the matter of accommodation will receive attention.

We must lift our system of education to a higher plane, and, in my opinion, the accommodation part of the system is part of the high school. Without accommodation, I repeat, a high school is useless. Hostels in association with high schools need not necessarily be conducted by the Government. I do not want the Government to run them. I do, however, want the Government to supervise the hostels. A hostel built by the Government can be let, if that course is thought desirable; but there must be a supervising board. If we want to lift the standard of education for country people—by which term I mean people living at a distance of eight or ten miles from a school—measures must be taken to allow the children of such people to attend school five days per week, with good accommodation under supervision. I support the motion.

On motion by Hon. A. Thomson, debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn till Tuesday, the 22nd August.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 5.50 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Wednesday, 9th August, 1944.

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

QUESTION—COUNTRY WATER SUPPLIES.

As to De-ionizing Process.

Mr. WATTS asked the Minister for Works:

(1) Has his attention been drawn to an article in the "Westralian Farmers' News" of the 13th July, 1944, referring to a process called "de-ionizing" of water?

(2) Have enquiries been made as to this process and to the likelihood of its being of service in extracting saline matter from water available in various parts of Western Australia?

(3) Is it likely to be of service in solving any of the problems of country water supply which are associated with salinity or mineral content in water?

(4) If answers to the above are not available, will he have full enquiries made to ascertain the possibility of this form of treatment in view of the problems associated with salt and mineralised water in this State?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) No.

(2), (3) and (4) The subject is receiving the consideration of the Government Analyst and a full report will be received in due course. It is understood that the process is a very expensive one.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

On motions by Mr. Wilson, leave of absence for two weeks granted to the Minister for the North-West (Hon. A. A. M. Coverley) on the ground of urgent public business; for one month to Mr. Styants (Kalgoorlie) and Mr. Raphael (Victoria Park) on the ground of military service; and for one month to Mr. Newton (Greenough) on the ground of Air Force service overseas.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Sixth Day.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

MR. NEEDHAM (Perth) [4.35]: I desire in the first place to offer my congratulations to you, Sir, on your re-election to the exalted position you occupy, and to congratulate you on the manner in which you have carried out the duties of your high office in the past. This you have done with a true

sense of dignity and impartiality. I hope you will long be spared to carry out those duties. I take this opportunity also to congratulate the Premier on having reached another milestone on life's highway. I am sure I am expressing not only my own sentiments, but those of all members and of many people outside when I venture the hope that the Premier will be long spared to carry on his good work and that he will have many happy returns of the day. We are very fortunate in being able to assemble again in this Parliament in the midst of a world war. The news that is coming to hand from the various theatres of war is certainly extremely encouraging. The position in the last few months has considerably changed. When we realise the desperate state of affairs in 1940 compared with the position today we have reason to be grateful for what has happened and thankful to those men of the Allied Forces who, through their valour and indomitable courage, have brought about this change in the situation.

I agree with the remarks of the member for Mt. Marshall who yesterday mentioned the debt of gratitude we owe, especially to the men of our own Fighting Forces. When we consider what those men have gone through in the various theatres of war in which they have been engaged—whether in the Air Force, the Army or the Navy—we have reason to feel proud of them. Through Libya, Tobruk, Crete and New Guinea they have established an extraordinary record. I do not think that any war in history has been fought under conditions similar to those that have prevailed in New Guinea. Our troops had to conquer not only the enemy, but also the country. They had to overcome the various diseases, principally malaria, with which the country is infested. What they have accomplished in the face of such difficulties will certainly go down in history. The hon. member who addressed us yesterday afternoon has had some experience of war. He is one of those who have been through the horrors of two wars and he carries one of war's scars inflicted in the present conflict. He has been spared and has now come amongst us to take part in the affairs of state.

The member for Claremont, when addressing the House yesterday referred to the question of employment. He appeared to express a doubt as to whether employment was inevitable. I asked him during his

speech whether he did not consider full employment inevitable. I cannot see why it should not be. For the second time in 30 years the world is in the shadow of war. Thirty years ago last Friday the nations were plunged into the first world war and we were told that that war was to be fought to end war and to make the world safe for democracy. None of these things eventuated, and now, for the second time in 30 years, the world is plunged into another war. The youth of this continent, the cream of Australia's manhood, are again offering their lives on the altar of their country's service. It is to those comrades in arms that our thanks and gratitude are extended, and if they are to gain anything from their sacrifice, for the injuries they have suffered and the miseries they have gone through, the least they can expect is employment. If that is not available to them and if we do not, when the war is over, establish some semblance of the new order that is so glibly talked about, I am very much afraid there will be another conflict.

Mr. Leslie: It will be inevitable.

Mr. NEEDHAM: The member for Wagin laughs, but I can assure him this is no laughing matter. The conflict I have in mind will be vastly different from that in which we are now engaged. It will be a revolt amongst the peoples of the Allied nations, among the men who come back from the various theatres of war—unless some guarantee is given them that all the promises made during the currency of the present hostilities and all the talk about the establishment of a new order are implemented to the full. I venture to assert that if that is not done we will have a civil war, which will be worse than the war through which we are passing now. I wonder why we should not be able to say definitely that when our men return from this fearful struggle there will be full employment not only for them but for all the people of the Allied nations. In the past war has been accepted as inevitable. We have been told that it is merely in accordance with human nature that wars shall be fought. I do not subscribe to that doctrine.

Mr. Marshall: Nor would any other sane person.

Mr. NEEDHAM: No person should be so debased as to subscribe to the doctrine that war is inevitable. There must be other ways of determining disputes between nations apart from the dread arbitrament of

the sword. I believe that when the present war is concluded there will be civil conflicts—unless our social standards are improved. I am not alone in holding that belief. The member for Irwin-Moore yesterday told us that there would be another war in a few years' time. That is a very poor estimate of the world and its peoples if we are to be hurled into another shambles. I am glad to say that the position has vastly improved, but the danger is that people may be lulled into a sense of false complacency. At this stage when we have our opponent staggering on the ropes let us try to give him the knock-out blow. I am fortunate in having the chance to say a few words in support of the adoption of the Address-in-reply, because, again according to the member for Irwin-Moore, I may soon not have the opportunity to do so. Another promise that hon. member gave us yesterday was that in three years' time the State Parliament would not be in existence. In those circumstances, I certainly advise members to embrace the present opportunity to express their opinions lest they should not have another chance to address themselves to such a motion as that now before the House.

Mr. Berry: I said that would happen unless we did something, and we have not done anything in the State Parliament for years.

Mr. NEEDHAM: I do not agree with that assertion. In my opinion, the State Parliaments of Australia have done much good work during past years. Perhaps they could have done better and possibly they desired to do better. The member for Irwin-Moore knows perfectly well that there is an effective brake upon reformatory legislation in nearly all the State Parliaments throughout the Commonwealth. He knows there is such a body as the Legislative Council.

Mrs. Cardell-Oliver: Thank God!

Mr. NEEDHAM: If there has been any dearth of social legislation passed by State Parliaments to the extent that he and I could have wished, we can safely lay the blame at the door of another branch of the Legislature.

Mr. Thorn: That is a nice way by which this House can get out of its responsibilities—crawling out backwards.

Mr. NEEDHAM: I cannot hear what the hon. member says, but he will have an opportunity to address the House, at which

stage he will be able to enlarge upon his assertion.

Mr. Mann: That is a nice excuse!

Mr. NEEDHAM: It is no excuse at all. Mention was made by the member for Irwin-Moore of the necessity for a change in our monetary system. I believe there will be an improvement in that respect when the present war is concluded, but I also believe that there will not be any appreciable improvement in social conditions or in the standard of living unless there is a change in the monetary system. We can make all the promises we like and introduce all the legislation desired in this or the Commonwealth Parliament or in any Parliament in the British Commonwealth of Nations, but if the present monetary system is allowed to continue we will not make any advance.

Mr. Marshall: We will go back.

Mr. NEEDHAM: I am inclined to agree with the hon. member that rather than go forward with improved social conditions and living standards, we will retrogress. The first essential towards the securing of a better policy is a change in the monetary system. That, to my mind, is the foundation on which the new order must be built. Personally, I believe that there is every possibility of a change in the monetary system. Leading men in the world today are agreed on that point, and are beginning to formulate plans towards that end. Unless the necessary change is brought about, however, nothing that this Parliament can do will advance us or help us to attain the position we desire.

Referring now to the improved position in all the theatres of war, I suggest that perhaps the end of the struggle, especially in Europe, is nearer than a few of us thought a while ago. Of course we should keep on doing everything possible to prosecute the war to a victorious and early conclusion, but at the same time we should put ourselves in readiness to meet the demobilisation. In order to be prepared for demobilisation and the rehabilitation of the service men and women the necessary plans must be prepared. I notice that in view of the improved position as regards the war the military authorities have removed some of the restrictions imposed. My opinion is that still more of these restrictions can be removed.

It is time we got back to normal so far as certain things are concerned. Air-raid

shelters and blocked-up windows can, I believe, be safely removed right away; but in that matter there is a possibility that the question of manpower is involved. The reference in the Lieut.-Governor's Speech to enlistment in Western Australia is correct. This State has reason to be proud of the number of enlistments here, not only from the men but also from the women. Those enlistments are the highest per capita in Australia. I happen to be chairman of a war savings certificate committee, and know what work has been done in that respect. Western Australia's contributions to loans have also been most creditable. From that aspect Western Australia has played a highly prominent part.

The Speech contains a reference to secondary industries, and that is of particular interest. The Government is to be congratulated on the progress made despite the many difficulties resulting from war conditions. The development of the potash industry is an important step forward. When that industry is in full swing, it will prove of great benefit to the primary industries. But more important in that connection is the progress made in the erection of a wood distillation and charcoal iron plant. In that we have a foundation for the principal primary industries. When we have the steel industry operating in our midst, we shall have the real foundation for secondary industries. I believe it to be quite possible that in the very near future we may have something analogous to the Broken Hill Proprietary Company in this State. We have the raw material, and we have the men, and we have the skill. We have always possessed those three things—men, material and skill; but unfortunately before the war we have lacked the courage to handle those things and develop the relevant industries. By this time we have proved ourselves capable of turning out some very fine manufactures. The war has demonstrated the ability of our tradesmen. A little while ago I noticed in the Press a statement in which a visiting expert in engineering from Great Britain paid a high tribute to the tradesmen of Australia, saying that all the precision work done here was equal to any done in the rest of the world. That was a tribute to our tradesmen from a man who knew what he was talking about.

The development and expansion of secondary industries here, however, is bound up in an especial way with the question of immigration. We cannot hold this vast country unless we populate it. Here we have in Western Australia alone a vast territory for which we are responsible—a third of the whole territory of the Commonwealth. Whatever delusions we may have had in the past about population this war has dispelled. The war has proved that in order to hold this country we must populate it. There are two ways in which that end can be attained. One, of course, is to encourage the native immigrant, increasing the population by more numerous births from our people. We can assist in that direction by making our standard of living considerably higher than it is now, and we should have to get assistance by inviting migrants from overseas. As the member for Irwin-Moore said yesterday, we shall have to make conditions of employment in Western Australia attractive to migrants.

The Labour Party, I wish to emphasise, has never been opposed to immigration. It has, however, always been opposed to indiscriminate immigration, a system under which anybody and everybody was brought here, fare paid, and immigrants invariably landed in the cities after a few weeks' residence in Australia, the result being to glut the labour market by entering into competition with labour already here, and thus to create unemployment. The Labour Party did not approve of the system obtaining here some years ago, when thousands of people were brought to this State and placed on groups. We do not want that kind of immigration. The idea of having group settlements was good in itself, but it was initiated on too vast a scale. Western Australia has paid heavily for the mistakes it made in connection with group immigration. What the Labour Party would like to see, and what it has always advocated, is a balanced system of immigration, so that when migrants come to this country they will be immediately placed in profitable employment, and, being placed in proper employment, they are not creating a drag on the market, nor competing unfairly with other workers.

I have vivid recollections of the years 1921 and 1923, when people were coming to this State from overseas to our group settlements. At that time I happened to

be secretary of the Trades Hall, and every day men were coming to me asking for assistance to find them employment. I asked them how long they had been in Western Australia and where they had been, and they replied that they had been for two or three weeks on the group settlements and had then left. I asked them what their occupations were and found that they were labourers and tradesmen, such as carpenters, boilermakers, etc., and that not 5 per cent. of them had ever had any experience at all of agriculture. The result was that we then very soon had serious unemployment and for some time we had to deal with 2,000 or 3,000 people out of work. That is the kind of immigration to which we are opposed, but we realise that a proper system of migration can be established which will not only bring to our shores the right kind of people but will help to solve the problem of unemployment.

Mr. North: They will be encouraged in great numbers in America.

Mr. NEEDHAM: That is so. Amongst suggested post-war public works the most urgent will be that of housing. Even now, in view of the improvement in the war position and the possible redistribution of manpower, something more might be done to relieve the housing shortage. I understand that as a result of the Prime Minister's visit to Great Britain and America and the improvement in the war situation there will shortly be a complete review of the men in the Forces. In fact, I believe that review is proceeding now and I am rather hopeful that in consequence labour and materials will be released so that the building of houses may be proceeded with even before the cessation of hostilities. I need not stress the shortage of houses, as every member is aware of it. In every electorate there is evidence that the demand for houses cannot be met. Therefore the nucleus of the scheme will have to be added to considerably before the houses being built will meet the existing demand.

The reference in the Speech to the preparation of plans for the selection of sites for new schools and the enlargement of existing school areas to meet the demand for the post-war period is very welcome. The proposal is good as far as it goes, but something more is needed for the improvement of our educational system. The education of our children is of paramount im-

portance to the community; particularly will it be so in the post-war period if we are to equip adequately the rising generation for the promised new order. In addition to what has been outlined in the Speech, we must have an adequate training system for our teachers if we are to have a successful system of education. We have not got it at the present time; far from it. Teaching is a most responsible profession. Teachers carry a fair amount of responsibility each day. Parents hand over their children to the teachers for so many hours a day.

The parents in their own way have endeavoured to form and develop the minds of their children in an endeavour to inculcate in them morality and everything that is good. The child leaves home, goes to school and the teacher takes the place of the parent. Of course, the teacher has to do much more than the parent can do and so I say his position is most responsible. He should have a proper course of training, one not hurried nor for a short period. I hope that before long the Government will be able to provide our teachers with that superior education. Twenty years ago the main college course was a two-year course. There was a short course of 12 months for training teachers for rural schools and selected students were given a three-year course, whilst a few received a four-year course. What a vast difference there is today and has been for some time past! The training period is only 35 weeks, a ridiculously short time.

The London County Council, which is responsible for the education of over half a million children, has recommended to the British Government a four-year course. The Western Australian Teachers' Union suggests a minimum course of three years. I have here a document giving some interesting information as to what is being done in Great Britain about the training of teachers. The document was received from Canberra from the High Commissioner for the United Kingdom. It is dated the 19th May, 1944, and I make the following quotation from it:—

The Training of Teachers in Britain.

The MacNair Report on the Training of Teachers and Youth Leadership has just been published, as the Education Bill, which is the most comprehensive measure in the history of English education, nears its final legislative phase. Full recommendations are made in the report on the methods by which the highest possible educational standard can be

achieved. It is estimated that a quarter of a million teachers will be needed at the end of the war to meet the huge educational demand. Mere numbers are not enough. The plan outlined in the report insists that it is essential to have the most highly qualified staffs trained in the needs of the modern world. The whole standard of education is to be raised so as to attract men and women of the highest intelligence and culture to the teaching profession. To this end the conditions prevailing in the profession are to be radically improved and it is to be thrown open to a far wider field of recruitment.

On the question of salaries that should be paid to teachers, the report says:—"It would be a bad day for education if the chief attraction of the teaching profession ever came to be the money earned in it, but, like other professions, it is a matter of bread and butter." The report proposes appreciably higher scales of remuneration, comparable with those obtaining in the administrative grades of the Civil Service and in the professions generally. "The contentment of teachers depends in a large measure upon the spaciousness and attractiveness of the buildings and grounds in which the school conducts its work." Small classes are considered essential, and to this the country is pledged. The second part of the report deals with the actual training of teachers and again stresses the necessity for the widest possible outlook. "We must ensure that those who intend to become teachers may have a chance to enjoy a period of education and training which, above all else, will encourage them to live a full life themselves so that they may have experience apart from their professional studies." The "normal" course in training colleges, it is considered, should be extended from two to three years with one full term's continuous practice in a selected school.

That is the latest proposition placed before the British House of Commons as a result of a commission of inquiry and members will note the vast improvement which is proposed in the position of teachers in Great Britain and the adequate realisation of their responsibility. I desire to stress in the first place that the report recommends a three-year course of training. I am not blaming the Government because it has had to resort to a 35-week training period as against two years. I know the many difficulties, financial and otherwise, which have compelled the Government to take that step, but I believe the Government realises the position and intends to increase the period. In our new Minister for Education we have a man who has spent his life in the teaching profession and he should be of wonderful assistance to the Government in improving our educational system.

Another matter calling for attention is the size of the classes. They range today to as

high as 50. Experienced teachers contend that if the best results are to be obtained the maximum number in a class should not exceed 30. I did not see in the McNair report any reference to the size of classes, but I understand that in other parts of the world the classes are much less than 50. They are somewhere about 25 or 30. After giving serious thought to this matter I have come to the conclusion that when a class exceeds more than 30 pupils, it puts a severe strain on the teacher. These are two phases of our educational system which are worthy of notice and which, I daresay, will receive the sympathetic consideration of the Government. There is also the question of raising the school age. During the last session we passed a measure agreeing to raise the leaving age to 15.

I know that certain reforms which all mean increased expenditure in our educational system are appreciated by the Government. For instance, if we put into operation the law allowing the increased leaving age, it would in itself, cost a lot of money simply to provide further accommodation. But the State should not have to bear the whole of that expenditure. I understand that negotiations with the Commonwealth suggest it should assist financially and that there is much need for reform. I think the Commonwealth should assist. Again, we would experience difficulty in connection with manpower and with the necessary materials in the early post-war years. But it is imperative that these matters should receive a very high priority so that men, money and materials will be available for their implementation. The immediate requirements of our educational system might be summed up in this way: More and better equipped schools; more teachers and a minimum training course of three years; classes not to exceed 30 scholars; and the extension of the excellent system of university grants to students introduced by the Commonwealth.

One other matter to which I wish to refer before resuming my seat, and which was mentioned in the Lieut.-Governor's Speech, is the unification of railway gauges. We are informed by the Speech that information is being obtained in regard to the unification of railway gauges. We have been hearing of the unification of railway gauges for 40 years. There was never a session of the Commonwealth Parliament when I was a member that the question did not arise. We

had untold information about it. We had reports ad lib. from highly qualified engineers, not only in regard to the necessity for a uniform railway gauge but also as to the size of the gauge. If ever a doubt existed in our minds as to the necessity for this, then the present war has disposed of it. This is one of the public works crying out for implementation, and I sincerely hope that very early in the post-war period it will be taken in hand and that we, in Australia, will be able to travel from Wiluna to the northern parts of Queensland without the difficulties arising because of breaks of gauge. That is all I have to say on the Address-in-reply. I express the hope that before long the war in which we are engaged will have come to a victorious close.

MR. OWEN (Swan): As a newly elected member it was with some trepidation that I looked forward to the occasion of my first speech in this House. However, having met the members and listened to their deliberations over the past week or so I find that they, and even the Ministers, are only human after all. I wish to record my appreciation of the kindly advice and encouragement that has been given me from all quarters of this House. I was pleased to be associated with this Chamber in conveying to the relatives of the late Mr. R. S. Sampson our sympathy. You, Mr. Speaker, knew Mr. Sampson as a member of this Assembly. I knew him as our representative for Swan. Because of his ability to know all that was going on, and to keep in touch with even the minor details of his electorate he was welcome in every section of the district. I feel sure that he has set a very high standard for me to follow. It remains for me to prove whether I can be as good as he was.

The news from the war fronts is very encouraging. After five years of war the United Nations have at last got the enemy on the run. Although victory may not be in sight, it does appear to be just around the corner and we can look forward with confidence to the outcome of the war. When victory is achieved and the boys and girls of the Services return home, we must see that the lessons of the war are not forgotten. One outstanding matter is that in order to make our continent safe we must develop it more thoroughly. To make it secure from aggression we must have more population.

I think there is a lot in the old saying, "Populate or perish." In view of this I suggest that we adopt the slogan of "Progress and populate." If we adopt a progressive policy and our industries are progressive we need not worry about inducing migrants to our shores; they will come of their own accord, and once the flow starts it is likely to increase because nothing succeeds like success, and industry builds on industry.

A classic example of this is to be found in the rapid expansion of our goldmining industry some 40 years ago. In the hope of making money, people flocked here from all parts of the world, and in consequence our other industries benefited from the expansion of the goldmining industry. Agriculture, particularly fruitgrowing, received quite an impetus as a result of this expansion. It also made possible that great feat of engineering, the goldfields water supply, which, in its turn, has done much to stabilise the water supply of our eastern wheat belt, and made it possible to carry a larger number of stock than could otherwise have been done. Because of these successes we should have confidence in the future and, by adopting a bold policy of expansion, we can develop our State far beyond what it is at present. Whatever the outcome of the Referendum on the 19th of this month, it must be expected that the Commonwealth Government, because it holds all chief avenues of taxation, must assist in financing any sound scheme of rehabilitation, or industrial expansion.

In this State, as a direct consequence of the war, many industries have languished. We have a lot of leeway to make up. As a result, the manufacturing, mining, building and timber industries will have a big call on our manpower after the war. If we are to achieve a balanced economy it is only right that these industries should be developed to their fullest possible extent but, because the source of real wealth is in the land and because we have so much land suitable for development, the agricultural industries must receive attention. Throughout Western Australia we have large areas of developed and partially developed land, and also much undeveloped land. I feel sure that the Minister for Lands has already in mind the direction that any land settlement scheme should take. But because I know the possibilities, or per-

haps I should say the capabilities, of making a good living from a comparatively small area of land I would commend to his consideration the suggestion that some of the well-watered and fertile gullies which traverse many of our forest lands should be opened for land settlement.

There seems to be an accepted theory here that land settlement and forest reserves are poles apart. That is somewhat similar to the feeling in America in its wild west day when the open range ranchers were perturbed at the inroads of the so-called nester or sod-busters. I cannot see why, under proper direction, these things should not go hand-in-hand. Many of these well-watered gullies, when developed, make ideal orchard and garden lands. They are usually timbered with black butt and red gum in association with swamp banksia, paper bark and ti-tree scrub, and grow very little, if any, good jarrah. Their alienation would not in any way reduce the effective areas of forest land. If those areas were settled and developed they would provide ready-made firebreaks and the roads leading to and from the settlements would also make firebreaks. The settlers would be in a position to afford valuable assistance in quelling forest fires, and would also provide a reservoir of labour for part time and seasonal forestry work. I venture to say that in this way and within a range of 50 or 60 miles of Perth, hundreds of settlers could be established to the mutual benefit of all concerned.

Before any new large-scale land settlement is launched we should at least make sure of our present settlers and see that they are put on a sound and secure footing. So, in order to safeguard our present and future settlement, an intensive programme of agricultural research should be undertaken. The practical experience gathered during the lifetime of the State coupled with the capabilities of modern research, should do much to ensure that no future land settlement is doomed to failure. Other phases of industry and the marketing and distribution of our products should also be greatly developed by modern research. We should endeavour to get the utmost out of all our industries.

The member for Claremont, speaking of soil fertility yesterday, questioned whether superphosphate was not taking everything out of the soil and giving nothing back. I

agree that superphosphate, used indiscriminately and without recourse to proper farming methods, does tend to have that effect, but with proper methods it can and does actually build up the fertility of the soil. Progressive farmers, particularly in orchards, adopt the practice of green manuring. A green manure crop may consist of lupins, tick beans or peas planted and grown with the intention of ploughing it in. When the green manure crop decomposes it returns to the soil all the minerals taken from it plus a large quantity of humus, together with the nitrogen it has extracted from the air. The green manure, when rotted down is quite equal to stable manure. In fact, the excreta of animals does not add to the soil all of the mineral value of the foodstuff consumed, because the animal makes use of certain minerals and proteins and therefore these constituents are not returned to the soil in the form of manure. In the drier areas it would be impossible to grow large quantities of green manure crops, but by a system of crop rotation it is possible to build up the fertility of the soil. In former days the practice was wheat crop, burn stubble and re-crop annually. The fertility and soil structure were destroyed and that in turn permitted of soil erosion. But this is not the general practice today.

Mr. North: Then I gather that farmers are improving the soil?

Mr. OWEN: Yes, by adopting proper farming methods they are definitely improving the soil.

Another matter of paramount importance to the producer and the consumer is that of price-fixing. Certain primary products, including some lines of fruit and vegetables, have had a ceiling price imposed. It seems that the price-fixing regulations were designed to help the consumer and prevent unduly high prices from operating. The aim seemingly is not to prevent profiteering on the part of the grower. In my opinion the grower does not get all he deserves, and the fixing of ceiling prices without relation to grade standards is definitely wrong and likely to get us nowhere. Taking the periods of plentiful supplies, the ceiling prices have never been reached, and the wholesale returns to growers are often low indeed. In these cases it is not always the consumer that benefits. A distributor who sees the opportunity—it is hard to keep a check on each individual—

is often free to charge the maximum price without any relation to the maximum profit allowed to him. On the other hand, when commodities are in short supply it frequently happens that all grades bring the maximum price. We have had considerable experience of this in the last 12 months since ceiling prices have been in operation. I, and many other growers, have had the experience of sending first, second and third-grade produce to the markets and receiving the maximum price for all grades. If the first-grade commodity is worth the maximum—for example, in the case of cauliflowers, 17s. 6d. per dozen or a retail price of 2s. each—

The Premier: Irrespective of size.

Mr. OWEN: —irrespective of size or quality—then the consumer of the second or third-grade product is being robbed to the extent of 6d. or 9d. per cauliflower because of the inferior quality of the line. On the other hand, if the third-grade line is worth the ceiling price, then the superior grade is worth considerably more, and the grower is not getting a proper return for his labour.

Mr. Leslie: That does not encourage efficient farming.

Mr. OWEN: No; on the contrary, it is tantamount to paying a premium to the grower of the inferior product. I earnestly hope that if the ceiling prices are to be continued steps will be taken to implement grading regulations so that ceiling prices, instead of covering all produce irrespective of grade, may be fixed in accordance with first, second and third or inferior grades. If this were done, both the grower and the consumer would be much better served.

Other speakers more able than I have discussed the needs of modern transport, and have pointed out the shortcomings of the railways, tramways, trolley-buses and other forms of transport. Whilst I admit that the difficulty has been accentuated by the war, there is no denying the fact that improvements are long overdue. If I may mention one phase without trespassing upon the preserves of other members, I would like to refer, for the attention of the Minister for Railways, to the matter of the carriage of perambulators on the Perth tramcars. We would all like to see a large increase in the population of the State, and no doubt the baby bonus and child endowment allowances will encourage larger families, but with the

shortage of domestic help and the fact that tradesmen cannot and often will not deliver household goods to the consumer, people have to go to the shops for them, and the mother of a child that has to be wheeled in a pram is to be pitied when she has to travel by tram.

Time and again I have seen women with prams left standing at the stopping places because the tram crew could not or would not accept the prams. I do not know whether it is a matter of tramway regulations or whether it is merely an unwritten law amongst the tramway men themselves that only two prams may be carried on a tram at the one time, but it is a fact that many tramway men refuse to take more, and many women have complained of it. If it is only a matter of space—admittedly some of the large prams occupy considerable space—I would suggest that hooks such as are provided on privately-owned buses and on the trolley-buses be fitted on the front and rear of tramcars so that if the crew of the car could not or would not lift the pram aboard, the mother herself could put it on the hook and be sure that it was accompanying her to her destination.

Reference was also made by the member for Claremont to the beautifying of the city and its surroundings, presumably in order that we and tourists might enjoy the scenery. We have in this State, and not always at a great distance from the city, beautiful natural scenery, and if we had good means of transport to reach there and return in quick time, we could exploit these beauty spots for the tourist traffic that would come our way. In pre-war days it was usual for mail boats to call each week, one inwards and one outwards; they arrived early in the morning and departed at night. Passengers, with the idea of seeing something of our city, usually made their way only to Perth, because there were no transport facilities to go further, and they had to stay around the city. If means were provided to get out during the day a distance of from 30 to 50 miles—there is no reason why that should not be provided—they would see something of our country and serve as ambassadors in advertising the beauties of the State. By that means not only would the tourist traffic be enhanced but new settlers would be induced to come here permanently. With these remarks and in

the hope that the war will soon be ended and that we can assume a little more responsibility in our peacetime progress, I support the motion.

MR. TELFER (Avon): As a new member I wish to express my appreciation of the many courtesies shown to me by members of the House. I am also extremely thankful for the help that Ministers have given me from time to time. I feel it my duty to assist in bringing about a better post-war readjustment. I was very glad to have heard the expression that security is one of our dominating desires. Security from fear, security from want and security to see that our children receive good education are certainly amongst the dominating factors for us to exploit. The expression has also been used that it is desirable to see that our State is more densely populated and that people in the country get more out of life. I look at things in this way. If we can provide decent amenities for the country, people will go there. In the past the country has had only 10 per cent. of amenities and 90 per cent. of lip-service. I regret very much that those in power in the Commonwealth over the last 15 years have allowed a shocking state of affairs to develop.

If the countryside were given a decent standard of living, proper housing, good educational facilities, water, transport and amenities in the towns, I feel that three-parts of our objective to populate the countryside would be achieved. We have to accept it that all things have a foundation. I am of opinion that our economic life mainly depends upon the man on the land. If he does well, naturally the industrialist does well, as does also the business man and the professional man. If we place the man on the land on a sound footing we all go forward. We must recognise, and the community must recognise that no one section can go forward while another is going backward for any considerable period of time. There should be more team work to allow all sections of the community to go forward, for then we would not have so many heartburnings as have been experienced. Our heritage should give us a reasonable standard. That must be one of the dominating factors in the days to come. Scientists in the past have on many occasions worked for the benefit of the individual. The work of

the scientist today should be for the benefit of the people as a whole.

We have the wrong outlook as to money values. The only function of money is to exchange one group of commodities for another. Money in its original form was never made to be bought and sold. Things were the other way round. It was for the purpose of exchanging one group of commodities for another. The wealth of our countryside lies in our goods and services. Money itself cannot restore life or health. It is the physical ability of the doctor which restores health. If the war went on for 10 years money would not have any effect upon it. Money did not save Singapore. It is labour and the products and the equipment of war that could have saved Singapore. That is how I regard money. It must be our policy to see that money or bank credit is our servant and not our master.

Depressions are not necessary. If we have a surplus of labour it is definitely the duty of the Commonwealth and State Governments to make work for that labour. If necessary let us get bank credit with which to do that. The Commonwealth Bank must be put back into its true position. We in this House ought to press for that if we are to work and team up with goodwill. We will then have less bickering between employer and employee. A lot of the trouble today is due to the harvesting of the crop that was sown 15 years ago when we had unemployed in the streets, men begging for work and so on. That only brings about syndicalism, and the result of that is bad thoughts. That is the harvest we are reaping today. In the post-war period I say that money for national works such as transport, railways, water supplies, electric power, national building, schools, etc., should be made available at one-half per cent. interest. It is fantastic to look at the railway balance sheet and find that that concern is paying over £1,000,000 in interest, representing 20 per cent. of its income. The burden on the country cannot be carried.

Perhaps we must have price-fixing commissioners for a long time after the war, because we cannot put up with the old jungle law of supply and demand, where the strong crushes the weak. We have heard a lot in the past of this wonderful law of supply and demand, but I regard it as the cruellest law that can prevail. Speaking of prices brings me back to the man on the land. It

is definitely a State and Federal job to provide a planned production and for the control of production. If wheat were worth 5s. or 20s. a bag it would not interfere with its life-giving qualities. Whether we got our wool for 6d. or 1s. 6d. per lb. it would still give the same degree of warmth to our bodies. That is how things are. If we want to keep people on the land we must give them security. There must be a general levelling up of prices.

Water in the back-blocks should not be any dearer than it is to a man close to a weir. The man at the weir should not have to pay more for his bread than does the man in the back country. Services, costs and amenities 300 miles into the back country should not be any more expensive than at a spot 30 miles from the city. We should have equality. Why should the man in the back country be carrying the burden? My remarks more or less apply to education. Compare the country child with the city child. I heard of a man in the city today who was prepared to spend £150 on the purchase of a commodious car so that he could transport his two children to school. He also proposed to pick up another 5 children and to travel 50 miles on a round trip every day. Compare that with what is happening in the city! It is shocking that children should be up against such a disability.

As stated by the member for Perth we find monitors in charge of schools. We sometimes see a small school with only eight children and as many classes, and a monitor who has not had more than 12 months training put in charge. That is not giving justice to country children. The reason why we are losing quite a lot of people from the country is because they are not satisfied with the educational facilities provided. A great many have gone away. Whilst I appreciate that the Minister for Education is spending perhaps £1,000 a day more than his predecessors did on education, I contend that it is not enough. He will require to spend an additional £1,000 a day to provide the necessary opportunities for our country children. I will say that the Minister is standing up well to his job, and I hope he will do a great deal more than has been done for the country children. In the country we require modern school buses, hostels for the children, central schools where rural, technical and post primary education can be given.

We also want a few high schools and do not want them all centralised on the coast. We contend that there ought to be one at least every 100 miles so as to give all children a chance to secure higher education and take on a professional career. I was recently present at a road board conference when the matter of education and high schools was discussed and the conference was definitely of opinion that these high schools should be erected in order to give children in farming districts and on the goldfields an opportunity to secure the same educational facilities as are available to children in the more thickly populated districts. I am of opinion that the curriculum should be changed to include a course of citizenship. In some of our country schools I do not think one per cent. of the children could give the name of the Minister for Works.

Several members interjected.

The Minister for Works: Perish the thought!

Mr. TELFER: That is the fault of our system. Greater assistance should be rendered to country infant welfare centres. These centres, both in the metropolitan area and in the country, have suffered on account of the war, but the country centres have to contend with transport difficulties, besides which they have to pay their nurses about £120 a year. Therefore they should receive additional assistance.

If members could hear what the Town Planning Commissioner has to say about country houses they would be amazed. I have heard him state that not 5 per cent. of the farmers' country houses measure up to standard health laws, not 50 per cent. are supplied with running water and only 40 per cent. have baths and kitchen sinks.

Mr. Leslie: Less than that.

Mr. TELFER: Conditions in country homes should be such that refrigeration becomes standard equipment. In some of our small country townships I have seen the fourth-rate houses in which railway fitters are forced to live. Railway barracks in many cases are in a shocking condition; there is only one respectable barracks that I have seen and that is the one at Northam. I do not altogether blame the Minister for Railways for these disabilities, they are the result of the wretched slavery to which we are committed by our monetary system.

Mr. Marshall: Hear, hear!

Mr. TELFER: In our promised new order we should definitely break away from that system; the Minister is hard put to it because he must find over one million per annum for interest.

Railway transport is much below par. Our passenger services should at least be privileged to travel 150 miles in four hours instead of taking seven. Even if it costs £5,000,000 to get our railways up to a decent standard, we should impress upon the Commonwealth that it should make the money available for the purpose at a cheap rate of interest. The department should control the country bus services and use them as feeders for the railway service in order to give the public quick and frequent services. The Minister has said that he is purchasing six Diesels; I think he ought to get three or four times that number. Country residents are entitled to such amenities and if these were provided not only would they have better transport facilities but they would be enabled to make excursions to the coast. I quote the case of the nurses in the hospital at Merredin. They are working seven days a week and eventually get five or six days off. Yet they cannot avail themselves of a cheap trip to the coast because the existing service does not fit in with the week-end. If we are to keep nurses in these country hospitals they should be privileged, after having worked continuously for a month, to have a cheap excursion to the coast for five or six days. If such amenities as education, water supply, transport and stabilised markets were made available in the country, then I think it would not be necessary to solicit people to settle on the land. They would go to the country of their own accord.

I suggest to the Minister for Lands that he should try to secure the 12s. per acre restriction for another year. The wise man in the street tells me that we may get increased supplies of superphosphate this year to the extent of about 58 lbs. to the acre. If that should be the case and the restriction is lifted it would be equal to 40 lbs. of 17 per cent. superphosphate and would not provide the amount of super required for farm lands. Abattoirs and meat chilling works should be established in the country. They should be part of our scheme of decentralisation. I also hope that the Minister will give thought to the personal comfort question. I do not think

the farmer wants to be at all unfair. Getting down to bedrock he puts his case this way: Ill-health or some other misfortune compels him to leave his farm and he should be allowed to go to a private tribunal and be relieved of his obligations.

If a man leaves a farm and goes into business and is absent seven or eight years the road board can go on to his property during that time to destroy rabbits and vermin and can submit a bill for as much as £100, for which he can be sued. It is not right that the personal covenant debt should follow a man for that length of time. The average farmer is quite agreeable to the personal covenant so long as he remains on the property, but if he leaves it he hopes that he will at once be given relief. It may be said that such a man could go through the bankruptcy court. That is true, but such a procedure is expensive and places a stigma on a man. The problem of water supplies is also important. "Water" is a simple word but the Minister for Works has a tough time ahead of him to meet the needs of people in the country in this connection. Sheep and stock have been increased fourfold and the position will be very acute during the coming summer. I hope the Minister for Works has a very good programme in mind for the handling of the situation.

The Minister for Works: I hope it rains like the devil soon.

Mr. TELFER: The Minister is not the only one who wishes that. I feel that we should team up and try to obtain several other amenities for the country such as swimming pools and better sanitation in some of the larger towns. We are entitled to have some of the beautification schemes that were outlined by the member for Claremont. The war has proved that our physical ability to provide goods and services should be the dominating factor and not money.

MR. MANN (Beverley): In the first place I should like to congratulate the new members of the House on their excellent speeches. After having been in the House for 15 years I can assure them that their speeches were capital. I remember that when I first came to the House and made my maiden speech there was a much colder atmosphere then than has been in evidence in later years. I enjoyed the speeches of

the new members on this side of the House and I must congratulate the Government on its acquisition of two excellent supporters on its side of the House. In moving the Address-in-reply the member for Nelson, although a secretary of a union, revealed commendable interest in the rural areas. The member for Avon, too, has definite opinions on rural matters. I am sure that other members on this side of the House find it refreshing to have new blood introduced into the Chamber, men with a broad outlook as opposed to the narrow parochial city viewpoint.

The Minister for Mines: There are very few city members in this House.

Mr. MANN: I appreciate the interjection, but I am afraid that when people become domiciled in the city they become imbued with a metropolitan outlook.

The Minister for Justice: Not always, and especially not when they still have interests in the country.

Mr. MANN: There is no doubt that the greatest factor in life is environment, and that a city environment breeds an entirely different outlook from that evident in the country areas.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. MANN: I suppose the most important problem facing the people, not only of Western Australia but of Australia, today is the forthcoming Referendum. I may not have spoken on the Referendum tonight except for the fact that the subject was raised by the member for East Perth. Perhaps because of his youth he considered it was essential to raise the question. The Bill of Rights passed on the 13th February, 1689, laid down the principle that for the redress of all grievances, and the amending, strengthening and preserving of the laws, Parliament should meet frequently. Now, what has happened in Western Australia? Parliament, which ought to meet frequently, adjourned last November and did not meet again until the end of July of this year. Is that preserving the rights of the people? Why has the Government allowed so long a time to elapse between sittings? Are we not in the same position in this State as in the Eastern States where we are under Federal control by regulation, and not by Parliament? I understand that the Government entrusted with the control of this State decided last November that it was not neces-

sary to call Parliament together until July of this year. That is an astounding state of affairs. If we are going to continue that way no wonder the people say, "Down with democracy and have a central form of government."

If members study the history of Ireland of 1800, which I commend to them, they will find that the Bill of Rights sold Ireland, which had home rule, into the bondage of an Empire. Half of Ireland comes within the Empire, and half is outside. Members will find that the position in Australia today, so far as the States are concerned, is that we will be selling our birthright if we pass this Referendum. We will be placing ourselves under the control of a parliament 2,000 miles away, a vastly greater distance than that between Dublin and London. The Commonwealth Government rarely meets. It has long recesses and the business of the Government is carried out by regulation. Last night I heard the Federal Opposition Leader, Mr. Menzies, disclose to the public just what happens.

Mr. Cross: Did he tell you what companies he was interested in?

Mr. MANN: I thought that government by regulation meant that His Excellency, the King's Representative, was present when Cabinet discussed the various matters, but the hon. gentleman disclosed that two senior Ministers of the Crown, plus one other, can pass any regulation. It is then broadcast by His Excellency's command. Even as the Commonwealth Parliament has brought disgrace upon itself as a result of its control by regulation, so has this State Parliament disgraced itself by its infrequent sittings and long periods without meeting. If we are going to govern properly, the people have a right to expect the House to meet more frequently. I hope that the Referendum will not be carried. If members read the history of Ireland, to which I referred a moment ago, they will find that in those days a very dishonest lot of men comprised the Government. I say, without fear of contradiction, that today there is a good deal of dishonesty in the Commonwealth Government.

The Minister for Mines: That is not fair.

Mr. MANN: I have a perfect right to say it.

The Minister for Mines: It is a miserable remark.

Mr. MANN: It is not; it is a justified statement. The Minister for Mines, as an old soldier of the last war, must appreciate this: When the soldiers of Victoria at their last conference asked the Prime Minister whether he was agreeable to preference to soldiers, he said, "If the Referendum is carried it will be considered."

The Minister for Mines: He did not say anything of the sort.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. MANN: These men are giving their lives for Australia.

The Minister for Mines: He did not say anything of the sort and you know it.

Mr. MANN: It was published in the paper and if such reports are not correct they are denied. This has not been denied. The majority of us present have sons in the Fighting Forces. It is a despicable thing to treat these men in such a way in order to pass the Referendum.

The Minister for Mines: Why did you not advocate preference for the last 20 years?

Mr. MANN: I am also concerned with the position of affairs in Australia today. What do we find? It is a case of strike after strike! Australia has developed into a political-ridden country devoid of law and order. The coalminers in the Eastern States are out almost every day.

Mr. Wilson interjected.

Mr. MANN: A Labour Government is in power in both Federal Houses. Are these men loyal to their organisation?

The Minister for Mines: That is what is hurting.

Mr. MANN: What is hurting is that the Labour Party is being run by the Communist Party of Australia. That is perfectly true, and by interjection the member for Collie says, "Why not?"

The Minister for Works: He did not say that.

Mr. MANN: If these men are justified in striking then so are the men in the front line. I have a son in the Army and so has the Minister for Mines. Other members have sons in the Forces, too. These boys receive 6s. 6d. a day to fight for their country while men drawing £10 to £14 a week can strike. Is that right?

Mr. Thorn: The Food Controller draws £34 a week.

Mr. MANN: Whether the Referendum is carried or not I venture to say that before

the next five years are over Australia will face a bloody revolution.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: A revolution!

Mr. MANN: The member for Guildford-Midland has a very sarcastic mind. He may not be imbued with the same patriotic ideals as I am. I have a son in the Army. He probably has not. Does the hon. member think that we will experience marvellous times in Australia in the future? I say that we will face a revolution when the war is over. Strikes cannot be tolerated. When the Government of the day asks for greater powers and is not prepared to control even the strike question or put an end to defiance of law and order, it is not fit to control the destinies of Australia. Apparently the position is that we have reached a state of lawlessness that no country for long could tolerate. Everyone must realise that the present state of affairs cannot continue.

Mr. Cross: You are magnifying things.

Mr. MANN: I am not magnifying things in the least. If the hon. member were candid, he would agree with me. He knows that what I say is true. He was born on British soil and must pay tribute to the land of his birth after all that Britain has experienced in the last few years. So I say that the hon. member, with his loyalty to the land of his birth, must feel ashamed at the state of affairs that prevails in Australia.

Mr. Cross: I am ashamed of some of your remarks.

Mr. MANN: The position is as I have explained it, and there must be an end to it. The Prime Minister has made repeated appeals to Australia to increase production in various directions, but in many instances his appeals have fallen on deaf ears. How long is this sort of thing to continue? To me the tolerance exhibited by our men in the Fighting Forces is nothing short of marvellous. I joined the Fighting Forces in 1914 and was in action in 1915. But what happens to the young men of today? Many of our boys have been under discipline for four years. They may not have been fighting all that time, but they have certainly been under discipline. The Australian soldier hates discipline; nothing is more annoying to him. Yet these young men have been disciplined all that time, fined for a first offence for a breach of discipline and punished to the extent of receiving 28 days imprisonment for a second offence. And while these conditions are applied to our

boys in the Services, we tolerate these strikes by miners and lumpers. What a pitiful state of affairs!

We have a man like Calwell telling the people that the States that do not agree to grant the additional powers to the Commonwealth will be denied their rights. He went on to say that if the Referendum is not passed, New South Wales and Queensland will get the full benefit. Words fail me when a pup like that talks to the people of Australia in that way. Anyhow, speaking as one of the fourth generation of Australian-born, I say emphatically that we are confronted with a very difficult position. When the Government controls everything by regulation as is being done today, there is no doubt that the country is fast drifting into Facism. It is really a dictatorship. Here is an instance. A woman and her daughter desired to open a tea-room, and applied for a permit. The husband is managing a farm. A bureaucrat decided that there was no need for a tea-room, and so these people are not allowed to operate. Is not that dictatorship pure and simple? Our farmers have been promised more super. but they were asked to manage on 40 lbs. of super. to the acre. That restriction did not apply to the Eastern States; it applied only to this isolated State of Western Australia.

Mr. Thorn: This outpost!

Mr. MANN: Yes, but a most important outpost, and it is denied the right that is conceded to the Eastern States. Time will soon show whether the Referendum will be carried or not. If it is carried, I cannot believe that we shall experience those golden days that some people seem to expect. I was greatly impressed with the remarks of some of the members of the delegations from England and Canada.

Mr. Cross interjected.

Mr. MANN: Let me assure the member for Canning that Britain has sent some very worthy men to this country, and I would far sooner be found in association with them than with the hon. member.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member must not reflect upon another member.

The Minister for Works: You ought to withdraw that remark.

Mr. MANN: If I have hurt the hon. member's feelings, I will withdraw. We in this State are facing the driest season on record for many years.

The Minister for Works: Now you are getting down to facts.

Mr. MANN: The earlier portion of my speech dealt equally with facts. We are faced with an exceptionally bad season and, on top of that, we have war conditions, some of those conditions very foolish, too. For a long time there has been a large body of men in the Army undergoing training in Australia. If, after a man had completed 12 months' training, he had been allowed to return to farming we would have gained a tremendous amount of production. Any member who has worn the King's uniform knows what an irksome life continuous camp routine can be. Even though the fear of invasion has passed, these men are still tied up in the Army, and the farming industry has deteriorated rapidly. For this deterioration there are other reasons as well, some of which were certainly avoidable. The shortage of fodder in the rural areas is really alarming. Today hardly a ton of hay can be found in my electorate. Moreover, there is not a bag of oats to be bought.

I have lived my 50 years in Western Australia, and my experience enables me to perceive very definitely a considerable shortage of fat stock for some time to come. Again, there is little outlook for the export lamb trade. During a few years before the war the farmer had been gambling on the seasons. Labour was not available for farm work. At the present time many farmers are buying wheat from the bins. I ask members to bear in mind that this is the month of August. Each day the weather gets drier. Mundaring Weir already is down 15 feet. During the last fortnight I have made a survey of dams in my electorate, and in most of them there was only a foot of water.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: Why don't you get a Government to make it rain?

Mr. MANN: That is a futile remark.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: Why do you moan?

Mr. MANN: At least we can, through the medium of our voices, point out how we could help ourselves in the future. If no labour becomes available to the farmers, the results will be dire. As regards sheep, I have seen in my electorate very few flocks where more than 20 per cent. of lambs were marked. That is a most serious state of affairs, because the feeding of Britain and the Allied Armed Forces is as serious a question for Australia as is the feeding of Aus-

tralia itself. Crops today are remarkably green and very short, and therefore with decent rains they will probably mature.

From a pastoral aspect, however, the position is very bad. It is essential that farmers should conserve fodder. The Commonwealth Government, or else the Western Australian Government, should have said, "We will retain a certain proportion of men to keep our primary industries going." Today, unlike South Australia, Western Australia has become subservient to the Commonwealth Government. That, I repeat, is not the position in South Australia. South Australia has fought the Commonwealth Government and got away with it. Without the primary industries, our secondary industries will not be worth anything. During the war period Western Australia has gone back considerably, whereas some Australian States have progressed immensely. Last week we had the pitiful spectacle of a tram strike in this State. I was looking forward to a clean sheet, as far as strikes are concerned, during the war period. I am convinced that before long our friends now opposite will be glad to come over to this side of the House in order to fight against Communism.

I have been concerned recently about the position at the Claremont asylum, where, I understand, a number of nurses have been taken away by the Military authorities. In my opinion, those nurses are marvellous women to stand up to their job of caring for the insane. In the whole world there is nothing more pathetic than an insane person, and in taking care of persons so afflicted the nurses are overworked. When the Bill which has been foreshadowed is brought down, it will be considered by this side of the Chamber. Let me point out that a girl trainee upon entering the nursing profession receives only 10s. per week. When she reaches the stage of being paid 17s. 6d. per week, she is taxed, I ask, is there any more honourable vocation in the world today than that of nursing the sick? The girl who goes into the Air Force or the Army draws twice the amount of pay given to nurses. In fact, the girl who wishes to become a nurse is penalised. It must be borne in mind, too, that a trainee nurse goes through a great deal of hardship. Today the object of the majority of people is money—money the whole time. But girls who take up nursing

have a definite love for that calling. Girls who have not that love are useless for nursing. I emphasise that girls who take up nursing should be better treated than they are at present.

Now to matters affecting the farming industry! What today worries the farmer is feed for his stock and sheep. The farmer sells his stock on the market at Midland Junction. That market is apt to fall. I have seen it fall 10s. in the course of a week. The city people, however, derive no advantage from that drop. I consider that all stock should be killed at Midland Junction, graded, and sold on hooks. The Minister for Lands considers that to be a big job, and has appointed a departmental board of inquiry to investigate the subject. I should have liked that task to be performed by a Select Committee of this House. To departmental boards I am entirely opposed. They savour far too much of bureaucracy. However, in this instance, an inquiry is to be held by a departmental officer. A Select Committee of this House would be comprised of men holding various views and that departmental officer might place his views before them. If he himself makes an inquiry he must necessarily be parochial because his thoughts would be cast in one line.

Since the meat restrictions have been imposed there has been no reduction in the supply to the retail butcher, but his ceiling price is higher and he is reaping the benefit. Further, he does not now deliver meat to his customers, who are compelled to get it at his shop and take it away themselves. Both the retail and the wholesale butchers are making enormous profits. If mutton were being sold off hooks, as it is in the lamb export trade, the consumers would reap some benefit. Many butchers are buying small, old, culled ewes because they are fat and can be sold either as small hogget or as lamb.

The Minister for Mines: Mint sauce would make a difference!

Mr. MANN: If the meat were sold in the way I suggest the consumer would get a better quality at a reasonable, fixed price. The public during the past month or so have had a taste of dehydrated mutton. I have seen that meat in Perth and I am sorry for the consumers.

Member: It is frozen mutton.

Mr. MANN: No, I think it is dehydrated mutton. I think it will be found that it is the class of mutton which was bought by the Government in October last at 1d. per lb. It was sold as culled ewe or excessively fat crossbred type. At any rate, it has been in the freezer and the public had a taste of it. It would be a change to have rabbits or kangaroo.

The Minister for Mines: You are lucky to get rabbits.

Mr. MANN: The reason for the high price of mutton today is maladministration. Last year the Commonwealth Government fixed the price of mutton in October and refused to adjust it in April, May and June on the higher basis. The farmer promptly refused to feed his sheep on that basis. If he cannot get an increased price for his stock, he will not hand-feed it during the dry months but will turn it out to grass. As I say, this position has been brought about purely by maladministration. Mutton is not available today, and, as far as Western Australia is concerned, there will be no increase in mutton supplies until November of this year.

The Minister for Mines: But we have rabbits here.

Mr. MANN: The farmer has not reserves of feed and will be forced to turn his stock out. Anyhow, I have not anything further to add except that I sincerely hope the war will come to a quick end. What the future will be it is hard to say. I repeat, without posing as a prophet, that unless our industrial conditions in Australia are altered when the men return from the Front—whether the "Yes" or the "No" vote be successful—we shall face a bloody revolution.

On motion by Mr. Fox, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 8.4 p.m.