

causes had lost heart and were not fit to do "A" class work have been sent to these camps and provided with special employment. I wish to say, to the credit of Government departments and of employers in the State that of 2,162 men known to be resident in this State, with one arm or one leg, only six are on rations, and they cannot accept work because they have to receive frequent medical treatment. It is to the credit of all concerned that so many of these men have been found employment. I doubt whether similar results have been achieved in any other part of the Commonwealth, in New Zealand or in Great Britain. My only worry is that in the increasingly difficult times that are ahead, the Government will find it very hard to maintain what I contend is our present high standard of the treatment of the unemployed. I support the motion.

On motion by the Chief Secretary, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 5.57 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Thursday, 15th August, 1940.

Address-in-reply, ninth day PAGE 260

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

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Ninth Day.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

MRS. CARDELL-OLIVER (Subiaco) [4.33]: It has been said in this House that inflation is not the cause of poverty. I am indeed sorry that the member for East Perth (Mr. Hughes) is not in his seat, for I do not like passing remarks about his speech without his being present to hear

them. If he had said that inflation was not the sole cause of poverty, my observations to-day would be unnecessary, but in my opinion inflation is one of the causes of poverty.

Mr. Cross: What is the cause of inflation?

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: If the hon. member will wait until I have finished my speech, I will meet him outside and answer all his questions. I wish to explain that poverty has many causes. They include unemployment, mal-administration of wealth, mal-distribution of goods, want of proper training, want of education, recklessness in finance, and thriftlessness and other numerous causes. I do not think anybody in this Chamber is competent to advise the people or the Government on the question of finance, or the best method to adopt in order to adjust the deplorable conditions in which we find ourselves to-day. The only reason why I speak on this question at all is that I do happen to know the practical results of inflation, deflation and devaluation, having seen those factors in operation in various countries. When socialistic Germany inflated, she did not control prices; and naturally disaster came.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: When was Germany socialistic?

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: During the year I was there—after the last war, of course. I was there at that particular inflationary time. When prices rose considerably, the printing press naturally was needed for inflation, so as to create currency to meet the vastly increased prices. I have in my possession to-day hundreds and hundreds of thousands of marks which, had they been of any value, would have made me a comparatively rich woman; but at the time they were issued would hardly pay for a week's board. In Germany I saw houses being given away if one would pay the commitments due on them in the way of rates. That disproves the statement that real estate is the one stable value during inflationary periods. Germany could not afford to experiment in financial methods, because the country was a manufacturing country and had few primary industries. When Hitler assumed control in 1933—I was staying there then—he did control prices, and forced the public to consume less. He reduced wages to almost a minimum, and he compelled the people to export commodities which otherwise they would naturally

have consumed. Hitler ended the chaotic conditions prevailing in Germany at that time, and many Germans thought him a saviour; but he did not bring financial stability and prosperity to the country. Accordingly he set about creating a colossal army out of the unemployed. He forced the citizens to feed this army; he established labour camps; and almost every inch of German soil was put into productive use. But still there was not prosperity. With his increased military strength he marched into the Ruhr; and he was forced to do so, because at that particular time Germany would have crashed financially had he not done so. He took Austria for the same reason, and then Czecho-Slovakia. His people had gone to the limit of their capacity in suffering in poverty, and that is the reason why he was obliged to take those countries. He made smaller nations trade on the barter system, and, not possessing the raw materials to manufacture the things they wanted, he compelled them to take what he wanted them to take. The peoples of several Balkan States were forced to accept radios, mouth-organs and similar goods. Further, Hitler used the Germans in those particular countries as fifth columnists to get them to make those nations take the goods he wanted them to take. He imported from the Balkans goods of real value, either for re-sale or for use in manufactures. I have here a little cutting taken from "The West Australian" of the day before yesterday, and it reads:—

"Yugoslavia is to-day in a very dangerous position," declared Dr. S. J. Marian, who recently returned to Perth from Yugoslavia, where he obtained a law degree. "Two years ago Great Britain entered the economic war in the Balkans, and by paying cash for her purchases eliminated the German and Italian barter systems. . . ."

That was because Jugo-Slavia did not want the sort of things that Germany was forcing upon her. In order to obtain prosperity for Germany, Hitler had to ravish Czecho-Slovakia, Poland, Denmark, Norway, and other small countries. No British country—and this is the point I desire to make—would wish to acquire prosperity over the dead bodies of infants and of hundreds of thousands of people, no matter what the economic conditions of any British country might be. Therefore I protest against a statement declaring, in effect, that the financial methods of Hitler, as quoted, proved successful. I

am referring to the statement appearing on page 174 of "Hansard" that the methods of Hitler have been more or less successful. I say that if there is a hell, then Hitler should sizzle there for his so-called successful methods. Now we turn to France. The currency there was inflated. I was in the country at the time. In reality, I was there to get the most I could as a traveller for myself. I know that is selfish, but many other people did the same thing. France became the Mecca of luxury-seekers from abroad during that inflationary period. It was outside money that saved France at the time; but the workers of France suffered untold agony. While I was there the value of the franc was reduced to practically a penny or a little over. Prices rose to meet the reduced franc, but the workers did not receive any more for their labour. The result was that though they were working for perhaps 10 or 12 francs a day when the franc was valued at 10d., it was then worth only 1d. or 2d., so it was almost impossible for them to live. France then stabilised the franc at about 2d., and wages rose. Still there was suffering, because the people who owned real estate were hard hit. They had let their properties or bought them when the franc was valued at 10d. and when it fell to 2d. they suffered considerably. A special law was consequently passed to re-value properties. France could not have suffered as Germany did, because every backyard in France is—as many who have travelled through France know—used to grow vegetables and to house rabbit hutches. France in any case could have been almost self-supporting so far as food was concerned.

Now I come to Italy. The prosperity in Italy arose by deflationary methods, not inflationary methods. Italy was fairly prosperous. Her currency up till 1935 had been reduced by approximately eight billion lire. Gold reserve rose in 1935, when the lira was covered by a gold reserve of almost 48 per cent. Foreign loans were avoided and the Government spent large sums of money on reproductive works. Much has been said about internal and external currency. Many countries have adopted this method of finance. We might say that we have adopted it in Australia, because our pound is not worth a pound outside the Commonwealth. In my humble opinion, only those countries which are self-contained in essentials can effectively adopt this method. In order to

adopt it, Australia would require a large consuming public, which we have not got at the present time. We would require a much larger population. Factories would have to be built to supply all our needs and luxuries. We have at the present time raw materials, but neither sufficient population nor factories. Every country with two currencies is, in my opinion, subject to "Black Bourse" activities. In those countries of Europe through which I travelled I found that almost invariably there was a "Black Bourse." That necessitated rigid control of money coming into and going out of the country. In Latvia, for instance, I could get 13 lats for £1. I was there only two days, however, when I discovered that I could easily get 23, 24 or 25 to the pound. It is interesting to show how easily it was done. I was told, as almost everybody seemed to be, to go to certain centres to reap these advantages. I entered a cafe, sat down to a table and ordered coffee. A Jew came to the table and I ordered coffee for him. He immediately talked about the money problem. He asked where I was going and how long I intended to stay, and then offered me 26 lats to the pound. I had been given 13 previously at the bank but he being a Jew and I being a Christian I thought I should get 25. I therefore said I would not accept 26 but would take 25. We ended by my getting 24.

Member: It was a hard bargain.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: It was a funny experience, but such things happened almost every day. While we were negotiating a policeman came in with a large baton and ordered everyone out of the cafe. We made our way into the street, but when the policeman had gone we went back to the same table and to the same cup of coffee, and so the Jew and I concluded our negotiations.

The Minister for Mines: That is rather like a two-up school.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: I desire to refer to something said by the Minister for Lands last night. This is a different subject from that on which I have been speaking. The Minister referred to the English trade which was given to Continental countries and might have come to Australia. Those are not his exact words, but that was his meaning. When I visited the Balkan States I called on every large manufacturing con-

cern. Many of them I noticed were dealing in Australian wool. I asked them what firms in Australia they were trading with. I was told that they did not deal with Australia at all, that they could not do so, because they bartered with English firms for wool, giving in exchange anchovies and such-like merchandise, including butter. I inquired if they could not barter direct with Australia. They replied, "No, because you only grow the things we grow; consequently we could not do that." The point I wish to make is that very often we think we are being unjustly treated by England regarding trade. That, however, is not so, because England is acting as a commission agent, bartering our goods for products which she must have. England cannot give us all her trade; she must take goods from those countries in order to trade.

I do not desire to weary members about the question of finance. It has been said that 80 per cent. of our farmers are in the hands of the banks; but I would like to point out that 80 per cent. of motor cars in this State are not paid for; 80 per cent. of the houses are not paid for; nor are 80 per cent. of the radios and refrigerators and the clothes that the people wear. Not only the farmers are in this state of distress; all the people of the State are suffering. That comes from the curse of credit. It is a curse.

The Minister for Lands: A debt may not represent distress.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: No, but many farmers are in distress and also in debt. Many of our people who have entered into commitments are to-day anxious to get out of them because they are finding it impossible to fulfil them. I am not one to say that we should not help the farmers. I wish to help them to the greatest possible extent but, on the other hand, we in this country have undertaken many commitments. The member for Brown Hill-Ivanhoe (Mr. F. C. L. Smith) said that many of the residents of his suburb had made money from farming, and I can only suppose they were farmers who sold out while the going was good.

Mr. Marshall: Most of them, anyhow.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: But the men who remained on the farms put the money they had made back into development, and so I ask "Who is the better citizen, the man

who lives in Nedlands in comparative luxury or the farmer who has put his money back into his holding in order to develop the country?" I do not think there is any comparison between the two. Therefore I say that the farmers who are in distress at present have probably been the very good farmers who put their money back into the development of the country, and we should stand by them now.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: That is some comfort to me.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: Those men who have been on farms for a considerable time and are hard up against things to-day are men who have cleared the land and done very heavy work at tremendous expense, and though they may not reap the benefit, the fruits of their labour will be enjoyed by generations to come.

The member for East Perth said that the Government could take over the first mortgages of the farmers. That, I believe, would also mean inflation. When the money was paid to the mortgagees, those people would look around for fresh investments and so the vicious circle would start again. I do not know how the money could be paid, but perhaps it could be made available in the form of Government bonds redeemable over a period of years. One thing is certain; whatever system we adopt—and I am sure that after this war our monetary system will be changed in some way—it will have to be a better one than we have at present. It might involve inflation, but it will have to be controlled inflation with controlled prices.

Mr. Marshall: Do not you know that Government bonds are as good as cash in the banking world?

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: I realise that. Nevertheless something could be done to provide that such bonds could not be redeemed.

Mr. Marshall: I agree with that.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: Several members have stated that the Speech of the Lieut.-Governor contained nothing calling for a reply. This is a most regrettable fact. It might have contained reference to the policy the Government proposes to adopt in respect of money made available by the Supply Bill. That would have given members an opportunity of criticising expendi-

ture and offering suggestions, perhaps for necessary savings. The point I raise is, why does not the Government take the members of the House and the public into its confidence regarding the expenditure of colossal sums of public money? Surely the Government must realise that its action is most undemocratic. To ask for practically a blank cheque, knowing full well that by force of party numbers that cheque must be passed, seems not only to be extremely undemocratic but also does not make for unity.

Mr. Needham: It was not a blank cheque.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: Well, it was a large cheque and blank as far as we were concerned, and we were asked to pass it. Even if we presume that Ministers consist of super-intelligent men of super-economic ability—mere presumption of course—the action of the Government is a slur upon members of the House and an insult to the citizens we represent. The Premier has told us that we can debate these questions when the Estimates are submitted, but by that time much of the money will have been spent.

I wish to point out that members on this side of the House have always been extremely fair to the Government. In my opinion they have gone out of their way to give the Government the benefit of the doubt in many matters of policy and administration. They have always tendered kindly advice and have offered their services if those services were required in any way. The Leader of the National Party, the member for West Perth, suggested that the Government should form a committee representative of members of each party. I believe that if the Government had adopted this idea years ago, it would have resulted in great benefit to the State. Members on this side of the House sought no monetary gain and no political advantage. I also think that members on this side have been too lenient to the faults and omissions of the Government and have been led away by the soft voice of the Premier and the suave arguments of his confreres. Members on this side have been too silent about the obvious corruption and graft that exist in almost every walk of daily life.

The Minister for Mines: Do you include yourself?

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: We have been too silent toward those in a position of trust who definitely countenance the break-

ing of the law and give encouragement to those who break it. We have been too long suffering with those people who themselves use or allow others to use capitalism, nationalism, communism and party bias to stir up class hatred in the breasts of the unfortunate in order to obtain and maintain power. For national discord as we have allowed it to be preached with impunity and for the activities of the subversive elements, the responsibility rests almost entirely with the Government.

Several members interjected.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: I know that members do not like this sort of talk, but they are going to hear it. I have before me a circular, copies of which were put into almost every letter box in Subiaco—and I daresay other suburbs as well—only a few days ago. The circular deals with the "Defeat of the Menzies Dictatorship" and says—

On June 15 the Menzies-Cameron Government declared the Communist Party illegal. The homes of hundreds of Australian citizens were raided by the police in the middle of the night (true Gestapo style) and quantities of books and other property were seized. . . . In the name of "war for democracy" Australians must submit completely to the dictates of the banks, the B.H.P., and big combines, for these rule Australia through the Menzies-Cameron Government.

All working class opposition will be brutally suppressed. Industrial conscription will prevail in the factories. Trade union organisation, award wages and conditions are gravely menaced.

The only thing the Government excludes is the power to conscript men for overseas, and no one believes that it will delay much longer in securing these powers.

The methods of Hitlerism are being employed against Australians by Menzies and Cameron; both of them have in the past openly expressed their admiration for Hitler and his methods.

The document goes on to mention most of the leaders, and ends with the following:—

In this situation we must build a solid united front of the workers against the capitalistic dictatorship exercised by Menzies, and win the farmers and middle class to our side. We must build the trade unions and Labour Party organisations and rid them of those leaders who have sold out to capital. We must wage the fight against conscription and against every attack on wages, conditions and liberties of the workers.

Please hand on and post this to a friend.

The document has gone to thousands of people.

The Minister for Mines: Who signed that document?

The Minister for Lands: The Hon. Norbert Keenan might have written that.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: It is unsigned.

The Minister for Mines: Can you blame us for that?

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: I blame the Government because it has passed into every house letterbox.

Mr. Needham: We have nothing to do with post offices.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: I said letterboxes. It is the fault of the Government which has been countenancing this sort of stuff. Members of the Government do not like these things being mentioned.

Mr. Needham: It is a Commonwealth matter and has nothing to do with us.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I must ask members to keep order.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: Hon. members who do not like my remarks can go outside. This discrediting of the nation has been taught and preached at almost every corner of the country.

The Minister for Mines: Rats!

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: And with impunity. The responsibility for that teaching lies at the door of the Government. I daresay many members opposite are disciples of Karl Marx. I am sure they are, because I have heard many of them quoting him. It is the teaching of this class of hatred that is coming home to roost in this city.

Mr. Needham: Yours is a nice Christian spirit.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: Democracy must fall, if those who form democracy become divided by hatreds as the writer of this paper and the Labour Party have preached. We know that with the fall of democracy religion will fall, and all that is best in family life. Surely we have sufficient leaders in this State to form a wise policy without depending upon the spirit of hate to maintain it. This Government could give a lead to Western Australia in the direction of getting rid of party conflict and could adopt the suggestion of the member for West Perth (Mr. McDonald) and form the committee to which that hon. member referred. The spirit of men, then, instead of developing into class hatred could be usefully employed by being directed by all

parties against those things that are bringing ruin to our civilisation.

The Minister for Lands: We might put your anonymous friend on the committee.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: He is a friend of the Minister for Lands. Some time ago I recalled to your mind, Mr. Speaker, a poem entitled "A City of Brass." I did so in answer to an attack made by the Minister for Lands on somebody. Through our lax legislation we have practically reached the stage that brought about the fall of that particular ancient civilisation. I have no fear of Hitler, Stalin or Mussolini, but I am afraid of those who in our own land by their inability to lead, or their lax leadership, are so undermining the Constitution that we are likely to end in the same manner as is shown in the poem entitled "A City of Brass." I am going to tell members the whole of that story, as it will give them a better idea of the warning I wish to give than I can do. It is the story of

The land that the sand overlays,
The ways to her gates are untrod
Where a multitude ended their days,
Whose fates were made splendid by God.

It continues in the following strain:—

Till they grew drunk and were smitten with
madness and went to their fall,
And of these is a story written; but Allah
alone knoweth all!
When the wine stirred in their heart their bos-
oms dilated,
They rose to suppose themselves kings over
all things created—
To decree a new earth at a birth without
labour or sorrow—
To declare: "We prepare it today and inherit
tomorrow."
They chose themselves prophets and priests of
minute understanding,
Men swift to see done, and outrun, their ex-
tremest commanding—
Of the tribe which describe with a jibe the per-
versions of Justice—
Panders avowed to the crowd whatsoever its
lust is.

Swiftly these pulled down the walls that their
fathers had made them—
The impregnable ramparts of old, they razed
and relaid them
As playgrounds of pleasure and leisure with
limitless entries,
And havens of rest for the wastrels where
once walked the sentries;
And because there was need of more pay for
the shouters and marchers,
They disbanded in face of their foemen, their
bowmen and archers.

They replied to their well-wishers' fears—to
their enemies' laughter,
Saying: "Peace! We have fashioned a God
which shall save us hereafter.

We ascribe all dominion to man in his factions
conferring,

And have given to numbers the Name of the
Wisdom unerring."

They said: "Who has hate in his soul? Who
has envied his neighbour?

Let him arise and control both that man and
his labour."

They said: "Who is eaten by sloth? Whose
unthrift has destroyed him?

He shall levy a tribute from all because none
have employed him."

They said: "Who hath toiled? Who hath
striven, and gathered possession?

Let him be spoiled. He hath given full proof
of transgression."

They said: "Who is irked by the Law? Though
we may not remove it, . . .

If he lend us his aid in this raid, we will place
him above it,

They instructed the ruled to rebel, their rulers
to aid them,

And since such as aided not fell, their viceroys
obeyed them.

They unwound and flung from them with rage,
as a rag that defiled them

The imperial gains of the age which their
forefathers piled them,

They ran panting in haste to lay waste and
embitter for ever

The wellsprings of Wisdom and Strength,
which are Faith and Endeavour.

They nosed out and dugged up and dragged
forth and exposed to derision

All doctrine of purpose and worth and re-
straint and prevision;

And it ceased, and God granted them all things
for which they had striven,

And the heart of a beast in the place of a
man's heart was given. . . .

When they were fullest of wine and most flag-
rant in error,

Out of the sea rose a sign—out of Heaven a
terror.

Then they saw, then they heard, then they
knew—for none troubled to hide it,

An host had prepared their destruction, but
still they denied it.

They denied what they dared not abide if it
came to the trial,

But the Sword that was forged while they lied
did not heed their denial.

It drove home, and no time was allowed to the
crowd that was driven.

The preposterous-minded were cowed—they
thought time would be given.

There was no need of a steed nor a lance to
pursue them;

It was decreed their own deed, and not chance,
should undo them.

The tares they had laughingly sown were ripe to the reaping,
 The trust they had leagued to disown was removed from their keeping.
 The eaters of other men's bread, the exempted from hardship,
 The excusers of impotence fled, abdicating their wardship.
 For the hate they had taught through the State brought the State no defender,
 And it passed from the roll of the nations in headlong surrender.

That destruction was brought about by mal-administration by men who sat in legislative halls as they sit to-day, and laughed when they heard things that they knew to be true. It may be said that the story does not apply to us. Let me tell members how I connect this warning with the administration of to-day. We learn from the papers that crime is becoming increasingly common in all classes of society, that contempt for the State is being expressed by young and old. We have banned the youth movement, because its members have expressed themselves disloyally. That movement embraces many educated young men and women. We have letters such as those I have already described distributed. We have charges in the Children's Court doubled in number in the last few years, and men in positions of trust breaking their trust. We have read of men defying the Arbitration Court, and the leaders opposite have encouraged them to do so. We can in this House pass resolutions without the slightest intention of honouring them. One resolution that we passed last year would have relieved thousands of children from the burden of ill-health. The Government, however, refused to give even £50 when asked to do so by the Perth City Council, to the movement it was desired to assist, stating that it had no money. Our financial position at the time when the motion was passed had scarcely changed, and the Government could have afforded to give £50. The Government knows that the Children's Hospital is full, and that 75 per cent. of the patients are there because of under-nourishment in one form or another. You, Mr. Speaker, have a letter in your desk that was sent to you at the opening of Parliament regarding the case of a number of children living in a tent. There were six children in one tent, living many miles from a school and a doctor. They were the children of relief workers. The parents asked to be brought to town,

but the Government would not consider the application, and two of the children have since died. Ministers may smirk and smile. If they can go on a political platform and tell the people they are doing their best, and that that is the best they can do, God help the nation. We have passed other motions that have gone into waste-paper basket. They amounted merely to pious resolutions. We passed a motion to enable old railway men to have their grievances remedied, but that too went into the waste-paper basket. Last session we passed a resolution expressing the opinion that the Commonwealth Bank should be made to function in the interests of the welfare of the people by using the national credit of the country debt free for defence and other national purposes. The motion was agreed to to quieten the eloquent member who introduced it, but it too, went into the waste-paper basket. The trade in betting is increasing all over the country, and shops are allowed to flourish within a hundred yards of metropolitan police stations. If a complaint is made to the police they reply that members of Parliament wish the trade to continue. That has been said to me time and again.

The Minister for Mines: Who said that?

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: Commissioner Hunter.

The Minister for Mines: Will you back that up by proof?

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: I will. I could quote dozens of cases.

The Minister for Mines: I will not stand for you saying that about me personally.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: I am not saying it about the individual.

The Minister for Mines: You said the Commissioner of Police stated that members of Parliament wish the trade to continue.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: I did not say the Minister for Mines was implicated, but that members of Parliament were behind this sort of thing. When the member for East Perth brought a motion before the House with a view to having an inquiry made, what did the House do?—defeated it; threw it out. Why let those accusations continue rather than permit such matters to go on for trial?

The Minister for Mines: I will see what Commissioner Hunter has to say.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: If everyone is so innocent, let us have a select committee and let us ascertain just what Ministers have done. The member for Bunbury (Mr. Withers) asked where the Government would raise funds if the betting shops were closed. It is the fear of honesty that is bringing about our ruin. Men of weak character are placed in positions of trust, not only by the Government but by others, and often this is done for political expediency. Our children have no chance of receiving a civic or moral training under such conditions. Positions are found for political friends often regardless of ability at all. We are told there are still over 6,000 unemployed who are dependent upon the Government for relief work, and yet Labour takes 25s. from each of those men with the object of bolstering up its political party.

Mr. Cross: Who takes 25s. from them?

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: It makes my blood boil! I do not lay these charges solely at the door of the Government because Ministers and their supporters have been elected to their present positions by the people themselves.

Mr. Cross: If the people heard you speaking here, they would not again elect you to this Chamber.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: The people who elected Labour representatives to govern them in this Chamber are responsible for the position. On the other hand, as men who are presumed to be leaders, Ministers should realise where lawlessness is leading us and what the consequences of hate of statutory authority must be. The people must be taught—not by propaganda such as I have read, and such as may be heard at street corners and elsewhere—to realise that we have a system of government capable of providing the State with a true democracy, in which every man can get according to his needs, and be taught to give according to his capacity. That is God's political programme, and God will not be mocked. We may thrive for a time on the abuse of democracy, but we will end as did "A City of Brass." The member for Hannans (Mr. Leahy) pleaded for the rehabilitation in society of the gold thief after he had served his sentence. Where will such an unmorality end? Surely if a gold thief is to be reinstated in society, so must be the banker who

steals little or much; so must the seducer, the adulterer, the bigamist, the wife-beater, the murderer. They may all have been first offenders.

Cannot members see that it is because we are pandering to the underworld that we have these first offenders in our midst? It is because we are recognising dishonesty as part of our social make-up that democracy is crumbling. It is because political expediency and mushy sentiment is becoming our political platform instead of political honesty, that we are to-day at the cross-roads. It is because of these considerations that I cannot support the plea of the member for Hannans.

I would like to speak about the excellent speech by the member for Claremont (Mr. North), who mentioned that many industries were now flourishing throughout the Commonwealth, but, unfortunately, Western Australia has not participated in that progress. Our industries have not increased. The reason for this was disclosed in the cessation of operations at the bolt and nut factory at Bayswater. The Minister for Industrial Development failed in his attempt to prevent the closing of that factory, and I regard that as serious in these days when no such undertaking should be allowed to cease operating, particularly if it is capable of providing for the requirements of Australia's war effort. The dismantling of such machinery during the period of war should not be allowed. If our laws and regulations are such that this particular company could not compete against firms in the East, then, seeing that every such factory is needed to-day, it becomes the bounden duty of the Government to alter those laws and regulations so that such factories may continue to function.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: By paying low wages?

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: About the time that the Bayswater factory closed down, Sir George Beeby, the Chief Justice of the Federal Arbitration Court, according to a report in the "West Australian," took certain action. The report read:—

Because of the drain on skilled labour for war industries, the Chief Judge of the Arbitration Court (Sir George Beeby) today extended for six months the relaxation of apprenticeship restrictions in the cases of mechanical engineers, electrical fitters, electrical mechanics and boilermakers.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: That arose out of the union's action. It was a gesture on the part of Labour.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: I have quoted what Sir George Beeby did.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: It was a gesture, and you want to destroy it!

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: No, I do not, but I claim that during the period of the war we must not allow our factories to close down. We want every factory that is capable of assisting our war effort to continue operating.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: And at the end of the war, you would start closing them down.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: Yes, if the hon. member desires, or he could take them over. Our first objective must be to win the war. I was impressed by the speech of the member for North-East Fremantle (Mr. Tonkin) who was correct when he said that we are not prepared for war. We may pretend that we are, but in our hearts we know we are not. I believe the Federal Government is doing all it possibly can, but it is hampered in its efforts by the disunity in the Federal Labour Party. Every man and woman should be in training at the present time. There is no need to wait for equipment. Germany did not wait for equipment in 1935. When I was in Heidelberg I saw young men commence their training with broomsticks and spades. They started at 6 a.m. and continued in the evenings, going about their ordinary work in the day time. We are thousands of miles from Eastern centres, and, if invaded, we could not depend upon help from those quarters. We want a strong air force and all our men and women trained for guerilla warfare, and a million men to be sent overseas to fight wherever the British flag flies. That should be our objective.

Mr. J. Hegney: There are plenty of men now, but the authorities cannot train them.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: We do not want them in camps; we could train them from their homes. Every individual in the State should be trained. If Britain falls, we know that we fall too.

Mr. Rodoreda: How do we know that?

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: Because we are British. Britain realises that the present conflict is a people's war, and every

town and village in England is prepared. Wishful thinking will not help us in Australia

No easy hopes or lies
Shall bring us to our goal.
But iron sacrifice
Of body, will, and soul.
There is but one task for all—
One life for each to give.
Who lives if Freedom fall?
Who dies if England live?

MR. FOX (South Fremantle) [5.24]: I am very pleased that we do not have to listen to many diatribes such as that just delivered by the member for Subiaco (Mrs. Cardell-Oliver). One would think from her speech that all Labourites throughout Australia were disloyal. We thought our objective was that there should be peace among the people and that everyone should do his utmost to help Britain win the war. We thought that applied to members opposite as well as to those sitting on the Government side of the House, but if we are to have speeches such as that delivered by the member for Subiaco, I do not know where we shall be. In my opinion, she has done more to stir up disaffection among the people than many of these so-called fifth columnists.

Mrs. Cardell-Oliver: Fifth columnists?

Mr. FOX: Yes. I am sorry that we had to sit and listen to such a speech.

Members: You did not have to stay.

Mr. FOX: What would be the position of members of this Chamber if they had to listen to that sort of stuff every sitting day? I am proud to be able to talk to every member of this House. We can sit next to each other at the meal table and we get on together admirably. That applies to members sitting on the opposite side of the House as well as to our own supporters. If we have to listen to many such speeches as that of the member for Subiaco, the position will become intolerable. I hope we shall hear no more such utterances. Fortunately the party to which the member for Subiaco belongs is decadent, and possibly it will very soon be out of existence. So much the better! There are many fine members of her party with whom we are proud to associate

Mr. Sampson: You are not exactly preaching peace.

Mr. FOX: At the conclusion of her speech, the member for Subiaco talked about sending a million men out of Australia.

Mrs. Cardell-Oliver: Of military age.

Mr. FOX: I do not believe there are a million able-bodied men in Australia.

Mrs. Cardell-Oliver: My goodness!

Mr. FOX: Not of military age. We have a population of only seven millions in Australia. If we were to send a million men away from our shores, who would be left to defend Australia? Many nations have not aligned themselves on either side. For instance, we do not know what Japan intends to do. We must have sufficient men in Australia to defend the country. I am satisfied that if volunteers are required for service overseas, every man needed will be available.

Mr. J. Hegney: More than they will require.

Mr. FOX: During the 1914-18 war, thousands of our men enlisted for service overseas. There are many members on the Government side of this House who enlisted for that war. Many of them and their sons have answered the call for volunteers during the present war. The member for Subiaco knows that men will come forward when required. On the other hand, she indulged in the talk that was prevalent 30 years ago. It went down in those days, but people have too much intelligence now for it to go down at this juncture. I listened to that sort of stuff when I was a boy, but people are too well educated to be affected by it now. Another remark the hon. member made referred to the thriftlessness of the people as the cause of their poverty. I am sorry the member for East Perth (Mr. Hughes) was not in his seat at the time. The hon. member put him through the mill.

Mr. Hughes: Why did you not defend me?

Mr. FOX: The hon. member can do that himself.

Mr. Hughes: What did the hon. member say about me?

Mr. FOX: The member for Subiaco should know that the majority of the workers throughout Australia operate under awards of the Arbitration Court or industrial agreements. A large proportion of them receive the basic wage which provides only for a man, his wife and two children. There

are a hundred and one considerations that are not provided for by the basic wage. All it purports to do is to keep a man, his wife and two children in reasonable comfort. That wage does not provide for amusements. Then there are periods of intermittent unemployment and other considerations that affect the position. It is ridiculous for the hon. member to say that the workers are thriftless.

Mrs. Cardell-Oliver: I did not say any such thing. I said that thriftlessness was one of the causes of poverty.

Mr. FOX: I do not think that is a cause, because the basic wage is not sufficient to keep a man, his wife and two children in more than a reasonable degree of comfort. It does not enable them to give their children the amenities they should enjoy. For instance, they should, like the children of richer people, be taught music and other arts. Such men should be able to buy houses of their own. If they attempt to do so today, they realise from the outset that they will be old before they have completed their payments.

I noticed in reading the newspaper the other day that there was a discussion at a meeting of the Perth Road Board concerning the erection of wooden houses at Maylands. People owning brick houses in that locality were said to be complaining because of a proposal to erect McNess homes in proximity to houses costing large sums of money. The chances are that the people in those houses at the present time will be paying for them for the next 20, 30 or 40 years. I do not consider that people who are obliged to ask the Government to provide them with a McNess home should be established in an isolated district. They have a perfect right to have their homes erected alongside houses valued at £1,500. There has been talk about the erection of wooden houses decreasing the value of existing brick structures, but quite beautiful wooden homes can be built, provided they have tiled roofs. I have seen some excellent wooden houses in the Eastern States.

Mr. Watts: Is that the type of house that will be built at Maylands?

Mr. FOX: I do not know. I know that there has been an agitation by those living in brick houses against wooden houses being built near them. Brick areas ought to be abolished. When I was in Melbourne, hun-

dreds of wooden houses with tiled roofs were being erected and they were very impressive.

Mr. Warner: But they would cost more than £250, would they not?

Mr. FOX: They would not cost a great deal more. As a matter of fact I think some of them cost £600. Those living in brick houses in localities other than Maylands frequently raise objections to the building of workers' homes costing from £450 to £600. The civic authorities have received such objections even when the wooden houses to be erected have been valued at from £600 to £700. That should not be. The Government ought to abolish brick areas altogether.

Mr. Hughes: Would it not be better to abolish interest?

Mr. FOX: Yes. The large amount of interest that has to be paid on borrowed money is the cause of all our hardships. During the present debate quite a lot has been said about monetary problems, and hon. members have sought to indicate the causes of poverty. The whole matter seems simple to me. I do not say that the methods of finance are simple because one would need a university education to understand all the ramifications of our financial system. Even then I do not suppose one would fully understand the whole subject, because there has been disagreement even in this House between two very high authorities. Consequently I do not propose to take part in the argument at all. I merely wish to express the opinion that if the Commonwealth Government controlled the Commonwealth Bank and the interest rate was fixed at the cost of administration, say at about 1 or 2 per cent., many of the hardships existing in Australia at present would disappear. Quite ordinary people should be able to effect such a simple change as that. They ought not to require a university education to accomplish it.

I would like to congratulate the Minister for Lands on his able and informative survey of the position of the primary industries of Australia. According to his speech the situation is serious and the effect on employment is likely to be correspondingly severe. We were informed by the Minister that 14,000,000 cubic feet of shipping space were usually required for the transport overseas of our surplus fruit. At the same

time the space available this year is negligible. The export of fruit provides employment for men engaged in transporting the product over the railways from the centres of production to the ports from which it is despatched overseas, and also for the men who load the ships. Decreased exports will mean decreased employment and this in turn will have general repercussions throughout the State. The position being so serious, I hope the Minister will give effect as soon as possible to his proposal to place more dairy farmers in areas not too far distant, in order that we may be able to export such commodities as cheese, butter, tinned milk, etc.

Every session since I have been a member of this House—and probably every session for many years past—hon. members have made speeches about the parlous condition of the farmers. The member for Avon (Mr. Boyle) and others on his side of the House have drawn attention to the disabilities with which farmers have had to contend, such as drought, grasshoppers, low prices, and the neglect of the Legislature to provide sufficient relief to enable the industry to be placed on a sound footing.

The Minister for Mines interjected.

Mr. FOX: I suppose the machinery age as much as anything else is responsible for the parlous plight in which the farmers find themselves. To a great extent, however, the farmers can blame only themselves for any legislative shortcomings. Except for a very short period in the history of the Commonwealth Parliament, the party supported by members opposite has had charge of Commonwealth affairs. Only for a short while was a Labour Government in power, and a short period in office, but it did not have complete control because it had not a majority in the Senate. The Commonwealth Parliament is the only place in which can be initiated legislation to give permanent relief to the farming industry. Recently I noticed in the newspaper a suggestion from a producer that farmers should link up with the Labour Party and I understand the proposal is to be discussed at the next conference of the farmers' organisation. The suggestion is a good one. I can assure the farmers that they will receive every assistance from the industrialists, for both have much in common. All are workers. The Labour Party is interested in methods of organisation and, in linking up with that

party, the farmers will find removed many obstacles they would otherwise have to contend with.

Mr. Doney: What obstacles?

Mr. FOX: I will tell the hon. member one of them. The farmers would not have to contend with the prejudice that confronted the pioneers of the Labour movement. I do not think there is a judge in Western Australia or in the Commonwealth who would have the temerity to call the farmers a band of criminals if they attempted to organise.

Mr. Doney: That is not answering the question.

Mr. FOX: That was what Judge Darley called members of the Labour movement.

Mr. Patrick: Practically the same thing was said to us by one of your Ministers.

Mr. FOX: Well, he may have said that you were burglars, but there is a difference. I would advise the farmers seriously to consider the suggestion that they should link up with the Labour Party. I can assure them that their doing so would be for our mutual advancement and for the advancement of the country.

I desire now to discuss a few parochial matters, though such topics may be out of place at a time like this when a tremendous amount of money is required for the prosecution of the war. I consider that a little more attention should be given to the subject of education, and particularly to the teaching of domestic science and manual training. The position in Fremantle is very bad. It was serious before the war began and was steadily growing worse. There has been no improvement since. In 1938, 139 children from the sixth class had training in domestic science and 52 were excluded. In 1939, 83 obtained full training, 70 had half-time instruction, 24 had quarter-time instruction and 134 had no training at all. That is a deplorable state of affairs. Fremantle is a large district with a considerable number of schools but the accommodation is not nearly sufficient. The figures for 1940 indicate that, up to a couple of months ago, 88 children were receiving half-time instruction and 131 were excluded. In many instances the children who most required instruction were not receiving it. For manual training, 313 pupils were crowded into rooms that could accommodate only 200. Of that 313, 169 were receiving only half-time instruction. In the woodwork section, out of 577 children, 266 from the seventh, eighth

and ninth standards received half time instruction and 149 from the sixth standard were excluded. Fremantle requires a large building in which domestic science and manual training could be taught and which could also be used in the evening for self-supporting adult classes. Last year one boy had the courage to attend the domestic science course at the Fremantle Girls' School, and passed the examination. During his holidays he went to a large establishment and received further instruction from a chef. He is now on the way to making a decent living in that occupation.

Mr. Patrick: Do they accept boys for training at the Fremantle Girls' School?

Mr. FOX: This boy went there and was allowed to undertake the course and in a year or two he hopes to be a first-class chef. The Lieut.-Governor's Speech indicated that there were still 6,000 men on relief and sustenance. One would think that with all the enlistments that have taken place, the number of unemployed would have been materially reduced. To that figure has to be added a number of men who have not registered. There are 500 or 600 men who follow seasonal occupations and who appear on the water front on certain mornings to pick up jobs for which the union authorities have not been able to find labour. That is a bad state of affairs. I suppose it is due at this period to some extent to the fact that we have so few large steel or iron works in this country. There are the Midland workshops and the State Implement Works and I consider that some of the expenditure in the manufacture of munitions should be allotted to those two establishments.

Hon. C. G. Latham: Some of the work is to be carried out at the railway workshops.

Mr. FOX: I understand that that is so, but nothing has been allotted to the State Implement Works. There are also other workshops at Fremantle that are employing men on half-time. Some of the work that is being given to the railway workshops could well be done in those Fremantle establishments. In that way any pressure that might exist at Midland would be relieved.

Hon. C. G. Latham: They are making tools at the railway workshops.

Mr. FOX: The establishment of large iron and steel works in Australia, as well as carrying on ship-building, would be the

means of providing employment for a considerable population in Western Australia and that is a subject that might be considered by Great Britain in co-operation with the Commonwealth. We all agree that there is no chance of materially increasing our population in a natural way because the birth rate has been falling during the last 20 years. Now if the war continues for any length of time, and enlistments of young men increase, there will follow a still further reduction. The economic system also accounts for the decrease in the birth rate. There are hundreds of young men who declare that if they had the opportunity of obtaining permanent employment and were thus able to support a wife and family, they would not hesitate to marry. Dozens have said to me that they would not take the risk of marrying because of the difficulty of getting anything like permanent work, and naturally they do not think it fair to enter into matrimony with the possibility of a life of poverty facing them.

Hon. C. G. Latham: You and I took that risk.

Mr. FOX: Yes, but when we were married the times were better than those of to-day and we could always depend on getting a job.

Mr. Abbott: And there were not so many unions in those days.

Mr. FOX: There were just as many then as there are to-day.

Hon. C. G. Latham: Not all permanent jobs.

Mr. FOX: At that time I was secretary of a trade union, the membership of which was between 110 and 200. The members were in the back country of the goldfields and in those days every worker was a member of a union. Really they were better unionists in those days because, as the result of the work that was done generally by the Labour movement, there were built up awards and decent conditions for the rising generation. The younger people of that time had all those good things passed on to them. It was manna from Heaven. At that time too, a union organiser had to be really game, otherwise he would have been bumped off his job.

Hon. C. G. Latham: Was that why you got married?

Mr. FOX: I could tell the hon. member an interesting story of those days.

Hon. C. G. Latham: Why not tell it?

Mr. FOX: Very well. I went to work for a man who later on became underground manager at the Great Boulder Proprietary Mine. He asked me whether I would work for him and I agreed to do so. On my first shift—I learnt this afterwards—the manager said to my employer, “I will not stand him there.” I am not aware that I did anything to incur his displeasure; I was certainly not under the influence of liquor because I was a teetotaler. Had I been drunk I could have understood his attitude. Anyway, the man who gave me the job knew what he wanted—he wanted men who were capable of doing a good day’s work. Some time afterwards when I was working with him on a tribute, he told me that the manager wanted to put me off. I said to him, “Why did you not tell me at the time?” and his reply was that he thought I might have given up the job if I had been told. Some time afterwards the man who wanted to sack me approached us on our tribute and asked that we might give him a job. At any rate, I was not in any way vindictive, and he got the job.

When I was led into relating this incident I was about to remark that we had no chance of increasing our population except by immigration. For the last 20 years the population of Australia has advanced by only 1½ millions. If we are going to hold this country as part of the British Empire something will have to be done to more rapidly increase our numbers. What I suggest is co-operation between the British and the Commonwealth Governments in the direction of establishing ship-building yards, iron and steel works and other similar undertakings in Australia, though not for profit making but as part of the defence expenditure of the Empire. Then we should ask England to send us 20,000,000 or 30,000,000 people to work in those industries. Concurrently we could materially add to our defence system.

Mr. Sampson: Your modesty appals me.

Mr. FOX: I realise that a proposal such as mine might interfere with the profits of shipping companies and other organisations for a number of years; it might also interfere with the big manufacturing interests. I think, however, that all those interests could be subordinated to the well-being of the country.

I noticed in the latest report of the Child Welfare Department that licenses have been granted to boys of 12 years of age to work from 5 to 8 o'clock in the morning. I consider it is altogether wrong that boys of such tender years should be obliged to work during those hours, particularly in the winter months when really they should be in their beds. If it be absolutely necessary that a lad should go out to work during those hours so that he might help his parents, would it not be better for the Child Welfare Department to render aid to those parents and give them the equivalent of what the boy might earn? I remember some years ago school teachers complaining about the children of dairy farmers attending school after having to rise at 5 o'clock in the morning to milk the cows. Naturally, those children were not in a fit state to learn their lessons. Giving lads of the tender years I have mentioned permission to work in the early hours of the morning has the effect of not only retarding the education of those children, but also retarding their physical development. I trust the Minister, if he intends to speak during this debate, will let us know how many licenses have been granted to children to work between 5 and 8 a.m. We know that many lads are employed in the streets during the afternoon selling newspapers. That in itself is bad enough, but it is nothing compared with having to work before daylight to earn perhaps 12s. or 15s. a week, a sum that may be of material help to the parents.

In the evening paper a few days ago in the report of a Police Court case I read that Detective Richardson pleaded to the Bench on behalf of a youthful burglar. The detective went into the witness box and gave evidence on behalf of the young man and told the Bench he was sure that if the lad had the offer of a job he would make good. It is a terrible commentary on our social system to think that a boy has to commit a burglary because he cannot get work.

Mr. Sampson: How old was the youth?

Mr. FOX: About 20 years of age. The magistrate did not give the boy a chance; he had displayed leniency towards other culprits on previous occasions, by releasing them on a bond to be of good behaviour and so giving them an opportunity of reforming. In this instance, however, he ignored the appeal made by the detective who, I am

convinced, is a good judge of human nature, and whose testimony one would have thought would have carried some weight. The magistrate sent the boy to prison for 12 months. I trust the Minister for Justice will look into this case and if there be any extenuating circumstances at all he will give the young man the chance to reform as requested by the detective. In that way it will be possible to prove whether what the detective told the court was right. I am sure it is possible for the Minister to do that. I do not know the young man, but I was much struck by the attitude of the detective whose desire was that the lad should be given the opportunity to rehabilitate himself. We know of instances where men have slipped and a judge has given them the chance to mend their ways. I do not blame a judge for adopting that course and so I consider that when a young fellow out of a job has a lapse he too should be given a similar chance to make good.

I thank the Minister for Works for the assistance he has given towards the establishment of a boys' club at Fremantle. The Minister visited Fremantle at the invitation of the boys' club committee and made an inspection of a portion of the building which has been used as an immigrants' home. The Minister has allotted part of the building to the boys and we hope that the kick-off he has given the club will result in material benefit to the lads. We are not asking the Government to assist financially in the formation of this club at the present time. It is our intention to establish a gymnasium which will be an attraction for the lads and will have the effect of keeping them off the streets. The club will be under the control of the police which in itself is a very good idea. If we have boys between the ages of say 14 and 20 years associating with the police in the club gymnasium, the lads will be able to realise that the police are their friends. The establishment of clubs of this type will have the effect of clearing the streets of some of the suburbs of the bad elements. I have no doubt that other localities will follow the example set at Fremantle. Indeed, I understand it is intended to open such clubs in various parts of the metropolitan area. In New South Wales, I understand, similar clubs are being given generous assistance and the results have been very good.

Hon. C. G. Latham: There has been one in operation in York for four years.

Mr. FOX: Then it will not be necessary to establish one there.

Hon. C. G. Latham: There are also such clubs in other country towns.

Mr. FOX: Then that is all to the good. The lads can get all the physical training they require and later, should they be wanted for war service, we shall be able to point to our nation of fit youths.

The Workers' Compensation Act should be amended. The member for Hannans (Mr. Leahy) referred to provision being necessary for the replacement of a man's glass eye, in the event of his dropping it down a pass or having it broken. The Act makes no such provision at present. If a man loses his eye there is no doubt he will be given a glass one, but if he breaks the glass eye he will not be given another. A man may have a wooden leg that cost so much, and if he broke it the cost of replacing it might be considerable. Neither the employer nor the insurance company is bound to replace a broken wooden leg. In those two respects at least the Act should be amended. I have previously made reference to the second schedule of the Act. A man on weekly payments should not have these subtracted from the full amount when final payment is made. I refer to cases of percentage disability. Recently an instance came under my notice where the Medical Board declared that a man had a 30 per cent. disability. The amount involved was paid weekly. I contend that these amounts should not be deducted from the total. The individual should be given the full 30 per cent. to allow him to work and adjust himself to the altered conditions. I have dealt with a number of these cases myself. Cases that come under the second schedule, where there is any disability, say, up to 25 per cent., are always very unsatisfactory from the worker's point of view. He has to carry that disability all his life, and may receive only £100 or £200 in addition to his weekly payments to compensate for the loss of working ability. The amount is insufficient. Then there is the amendment that was passed by a Labour Government a few years ago, and has been in operation for seven or eight years. This new principle has been working fairly well

up to recently. I refer to the amendment providing for a short cut to the Medical Board. Had it provided the short cut and nothing else the amendment would have been all right, but it provided something else. It means that if a man is sent to the Medical Board, and it states that in its opinion he will recover from the effects of the accident in such-and-such a period, the man in question is bound to accept the compensation, that is, if he signed an agreement to go before the board and abide by its decision. That point did not enter into the matter before that amendment was made. The Medical Board, under that part of the Act, asked specific questions. The man had the right to go to the Medical Referee in the first place. The amendment has done a good deal of harm in many instances. I want to see the section cut out so that the worker may have an advantage similar to that which he enjoyed before it was passed. I have spoken to the Minister, and trust that an amendment to that effect will be brought down in the near future.

I am sure that all the people in Australia are, without exception, anxious to do their utmost to further the war effort. Several instances have lately come under my notice showing that men in really good positions, some of them in business, have joined the military forces and are drawing two or three salaries.

Mr. J. Hegney: Some of them are members of Parliament.

Mr. FOX: I could understand that if the men in question were indispensable to the military forces, but it is wrong for a man to make use of the war to put a great deal of money into his pockets. There are many promising men in this State who are available for military service, unless it be in highly specialised directions. I hope we shall not see any more of that sort of thing.

The member for Perth (Mr. Needham) has reminded me that I have not made reference to onion marketing. Several members have asked me how the Onion Marketing Board has been getting on. I do not know whether the Minister for Agriculture intends to make a report on the question.

Hon. C. G. Latham: He said there was nothing to report.

Mr. FOX: I do not suppose he has yet received the report. I have been in touch with members of the board, and they have asked me to thank Parliament for putting the measure through.

Hon. C. G. Latham: The Opposition, you mean.

Mr. FOX: I have been asked to thank everyone concerned. The measure has been of great assistance to the growers. It has been in operation only during the past season. The growers estimated that the crop of onions should come to about 1,200 tons. That quantity passed through the board, so evidently the crop was greater than that. Last year, owing to the failure of the crop in the Eastern States, there was no necessity for the board to operate. This year about 30,000 tons of onions were produced in Victoria. Had the board not been in operation the growers say they would have been in a bad way, and would have received little or nothing for their crops. Those who do not perform any service for the industry, as other growers do, would have reaped the benefit. The cost of running the board is about 5½ per cent. on turnover. No wages are paid, because each grower stores his own onions and is responsible for their delivery to market. The growers consider that Parliament has conferred a great benefit on them by passing this legislation, and they have asked me to express their gratitude to members of this House for enacting the measure. In conclusion I wish to join with the Minister for Lands in expressing the hope that we shall come out of the war successfully and with all our standards unimpaired, and that when the problem of rehabilitation arises a revision of the monetary system of the Commonwealth, together with the installation of a new Federal Government, will usher in a new era of prosperity in Western Australia and in Australia as a whole.

MR. SEWARD (Pingelly) [6.11]: While the member for South Fremantle (Mr. Fox) was on his feet, I was prompted to hope that there might be a few more elections, so as to change some of the representation on the other side of the Chamber. The hon. member is evidently much more sympathetically disposed towards the farming community than are some other

members sitting near him. I have arrived at that conclusion because I remember, some three or four sessions ago, hearing the member for Roebourne (Mr. Rodoreda) say that the farmers must not expect to receive the help that we of the Country Party are desirous of extending to them, until such time as they had experienced the troubles and trials, including even imprisonment, which the adherents of Labour had experienced while fighting for improvement of conditions. I am glad that the member for South Fremantle has expressed the hope that we of the Country Party shall not have to experience such tribulations before amelioration of farming conditions will be secured. I sincerely re-echo the sentiment voiced by the member for South Fremantle.

During this debate most of the speakers have taken their cue from the Lieut.-Governor's Speech, and have not occupied any undue time. This latter excellent lead I certainly shall follow. However, unlike some hon. members, I found from perusal of His Excellency's Speech that it contained more matter of interest to me than did Speeches of three or four times its length in former sessions. On this occasion I see two or three paragraphs expressing an intention on the part of the Government to take action for the improvement of the position of the agricultural section of the community. To me that is highly encouraging.

As has been pointed out by most of the members who have spoken, one question is of outstanding importance to the entire community, the question of the war and of the defence of our country. The few remarks I intend to offer on that topic will be made with the hope of promoting to a greater extent the share that Western Australia will be able to take in the defence of Australia. As mentioned in the Lieut.-Governor's Speech, additional duties have been thrown upon his advisers by reason of the war, and Ministers earnestly desire the co-operation of members of Parliament towards the lightening of their burden of duties. The member for Mt. Magnet (Mr. Triat) has already expressed the view that there is not a member of this Chamber who will not co-operate in every way and to the fullest possible extent in promoting a successful issue of the war. On reading the reference which His Excellency's Speech makes to that aspect, I thought it peculiar

that the Government had not considered the advisability of calling Parliament together much earlier than has been done, so as to afford members the chance of co-operating with Ministers in furthering the steps which this State is taking in relation to the war issue. It is only reasonable to say that members of Parliament possess as intimate a knowledge of the capabilities and possibilities of Western Australia as anybody else in it possesses, by reason of the fact that members keep so closely in touch with the people and the State in the course of carrying out parliamentary duties.

I listened with great interest to the speech of the member for North-East Fremantle (Mr. Tonkin), because his recital of the difficulties he had experienced with the military authorities bore so strong a resemblance to the difficulties I had encountered in similar circumstances. Some time ago I realised that in order to enable Western Australia to give its full support to the war issue, there should be created in this State a body whose sole duty it would be to ascertain, regiment and organise the whole of Western Australia's activities, and bring the information to the notice of the Federal War Cabinet.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. SEWARD: I was pointing to the necessity for the creation in this State of a War Council, to which body representations could be made if it was thought that any movement might be fostered within the State, and which could pass any such suggestions on to the War Cabinet. The duty of that War Council would also be to look after the proper carrying out of defence activities in the State inaugurated at the instance of the War Cabinet. The member for Mt. Magnet (Mr. Triat) commented on the great distance Western Australia is from the seat of Government. He showed how we seemed to be completely cut off. Recently I had an experience that served to lend point to that contention. I took up with the military authorities the question of the military training of young men in country towns. Had there been a War Council in existence, that suggestion could have been placed before the members of that body for consideration. If it received the approval of that body, it would carry infinitely more weight than could the representations of any

single individual. At any rate, I hope so, because when I advanced my suggestion in September last, I took the precaution to terests I was moving have their businesses it. Nevertheless when the matter was put before the military authorities, they said it could not be done because no equipment was available. I contended that no equipment was required. The young men in whose interests I was moving had their businesses in the country. Some have their own farms. Undoubtedly if the war situation became so grave that their services were required, they would be readily available. At the time there was no call for that; the camps were already well filled so that there was no need for the young men in the country to seek training in a military encampment. They could receive all preliminary instructions in their home town. I went so far as to forward my suggestion to the Minister for the Army, but the military authorities said there was no equipment and the proposal could not be carried out. Fortunately that situation was overcome and the training is now proceeding, although there is no official sanction for it. The Returned Soldiers' League secured sanction for the formation of a defence corps and that enabled us in Pingelly to issue an invitation to young men to meet in that township to receive instructions of a preliminary character. Members of rifle clubs were also invited to attend.

The Minister for Lands: But there is no authority for that being done.

Mr. SEWARD: That is so.

Mr. Warner: It is an illegal organisation.

The Minister for Mines: The Commonwealth Government has frowned upon such movements.

Mr. SEWARD: That may be so, but if the authorities want to stop the movement, let them do so. It will be an excellent advertisement for us. On Sunday mornings at Pingelly we have 60 men receiving instructions for 2½ hours. They include not only young men, but some 65 years of age. The training is elementary, but if the worst eventuated and the necessity arose to defend the State, those men would at least have received some training.

Mr. Warner: They would be good backstops.

Mr. SEWARD: They would augment the fighting forces to an appreciable extent. When people are anxious to receive such

training and are prepared to devote their time on Sunday mornings to that purpose, they should be encouraged. Certainly at times such as the present it is better for them to be doing that than to be engaged in other activities. I can quote even a better instance. In one town we have 150 men on the rifle range every Sunday morning for the purpose of receiving some training in military exercises. The work is rather difficult because it is not easy to secure the services of competent instructors. We have many returned soldiers available, but, after a lapse of 20 years, those men do not feel that they can get in front of a squad and detail the various drill exercises to be carried out. If such matters were taken up by a War Council and then submitted to the War Cabinet for decision, I feel much good would be accomplished.

Quite recently a motor garage proprietor spoke to me about the situation. He has an electric lathe and he said it was a pity that he could not make use of it for munition work instead of having it lying idle for portion of the year. I thought that was an excellent suggestion and certainly it has possibilities. What is happening now is that many of the operatives are leaving their work and going to the Eastern States with the result that their services are lost to their employers and to the State. Those men could be usefully employed by their firms here and could be engaged upon the manufacture of some parts required for munitions. I hope the Premier will take this matter into consideration. The formation of a small War Council comprising the three Leaders of Parties in this House, which would provide for the representation of all sections of the community, would result in the regimentation of the war possibilities within the State and the Council could make representations to the War Cabinet. That would enable the State to pull its full weight in its efforts to promote the defence of our country.

The only other matter upon which I shall touch refers to the position of the agricultural industry. The reason that prompts me to dwell upon that problem even at a time such as the present, is that I believe no section of the community can possibly put forth its maximum war effort unless existing conditions are such as will enable full attention to be devoted to the work in hand. I can say, without fear of

contradiction, that at the present time the agricultural industry is not in a position that will enable those engaged in it to concentrate on more than the serious job of endeavouring to retain their properties. Before going into that phase, I wish to remark how pleased I am to see the Minister for Lands back in the House after his recent indisposition. He seems to have had rather more than his fair share of ill-health since taking Ministerial office, and I sincerely hope that the effects of his recent attack will soon pass away and that it will be many a day before he will be so inconvenienced again. I can only ascribe to his ill-health his statement last night that, on reading the speeches of members, he was able to see merit only in those of some of his colleagues on the Ministerial side of the House.

The Minister for Lands: That is not exactly what I said.

Mr. SEWARD: My note of the Minister's remark was that he was impressed by the speeches of four members on the Government side of the House.

The Minister for Lands: I did not even say that.

Mr. SEWARD: I can only assume that the Minister was so exhausted after digesting those speeches that he fell asleep and when he awakened he forgot to read the utterances of members on the Opposition side of the House.

Mr. Boyle: I do not think he overlooked my speech.

Mr. SEWARD: No, but I assure the Minister that there were several constructive and informative speeches delivered by members on the Opposition side of the House, and I commend them to him for careful consideration at an early date.

The Minister for Lands: I promise to do that.

Mr. SEWARD: I notice in the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech the following statement—

The State Government is fully appreciative of the difficulties with which the export primary industries in particular are placed, and is exerting every effort to preserve the interests of the producers and afford every opportunity for the fullest development to meet the immediate requirements of the Empire.

That statement is highly encouraging and I venture to say is heartily echoed by every member on this side of the Chamber. I can but wish, however, that the Government would give some greater indication that it

is fully aware of the position of the primary industries at the present time. When speaking recently to a man whom I have known very well for a number of years, he said he could not sleep at night worrying about how long it would be before he walked off his farm and how he was going to keep his wife and children when he did walk off. He told me he was thinking of enlisting. I immediately said, "In my opinion, you have no right to enlist. Your first duty is to your wife and children. There are hundreds of young men in this country to-day without such responsibilities who ought to enlist before you do." Besides, that man is engaged in a reserved occupation where he should be concentrating upon producing—provided the seasons allow him—food and wool for our army and civilians. His produce may be urgently needed before the war is over. The question might be asked, why should there be a possibility of this man walking off his farm? The reason was given the other night by a speaker on this side of the House. It is the action of a mortgagee who has told the farmer that he will not make any further finance available to permit him to carry on. If that is so—and I know it is—the Government should do everything in its power to remedy such a position. To indicate where assistance might be given, last week I asked the Minister for Lands a question. I asked if there were any applications to the Rural Relief Board that had not been finalised. The Minister replied there were 191 cases, involving a sum of £49,086. I put the question to the Minister because of an inquiry made of me by a storekeeper in the electorate I represent. Chancing to meet this man a week previously, he asked whether there was any possibility of money being made available from the Rural Relief Fund. I inquired why he asked the question and he replied, "Two cases"—from memory I think he said two—"in which I am interested were adjusted by the Rural Relief Trustees last September; a scheme of settlement was arrived at, but no money has yet been made available." Last September is 11 months ago, and it can be realised in what an unfortunate position these people are placed. The farmers whose affairs were adjusted would in the ordinary course come into town every two or three weeks and would be asked by the storekeeper, "Have you heard anything yet from the Rural Relief Trustees?"

They could only reply that they had not, and then ask the storekeeper to carry them on for a further period. The result is, as was stated by the member for Irwin-Moore (Mr. Berry) a few nights ago, that in many instances such farmers—married men—are enlisting in order to get away from the degradation and the awful position they are in at their farms. They say, "At least we will be kept and there will be something for our families." While such a state of affairs exists, there is evidence that the Government is not making as great efforts as it might do to assist the industry.

My reason for making that statement is because of the answer I received a week or two ago to a question as to whether the Government had made representations to the Commonwealth authorities in order to secure money to adjust farmers' debts. I am afraid the Government's attempt was not as whole-hearted as it might have been. I notice in the Lieut.-Governor's Speech that when representations were made to the Commonwealth Government for additional funds to assist the mining industry, the sum of £110,000 was made available. I do not think anybody, by any stretch of the imagination, can assert that the mining industry is in such dire straits as is the farming industry; £110,000 would have gone a long way towards alleviating some of the trying conditions under which farmers now labour. I am not contending that the grant to the goldmining industry was unjustified.

The Minister for Lands: Nor do I think you are justified in saying that the case was not strongly put.

Mr. SEWARD: I only came to that conclusion because money was obtained for the mining industry, but none for the farming industry. Apparently, the Government is not fully seized of the position of the farming industry.

The Minister for Mines: Some of the grant to the mining industry went back into the industry.

Mr. SEWARD: It was a grant to the goldmining industry—special assistance.

The Minister for Mines: The Commonwealth wants gold quickly.

Mr. SEWARD: I have additional evidence that the Government may not be fully apprised of the position of the farming industry, because recently when a rather alarming statement was made by the Mt.

Marshall Road Board, the Minister for Lands said that, as rain had fallen in that district, the position was relieved. In justice to the Minister, I must say I think he was referring to that particular area.

The Minister for Lands: I was referring to the particular point raised in the request.

Mr. SEWARD: You said that rain had fallen.

The Minister for Lands: I said it would affect the carting of water.

Mr. SEWARD: I can assure the Minister that that fall of rain has not relieved the position of the farming industry, not by a long way. As a matter of fact, I would almost go so far as to say that the position is incapable of improvement, no matter how much rain falls. In parts of my electorate—not in the Great Southern but on the heavier country—the crop is only just coming through the ground. Fruit trees are in blossom and there is every indication of spring. Clover is in flower. We shall require an exceptionally late season even for some of our crops that are fairly well advanced. With regard to hay, one would be perfectly safe in saying that in only a few parts of the State will hay be cut. In view of these facts, it is urgently necessary to appoint a small body to make an exhaustive survey of the agricultural conditions of the State at the present time and report to the Minister or to Parliament, so that precautions may be taken for the coming season. The Minister will probably reply that the Agricultural Bank is in touch with the position. I have no doubt whatever that the Bank is watching the position so far as its clients are concerned, but I am more concerned about those farmers who are not clients of the Bank. They are probably experiencing a harder time than are the Agricultural Bank clients. Above all, in my opinion, there is urgent necessity to conserve whatever hay may be available for cutting during the coming season, because throughout the Great Southern districts the haystacks have been consumed in keeping sheep alive. There is very little hay now left and consequently arrangements must be made to cut as much as possible during the coming season. I commend to the Minister the suggestion that action be taken along those lines as early as possible in order that such steps

can be taken as may be necessary should this harvest prove as poor as present indications suggest it will be.

I was particularly impressed with that part of the Minister's speech dealing with the negotiations he had with the Wheat Board concerning the selling of wheat to pig-raisers at lower prices than world parity. I was impressed by what the Minister did not tell us much more than by what he did tell us. He stated that he thought the Wheat Board displayed a lack of consideration for the pig-raisers in not making wheat available at a lower price than world parity, particularly in view of the fact that it was expected that wheat that had been sold and was still in Australia would not be shipped before the middle of next year and consequently the board could foresee a possible carry-over of unsold wheat. As I have already indicated, nobody in Western Australia at present has any idea what the harvest will be, and consequently if the Wheat Board were to begin selling wheat at a lower price than world parity it might find itself in an awkward position next year should the harvest prove to be as unfavourable as indications suggest.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: Immediately you fix a lower price for wheat you seriously reduce the value of a large quantity awaiting sale.

Mr. SEWARD: I will deal with that in a moment. That is one reason why I do not think the Wheat Board should do what the Minister suggested.

Mr. Withers: So 60,000,000 bushels of wheat can rot and we get nothing for it!

Mr. SEWARD: There are not 60,000,000 bushels of wheat unsold and, after all, we do not know what wheat we shall require next year. It depends on the harvest. At any rate, I have more confidence in the Wheat Board than to think it would allow wheat to rot. The board is taking every precaution to preserve the wheat collected, and I am certain that the grain will be properly stored. The second point I would make is that the members of the Wheat Board are trustees for the wheatgrowers. They have a solemn obligation to dispose of the wheat at the best price they can possibly obtain. They are not on the board as advocates of any other industry or any sideline. They are watching the wheatgrowers' interest, and consequently, if there were any call for the supply of cheaper wheat to pig-raisers or

poultry farmers, it would be the Commonwealth Government's duty to tell the Wheat Board. "If you make this wheat available at the cheaper rate, we will compensate the wheatgrowers for the difference in price." There is another point—the most important point of all—and I am surprised the Minister did not mention it, in justice to the Wheat Board. Early this year the board made a big sale of wheat to the British Government. Something like 56,000,000 or 60,000,000 bushels were sold. That sale created considerable surprise amongst the world's wheat authorities, which complimented the Australian Wheat Board. They had not known it was possible to make such a sale from Australia. The price at which that wheat was sold was fixed in respect of 30,000,000 bushels; the price of the remainder was not to be fixed until the 30th June. If the board had made any wheat available to pig-raisers or poultry farmers at a lower cost, the price of the remaining 30,000,000 bushels, which so far had not been fixed, would have been reduced accordingly.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: That is the point.

Mr. SEWARD: Yes; and I am surprised that the fact was not made clear by the Minister, in justice to the Wheat Board. There has been a lot of criticism and political play on this question throughout the country—not by the Government, but by other people—and I want to make it quite clear that had the wheat been supplied to pig-raisers at a reduced cost the price of the remaining parcel sold to the British Government would consequently have been lowered.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: The British Government inquired about the Australian value of wheat as disclosed by actual local sales.

Mr. SEWARD: I know. Almost daily the British Government was in touch with the market. The Wheat Board is to be congratulated on the manner in which it has safeguarded the wheatgrowers' interests. Last night the Minister pictured a rather glowing future for the pig industry. I hope his prognostication will prove correct. Everybody will be similarly hopeful, but the Minister's remarks were not exactly in accord with opinions expressed by others, who, I venture to say, might have information just as good as the Minister's. A recent

report by the Minister for Commerce stated:—

The present indications are not favourable to an expanding rate of purchase of Australian beef, mutton and lamb, but there are somewhat better prospects that increased quantities of frozen bacon and carcasses may be imported from Australia. If when the present negotiations are completed the United Kingdom Government is prepared to purchase increased quantities of Australian pig meat in the form of baconers, the expansion of pig production will coincide with increased output of dairy products and eggs.

The Minister for Lands: Those negotiations have been completed.

Mr. SEWARD: I was speaking to another man who has made a close study of this matter and he also sounded a note of warning.

Hon. C. G. Latham: The Argentine and North America will do exactly the same thing. They will put a quantity of surplus wheat on the market.

Mr. SEWARD: That is so. Canada and those other countries are infinitely closer to the British market than is Australia, and they have already taken steps to secure some of the markets made available through the over-running of Denmark.

Mr. Cross: Our people have been asleep for the last ten years.

Mr. SEWARD: If the hon. member will remain in the same state for the next ten minutes, I will be able to finish my speech. There is another point which should receive consideration. I have repeatedly heard similar promises extended to the farming industry. It will be noted that the market available for Australia will be for frozen baconer pigs. This means that a man has to rear an animal to maturity when, of course, he must sell it. But suppose something happens to prevent the shipping of the animal; suppose, as the Minister mentioned, storage accommodation, which is vital, becomes unavailable. There will then be no let-out for the farmer. He will have a mature animal on his hands, and will be faced with the necessity for selling it. The circumstances would be different if it were a porker or a younger pig. He could carry it on for bacon. One has to be extremely careful before advising people to rush into any form of production unless there is an absolute certainty of a market for the commodity to be produced.

Particular mention was made by the Minister of the provision of cheaper wheat for pig-raisers. I have had something to do with the raising of pigs, and for the last 10 or 15 years I have never used more than a bag of wheat to feed them. There is no necessity to use wheat; oats are much cheaper, and equally effective. Why there should be this cry for wheat for pig feed, when oats are so much cheaper, I do not know. The other day I saw a man feeding some pigs and he threw a big dish of wheat on to the ground. That wheat was wasted. Why should we encourage the wasting of a commodity like wheat when, by using a cheaper grain, we can accomplish the same result?

Hon. W. D. Johnson: You cannot use oats in the wheatbelt.

Mr. SEWARD: By boiling them, they can be used. Necessarily, the most economical food must be used. Of course, other feed is available. I saw one man using meat-meal for pigs, but he did not know what it was costing him or what profit would be derived from those pigs. There is no need to make this demand for cheap wheat for pigs.

I wish to bring under the notice of the Minister a line of action which would be of great help to the pig industry. At the present time the wholesale price of pigs is very low. Quite recently I received a letter from an agricultural society imploring me to go to the Department of Agriculture and get an inspector to visit certain country sales where pigs were being sold down to the price of 2s. a head.

Mr. Mann: Where was that?

Mr. SEWARD: I do not intend to say. Those pigs were badly affected with swine plague—not swine fever—and lice. I shall not mention the place because I have seen the Chief Veterinary Officer and he has promised to send an inspector there. In fact, he told me that an inspector should be in the district. I hope the Minister will see that such inspections are rigorously made, because it is not fair to people who take great interest in the breeding of their pigs to have to place them in a saleyard where infected pigs have been. This is a matter that could be and should be remedied, and I hope the Minister will take it up with his officers.

This brings me to some remarks made a few nights ago by the member for Brownhill-Ivanhoe (Mr. F. C. L. Smith). He said—

It is quite obvious that in the farming industry in this State, if we pay any attention to the speeches of the member for Avon and others on the benches opposite representing the Country Party, there are large numbers of men who obviously are not in the vocation Nature intended they should engage in.

Usually, when the hon. member speaks in this House, he gives evidence of having made a close study of his subject, but on this occasion, I am afraid, he has taken his information from a source which, though correct, has not enabled him to arrive at a proper estimate of the farming position. He told us that there were many retired farmers residing in the suburb in which he lives—Nedlands.

Mr. F. C. L. Smith: I know a number of successful farmers at Merredin, too.

Mr. Boyle: But they have not retired.

Mr. SEWARD: I also know successful farmers at Nedlands, but apart from them, I have a particular one in mind. He sold out well, since when there have been four or five different men on that holding and not one of them has been able to pay his way.

Mr. Rodoreda: Due to too much interest on the mortgage?

Mr. SEWARD: No, it had nothing to do with the mortgage. I know the farm well. Shortly after the original owner sold, the water supplies turned salt, and today there is no fresh water on the block. That is the whole explanation of the failure of the subsequent holders. The man who went there in the early days cleared the land, but everyone acquainted with the farming industry is aware that a few years after the timber has been cleared, the salt bed rises. That is what happened in this instance, and it is not by any means an isolated instance. The original owner told me that before he sold, he was unable to produce the equal of the crops that he got in earlier years.

There is another explanation of the failure of some farmers. I have known many farmers who came to my district from other parts of the State. They were quite good in the districts from which they came, but they proved failures on the Great Southern because they did not treat the land there as it should have been treated; they worked exactly along the lines they had followed in

the other districts. Simply because there are retired farmers who have made a success of the industry, it does not follow that the men who are carrying on today, and who cannot pay their way, should not be on the land because they are inefficient.

Mr. Boyle: Nedlands has the lot, I think.

Mr. SEWARD: In proof of my statement, let me say that cases have been submitted to the Rural Relief Trustees for adjustment and adjustment has been made, but the same men have returned two years later to secure a second adjustment. The chairman of the trustees has made a close study of requirements and I have every confidence in him, but if he cannot arrive at a proper basis on the first adjustment, how can we blame the farmer if he is unable to do it? Unfortunately, after that adjustment was made, the price of wheat dropped to 1s. 0½d. a bushel, and on the evidence submitted to the Federal Royal Commission, the cost of producing wheat is 3s. a bushel. This year farmers have received 2s. 4d. a bushel and were to receive another 4d. to-day, making a total of 2s. 8d. Yet it costs 3s. a bushel to produce wheat; at least, 3s. is the figure at which the Royal Commission arrived when it made its investigations some years ago. When the farmer has to pay cash for his seasonal requirements at the beginning of the season and does not get more than 70 or 80 per cent. until the end of the year, how can he be expected to pay his way?

Hon. W. D. Johnson: It depends upon the yield per acre.

Mr. SEWARD: A farmer would need a higher yield than the average for this State with the price at 1s. a bushel.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: But it can be done.

Mr. SEWARD: Not in the Great Southern districts, and I am speaking more particularly of them. Last season was one of the worst experienced in the Great Southern, though it was good in other parts of the State.

The Speech of His Excellency informed us that the Australian Agricultural Council has been requested by the Commonwealth Government to take special steps to guide Australian agriculture at this juncture. What steps the Government is taking to assist in this most urgent matter, I do not know, but if ever a Government was

condemned for any action, the Government of Western Australia was roundly condemned by the Minister for Lands last night. His speech showed that the Government, by sending the Minister for Industrial Development to Sydney to represent this State at the meeting of the Australian Agricultural Council yesterday and to-day, had done a grievous wrong to the primary industries of Western Australia. I have no desire to cast any reflection upon the Minister for Industrial Development, but I regard him as an utter stranger to agriculture.

The Minister for Works: But you know that the Minister for Lands was sick.

Mr. SEWARD: No one regrets his sickness more than I do, but that had nothing to do with the matter when the decision was made for the other Minister to attend. Almost throughout the period in which the present Minister for Lands has held office, he has represented the State at these gatherings.

The Minister for Lands: Not all.

Mr. SEWARD: At most of them. If the Minister had done nothing but attend these meetings, it is safe to assume he would have an intimate knowledge of the working of the council, and of the position of the wheat industry throughout the world. The statements made in the House by the Minister from time to time on the wheat position, however, show that he has made an intensive study of it. No Minister for Agriculture who attends the meetings of the Australian Council is better informed on the subject than is our Minister for Agriculture. It is regrettable that he was absent from this particular meeting. When the Premier replied to a question recently asked by the Leader of the Opposition as to why it was not possible for the Minister to attend the conference, he said the question of future wheat policy in Australia would not be raised on that occasion. We rather looked to the Minister to raise the point. It should be raised persistently, at every meeting of the council. No one is more fitted than the Minister to do so, or to go as far as any other State Minister for Agriculture in offering a solution of the problem. I regret that the Government did not send Mr. Wise to the conference. I hope that in future he will attend as Western Australia's representative. I have no authority to speak for the Country

Party, but am certain that if necessary it would consent to an adjournment of the House so that he might attend.

Mr. Cross: Is there anything besides wheat that should be attended to?

Hon. C. G. Latham: There are the trams in South Perth, for instance.

Mr. SEWARD: Amongst commodities in which the Minister for Agriculture is interested, nothing transcends in importance the wheat industry at the present time. Last night the Minister for Lands endeavoured to saddle this Party with the responsibility for the defeat of the scheme for stabilisation of wheat, on the ground that the Dunstan Government of Victoria was against it. That Government has nothing to do with the Country Party in this State. Our Party was formed years before there was any Country Party in the Eastern States. There is no bond of unanimity between the two parties. We drew up our policy irrespective of what is done in Victoria.

Hon. C. G. Latham: We do not even consult the Eastern States Country Parties.

Mr. SEWARD: No. We would be more justified in accusing the present Government of being responsible for the wrongdoings of the Lang section of its party—I have no intention of doing so—than the Minister would be justified in endeavouring to saddle this Party with any responsibility for actions of the Dunstan Government.

The Minister for Works: That is always done at the appropriate time.

Mr. SEWARD: At the conference of the Australian Labour Party, when the policy of the Party in this State is drawn up! The Minister was very far from the facts when he sought to saddle us with any responsibility in that connection. I now wish to touch upon the question of doctors for country hospitals.

The Minister for Lands: You have not touched upon bulk handling.

Mr. SEWARD: I am glad the Minister made that interjection. It gives me the opportunity to thank him for the painstaking efforts he put forward to make bulk handling available to the settlers in the Lakes district. He has given the matter serious consideration, and has always extended to me the greatest courtesy whenever I have made inquiries of him. I thank him for the successful result of his work.

The question of doctors for country hospitals gravely concerns country residents. In various parts of the State we can justifiably pride ourselves on the hospitals established. They are well built, and well equipped with the latest appliances, operating theatres, etc. Many of the institutions are now out of use because it has not been possible to secure the services of doctors. Some of them were erected at considerable cost. I recall, too, that others were erected by subscriptions to the memory of men who were killed in the last war. The Lotteries Commission has also helped in the purchase of hospital equipment. I was surprised recently to learn that country hospitals are being urged by the department to turn the institutions into nursing centres. That would practically mean a waste of the money that has been spent upon them. The matter is serious. I commend those who are continually drawing attention to the need for an expansion of credit with which to supply our financial requirements. If the thousands of pounds that have been spent in this direction are to be lightly cast aside because we cannot secure the services of a few doctors, the situation is indeed serious.

The Minister for Mines: It arises only as to small hospitals, with an average of one bed-patient per day.

Mr. SEWARD: I have in mind three hospitals where the average is higher than one patient per day. There may be a remedy for the position.

The Minister for Mines: That is what I need.

Mr. SEWARD: The suggestion I have to offer may appeal to the Minister. During a controversy in which the Minister was recently engaged I noticed his statement that the trouble was due to a dearth of medical officers. There is no great falling off in medical officers; indeed, they appear to be increasing in number annually. The number of medical practitioners resident in this State on the 31st January, 1935, was 333, and the numbers for the ensuing years were 340, 332, 353, 345, and 347 for 1940. It thus appears that the numbers of doctors are keeping up. To-day approximately 45 doctors are on military duties, but I do not think their time is fully occupied in that direction.

The Minister for Mines: I am fighting every day to prevent more from doing that.

Mr. SEWARD: Every year young fellows go to the University in pursuance of their medical course. Many of them are assisted by way of scholarships and bursaries. Finally they come out as fully-fledged doctors. It is only fair that those who are assisted by the State to qualify for their profession should be asked to give in return some service for the money that has been spent upon them, money that has enabled them to complete their studies. I suggest that all these young fellows should be bound to practise in country districts for, say, ten years, before having the right to start practice in the metropolitan area. If such a clause were inserted in the agreements with medical students, they would be obliged to go to the country for that period.

The Minister for Mines: Do you mean such a clause should be inserted in the bursary agreements?

Mr. SEWARD: It should apply in the case of any student who is the holder of a Government bursary, or who is in receipt of financial assistance to enable him to attend the University. That would be one of the conditions of obtaining that form of assistance. It has been said that people in the country do not want young doctors to gain experience at their expense. If that were a sound argument it would mean that the standard of examination was not high enough. Such a position could readily be remedied. I make this suggestion to the Minister in the hope that it may lead to an alleviation of the position. It would be a sheer waste of money to close up our hospitals because there were not enough doctors willing to work in the country. The appointments are subsidised in that doctors receive no less than about £600 a year, and have certain rights to private practice. It should be sufficient for any young fellow to have a guarantee of that nature to start with. I hope something will be done to relieve the position. Two hospitals in my electorate are in an unhappy position because the doctors have left the district.

MR. HOLMAN (Forrest) [8.20]: Like other speakers in this debate, I consider there is a definite point to be made as regards the preparation of this country for the crisis of the war. I listened with great interest to the speech of the member for North-East Fremantle (Mr. Tonkin). In

my opinion it is high time that such a point was raised. An endeavour is being made to do it in country districts. There the people are trying to look after themselves in that respect. For example, in the Roelands district, 60 young men are trying to obtain military instruction for themselves.

Mr. Doney: Any middle-aged men among them?

Mr. HOLMAN: Those who are assisting these young men are returned soldiers. One instructor whom I may mention in particular is a lieutenant in the militia. Though returned soldiers can teach the young men certain things, they cannot instruct them in the new style of military tactics as the young lieutenant can. They are battling on, and it is a pleasure to see how vigorously they go about it. In other portions of my electorate, too, great difficulty is being experienced in obtaining military instruction, the young men doing their utmost under disadvantageous circumstances. To me it seems strange that we should be permitted to prepare ourselves in this way. The question of manufacturing munitions in Western Australia was raised in the Federal Parliament before last Christmas, and already then a statement was made that a survey had been made of such possibilities existing here. The next move, and a very belated move, was the getting together of the various munitions boards throughout the Commonwealth; and the first thing those boards decided upon was the making of another survey of the possibilities of munition manufacture in Western Australia. It is peculiar that over such a length of time we should have been allowed to remain under the mistaken belief that the necessary survey had already been made. However, this is typical of the way in which preparation for war has been carried on. I need not enlarge upon Western Australia's wonderful possibilities in respect of munition making and other war preparations, because several members have already dealt with that phase of the subject. However, not only are our workshops remaining unutilised, but the same remark applies to practically all other facilities existing in this State. It seems almost impossible to secure contracts in Western Australia for military equipment, let alone the making of munitions.

Another point with regard to the war badly requires attention. Sometimes I have listened with mixed feelings which I shall

not further describe, and at other times with amusement, to utterances of the member for Subiaco (Mrs. Cardell-Oliver). The hon. member went to great lengths in criticising my colleagues on this side of the Chamber regarding what she might well have termed subversive activities. Simply because some unknown person writes her an unsigned letter—most people consign such communications to the waste-paper basket—

Mrs. Cardell-Oliver: The letter was signed by the Communist Party, friends of Labour.

Mr. HOLMAN: I have received some peculiar letters, but I have not blamed the member for Subiaco on that account. Instead of time being wasted in criticism of members of this Chamber, who have all been trying to do something or asking for something to do, certain people outside get along without incurring any criticism whatever. The residents of electorates represented by Labour members have, I venture to say, been doing their bit, and the men of military age there have already enlisted whenever they possibly could. Let me add that many of those enlisted men are trade unionists. I mention that fact because of having heard an interjection to this effect, "That was before there were any trade unions." The trade unionists who have enlisted are our friends. If we follow the thread woven by the member for Subiaco, the friends she would fix on us must also be friends of the enlisted men. It was not cricket to say such things as the hon. member said of this party. The Labour Party is as loyal as any other party in Australia, and in many respects a dashed sight more loyal.

If permitted, I wish to mention fifth column activities, for the purpose of bringing before the House a certain crowd of people who are definitely circulating subversive literature. At Donnybrook, in my electorate, those people made themselves so conspicuous and objectionable that they were almost chased out of the town. They issue their propaganda under the guise of religion, calling themselves "Jehovah's Witnesses." That religion is foreign to Australia, and I should say that it is foreign to every other country, because its adherents know no country. They have appeared not only in my electorate but all through the State. They as much as say that nobody should enlist, because in enlisting one is preparing to

commit murder. These are not rash statements I am making.

Mr. Cross: Those people posted pamphlets to me.

Mr. HOLMAN: They post pamphlets to anybody, scurrilous matter which I shall not touch upon.

Mrs. Cardell-Oliver: Where does the necessary money come from?

Mr. Patrick: From the United States.

Mr. HOLMAN: These people have posted their literature to practically every member of this House. In my electorate, however, I have been able to get hold of some additional literature. I have here a book bearing the misnomer of "Salvation." I say quite openly that the book contains passages, the circulation of which it would be discreditable to permit at this particular time. I know that quotations are boring, but some parts of this book are worth quoting. I shall quote them in the hope that my protest will induce other members to protest similarly. Such protests, I might add, have been made in South Australia and in the Eastern States, as well as in Donnybrook and Bridgetown. There is something for members of Parliament, and at the beginning of the book we get an advertisement. They say—

Today every nation is in the grip of fear. In many nations there is internal distress and disturbance. This is seized upon by the ruling factors as an excuse for unprecedented taxation and an orgy of spending of public funds.

We are included in that, and also the Federal Government, the members of which are prosecuting such a magnificent war effort. The Federal Government in common with us, is accused by these people of utilising the war for an orgy of spending of public funds. Then they say—

Fearing an attack from some source, each nation is making enormous preparation for war, and this furnishes further excuse to deprive the people of their liberties.

Further on we find—

The rulers of the nations of the earth are moved by their fear of man and man-made powers. Worldly leaders are now in the state particularly mentioned by the Lord, to wit: "Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth."

Again members will be interested to hear this—

It was fear that induced the rulers to form the League of Nations; and hence they acted under the direction of Satan.

And further—

The League of Nations has failed to bring about peace, but it has accomplished the devil's purpose.

For the benefit of those who strive to attain high office in any Government, this extract will be of interest—

Are not all persons commanded to obey the "higher powers"? and are not the rulers in the various nations the "higher powers"? All who have agreed to do the will of God must obey and be subject to the "higher powers."

Then again—

But the "higher powers" herein named are not the kings and dictators and presidents or other political rulers of the nation, nor are the religious leaders any part of the "higher powers." Not one of them represents God and Christ Jesus, but, on the contrary, they are under the control of Satan, who is the invisible ruler of this world.

This is a fine publication! This applies to me as well as to others, and I am certainly not under the direction of Satan. Decidedly, he does not pay me my salary.

Mr. Marshall: "Judge not lest ye be judged."

Mr. HOLMAN: Further on there is this statement—

Everyone knows that the rulers of this world are evil and do many evil things.

I need not quote any further from this publication along these lines. It becomes more serious when we realise that these people can indulge in such talk during a critical period such as the present. They even go so far as to criticise our flag. I have heard the statement made during the debate that we are proud of the Union Jack and of our Australian flag. Why should we not be proud? The flag stands for all that is dear to us, but the Jehovah Witnesses do not think so. In this publication I find this statement—

Flags of the various nations represent the Government and what the Government stands for.

They admit that point, but then the extract proceeds—

The law of the nation or Government that compels the child of God to salute the national flag compels that person to salute the devil as the invisible god of the nation.

That is what they think of the flag. Again—

The act of saluting the flag is not an offence; but the one who has made a covenant to do God's will, and who then acts in disobedience to God's will, commits a wrong leading him into destruction.

Right through the book there are statements of the type I have quoted. These people tell us exactly what they think of us and the country we live in. There is one other point I shall touch on to indicate what these Jehovah Witnesses think of our war effort. They say that, according to the law of the land, if a duel occurs between two people and one is killed, the other person is a murderer, and then they proceed to say that no man has any right to go to war. If he does, they insinuate that he is a murderer. If that sort of talk is not definitely against the war effort of Australia and against recruiting, I do not know what could be regarded in that category. It is high time that the State Government registered a protest and urged the Federal Government not to allow the members of such a body to run loose throughout the country in times such as the present.

Mr. J. Hegney: They are not allowed to do so in New South Wales.

Mr. HOLMAN: I do not think that is so.

Mr. Cross: They are running a canteen in Sydney.

Mr. HOLMAN: In New South Wales the Chief Secretary recommended the Federal Government to ban the organisation and urged that it should be declared illegal. I do not think that has been done. It is a matter for the Federal Government.

Mr. Patrick: They should be in an internment camp.

Mr. HOLMAN: This is what these people say about democracy—

Democracy certainly means divided control. In addition to the handful of politicians now guiding Australia's war effort, there are 41 different commissions, panels, boards, councils and special authorities each with a finger in the pie. Four hundred and twenty-three individuals sit on these various governmental side-kickers, and include 20 knights, three professors, and one judge, together with a number of the ordinary citizenry clad in a little brief authority. In anti-democratic countries one man does it all.

If these people were to publish such a book in an anti-democratic country, one man would certainly do it all! He would put these people where they should be—in a concentration camp and feed them on their own book.

Mr. Boyle: There are 6,000 interned in Germany.

Mr. HOLMAN: I shall not quote any more extracts, but members should regard

this matter seriously. I have not touched on the references to religion that appear in the book. That part is fit only for the person who can stoop low enough to pick it up. On the other hand, members will be interested to know that this book "Salvation" was sold to a kiddie in Donnybrook.

Mr. Patrick: They get good money for it.

Mr. HOLMAN: They should be stopped, and I trust that in Western Australia we shall do something to bring home to the Federal Government the necessity to declare Jehovah's Witnesses an illegal organisation.

I want to deal with what is really a parochial matter because it appears to me that there is something wrong. About November of last year the announcement was made that an enormous project was contemplated in the Harvey district with regard to the Stirling Dam. I read with interest in yesterday morning's paper of the visit of the Minister for Works to that district. I also re-read with interest that the work would cost half a million pounds and would take three or four years to complete. It was started last November. Many children went to the district with their parents; and in February last I was approached as the member for the district with the object of having a school built. I have been pushing that matter ever since. It is now nearly 12 months since work was commenced, yet no school has been built at the Stirling Dam. Some people may consider this to be an unimportant matter. It is not. Why deny those children the right to education, and so prevent them becoming decent citizens? Our laws provide that children must attend school; and yet, for the sake of a couple of hundred pounds, these children are being denied their schooling. I am not blaming any Government department in particular. As a matter of fact I do not know on which department to lay the blame. The matter has been before the Education Department, the Treasury and the Public Works Department. As I have said, a huge scheme, costing nearly half a million pounds, is in course of construction, but nevertheless there is all this trouble over the expenditure of a couple of hundred pounds for a school. It is ridiculous and does not reflect much credit on those in authority. A palatial residence—I term it palatial when one considers the tents in which the men live—has been erected for the engineer-in-charge. Provision was made

for that residence beforehand, but no one seems to have given any consideration to the education of the children living at the dam. That could have been done in the first instance. It is not the duty of a member of Parliament to be running here and there and ringing up departments to try to get the matter attended to. When the workers were sent to the district they took their children with them; consequently the necessary preparations ought to have been made for the schooling of the children. It should not be necessary for one to get on one's knees and beg for a school. I hope the matter will be considered very soon. The file has been sent from one department to another and I have been informed that the matter will receive attention. At present, it is no further advanced than it was last February.

The deaths of four children at the Samson's Brook works has occasioned much sorrow. I have been in touch with people from the district. I have also discussed the matter with the Minister for Works, who visited the district. I could not go down myself on account of indisposition. The Minister has definitely promised me that he will, with the assistance of the health authorities, try to discover the cause of those deaths. They may have been due to lack of proper food for the mothers whilst the families were on relief or sustenance, or to the cold climate of that district. I sincerely hope we shall not have a recurrence of this infantile mortality. It is bad enough for people to work in those districts, but their lot is made worse if they lose their children.

I was pleased to see the reference in the Lieut.-Governor's Speech to the timber industry. So far, the war has not seriously affected the industry, although I am afraid there is that possibility in the near future because of the lack of shipping space. I understand the Government is doing everything possible to obtain shipping space; the matter undoubtedly needs careful watching. During the depression the industry suffered greatly and we do not want a repetition of such suffering. The industry is one of the biggest in the State and we ought to watch it closely.

Reference has been made to workers' homes. The subject is, I think, almost a chestnut by now. To my mind, our local

timber is not pushed hard enough; beautiful homes can be constructed of it. As our export trade is falling off, we ought to make more use of our timber locally. During the last war new methods were devised of utilising our timber products, and I feel positive similar methods will be followed during this war. The production of timber has fallen off; I think the production was 1,000,000 cubic feet less to the 30th June, this year, than it was last year. On the other hand, we have a mill at Boddington. That is not in my electorate, but close to it. Timber is being utilised there to such an extent that the mill capacity is being doubled, which means employment will be increased also. Tannin is being extracted from the timber.

Mr. Seward: That is not exactly a timber mill.

Mr. HOLMAN: But the mill is using our timber. When all is said and done, I do not care how it is utilised so long as it is utilised to the best advantage of the State. That is my reason for making another plea for the establishment of paper and pulp factories in this State. Why cannot we manufacture these commodities? I have said before that our State is the only one not taking advantage of its timber in that respect. It seems peculiar that all these industries should go to the Eastern States, especially when we have suitable timber available here. Because of the war, newspapers have been compelled to reduce the size of their publications. That seems ridiculous to me when I read Australia can produce all its own pulp. If that is so, why in the name of goodness should the supply be cut down? The two things are contradictory. Someone is telling lies. It appears to me that we are not getting a fair deal with regard to pulp manufacture. Years ago it was proved that we could utilise our timber for pulp, but we are not doing so. What is the reason? Some of the brainiest men of Western Australia have been taken away from us and their services used for the benefit of other States. I refer to such men as Mr. Benjamin, Mr. Boas and Mr. Nadebaum. The last-named is a university graduate and chemist whom I met while I was in the East.

Mr. Cross: And we trained them.

Mr. HOLMAN: Yes. Mr. Benjamin and Mr. Boas were the men who made experi-

ments at the Technical School. The late Mr. Lovekin also conducted investigations into the production of pulp; but the big concerns are in the Eastern States, and that is where the manufacture of pulp will continue. The South Australian Government helped to finance a company formed to utilise local timber. I have received correspondence from a person who endeavoured to obtain a grant from our Government some time ago. I am not prepared to say very much about the matter at present, because I have not a thorough grip of it; but this man stated that if he could secure interest on his outlay of capital he would be prepared to manufacture pulp. Not being fully conversant with both sides of the question I cannot say anything further about the subject on this occasion.

We could utilise our timber to a much greater extent in the manufacture of both pulp and by-products. Modern science has given us thousands of timber by-products. Altogether there are about 4,000, but here we have not utilised more than about four. We have extracted tannin and have manufactured wood pipe lines, but we are not doing with our timber anything like what is being done in other countries. More pine trees should be planted throughout the country areas, for they speedily become a valuable asset. After about 20 years pines are suitable for utilisation. Such trees are already being used in South Australia.

Mr. Patrick: We are using South Australian pines in this State.

Mr. HOLMAN: There are many ways of utilising our timber. The railway sawmill is making good use of tuart, though the average person would not understand why tuart should be used at all. The timber is heavy, but its strength compensates for its heaviness.

When I was expressing dissatisfaction at the lack of a school at Stirling Dam, I meant to touch on the need for giving country children educational facilities similar to those enjoyed by children in the metropolitan area. We are not doing enough for country children, with the result that because of his lack of education the child from outback, when seeking employment in the city, is at a disadvantage. The member for Mt. Magnet (Mr. Triat) referred to vocational training. I am not altogether in agreement with the sentiments he expressed. There is not much

use giving a child vocational training if at the end of it he is to be sent to a relief workers' camp. I know tradesmen who have had to go to such camps because of scarcity of work. My own trade is good enough for anybody; but since the war began one of the biggest employers of labour in that trade has dismissed not a few, but scores of employees. I refer to the "West Australian" newspaper.

Mr. J. Hegney: How about the R. S. Sampson Company?

Mr. HOLMAN: I cannot tell the hon. member anything about it. I sincerely hope that children in the country will be given better educational facilities. I have tried to assist such children to secure Government employment, but because of lack of education—due to no fault of theirs—they are not even allowed to compete with city children. The whole matter should be examined with a view to improvements being effected.

Reverting to the timber industry, it appears peculiar that a person meeting with an accident and failing in a claim against the Government under the Workers' Compensation Act should have to pay the costs of the Crown. For him to finance his own case or to get an organisation to do so on his behalf is bad enough, but that he should have to pay the costs of the Crown is worse. A case in point occurred at Dwellingup in my electorate. A person had the misfortune to meet with an accident, and in all good faith the union proceeded against the Government on his behalf. He lost the case, and the union had to pay not only his costs, but the Government's as well, the latter amounting to about £15. I want to know why there should be any cost to the Crown. Every person in that case was a paid Government official. Dr. Radcliffe-Taylor is a salaried officer, and when she goes to Pinjarra on a case she is not paid extra. The Crown Solicitor and the people conducting cases on his behalf likewise are all paid officials. When such a case is proceeded with in all good faith and the man has the misfortune to be beaten—losing thereby not only his money, but also his chance of compensation—it seems unfair that he should also be made responsible for the Government's costs.

Hon. C. G. Latham: But who determines whether a case is presented in all good faith?

Mr. HOLMAN: I have enough faith in the Timber Workers' Union to know that if

it undertakes a case, that case will be genuine. I know that on occasions some people try to defraud the Government. Sometimes foreigners, for instance, cut off their fingers in order to obtain compensation; but this was a genuine case, and the organisation took proceedings in all good faith.

Last session the Workers' Compensation Act was amended to compel every employer to insure his workers. Under the same measure, the insurance companies were required to submit their records to permit of their being examined. Apparently the Government has power to insist that workers are insured. I have not been able to ascertain whether inspectors are being employed to police the Act, but now that it has been made obligatory for every employer to insure his workers, the Government should appoint sufficient inspectors to see that the provisions of the Act are observed. The insurance of workers for compensation is an important matter. I am pleased to find that one protest I made in my initial speech in this House in respect to men cutting sleepers that eventually found their way to the Railway Department has borne fruit and that the Minister for Railways is now insisting that everybody who has anything to do with the cutting of sleepers that are supplied to the railways must insure his employees. These men, however, constitute only one section. We want that provision applied right through the industry, and I hope that inspectors will be appointed to ensure that the Act is carried out.

Recently I asked some questions regarding superphosphate and deposits of phosphate in this State. Superphosphate is an important item to farmers in my electorate, and my object in asking the questions was to endeavour to foster an industry based on local phosphate deposits. This is no new idea discovered by me, but I hope the suggestion will have more tangible results than it had when the member for the then district of Coolgardie (Mr. Lambert) broached it in 1923. On that occasion he advanced the claims of the Dandaragan deposits.

Hon. C. G. Latham: About those green sands?

Mr. HOLMAN: No, he said the phosphate deposits at Dandaragan should be developed, and added—

These deposits should be developed particularly in view of the production of phosphoric acid, which has been developed on a commer-

cial basis in America by the electric furnace process. These deposits lend themselves to proper investigation. . . .

Seeing that the farmers in Western Australia are so dependent upon superphosphate in the successful production of wheat, it is important that something should be done along these lines.

As with the paper pulp industry, we shall probably be doing something by the time I am an old man. Action should be taken at once to explore the possibilities of our phosphate deposits. The Minister for Lands last night told us what difficulties lay ahead of our primary industries. Growers of apples and pears might suffer because of the lack of refrigerator space. Dairy farmers have to rely upon the use of fertilisers for their pastures, and the Minister told us of the possibilities of pig and fat lamb raising. If production costs are increased to any appreciable extent, our industries will not be able to make progress. I do not wish to see higher costs passed on to consumers, who find it hard enough at present to make ends meet, especially those persons on relief. If their costs are increased, I do not know how they will be able to live.

I was hopeful that the cost of milk would have been reduced by introducing the zoning system, but nothing has been done. Last year there was much discussion about the one delivery a day, but everybody appears to have gone to sleep about it now.

Mrs. Cardell-Oliver: Not all of us.

Mr. HOLMAN: That has been the means of reducing costs a little, but neither the consumer nor the producer has received the benefit of the saving. I do not know who has profited. Dairy farmers have to milk in the morning and again in the afternoon, and have to attend to their pastures, and yet out of 2s. 4d. a gallon paid by the consumer for milk, the dairymen receive only 11d., and out of that sum they have to pay the increased price for super.

Hon. C. G. Latham: It is somewhat similar with bread; the Government pays 2½d. and the consumer 6d. a loaf.

Mr. HOLMAN: Costs must be reduced somehow or other. I cannot see why there should be such a wide margin between the price received by the producer of milk and the price paid by the consumer. I find myself in accord with members opposite on quite a number of questions.

Hon. C. G. Latham: We will get you on this side yet.

Mr. HOLMAN: The primary producer in my electorate is a worker, just as much as is a person who does manual labour.

Hon. C. G. Latham: And in every electorate.

Mr. HOLMAN: The only difference between us is that members opposite have not organised as we have done and adopted a reasonable policy.

Hon. C. G. Latham: Your friends are too conservative for us.

Mr. HOLMAN: By adopting the zoning system, quite a lot of unnecessary travelling and expense can be saved, and I hope something will be done in the matter. That there should be so many milk carts delivering in one street is absurd. I have seen them occasionally, but more often I hear them.

Mrs. Cardell-Oliver: In the metropolitan area that has already been done.

Mr. HOLMAN: It has not been done in the district where I live. If it has been introduced, it is the worst bit of zoning I know of. It may be zoning; but that does not prevent half-a-dozen milkmen from making calls in my street. The system is ridiculous from the worker's point of view. It would be infinitely better for him to work under the zone system than the present one—serambling round the metropolitan area like a rabbit, in wet and dry weather, in the dark or during daytime. He has to send around with a billy in his hand, because someone lacking commonsense refuses to join in a zoning system.

The Minister for Mines: Why do not the producers organise to distribute their own milk?

Mr. HOLMAN: It is time they did that. All would probably then be happy. This means a lot to the South-West, which in turn means a lot to the State; and that is why the matter is worth discussing. I am greatly pleased that the flax industry has been introduced in the South-West. That is a feather in the cap of that district, and represents another turn of the wheel of progress. We seem to be getting everything in the South-West, because it is the important part of the State.

Hon. C. G. Latham: See who its representatives in Parliament are!

Mr. HOLMAN: I trust that the industry will be developed further afield. Its possibilities in the South-West are enormous.

The South-West is admittedly Western Australia's Garden of Eden, with many fertile fields. The Government has shown considerable faith in that part of the State, and is prepared to spend half-a-million pounds on the Stirling Dam. It has also spent a great deal of money in other parts of the South-West. Notwithstanding all that, the residents may still be crippled through rationing of petrol. A lot has been said about the seriousness of petrol rationing to the North-West, but the new system will affect the South-West just as much.

Mr. Cross: Every part of the State will be affected.

Mr. HOLMAN: A protest has been entered on behalf of the North-West. That is all right in its way, but an eye should also be kept on the possibility of dislocating South-Western industry. A huge district is involved, and its people have to travel long distances in motor vehicles.

Mr. Cross: Petrol is the life-blood of the country.

Mr. HOLMAN: I commend Mr. T. G. Davies, of the Coachbuilders' Union, for his statement regarding local manufacture of ambulances. It is highly creditable to him that he should have referred to this matter, which has not received enough publicity. Our people have been putting their hands in their pockets for patriotic purposes, and in connection with their war efforts have been helping to purchase ambulances. The vehicles, however, have been built outside the State. We should make sure that in future any ambulances or vehicles of that nature are built in Western Australia, and of local timber. Of what use is it for me to represent timber workers and to ask them to put their hands in their pockets to assist the war effort, when they find that the money they contribute is being sent out of the State, that they themselves are being denied the right to live because their labour is not being employed and our own products are not used?

I hope something will be done in regard to sustenance. The basic wage was recently increased, but sustenance rates remain unaltered. It is a crying shame and a disgrace to civilisation that anyone should be asked to live on 7s. a week. A very decent type of young man recently came to see me. He had no steady job, had been away, and was one of the relief workers. Unfortunately he fell ill. Since his return

his wife has become ill, and now his child also is ill. I endeavoured to get assistance for him from the Child Welfare Department, but was told that it could not overlap the employment department. At that time the young man had recovered, but did not wish to leave the city until his family was better. He had not a penny in the world. He receives 7s. a week for each member of his family while he is not working. It is time something was done to alter such a condition. No wonder people are criticising the payments made to internees! Why should they be treated better than are our own citizens?

Mr. Doney: No one seems to know.

Mr. HOLMAN: It is the case, however. The state of affairs is pitiful. The whole system should be scrapped. I could not keep going on 7s. a week, nor could anyone else.

Mr. Doney: Would you recommend reducing the rates to internees, or raising rates for the unemployed?

Mr. HOLMAN: I would prefer to have internees working with the relief men. There is plenty of work they could do. Money is not available for the old coast road to Bunbury, and I suppose never will be available. It would be a marvellous thing for the South-West if that road could be rebuilt. The work would not be reproductive, because the land alongside the road is not used; but it would mean the opening up of the country and would serve a useful purpose for defence. That work could be done by internees instead of their living upon us, and drawing more money than we give to our own citizens. If the people of Brunswick and other centres had their way with the internees, I do not know what would happen. Though we are at war, there is no reason why we should turn ourselves into fifth columnists, in our own Parliament, by causing dissatisfaction amongst our own citizens. That is what we are doing. It is the worst fifth column work of the lot. These are the sort of pin-pricks that upset people.

The Minister for Railways is dealing with the question of transport for members of the military forces. It is suggested that men in the Northam camp and other centres should travel on the railways free. I am in complete accord with that suggestion. At the same time I wish to see that treatment extended to all the men. Under present conditions, an elector of mine residing

at Brunswick who enlists is under a serious disadvantage if he wants to go home while on leave. Certainly, he gets a return ticket for the cost of a single ticket; but nevertheless it costs him about 17s. to visit his home. On the other hand, a man fortunate enough to enlist in the metropolitan area can visit his home at a cost of 5s. My constituent, I say, is as much entitled to go home as any other enlisted man is; but how can he do it on five bob a day? And when he gets the five bob a day, he does not get the whole of it. So a railway fare of 17s. represents a fair wad to him.

Mr. J. Hegney: How about the country allowance?

Mr. HOLMAN: That is not the question. Half-fare is no good to these men. To offer them half-fare is simply playing with the difficulty. There should be a flat rate covering the whole State.

Mr. Berry: The soldiers are entitled to free passes.

Mr. HOLMAN: I agree; but while free passes are not operating, all of them should receive the same treatment. Every member of this House, and every person who thinks anything at all of the soldiers, would be glad if an all-round system of free passes were introduced. At present there is no uniformity in the matter of railway travelling cost. I have great faith in the Minister for Railways, and I hope my faith will be strengthened when I receive his next letter regarding the men in the Northam camp.

Mr. Berry: What was done during the last war?

Mr. HOLMAN: I do not know; I was a very small boy then.

Mr. Berry: I believe a shilling a fortnight was deducted for the railway passes.

Mr. Cross: It was a shilling a week. I know because I paid it.

Mr. HOLMAN: Anyhow, as for the internees, to me it seems noteworthy that there should have been a move to get some of them out. I say right here that the only reason for the move is a desire to secure cheap labour. Some Italians have been working for Britishers under the following conditions: The Britisher gives the Italian land free for three or four years on condition that he will work it. The Italian clears the block for the owner. From the banks the Italian seems able to get more credit than anyone else. He also obtains credit for machinery. Within

three or four years he has branched out and is able, perhaps, to buy the best farm in the district. That system has been going on for a long time. Since the internment of Italians, the cheap labour is gone. That is why certain persons want the Italians released.

Mr. Mann: I think you are wrong in that statement.

Mr. HOLMAN: I am not wrong. We know it down below in the country. I was greatly pleased to hear the Minister for Lands say last night that if people did not work the land they owned, we would have to compel them either to do so or else to surrender such land to others who would work it. That is another matter for serious consideration if we want to develop this country of ours.

Mr. Marshall: The Legislative Council stands in the way.

Mr. Mann: Large estates are the trouble.

Mr. HOLMAN: Yes. In the South-West the Government spends immense sums for irrigation purposes, and the big landholders retain their irrigated blocks. If a man has 100 acres in an irrigation district, he can do anything with it. That is practically all the land he needs. I hope the Minister will go further in the direction he has indicated and ensure that large estates shall be cut up and granted to people who will work the land. At present we have 6,000 men unemployed. If they had opportunities to get decent blocks with good water, instead of land in marginal areas, great benefit would result to the State. I hope the proposal will be carried into effect, and then we shall be able to look for more prosperity not only in the South-West but throughout Western Australia. In conclusion let me express the hope that when next I speak here on an Address-in-reply, we shall see, as the result of legislation introduced by the State Government, not only Western Australia prepared and armed to the teeth to protect freedom, life and property, but also a better world with our friend Hitler on the wrong end.

MR. ABBOTT (North Perth) [9.27]: I do not propose to keep hon. members long at this hour, but there are two matters I would like to mention. They are matters which I regard as of vital importance to the people of Western Australia to-day. The first is the bringing of the war to a

successful conclusion. The second is the devising and bringing into effect of a long-range policy to obtain sound economic conditions in Western Australia. As regards the first matter, I was pleased to learn from the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech that the Government proposes to do all in its power to assist the Commonwealth in Australia's war effort. I assure hon. members that such a proposal will have the full support of every Western Australian citizen, as well as, need I say, of every member of this Chamber.

As to the devising of a long-range policy to lay a sound foundation for economic conditions in this State, I understand it to be the Government's belief that the establishment of secondary industries is necessary if that end is to be attained. With such a policy and such a belief I am in complete accord. Bearing in mind that in the past this State has been dependent mainly upon its *primary industries*, and recollecting what we have heard from the Minister for Lands and other members concerning those industries, we must realise how difficult a situation Western Australia may find itself in if we rely entirely on primary industries. Take, for example, the goldmining industry, which is now flourishing. That industry, I venture to suggest, is dependent upon the fact that North America is willing to buy all the gold we produce, and at a price that will allow us a handsome profit. We have no power whatever over the United States, which country may reverse its policy in a day; and what would be the effect on our goldmining industry? That industry might go out of existence in a very brief period.

I have read statements by authorities in the United States, whose opinions on such matters must be respected, that the policy of buying gold by that country is not of advantage to the nation and they urge that it be rectified. We have our wheat, and I shall say nothing regarding that commodity except to remind members that the Minister for Lands, if I remember aright, told us that, before the outbreak of war, the wheat in storage by the importing countries of the world was sufficient to meet their demands for a period of three years; but the war began and that saved the wheat position temporarily. What it will be after the war,

we do not know. I suggest it is likely to be very precarious. We are exporting our butter under satisfactory conditions, largely because of the demand consequent upon the collapse of certain producing countries, arising from acts of war. The fruit industry is faced with difficulties to-day, and even in times of peace we have to meet the competition of the South African producers, who are within ten days sail of London. All these industries are such that we have no local control. Although Western Australia is part of the Australian economic unit, we have no control over the principal industries upon which Western Australia depends. The usual method adopted by countries desiring to foster their local industries is to impose a tariff so as to protect the local concerns by disadvantaging the imported articles.

It should not be necessary for me to tell members that the Commonwealth Constitution prevents the State Parliament from protecting our secondary industries by adopting that method. Little hope can be entertained of the amendment of the Constitution enabling us to afford our industries that protection. In my opinion, we can expect little sympathy, or assistance, from the people of the Eastern States in the establishment of any secondary industry in Western Australia. The Minister for Lands rather confirmed that assertion when he told members of the difficulties he encountered in connection with his fruit negotiations. Then we know the attitude of the Victorian Premier when our own Government endeavoured to forward a scheme that it considered would represent valuable assistance to our wheat growers. One has only to meet the average individual residing in the Eastern States to realise that he considers Western Australian manufacturers must compete against those in the market in New South Wales or Victoria.

Mr. Needham: If Western Australians were to buy local goods, would not that help?

Mr. ABBOTT: I think it would; I wish they would do so. It must be clear to members that if any secondary industry is to survive in this State, it must be able to compete with Eastern States manufactures. In those circumstances, the conditions applying in Western Australia in any such industry must be such as to enable our manu-

facturers to compete successfully. There is no getting away from that fact. However much we like to alter the situation—and I for one desire to do so—we cannot do it. Most people, even business men and manufacturers, continue telling us that Western Australia is not a suitable location for manufacturing goods because of the extra transport involved compared with the conditions obtaining in Victoria and New South Wales where the larger centres of population exist. Such a statement ignores other relative costs of production. Mr. Wainwright, the Auditor-General of South Australia, was reported in the Adelaide "Advertiser" of the 26th July last as stating, in an address before the members of the Institute of Chartered Accountants:—

Except where goods were sold at less than £30 per ton, and very few manufactured goods were as cheap as that, the advantage enjoyed by Melbourne and Sydney in outward freight charges was less than 2 per cent. of the total selling price.

I suggest that the freight charges from Western Australia to Melbourne and Sydney would not represent more than a small factor affecting the total wholesale price. The percentage of one Western Australian factory exporting its products to Melbourne and Sydney—I refer to Michelides Ltd.—is 1.2 per cent. of the selling price per ton in respect of Sydney, and 1.08 per cent. in respect of Melbourne. Members will see, therefore, that there is a very small percentage regarding transport involved to the principal centres of the Commonwealth. South Australia, one of the States which formerly relied almost entirely on its primary industries, has progressed considerably of recent years in the establishment of secondary industries. A number of such secondary industries have been established that cater for the whole of Australia. That is what I urge in respect of some industries that could be established in Western Australia. They should not merely be able to compete with local imports, which on the whole are too small to give people goods at reasonable prices, but they should be established on a basis enabling them to supply the Australian market as a whole. Those in South Australia include the chemical industry. There was a chance of that undertaking being established in Western Australia. I am given to understand that the Lake Clifton deposits are

quite equal to those upon which the South Australian company is now operating, but we were not fortunate enough to have that industry established here.

Then there were the motor body and steel tubing industries and now the shipping industry is to be established at Wyalla in South Australia. Two ships are to be built there and I understand that water is to be conveyed from the River Murray to Wyalla at a cost of £2,000,000. Members will realise that the intention is to make that centre of considerable importance. What a wonderful thing it would be for Western Australia if our secondary industries could be established on a similar basis! The average number of men engaged in secondary industries in South Australia during 1937-38 was 27,155, while Western Australia during the same year employed 9,429 men. Those figures relate to major secondary industries, and I have quoted concerns that employed 15 men or more. If we can employ these extra 17,000 people here, we will not have 6,000 men, or anything like that number, on sustenance. The Government should be in a position, as a result of its investigations and experience, to tell the people what is necessary to bring about conditions in Western Australia suitable to the establishment of secondary industries. That is the whole question. I desire to know, as I am sure the people of Western Australia do, what is required to enable our State to compete with the other States in secondary industries. The Minister for Industrial Development has visited the Eastern States and had experts to assist him, yet I suggest he has been singularly unsuccessful in his efforts to establish secondary industries. It is not because of transport difficulties, as I have pointed out. What is the reason?

Mr. Cross: What do you suggest?

Mr. ABBOTT: If I were an occupant of the Treasury bench and had all the information available to members of the Government, I would be able to inform the hon. member. I would do something. It is no advantage to the people of Western Australia to be informed by the Premier that it is difficult to establish secondary industries. We are a democracy and are entitled to know where the difficulty lies. It may be that some temporary sacrifices are necessary in order to obtain the benefit of sound economic conditions in this State. We do

know that some thousands of men here are in receipt of an income less than the basic wage. We have 6,000 men on sustenance.

Mr. Needham: There were more on sustenance a little while ago.

Mr. ABBOTT: Yes, but 6,000 is bad enough. I know the matter is one of extreme difficulty, but I will ask the Government a question. Is it purely selfish party interest that prevents the Government from telling the House why we cannot establish competitive secondary industries? Does the Government lack the courage to tell the House and the people of the State? The people are entitled to know. The information may influence a decision whether or not we should discard the idea of establishing secondary industries and allow our primary industries to support us as long as they can. If they fail, we can decide whether or not we shall go to the Eastern States for a livelihood. If the Government is not in a position to devise a policy, then I suggest that the sooner it obtains the services of someone capable of making investigations and advising the House and the people of the State the better will it be for Western Australia.

On motion by Mr. Cross, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 9.45 p.m.

Legislative Council.

Tuesday, 20th August, 1940.

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

QUESTIONS (2)—GOVERNMENT MOTOR VEHICLES.

Petrol Consumption.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER asked the Chief Secretary: Further to my question regarding the cost of petrol used by Government

and subsidised vehicles and the reply there-to on the 14th August: 1, What departments are those referred to as major departments? 2, Is it a practice to destroy the local purchase orders and store requisitions within a period of seven years? If so—(a) By whose authority are they so destroyed; (b) Is this practice approved of by the Auditor General? (c) What vehicles are those referred to as “employees’ vehicles”?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied: 1, Main Roads, Public Works and State Saw Mills. 2, Yes, in the above departments (a) Departmental authority. Action usually taken to provide essential accommodation; (b) The orders and requisitions are purely supporting documents to paid accounts and the Auditor General is not interested in their retention after audit; (c) Vehicles owned by Government employees and used for departmental purposes and subsidised by the departments by way of a prescribed mileage allowance.

Number Used by Public Service.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER asked the Chief Secretary: 1, What was the total number of Government-owned motor vehicles in use by the State Public Service at the end of June, 1933? 2, How was the number apportioned among the several Government departments?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied: 1, Two hundred and ninety-one (291) Government-owned road motor vehicles.

	No. of Vehicles.
2, Department:	
Premier's	11
Chief Secretary's	5
Public Works and Main Roads	132
Mines	14
Native Affairs	3
Lands	20
Factories	1
Workers' Homes Board	3
Metropolitan Water Supply	65
Forests	8
State Implement Works	4
Agriculture	11
State Brick Works	2
State Saw Mills	14
Wyndham Meatworks	7
Fisheries	1