

Legislative Assembly,*Wednesday, 28th October, 1931.*

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

QUESTION—POLICE INSPECTOR JOHNSON.

Mr. MARSHALL asked the Minister for Police: 1, Is it a fact that Inspector G. Johnson was promoted from third to second class inspector as from January last, the promotion dating from the 1st November, 1928, with seniority pay and allowance also dating from the 1st of November, 1928? 2, What amount of retrospective pay would such promotion involve, including allowance, under such an arrangement? 3, From what vote was the payment made, if any?

The MINISTER FOR POLICE replied: 1, Yes. 2, £44 11s. 2d. 3, Police Salary Vote.

QUESTION—TRAFFIC OFFICE, REGISTERED LETTERS.

Mr. MARSHALL asked the Minister for Police: 1, Is it a fact that two registered letters containing substantial sums of money were stolen from the Perth Police Traffic Office in July, 1930, or thereabouts? 2, Was the action sheeted home to any particular individual, and if so, what punishment was inflicted?

The MINISTER FOR POLICE replied: 1, Yes. Three registered letters containing in all £13. 2, The matter was thoroughly

investigated but no evidence could be obtained to justify a charge being preferred against any person.

QUESTION—STUD CATTLE.

Mr. J. I. MANN asked the Minister for Agriculture: 1, How many stud bulls and cows were recently imported from the Eastern States? 2, What was the price paid per head? 3, How many were over 2 years; how many were over 18 months; how many were under 18 months; how many were under 12 months?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE replied: 1, Twenty bulls, 40 cows. 2, Average price—bulls £28 4s. 6d., cows £43 5s. 3d. 3, Over two years—cows 25, bulls 1; over 18 months—cows 8, bulls 3; under 18 months—cows 4, bulls 16; under 12 months—cows 3.

QUESTION—LAND SETTLEMENT, GOOMARIN.

Mr. GRIFFITHS asked the Minister for Lands: 1, Is it correct that advertisements were inserted in the "West Australian" of Saturday, 17th October, 1931, offering grey morrel areas for tender at Goomarin? 2, When will Dr. Teakle inspect the Goomarin areas south of Lake Brown? 3, Are settlers being removed from condemned blocks at Lake Carmody and Lake King to Goomarin blocks?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS replied: 1, Yes, in conjunction with other land. 2, Dr. Teakle is at present engaged on this area, and expects to reach Goomarin in about a fortnight. 3, The matter is under consideration.

QUESTIONS (2)—AGRICULTURE.

Harvesting Machinery.

Mr. GRIFFITHS asked the Premier: Is he aware that great alarm exists amongst farmers owing to the threat of Messrs. McKay to make a general resumption of harvesting machinery from unfunded and funded estates, and that the advice tendered by the Agricultural Bank to those settlers to get their harvesting done by contract is causing serious trouble?

The PREMIER replied: No.

Effect of Tariff.

Mr. GRIFFITHS asked the Premier: 1. Have the Government made any strong protest, or pointed out to the Commonwealth Government, that the tariff is acting detrimentally to the best interest of the agricultural industry in this State? 2. If not, will an urgent protest be made?

The PREMIER replied: 1, Yes. 2, Answered by No. 1.

**QUESTION—FOODSTUFFS,
BRITISH MARKET.**

Mr. GRIFFITHS asked the Premier: Has any protest or suggestion been made to the Commonwealth and Imperial Governments regarding action for the protection of the British foodstuffs market for the overseas dominions?

The PREMIER replied: The Markets Board has never ceased to make adequate representations in this regard and the Prime Minister when in England would do all that was possible. The subject of Empire preference is an issue at the present British elections.

**QUESTION—PRIVATE MEMBERS'
BUSINESS.**

Mr. SLEEMAN (without notice) asked the Premier: Is it his intention to bring up private members' business on the Notice Paper so that it can be dealt with this session?

The PREMIER replied: Yes, but there is some Government business we desire to get through.

Mr. Marshall: One private member's Bill is a very necessary and urgent one.

**BILL—LAND AGENTS ACT
AMENDMENT.**

Introduced by the Attorney General, and read a first time.

BILLS (3)—THIRD READING.

- 1, Land Tax and Income Tax (No. 2).
- 2, Stamp Act Amendment (No. 4).
- 3, Dividend Duties Act Amendment.

Transmitted to the Council.

**BILL—LAND ACT AMENDMENT
(No. 2).**

Second Reading.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. C. G. Latham—York [4.40] in moving the second reading said: This is a short Bill to amend the Land Act. It contains three provisions. One is for the reduction of the rent of pastoral leases owing to the present abnormal financial position in which the industry generally finds itself, and with the object of seeing if it is not possible to rehabilitate it by affording this relief; the next one is to enable agricultural students under certain conditions to obtain land; and the third is to increase the area of certain lands to be given free to occupants under the same conditions that prevail in the group settlement areas. The main feature of the Bill deals with the pastoral industry. I am sure it does not require a great deal from me to inform members of the difficult financial position in which the industry now stands. For a period of years, it is true, it had a successful run, but during that period a re-appraisal of rentals took place, and the rentals of pastoral areas were increased. During the last two or three years, owing to the fact that a good deal of money had been borrowed to assist the industry, the pastoralists found themselves in grave difficulties. It is proposed to ask the House to reduce their rentals. A new departure has been made by the Bill in respect to this alteration. It is proposed to have rentals that will vary according to the price of wool. We have accepted the present values placed on pastoral leases that were arranged by the Pastoral Appraisal Board, and we have taken 1s. per lb. for greasy wool as a basis on which to start the alterations of the rentals. For every one penny fall or rise in the price of wool, there will be an alteration of 6 per cent. in the rental. As the price of wool comes down, so will the rent of a pastoral lease fall 6 per cent. for every 1d. fall. As the price goes up the rental will increase 6 per cent. for every 1d. rise. We have made a minimum of 30 per cent. above and below the basis set up for the commencing price.

Mr. Coverley: How do you propose to deal with cattle stations?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I will touch upon them separately. This affects the position of the woolgrower.

Hon. P. Collier: The woolgrower who owns pastoral leases?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: Yes. This will not apply to the South-West.

Hon. A. McCallum: Who will make the necessary certification?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: The Government Statistician.

Hon. P. Collier: Will the rent be fixed for a certain period? The price of wool varies at different times of the year.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: The average price for the year will be the price taken, and the price for last year will be taken as the basis of the rentals for this year. The arrangements will be somewhat similar to what we have in regard to the index figures for the basic wage.

Hon. P. Collier: And the Bill will not apply to the South-West?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: No.

Hon. M. F. Troy: There are pastoral leases in the South-West.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: Yes, but very few. Perhaps if I deal with the position in the North and then with other parts of the State, hon. members will gain a clearer idea of what the effect of the Bill will be. It is proposed to vary the rentals in the East and West Kimberley districts and I will set out the reasons for that course. Hon. members will remember that a Royal Commission reported in 1928 on the condition of the beef industry. The Leader of the Opposition, when Premier, appointed the Commission to consider the position of the beef industry in this State. At the same time the Queensland Government and, I think, the Commonwealth Government, appointed a similar Royal Commission to inquire into the beef industry in the Northern Territory and Queensland. I regret that the reports of those Commissions did not receive serious consideration at the hands of the Government, and bearing them in mind, as well as the unsatisfactory position of the cattle industry and the continued decline in the price of wool, I was forced to the conclusion that a careful investigation was urgently necessary to ascertain the true position, and what measure of relief, if any, should, and could, be given by the Crown. Accordingly, I appointed a committee consisting of Mr. Courtney, the accountant of the Lands Department; Mr. Pellow, a retired field inspector who had an extensive knowledge of

Western Australia as well as of Queensland; and Mr. Drake-Brockman, who had had considerable experience in the North-West, at least from an area point of view.

Mr. Marshall: Is that Hubert Drake-Brockman?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I do not know.

Hon. P. Collier: Was he expected to have a knowledge of wool and its value?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: No, but more of the North-West itself.

Hon. M. F. Troy: Is that the Drake-Brockman who was Engineer for the North-West?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: That is the officer.

Hon. P. Collier: An engineer appointed to a Commission like this?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: He had a very extensive knowledge of the northern parts of the State.

Hon. P. Collier: He is the officer with that extraordinary classification.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I do not know anything about that.

Hon. P. Collier: I will have to look it up.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: Without going to a great deal of expense, it was certainly difficult to get an officer in the department who has as much knowledge and experience as Mr. Drake-Brockman.

Hon. P. Collier: Nonsense!

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: Provision is made that the rents of pastoral leases in the Eucla, Eastern and Nor' West divisions of the State and of leases in the Kimberley division, devoted primarily to the raising of sheep, shall rise or fall at the rate of six per cent. for every penny increase, or decrease, above, or below, one shilling per lb. in the price of greasy wool for the preceding season as fixed by the Government Statistician, the maximum increase, or decrease, being 30 per cent. In regard to the leases in the Kimberley division devoted primarily to the raising of cattle, the Bill provides that rentals east of the 127th degree of longitude shall be reduced by 40 per cent., and those west of the 127th degree of longitude, by 20 per cent., the difference being accounted for by the pleuro restrictions with reference to the removal of stock from the East Kimberleys. The reduction of rentals in the Kimberley divisions of 20 per cent. or 40 per cent.

respectively, however, is mainly provided on account of the low prices being secured for cattle. East Kimberley has, of course, the advantage of the Wyndham Meat Works, but West Kimberley must depend on the southern market, which is adversely affected, so far as the Kimberley producers are concerned, by the competition that is yearly increasing by means of supplies coming forward from other parts of the State. All pastoral leases are subject to reappraisal with effect from the 1st April, 1933. The Bill provides that the reduction of rent respecting the Kimberley leases shall operate only until such reappraisal takes place. In regard to leases in other divisions of the State, the Bill provides that the next period of assessment shall not take place until the expiration of 10 years from the 1st January, 1932. This practically extends the period, during which the present assessment operates, from the 1st April, 1933, to the 31st December, 1941. It will be appreciated that leases granted during the last few years would run for 15 years under the present assessment, and fixing the period of re-assessment at 10 years from the 1st January, 1932, would, in some instances, shorten that period of 15 years. But as against that, the lessee will receive the privileges of this amended legislation in regard to a reduction of rental when the price of greasy wool is below 1s. per lb. The rate of 1s. per lb., which is provided in the Bill as a basis of calculation for a reduction or an increase, has been arrived at as a result of evidence secured by the committee I have already referred to. They were of opinion that such evidence was in general agreement that 1s. per lb. for greasy wool was the lowest figure at which sheep stations could be worked at a small profit.

Mr. Marshall: Where did you get this information from? From the Royal Commission's report?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: No, from information set out in reports from New South Wales, and also evidence obtained in Western Australia.

Mr. Marshall: The conditions here and in New South Wales are not alike.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: They are rather similar, apart from the leases. The estimated relief that the Bill will afford pastoralists is £33,310 out of a present total annual rental of £139,518. That saving of

£33,310 is made up by the writing off in East Kimberley of £3,374, in West Kimberley of £2,216 and in the other divisions of the State, £27,720. If wool still drops in value, the concession will be more the following year, whereas if wool improves in value, as we confidently hope it will, the concession will be correspondingly reduced. I am satisfied that although the figures I have given will not provide the industry with all the relief it expects from the Crown, they nevertheless represent a considerable reduction, as much as the Crown could reasonably be expected to agree to during the present period of financial stringency, in view of the fact that other activities must be provided for and kept in mind, as well as of the necessity to protect our primary industries.

Hon. P. Collier: Has this principle been adopted elsewhere in Australia?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: No.

Hon. P. Collier: Then it is quite new.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: That is so. It will be noted that the South-West division of the State is not mentioned in the Bill. There are very few pastoral leases left in that part, and the rentals there have always been fixed at a flat rate of £1 per thousand acres, and have not been subject to assessment, due to the fact that the leases are more favourably situated in regard to transport and other matters affecting the industry, than are leases in other parts of the State. The other matters dealt with in the Bill include the provision for preference, with certain restrictions, to agricultural students in regard to the acquisition of land. Where they have qualified by obtaining a degree, diploma, or certificate in agriculture at certain Western Australian institutions—the University, colleges or schools—for which similar provision exists in Victorian legislation, and which seems only reasonable should be provided in Western Australia as well, this preference will be extended to such students. Provision is made that that preference will be for such of the students as have their own capital to enable them to proceed with the development of a holding. By this means, we hope to give the agricultural students who desire to take up land an opportunity to demonstrate that their education has been of some value to the industry.

Mr. Kenneally: They must have their own capital?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: Yes, before we can give them the preference that the Bill will authorise us to extend.

Hon. M. F. Troy: But they will have the right to go to the Agricultural Bank.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: Of course they will, but the Bill will authorise us to give these agricultural students the preference I have indicated if they are possessed of their own capital. These men will have to be single and not under 18 years of age or over 30 years of age. If we educate these youths to be agriculturists, it seems—

Hon. M. F. Troy: What proof have you that they are educated to that end?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: If they go through the University and get their degrees—

Hon. M. F. Troy: Some remarkable duds have secured degrees.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I would not like to think that that applies to our University students.

Hon. M. F. Troy: If the position is that you say, just because a man has a degree—

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: These students will have proved themselves at the institution. Under the Bill we make provision to enable them to prove of assistance to the industry and to others who will be in possession of holdings adjacent to them.

Hon. M. F. Troy: Such education and the possession of degrees and diplomas may make individuals good agricultural editors or directors of agriculture, but not necessarily good farmers.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I am surprised that the hon. member should suggest such a thing. Usually, he is always telling us what advantage it is to have a good education. It is useless to have youths trained as agriculturists, unless they have an opportunity to show other people what can be gained from their knowledge.

Mr. Kenneally: The man with money is to have preference, but the man without money is undesirable.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: That is not the inference at all. If the hon. member will read the provisions of the Bill, he will see what we propose to do. If we have a University-trained youth who has money and desires to take up land, we shall give him preference.

Mr. Kenneally: That is so—if he has money, he will get preference.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: Without money, he will take his chance with other applicants for land.

Mr. Kenneally: At any rate, the preference is on account of the money.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: But even so, there will not be so much preference granted, when we take everything into consideration.

Mr. Kenneally: That is so.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: The concluding matter dealt with in the Bill is similar to that which Parliament has already approved of in the Act passed in 1922. It will enable persons who were selected under a scheme of settlement approved by the Minister, to be granted a holding notwithstanding that it exceeds 160 acres, which is the maximum area for a homestead farm as fixed under Part 8 of the Land Act. This provision will, for the time being, apply to the settlements arranged for the absorption of a certain number of unemployed married persons in the South-West. It will apply roughly to between 170 and 180 people. If Parliament furnishes us with the necessary authority, we shall be able to settle a few more people under similar conditions. In the past there has been merely a certain proportion of the survey fees charged up against those particular blocks. In future the whole of them will have to carry the survey fees. It is unfair to charge up that cost against Consolidated Revenue. In future the actual cost of the survey will be charged against each block instead of, as at present, one-fifth being charged against the block and the balance against Consolidated Revenue. The Bill is a simple one.

Hon. P. Collier: But it is important.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: That is so. It makes a new departure in fixing values, which I hope will be acceptable. I assure hon. members that necessity exists for relief being accorded the industry. Many producers borrowed money in good times, and now their holdings are over-capitalised. Unless relief is granted, the industry will lag behind. I appeal to the House that we are going to give the pastoralists some relief which will enable them to build up their stock.

Mr. Coverley: Oh, turn that up!

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I am surprised at the hon. member. What we are anxious to do, particularly in the beef cattle industry, is to bring in bulls that will introduce a good breed.

Mr. Coverley: Not an easy task.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: Anyhow, we want to encourage the pastoralists in that respect, and we hope this will be an indication of what the Government expect them to do. In going through the figures supplied to the committee I find that some stations up North are able to produce cattle that will always bring top prices.

Mr. Coverley: And all small holders, too.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I think the hon. member is wrong; I should like to show him exactly what the position is. However, some are able to produce excellent cattle, while others invariably are achieving less and less in proportion to the prices being secured by the people who do consider the breeding of their stock. The same thing applies to the flocks. We are anxious to improve the flocks, and if we can give relief in this respect it will afford pastoralists an opportunity to make the desired improvement. It is in the interests of the State that the national income should be increased. If we can produce 2 lbs. more wool on a sheep, or another pound's worth of beef on the hoof, we shall be doing something worth while. I hope this will be an indication to the pastoral industry that we are anxious to assist. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

BILL—VERMIN ACT AMENDMENT (No. 2).

Message.

Message from the Administrator received and read recommending appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

Second Reading.

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE
(Hon. P. D. Ferguson—Irwin-Moore) [5.3]
in moving the second reading said: This is a short and simple little Bill to amend Section 100a of the Vermin Act, 1918. It is necessary in order to simplify the collection

of the central vermin rate, which is levied in connection with the central vermin fund for the provision of bonuses for the destruction of dingoes, foxes and eaglehawks throughout the State. In view of the fact that it is not intended this year that a tax shall be levied on the unimproved value of improved agricultural land, this slight alteration in the Vermin Act is necessary to enable the Commissioner of Taxation to levy the vermin rate in the easiest and most economical way possible. Those members who are possessed of agricultural land and on whom the vermin rate is levied, will remember that usually their assessments are issued concurrently with the land tax assessments. In order to enable that to be done this year, it is proposed to excise from Section 100a of the Vermin Act the words "except for the time being" in line 7, and insert another word in lieu thereof. If this is not done, it means that the unimproved values on which the vermin rate will have to be levied will be those values which are assessed by the local boards. Members will realise that the unimproved values which are placed on land by various local authorities throughout the State are in many instances fixed in a haphazard manner, without any due regard being given to the value of the land in the adjoining district. It often happens that one local authority has a scientific valuation placed on its land, while the adjoining board has an altogether different basis of valuation. It would be unsatisfactory for the central vermin rate to be collected on the bases of valuation as fixed by the local authorities. If the Bill becomes law, it will mean that the bases will be altered, and the Commissioner of Taxation will be entitled to collect the rate on an unimproved value as determined by him. There is in the measure nothing else that members will require to have explained. It is simply designed to enable the Commissioner of Taxation to collect that rate in the most satisfactory manner. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Mr. Millington, debate adjourned.

BILL—ELECTORAL ACT AMENDMENT.

Received from the Council and, on motion by Mr. Keenan, read a first time.

BILLS (2)—RETURNED.

1, Poor Persons Legal Assistance Act Amendment.

2, Licensing Act Amendment (No. 4).

Without amendment.

BILL—SALVATION ARMY (WESTERN AUSTRALIA) PROPERTY TRUST.*Second Reading.*

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. T. A. L. Davy—West Perth) [5.9] in moving the second reading said: The object of the Bill is to incorporate the Salvation Army in Western Australia and to vest in such body corporate the real and personal property of the Army in Western Australia. At the moment all that property is vested in the General of the Army, either in his capacity as General, or in his capacity as director of the social work of the Salvation Army. Strictly speaking, this is a measure which should be introduced as a private Bill. But in recent years we have got into the habit of treating measures of this sort, dealing with charitable and religious organisations, as public Bills, and I felt it was scarcely fair to insist upon this being brought in as a private measure when we have quite recently treated measures of a similar kind as public measures.

Hon. J. C. Willcock: For other religious organisations.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: For other religious organisations. Particularly did I feel that because this measure, almost in identical words, was introduced into the Parliament of New South Wales as a private measure, and all the safeguards with which a private Bill is hedged around were observed there: so, to introduce this Bill or have it introduced here as a private measure, send it to a select committee and insist upon proof of the Preamble seemed to me quite unnecessary and a course involving an expense not justified. Members will observe that the Preamble to the Bill is extensive. As a matter of fact, it occupies 6½ pages. I am going to try to condense that Preamble for the House.

Hon. A. McCallum: Who was the draftsman?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: I cannot say, but presumably it was drafted in New South Wales. Condensed, the Preamble may

be expressed as follows:—By deed poll, dated the seventh of August, 1878, executed by the late William Booth the origin and doctrines of a religious society known as the Christian Mission were recited and set forth. Then that deed poll went on to provide that the control of this religious organisation, the Christian Mission, should be at all times in one person, to be called the General Superintendent, and appointed William Booth as the first superintendent and gave him power to appoint a successor.

Hon. J. C. Willcock: Absolutely.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: Absolutely. It gave him also power to acquire property and dispose of it. Shortly afterwards, the name of the society was changed to the Salvation Army. That was in 1879. Again, a little later, the title of General Superintendent was altered to General of the Salvation Army. The next document was in July, 1904. That met the possibility of the General becoming unfit to continue the exercise of his functions, and created a High Council which was empowered to remove the General if by a three-fourths majority vote they determined that the General was no longer fit to carry on. Then, eight years later, the original General, William Booth, died. Twenty-two years prior to his death he had appointed his son, William Bramwell Booth, to be his successor, and in due course William Bramwell Booth accepted the position, and became General. Both those first two generals built up, side by side with the religious organisation's work, a branch which they termed social work, the relief of the aged and the care of distressed people of all ages. In 1920, that branch of the work was split off from the general branch, and placed under the General, but under the title of Director of Social Work. It was also provided that the property of the Army for its religious work, and the property of the Army for the social work, should be kept separate and should be vested respectively in the General qua General and the General qua Director of Social Work. I come now to recent history, with which most members are more or less familiar. At meetings on the 8th January, 1929, and the 13th February, 1929, the High Council created by the deed of 1904, by resolution, decided that General William Bramwell Booth was, owing to ill-health, no longer fit to carry on, and they thereupon removed him from that position and appointed Ed-

ward John Higgins to take his place. Edward John Higgins accepted the position. William Bramwell Booth died in June, 1929. Those are the salient points contained in the 6½ pages of recital.

Mr. Marshall: That is all about the Salvation Army. Now tell us about the Bill.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: The preliminary explanation was necessary, and the hon. member should be grateful that I have condensed 6½ pages of preamble into a few minutes. He need not now read the preamble.

Mr. Marshall: Now we shall get some blood and thunder.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: The operative parts of the Bill are simply designed to vest in trustees the property in Western Australia which at the moment is vested either in the General, as General, or in the General as Director of Social Work. The trustees will number not fewer than five or more than seven, and they will be persons appointed by the General of the Salvation Army for the time being. They will have the usual common seal, and the whole of the property will be vested in them. They will have the same powers with reference to the property vested in them as were previously vested in the General as General, or in the General as Director of Social Work. Those powers are powers to borrow, mortgage, sell, and deal with the proceeds of sales. There are provisions dealing with the regulation of meetings of trustees, requiring them to keep minutes and to keep a register of land, and power is given to the General to remove trustees and appoint new trustees. These are the ordinary powers conferred by a Bill creating trustees of property. The last clause but one of the Bill, Clause 22—

Mr. Marshall: Gives power to make regulations, I suppose.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: No; it provides that the Registrar of Titles and the Under Secretary for Lands respectively shall take notice of the effect of this measure and, on application, shall cause alterations to be made in the register setting forth the vesting of property in the trustees and the divesting of it from the General. I think members need not be told anything more about the Bill. I hope members will read the operative clauses because they may detect some flaw, but I doubt whether they will because the measure has run the gamut

of all the Parliaments of Australia, with the exception of that of South Australia. Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and, I think, Tasmania have passed the Bill; South Australia has not yet done so.

Hon. P. Collier: Would not legislation of the kind have to be passed in almost every country of the world—Great Britain especially, and also in America?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: I should think legislation would be necessary throughout the world. It is difficult to name any part of the world in which the Salvation Army is not operating. I met an officer recently who had spent many years in India, where he had dressed as a native and had carried on the good work that we all recognise is done by the institution.

Hon. P. Collier: I think the North Pole and the South Pole are the only places that the Army officers have not yet reached.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: I should not be surprised to hear of an advanced post of the Army being in Lapland, or the most southerly part of the civilised world, namely, South America. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1931-32.

In Committee of Supply.

Resumed from the 22nd October; Mr. Richardson in the Chair.

Department of Agriculture (Hon. P. D. Ferguson, Minister).

Vote—Agriculture, £63,612 (partly considered):

MR. McLARTY (Murray-Wellington) [5.21]: I am glad that the Minister for Agriculture has returned from the Eastern States in time to hear his department discussed. I agree with members who have already spoken to the effect that the importance of the Department of Agriculture cannot be over-estimated. I was sorry that the Minister was unable to be present last Thursday to introduce his Estimates; still he is present to-day to hear some of the debate. While I wish to speak generally, I will confine myself chiefly to the dairying industry. I regret that I cannot agree with

the remark of the Leader of the Opposition last night that he thought the dairymen were experiencing a prosperous time. If the Leader of the Opposition went amongst the dairymen and conversed with them, he would come to the conclusion that they were not enjoying prosperity, but were full of complaints.

Mr. H. W. Mann: You will always have that.

Hon. J. C. Willcock: Those two things are not incompatible.

Hon. P. Collier: As a rule, the most prosperous dairyman is full of complaints.

Mr. McLARTY: Like all others engaged in primary production, dairymen are facing a falling market. At about this time last year they were receiving 1s. 6d. per lb. for butter fat. The returns last month were 1s. 1½d. The whole-milk producers have been holding many meetings lately in every centre where whole-milk is produced, their object being to do something to stabilise the price and give them a chance to pay their way.

Mr. Kenneally: There you have the same old trouble—the cost of distribution.

Mr. McLARTY: Yes. I am glad that Mr. Baron-Hay, the Superintendent of Dairying, who has just returned from the Eastern States, has brought back a number of good dairy stock. There has been considerable criticism of dairy stock imported from the Eastern States, and perhaps some of it has been justified. People who should be in a position to judge good stock inform me that the latest importations are a decided acquisition to the industry.

Hon. A. McCallum: They should be good at the price. A terrific price was paid for them.

Mr. J. I. Mann: Yes, they should be good for the price.

Hon. A. McCallum: As much as £45 for a cow!

Mr. H. W. Mann: The sellers knew it was being purchased for the Government.

Mr. McLARTY: In view of the increasing number of people engaging in dairying, it is absolutely imperative to give them the best of stock. In the whole of the dairying districts there is a keen demand for land; wherever one goes people are found in search of land suitable for dairying. The success of those beginners in the industry will depend to a large extent on the class of stock with which they start. I hope the Minister

will do everything possible to maintain the bull subsidy, and, if possible, increase it. A man embarking upon dairying must start with a good foundation. Apart from the stock of new dairymen, the herds throughout the dairying districts are capable of very great improvement. If a dairyman gets the right class of stud stock, it is remarkable how quickly his herd shows improvement. I realise that the department cannot be responsible for the success of every dairyman, but they can do much to ensure success. They can see that the dairyman keeps only the best of stock. It is for the farmer to cull and weed out the stock that are not profitable, and it is for the farmer to see that his stock are properly fed and that good pastures are provided for them. There is no doubt that the advice being given to farmers by the department to weed, breed, and feed is perfectly sound. People who are not prepared to accept that advice, especially in times like the present, have very little chance of success. I am satisfied that a farmer can breed a much better dairy herd than he can buy. If he pays attention to the cows he keeps, and gets the right class of sire, he will soon build up a good herd. He cannot be sure of that if he tries to build up his herd solely by attending the markets. I wish to refer briefly to the zone system. I do not desire to offer any hostile criticism of the system, but I sometimes wonder whether it has been the success that the originators hoped for it. I belong to the Shorthorn zone, and personally I like the breed. If I were starting dairying afresh to-morrow, I would start with Shorthorn cattle. Although I belong to the Shorthorn zone, however, it is amazing, when moving about the district and attending stock sales, to find the mixture of cattle in the various sale yards. Just about every breed is to be seen—a mixture of all breeds. This I attribute to the fact that it is most difficult for a man to change from the breed of cattle he fancies. The success of a dairyman depends largely upon his sticking to the breed that he fancies. There is no doubt that a breeder develops a great affection for the stock he prefers. When inspecting the dairy classes at the Royal Show, I was particularly interested in the Shorthorn cattle, but I noticed that the most successful breeders of Ayrshires, Friesians, Red Polls, and to a lesser extent of Jerseys and Guernseys, all came from the Shorthorn zone. At the

recent Harvey and Waroona shows it was remarkable that, right in the middle of the Shorthorn zone, Jersey cattle predominated, and took prizes as the best groups of dairy cattle. I desire to point out to the Minister that breeders of this particular class of stock are making every effort to build up really fine herds. I do not wish to offer hostile criticism of the zone system, which I know represents a genuine effort on the part of the Agricultural Department to improve the dairy herds of the State; but I ask the Minister to consider the advisableness of extending help to certain dairymen, who although in a specified zone are not breeding the stock required in that zone, but are making efforts to get first-class dairy herds together. It might be possible to waive the restriction in certain cases. I do not say a general waiving is possible, or that the Government can assist everybody who wishes to start breeding some variety of stock other than that for which the zone is established. Next, as to herd testing, whilst there is organising, or attempted organising amongst dairymen to remain in the industry and improve their lot, my belief is that the only dairymen who will eventually survive are those who operate on scientific lines. In order to enable dairymen to carry on scientifically, herd testing is essential. The member for Toodyay (Mr. Thorn), speaking here recently, referred to herd testing; and the member for Mt. Hawthorn (Mr. Millington) also spoke of the need of it. The last number of Elder Smith's weekly publication has an article on herd testing, pointing out that as the result of testing some farmers have increased the production of their herds by 50 per cent., and this in a short space of time. It is also stated that herd testing has been responsible for increasing the yield of butter fat in certain herds from an average of 130 lbs. to an average of 400 lbs. I know that the grant for this purpose has been greatly curtailed, but I do hope the Minister will make an extra special effort to have herd testing carried out efficiently. If necessary, the vote should be increased for that purpose. The dairy farmers generally are prepared themselves to do something in that respect, so as to get the scheme going. Another matter I wish to refer to is the tests carried out at factories as regards both cream and whole-milk. Complaints have reached me, particularly from the

groups, about the results which dairy farmers receive. The Minister was good enough to furnish me with the tests of whole milk carried out at the various factories. These I checked with the factory tests. Having gone carefully through them, I certainly cannot find where the dairymen had reason for complaint. Nevertheless, they are complaining. The Minister in replying might give an assurance that the factory tests both for cream and for whole milk are being checked at frequent intervals. Now I come to the whole-milk trade. No doubt hon. members have seen a good deal of Press publicity on this subject. There has been agitation among the whole-milk producers, who are asking for stabilisation or control of price. The price of whole milk is of great importance to the Government, as practically all the settlers on the Peel and Bateman estates are engaged in the production of whole-milk. Apart from that aspect, right from Byford to Brunswick large quantities of whole-milk are sent to the city, and most of the suppliers are Agricultural Bank clients. It is estimated that the metropolitan area requires daily 8,000 gallons of milk, and that the daily production amounts to 16,000 gallons. Moreover, the production is said to be increasing. These facts indicate how necessary it is to have some control. The depot keeper or retailer, if he can get cheap milk, will get it. Surplus milk is being sent in, and the dairyman receives 5½d. or 6d. per gallon for it, an impossible price. He cannot live and pay interest out of it.

Mr. Marshall: Government institutions are big purchasers of whole-milk.

Mr. McLARTY: The Leader of the Opposition has referred to the cost of distribution of whole milk, pointing out that a number of carts come into his street to serve the residents of that street. The Royal Commission that inquired into the milk industry in 1925 also drew attention to the excessive cost of distribution.

Mr. H. W. Mann: That applies also to bread and meat.

Mr. McLARTY: Yes. A difference as regards bread is that it keeps longer than milk. Dr. Atkinson has pointed out that there is under-consumption of milk, and that it is highly necessary that families should have whole-milk. From the report of the 1925 Royal Commission I observe that there is a difference in the supply of

milk to various parts of the metropolitan area. For example, West Perth residents at that time averaged $2\frac{1}{2}$ pints daily per house, while North Fremantle residents averaged only about $1\frac{1}{4}$ pints. Probably to-day the average per household is greatly decreased. Could not something be done to encourage the further consumption of milk? Again, there is the price of bran. I am afraid I cannot agree with the Premier that all dairy farmers can get along without the use of bran. The best dairy farmers known to me use bran liberally. They find they have to.

The Minister for Lands: I do not know why they do not use more oats.

Mr. McLARTY: Bran has always been looked upon as a necessity for the feeding of dairy cows.

The Minister for Lands: Oats are worth a lot more.

Mr. Millington: Dairy farmers are using oats now. They have to.

Mr. McLARTY: I desire to draw attention, as other members have done, to the great spread in price between the amount that is paid to the dairy farmer and the amount paid by milk consumers. That spread is equivalent to at least 100 per cent. In view of the importance of milk as an article of diet, and of the importance of the matter to the Government, I hope something will be done to place the milk industry on a better footing. Otherwise I see no chance of group settlement standing up to its interest obligations. The matter will be one for inquiry by the proposed Royal Commission on group settlement. Investigation will show that the future of the settlers on the Peel and Bateman estates is largely wrapped up in securing a payable price for their milk. I recognise that the Agricultural Department are most sympathetic to the dairy farmers. Any help or information required is most willingly given. The departmental officers go to no end of trouble to render assistance. Now I come to another matter over which the Minister for Agriculture has control. Noxious weeds are spreading.

The Minister for Agriculture: What are the local governing bodies doing?

Mr. McLARTY: I know that the local governing bodies have control of the matter, but I am wondering whether it is not possible for the Minister also to do something to ensure the keeping of a strict watch.

Cape tulip is spreading pretty rapidly in the dairying districts. Unfortunately there are some people who, when told that the Cape tulip is a poison, ridicule that assertion. That is because their stock, having been reared in country infested with Cape tulip, will not touch the weed. On the other hand, a mob of young or new cattle put on country where there is Cape tulip, speedily show losses. That has been proved again and again. Coming along in the train I saw a patch of Cape tulip near the Belmont racecourse, or if it was not Cape tulip it looked to me suspiciously like that weed.

Mr. Marshall: What is it like?

Mr. McLARTY: It has a pink flower, and grows like a rush, about a foot high. The Minister referred to the road boards in this connection. They, I think, are making every effort to get rid of the weed. I can certify that the Harvey and Murray road boards watch it closely. Then there is the yellow lupin. In view of the fact that people are going in for lupins, here we have another danger. Travelling in the train a few days ago, I noticed a patch of yellow lupin. In the electorate of the member for Swan (Mr. Sampson), at Gosnells, there is a large patch of growth alongside the railway line in which I noticed some yellow lupins. Seeing that pastoralists are purchasing lupin seed, children are embracing the opportunity to make a little pocket money, and are collecting the seed. The danger is that the children will gather not only the good blue seed, but the yellow seed as well, and the pastoralists will suffer accordingly.

Member: Is the yellow lupin seed a poison?

Mr. McLARTY: Yes. Then there is the star thistle. I do not know whether the Minister is aware that that weed is spreading in the South-West. It is a horrible pest, and renders stretches of country absolutely useless when once it becomes established. If it grows on the plain country, it can be dealt with. I have grubbed patches of star thistle, and have carried out the work most carefully. Despite my efforts, the weed has grown again. Where it takes root and becomes established among rocks in hilly country, it is impossible to cultivate the land, and the pest cannot be dealt with effectively. It is a great spreader, and gradually ruins the countryside where it takes possession. The double-gee is also inclined to

spread and is another great pest. Another pest is Paterson's curse, while the *Watsonia* is spreading rapidly in various parts of the South-West. Some of the brooks there seem to be smothered with the pest. I do not know that the *Watsonia* has not gone too far already to be effectively checked. It is spreading tremendously. I wish to mention these pests in the hope that the department may take effective steps to bring pressure to bear upon the community to eradicate the weeds. There are many new settlers in the dairying districts and the industry is expanding. I trust it will be possible for the Minister for Agriculture to visit that part of the State, and ascertain for himself what is being done, what herds are being built up, and what class of cattle is being turned out. If he could see what is being done for himself, he would be much better able to appreciate the difficulties confronting the settlers, and the development that has taken place. The Minister for Agriculture has not been able to spend much time in the dairying districts since he has been in office. I commend the Minister for the action he took last season in connection with the export of potatoes to the East. At that time some of the growers were receiving exceptionally low prices for their crops. The price available this year shows an increase, and potatoes are worth about £10 a ton. I do not know that we shall have very large supplies for export this year. No doubt the Minister and his officers did everything possible last season to secure a market in the Eastern States, and it was unfortunate for all concerned that restrictions were placed upon the importation of our potatoes.

Mr. Thorn: The Eastern States will always find some restrictions to impose on our produce.

Mr. McLARTY: That is so. The imposition of those restrictions made a tremendous difference to our growers.

Mr. H. W. Mann: Have you got rid of the lucerne flea?

Mr. McLARTY: I hope the Minister will be able to tell us something about that pest when he replies to the debate. I have heard rumours that a parasite has been found in the Waroona district, and that it deals effectively with either the red mite or the lucerne flea. I think it is supposed to deal with the red mite. If that is so, it will be excellent for the country. The potato regu-

lations framed by the department have caused much controversy among the growers. Some have been favourable, while others have been decidedly hostile. I trust the Minister will be able to throw some light on the position during his remarks. I congratulate the Agricultural Department on the excellent work that has been carried out, and, with other hon. members, I agree that the importance of that work cannot be overestimated. I would indeed be sorry to see the departmental activities curtailed.

MR. J. I. MANN (Beverley) [5.51]: I wish to deal with a few matters of interest to the agricultural community. One of the most important to which I intend to refer relates to the sheep industry. Fortunately we are now making strides with the export of our lambs, and I desire to voice a note of warning. There is a danger of going to extremes in connection with the lamb-raising industry. Recently there has been a big demand in the State for Southdown rams. I admit that type of sheep provides an ideal lamb for export purposes, but we must not lose sight of the fact that if we are to compete in the world's markets, we must breed the right type by adopting the proper cross. I hope the day will arrive when the zone system will be introduced in connection with sheep farming. In the drier areas, we have the merino and the most favoured cross has been between the merino and the Lincoln, Leicester or Romney. From the resultant cross with good ewes, mated with Southdown or Shropshire rams, we can breed the ideal lamb for the English market. There is a tendency to cross Southdowns with merino ewes which will not produce the proper type for export purposes. I am pleased at the announcement recently made that our shipment exported to the Old Country was more favourably received than any that came from other parts of the continent. Our experience with the Stock Department has shown that important work has been carried out in the interests of the producers, but much more can yet be done. Western Australia is closer to the Home market than any of the other States, and therefore must become one of the big exporting centres of the Commonwealth. It must be remembered that our lambs are placed last in the holds of ships, and are the first to be taken out. We are

within less than 30 days' sail of the Old Country and so we have all the advantages with us. I congratulate the Agricultural Department upon taking up such a broad-minded attitude with regard to the lamb-raising industry. Every effort has been made to induce the farmers to go in for lamb raising. Recently the Government imported a number of pigs from the Eastern States. I agree that we require imported strains, particularly Berkshires and Tamworths, to strengthen our breeds. Unfortunately pigs imported from the Old Country have not proved a success. I procured one of the imported pigs myself, and I do not know that I have ever seen a more miserable type than the Berkshire I secured. Some breeders will not have anything to do with the pigs that were imported from England. The Government have recently purchased stock in the Eastern States, but unfortunately the State Government had to pay through the nose for what animals they secured. I sometimes think that the Premier seems to be unduly anxious that there shall be a fanfare of trumpets followed with the announcement throughout the Eastern States, "We are coming to purchase your stock." The inevitable result of such a policy is that up go the prices. I am sure that Mr. Baron Hay, the departmental official who carried out the purchases in the Eastern States, many of the animals having been bought under the hammer at auction, was well known, and those auctioning the stock were well aware that the State Government was behind him. I have had experience of auctioneers, having been one myself, and I know that they take advantage of the individual.

Mr. Marshall: There is one exception; he sells well.

Mr. J. I. MANN: I am glad to know that we have such a man in this Chamber. We would have to go a long way before we could see a better display of pigs than that exhibited at the recent Royal Show at Claremont. I hope that the new idea of creating a large Yorkshire-Berkshire cross will not become a fad until they are well proved, as the Berkshire-Tamworth comeback is a typical pig for export and one which the climatic conditions do not affect. There is another tendency to introduce Yorkshires instead of Tamworths, but the opinion generally held is that the white pigs tend to scald in the summer months, and will not prove

satisfactory here. I hope the Government will encourage the export of pigs and bacon, for we can export large quantities and make use of much of our surplus wheat. England is a large importer of pork and bacon lines. Whilst we are consumers of light-weight bacon and pork, the Old Country likes the heavier article, and naturally allows for the export of our larger animals. With the use of wheat for feeding purposes, we should go a long way towards correcting that position. I hope the department will secure the services of a competent pig expert. I am convinced that the personal touch would tell in promoting the interests of the industry. Propaganda does not have an influence in directing the minds of the growers towards the requirements of the industry. By that means the difficulties at present attendant upon the export trade would be overcome to the advantage of the growers themselves. One of the troubles of the industry so far has been the tendency to buy inferior sires to cross with good sows. Many farmers will buy cheap boars, with the result that they get mongrel litters. That sort of thing is impossible to control under existing circumstances, and the fact should be impressed upon the growers that the sire tells every time in the stock raised. I wish to pay a tribute to Messrs. Watson & Co. for the interest they have taken in the bacon trade of Western Australia, by exporting chilled pork to the Old Country. Unfortunately Western Australia is the dumping ground for considerable quantities of Queensland bacon of an inferior quality. On top of that the people of Western Australia are prone to prejudice against local production and prefer to buy imported lines. We should not import an ounce of bacon, but unfortunately the Eastern States dump their supplies here at prices much below normal values, and thus people are encouraged to purchase them.

Mr. Pantou: The curers tell me that they cannot get a suitable pig for bacon here.

Mr. J. I. MANN: The whole of the pigs brought to the Midland Junction market and 75 per cent. of those from the Eastern Wheat Belt are fed on wheat. I think it will be found that the storekeepers and those who seek to purchase their requirements at the stores prefer to secure the imported lines. I know that Watson & Co. and Behn are able to get rid of large supplies of

local commodities, but the trouble has been in connection with the dumping.

Mr. H. W. Mann: Behn gets through 100 sides in a week.

Mr. J. I. MANN: I know the position well. Not long ago people could not be induced to touch Western Australian butter. Very often, unwittingly, they bought Western Australian butter for North Coast butter, and did not know the difference. I wish to congratulate Dr. Bennett, of the Department of Agriculture, for his solving of the braxy-like disease in sheep. Lots of farmers in the southern areas have been hit frightfully heavily in consequence of that disease, and it is very pleasing to know that a young man has received the degree of doctor for having solved the problem. The member for Murray-Wellington raised the question of the red mite. That mite, or germ, is spreading very fast throughout the southern areas. For miles and miles where, in the past at this time of the year, we have seen excellent feed, the mite has now eaten it all out, leaving only the hard, coarse grasses behind. Dr. Tillyard, when here some years ago, said it was a problem which the scientists would have to fight. I do hope that some remedy will be found in the South-West, for if the mite is going to eat out the best of our feed, it will have a very prejudicial effect on our stock. On the question of subsidising stallions, I agree that the Government are wise in attempting to raise the breed of our horses. Now that we have a 300-guinea imported horse at Muresk, it would be advisable to import, say, 10 high-class mares as well. Their progeny would be in great demand in country areas. Subsidised stallions are playing a very important part on our wheat belt. We have that 300-guinea importation, and now it is realised that there are very few mares of sufficiently high class to warrant his services. I hope the Minister will see the need for importing some good mares. We have had a number of cows imported from the Eastern States, but so many as I have seen of them have all been inferior. Many of them are absolutely mongrels, rejects imported from the East, and certainly the man who brought them to this State knew very little about cattle buying.

The Minister for Agriculture: When was that?

Mr. J. I. MANN: About four years ago. They were the type of cows sent down to the group settlements. At present the average of butter fat per cow on the group settlements is 120 lbs. per annum. Can we wonder at the group settlers complaining of the animals with which they have been supplied? In my view it would have been far better had the Government imported for the group settlements a number of cows of the right kind, and so built up a good class of heifers. Instead of that they bought rejects from herds in the Eastern States, and, in consequence, we have to-day an absolutely nondescript type. The cows I saw at the Avondale farm were a pitiable lot indeed. A few of the bulls were good, but others were very inferior. The farmers are going in for side lines, and I hope that, if possible, the Minister will arrange for heifers to be brought from the Eastern States, where quite excellent animals can be purchased for about £2 per head.

Mr. J. H. Smith: On the group settlements they have cost as much as £19 per head, less than 3-year old heifers.

Mr. J. I. MANN: Well, there must be something wrong there. There are plenty of heifers to be selected from, and I hope the department will consider the advisability of placing an order for the animals and putting them out amongst the settlers. At present the farmers are endeavouring to make profits in new directions, and 90 per cent. of them are going in for side lines. Now that we are exporting bacon and butter, it is realised that the farming areas along the Great Southern and Eastern districts could grow even more butter than is being produced in the South-West. Let me touch on the marketing of our stock at Midland Junction. By to-day's newspaper, I see that the latest yarding consisted of 22,000 sheep and lambs. The yards there are in an impossible condition. A portion has been cemented, but another large portion is paved with derelict railway-sleepers, while the remaining area is of sand. The Minister for Railways paid a visit to the yards some time ago, and the butchers and stock agents and farmers were delighted to see him taking an interest, for they thought that something would surely be done in consequence.

The Minister for Railways: They got rather too much out of me.

Mr. J. I. MANN: Well, I hope the Minister will go back there and give them a chance to get something more out of him. The accommodation there is absolutely inadequate for the yarding of pigs. I hope the Government will manage to give some money with a view to improving the condition of the yards. It does not give the seller a chance to sell pigs in their best state, because frequently they are congested in the pens, and consequently the unfortunate farmer has to suffer in the prices he receives. I do sincerely hope we shall have additional pens provided for the marketing of pigs. I congratulate the Minister for Agriculture on his scheme for the exchange of wheat. Now, instead of a farmer having to buy his seed wheat, the State farm will be allowed to make an exchange with him. That will be of great help since few of the farmers at present have any cash to pay out. I should like the Government to maintain their interest in the destruction of rabbits. The farmer is fined if he does not destroy rabbits on his holding, but every Government reserve, particularly in the Lake country out east, and the reserves around Beverley, are breeding grounds for rabbits, and the farmer suffers in consequence.

Mr. Griffiths: He provides a repatriation scheme for them.

Mr. J. I. MANN: Of course he does, and the Government make no attempt to check the rabbits in their own reserves. All the Government reserves are breeding grounds for foxes as well as rabbits. I should like to impress on the Minister the necessity for tightening up the restrictions applying to the dipping of sheep. I have seen many saleyards where the sheep were not only lousy, but ticky as well. I understand that frequently the police watch these conditions, but surely the stock inspectors should go out and enforce the regulations. If lice become prevalent, particularly in the warmer areas, the effect on the flocks will be disastrous. It is not fair to the man who keeps his sheep clean that his neighbour, removed only by a wire fence, should neglect his duties in that regard. Another point I would touch upon is the control of cattle licks. Quite a number of sheep licks, or stock licks, are being offered for sale in the market, and according to the vendors those licks contain wonderful possibilities of benefitting the stock. It would remind one of some of the more blatantly adver-

tised patent medicines. Some control should be exercised over the sale of those licks, and the department should know exactly what they contain. A number of pedlars have called on me and endeavoured to sell those wares, claiming wonderful results from their use. I am satisfied that many of the licks contain a basis of salt, with other ingredients of very little use added. The result is that the unfortunate farmer has to pay extra money on account of the admixture of useless ingredients. We all agree that pure salt is the best of all, but I do not see why merchants should go out profiteering with these compound licks. There should be a Government analysis made of the licks under the Pure Foods Act. In the North-West our flocks are increasing considerably, and the only hope of profitably disposing of the wethers is to export the surplus overseas. But apparently the lamb is the sole exportable member of the family. As I say, the increase in the North-West is enormous, and I do hope a scheme will be evolved to enable the station owner to get rid of his wethers. Another problem is the maintaining of the high standard of station sheep, that we have at present. A test consignment of merino and cross-bred ewes and wethers exported to England last year netted the grower a halfpenny per pound. Owing to the difficulty of finance, there is a danger of a large number of pastoralists and farmers using their cheap home-bred rams for service on the stations. It is wonderful how the wool yield has increased in recent years, and I hope the Government will see their way clear to assist in the maintaining of those sheep breeders by the purchase of good rams.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

MR. GRIFFITHS (Avon) [7.30]: I have purposely refrained from speaking on many of the votes for the simple reason that I felt the need for concentrating upon agriculture, particularly wheat and sheep growing. My firm conviction is that members of this Chamber should be devoting more attention to the difficulties prevailing at present. But before I deal with the more serious part of the subject, I wish to touch on one or two matters connected with the Department of Agriculture. I am glad that the Minister for Lands agreed last Thurs-

day to adjourn the debate so that the Minister for Agriculture could be present. I congratulate the Minister for Agriculture upon the departure he has made whereby farmers may secure seed wheat under a system of barter. Recently the Attorney General and other members, including myself, visited the Merredin and Ghooli experimental farms. We saw the good work being done, and heard expressions of opinion from the various settlers, particularly those in and around Southern Cross. Their general commendation of the system instituted by the Minister for Agriculture was very pleasing to me and must be pleasing to him, he being a comparatively new Minister. It was freely stated by various farmers that, but for the scheme, they would have been unable to obtain good seed. There were three outstanding wheats which we saw at Ghooli and the farmers were particularly anxious to secure supplies of them. The one which stood out above all others was Bencubbin, another was Noon-gaar and another Gluyas Early. Farmers were most anxious to obtain seed supplies, and the Minister's scheme will enable them to do so, without paying cash, but by exchanging $1\frac{1}{2}$ bags of wheat for a bag of seed. I congratulate the department upon the efforts made to encourage the fat lamb and pig industries. The arrangement whereby anyone sending a cheque to the department could have a fat lamb forwarded to friends in the Old Country as a Christmas gift was novel and commendable. Apart from the more prominent people in the State many private people availed themselves of the scheme. I sent a lamb to friends in Shropshire, the home of the Shropshire sheep. It seems somewhat of an anomaly to be sending a fat lamb there, but as lamb will be a luxury when it arrives at Christmas time, it will be an advertisement for Western Australia. I have asked for an expression of opinion regarding the quality of the lamb. These gifts will give people in the Homeland a chance of judging the progress we are making with our exports. The member for Beverley referred to the Braxy-like disease. I congratulate the scientist, Mr. Bennett, who has achieved fame by his investigations and has had the degree of doctor conferred upon him. I recently received some literature from the Old Country giving details of the fine work being done at Aberystwith in the

study of grasses and fodder crops. One of the young men from our University, Dr. Dunn, has been there to study that branch, and is now engaged in our Department of Agriculture. He is likely to achieve considerable good for this State.

The Minister for Agriculture: He is a brilliant boy.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: So I believe. We have some brilliant young men in this State. Another University student named Snook recently gave an address on the mineral deficiencies of soil. A report of his address was sent to me by Mr. Le Souef, who is naturally proud of the boy. When we find our young men distinguishing themselves in this way, it should give us great hope for the future of the industry. Members have been repeatedly told, and I think they thoroughly understand, that the State financially and commercially is in dire peril. We are facing one of the gravest situations that has ever confronted our agricultural and pastoral industries, and unless radical action is taken, the whole social, commercial and financial structure will collapse. Those two rural industries, pastoral and farming, contribute two-thirds of the income of the State, and if they topple and the State is reduced to receiving only one-third of the normal income, the outlook for secondary industries, banking and business houses will be black indeed. While a good deal has been done by the Government, limited though they are by lack of funds, there are directions in which I appeal to them to take prompt and decided action, not only to carry on the industry, but to remove the dread of the heavy burden of debt with which producers are oppressed. There are three directions in which more might have been done by the Government. To-day I asked questions in the House that indicated two of the directions in which I consider the Government should have done more. The first point of paramount importance is the question of the accumulation of debts. The Associated Banks and the Agricultural Bank have owing to them by the agricultural industry something over £30,000,000. Only this morning I met a prominent tradesman in Hay-street who, in commenting upon the wheat industry, said, "Well, the price of wheat has hardened; things will be better and the farmer will be all right." Therein lies a real danger to the industry—the idea that everything will

be all right because the price of wheat has improved. Remembering the heavy load of debt accumulated and the cost of carrying on the industry, I wonder whether we shall be able to persuade producers to continue battling along when there is no prospect of their ever being able to pay the debts that have accumulated. I wonder too that there is not a keener interest in the industry than appears to be manifested. It has been said that agriculture is the nation's business. That applies particularly to Western Australia. If the two sections of rural activity to which I have alluded should fail, what would become of the few secondary industries we have? They would naturally fail, and unemployment and distress would be more prevalent than ever. To save the industry, the first necessary step, in my opinion, is to relieve producers of the present overwhelming load of debt. One of my electors remarked the other day, "You talk about stimulating the industry and encouraging men to produce more, but what we want is a rest from the fatigue caused by the debts hanging around our necks. If you can get them held over and give us a chance, we shall be encouraged to exert greater efforts than ever, and eventually win through."

[*Mr. Angelo took the Chair.*]

The Minister for Agriculture: You cannot do that with a stroke of the pen.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: I admit that any interference of the kind implies an interference with contractual obligations, but to stress that unduly is to take a somewhat narrow view, especially considering that the agricultural industry is the foundation upon which our whole business structure rests. The Premiers' Plan is based on the principle of setting aside contractual obligations, and the farmer must similarly be given consideration if he is to be enabled to carry on and the State is to be given a chance. The Minister for Agriculture said these debts could not be wiped off with a stroke of the pen. No one could countenance the confiscation of moneys that were lawfully due to other people. When giving a creditor rights, however, we have to remember that if the farmers were forced through the bankruptcy court, a very small proportion of the money they owe would ever reach the people to whom they owe it. We have to

face the position. It is very much akin to that of the farm which is loaded up with debt to the Agricultural Bank. The bank tries to protect its security and gets as much as possible of the money that is due. Force of circumstances pushes off the holding the man who first took it up and another person comes along. The new man will not take on the farm loaded as it is with debt, and insists upon most if not all of the debts being written off. The original owner may have used badly the money that was advanced to him, and the new-comer is not prepared to take on a debt that he can see no way of wiping out. Is it not better to face the position and, after a reasonable period has elapsed, do what is suggested in some of the plans, make an inquiry into the indebtedness of the farmers and place a value upon the debts that will give the grower a chance to get square? If a man leaves his farm, what will become of the rights of the creditors? Members must have read the leading article in the "West Australian" of to-day under the heading of "The Crop Situation." I wonder something of the kind has not been said in the House before. It contains the following:—

That a dangerous position is rapidly developing which may involve the coming harvest in Western Australia it would be futile longer to conceal from the public. It can be straightened out only by the leadership of swift and firm decision from the Government as to its policy on farmers' disabilities. On August 7th last—82 days ago—appeared the full and admirable report of the Royal Commission appointed to advise the Government on this matter—then seen to be most urgent. In the intervening period, confusion and uncertainty have grown steadily worse.

Hon. M. F. Troy: Is that a function of the Agricultural Department?

Mr. GRIFFITHS: I may have strayed a little, but the present appears to be the only chance of discussing this vitally important matter. We were ruled out of order on a previous occasion, and told that our only opportunity of discussing the future of the industry and all its ramifications was upon the Agricultural Department Estimates.

Mr. J. I. Mann: You will have the opportunity on Tuesday.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: I want members to realise the rotten position in which the agricultural calling is standing to-day, and the

dire future that faces the country unless some radical change is made in the situation of the farmers. The urgency of continuing the agricultural calling is also referred to on page 30 of the report of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the disabilities affecting the agricultural industry of Western Australia. This report was signed by Messrs. A. H. Dickson, Harry Hale, C. H. Carlisle, and Theodore Pelloe. These gentlemen say—

Your Commissioners are convinced that reductions in costs are more permanently reliable than dependence on the vagaries of world markets. Further, your Commissioners would impress upon the members of our legislature that "Time is the very essence of the contract," and that financial preparations must be instituted forthwith for the harvesting of 1931-32, and cropping and harvesting for 1932-33, so that there will be no heart-breaking, harassing, and unnecessary delays in bringing forward the required legislation.

I am bringing forward these matters because I feel there has already been too much delay. I know that a critical situation has arisen with merchants, manufacturers, and the oil people. Things are in a parlous state with those who have to take off their crops by tractor power. We know that the fuel people are refusing to supply fuel. They say that the bag merchant and the super merchant have liens over the crops, and ask why they too should not have theirs. Recently I received a letter from the Goomarin area, through which the agricultural inspector has recently toured. The settlers told him that they had learned that McKay's intended to seize their machinery and take it all back. That is correct. They were told that if they had no machinery they would have to get tenders called and have the crops taken off by contract. We hear talk of revolt and rebellion, but I do think that if something is not done there will be a serious mess-up in our farming operations, and we cannot afford to take that risk. The farmer is having the heart taken out of him by this business and by the huge accumulation of debt that is hanging over him. Last night the Leader of the Opposition remarked on how prosperous the agricultural calling had been. I cannot understand his saying that when I see mutton down to 1½d. and 2½d. a lb. for a fore-quarter, and 3½d. for a fore-quarter of lamb, oranges fetching 1s. for 30 or 40, country eggs fetching 3½d.

a dozen after freight has been paid, and cabbages fetching 1d. for 3 lbs. We know how the milk people feel about things, for the member for Murray-Wellington has told us of their complaining. It is all very well for members to say that the farmers are not doing this or that. Some members have had Ministerial salaries to fall back upon in their farming operations. Many of the settlers, however, started off with nothing. We are also told of what is being done by certain farmers with tractors. Some members point to the motor cars that farmers own. In the country 20 miles from a railway siding a motor car is an essential adjunct to a farmer's equipment, whereas in the metropolitan area numbers of people own motor cars that they could well do without. I do not know whether we are to be allowed on Tuesday next a full discussion on the report of the Royal Commission, but it is essential that some statement should be made. The Minister says it is impossible to wipe out the farmers' debts by a stroke of the pen. That is true. The value of these debts is a moot point when we consider how impracticable it will be for many of the settlers to pay even 1d. of what they owe. They are in a hopeless position and have an accumulation of interest hanging around their necks. I have heard criticisms of a certain plan advanced by a member. This was referred to as repudiation. It may not be quite an orthodox plan so far as contractual obligations are concerned, but many things are being done in these times that would not be done ordinarily. This member was asked for an outline of his policy and he said that if the agricultural industry was to be saved, the first necessary step in the process would be to relieve the farmers of the pressing impost of debts. He went on to discuss the matter in its various aspects. As an excuse why contractual obligations should be interfered with, he said, as no loan moneys were available:

A Commission, consisting entirely of practical business men should be charged with the duty of assessing the equitable value of debts due by farmers. By this I mean what, if no outside cause or influence intervened, would be a fair figure at which to value such debts, having regard to the risk of repayment by the present debtor. Then, in addition, this Commission should be empowered to recommend that in all deserving cases the State should issue bonds to the amount of such figure, payable at a minimum date of ten years hence, and bearing interest at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum . . . Lastly, the

State should take first mortgages on the land as security for repayment of the amount of the bonds issued and interest thereon.

I have already put one scheme before the Premier, and I sent out an S.O.S. to each member of Cabinet. What I sent to the Premier was couched in somewhat extravagant language. It was not a fair deal so far as the Government are concerned, but, as I claimed in my covering letter, it voiced the feeling that exists amongst the farmers in the back country. Many farmers have spoken in the same strain, and written in similar terms, and addressed public meetings along those lines. They may not have done so in the same extravagant language, and they certainly gave credit to the Government for what had already been done. The gentleman to whom I refer was not careful about anybody's feelings. He was most extravagant in his language. I got a reasonable answer from the Premier. "Fair play is bonny play." I will now tell the House what the Government have done, and where I think they have been lacking. I sent this to quite a number of my people. I pointed out that what they were asking for would require a million of money and that this was an extravagant demand. When, however, people are up to their necks in debt, and they have no income and cannot get credit, one must not wonder that they should become desperate. In order to assist local authorities the Government waived about £28,000 of main roads allocations. They are ceasing to charge rates on water conserved in concrete tanks at Barbalin and similar water schemes, and have reduced the price of water to 6d. The wool freights on the Meekatharra-Wiluna lines have been reduced 33½ per cent. A wheat-carting bonus has been granted. Mortgagees restriction legislation has been passed to enable farmers who have been struggling to keep on the land. Hire-purchase agreement legislation has been passed, and also other legislation allowing local governing bodies to reduce their rates. The Government have liberalised the conditions for light lands, and liberalised the residential conditions. They have arranged for cheaper freights on fertilisers, and enunciated a policy of land tax that will relieve the pastoral lessees. There has been a reduction in Agricultural Bank interest and the conditions for purchasing wire netting have been made easier. These

are some of the things the Government have done, but first and foremost they must settle the matter of farmers' debts. I asked a question this afternoon about the tariff. I wanted to find out whether any definite action had been taken to convince the people in the Eastern States that the tariff imposts had ruined the main industry in Western Australia. I wanted to know whether a protest had been entered against the ruination of our overseas markets by the dumping into Great Britain that has been going on. I heard one member say to another to-night that according to the election results the British Empire was saved. I certainly hope that the elections may give us something like preferential treatment for our butter, wheat, wool, apples, etc., that we send Home. I have already submitted one scheme for aid to the farmers. Last night something was said about the amount of tax paid by the farmer on his land. Let me illustrate the farmer's position by the case of one at Goomarin who will have about 1,600 bags of wheat. He keeps 100 bags for seedling, leaving 1,500 for sale. A great deal of his last year's crop was sold at the current rate of 1s. 8d. per bushel, equal, as a matter of simple arithmetic, to £375 at the rail head. To market this crop he has to strip, bag, and cart at a cost of £150, on a conservative estimate. The details are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Cornsacks, 1,600 at 8s. 8d. per doz.	57	18	0
Freight on cornsacks, 5 bales at 6s.	1	10	0
Sewing twine, 3 balls at 9s. 6d. . .	1	8	6
Bag sewing, 1,500 at 10s. per 100	7	10	0
Oils, parts, etc. at varying prices	10	10	0
Sustenance of harvest hand, being man, wife, and five children in reality	24	0	0
Cartage of wheat, 1,500 bags, 14 miles at 8d. per bag	50	0	0
	<u>£152</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>6</u>

In this no allowance is made for labour beyond bag-sewing and the sustenance of the harvest hand as explained above. Deducting £152 16s. 6d. from the rail head return of £375 leaves £222 14s. 6d., which represents about one-third of the moneys required by the farmer to enable him to farm his land annually. Obviously, there is nothing left to distribute. Assuming that the Government, under their statutory lien, insisted on their pound of flesh as first mortgagees, they would require, through their various depart-

ments, the sum of £303 7s., made up as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Interest at 7 p.c. on £3,000 capital	225	0	0
Water rates	37	0	0
Land rents	10	3	0
Land taxes	5	7	2
Road Board rates	3	9	9
Wheel tax truck	4	14	0
Wire netting instalments ..	15	19	0
Vermin rate	1	12	1
	£303	7	0

The creditors would still have nothing to look forward to. Were they to insist on a pro rata distribution of the crop through the Bankruptcy Court they would still get next to nothing; they would merely kill the goose that lays the golden eggs.

Mr. Corboy: Not much golden egg about it!

Hon. J. C. Willecock: Golden brick!

Mr. GRIFFITHS: The only practical way out of the difficulty apparently is to allow the farmer to retain the proceeds from the sale of his crop, and to let the merchants insist upon a cash basis for all future supplies. At 3s. 6d. per bushel this farmer's crop would realise £900. The cost of marketing would be £152 16s. 6d., and Government accounts £303 7s., representing a total deduction of £455 13s. 3d., which would leave the farmer with £444 6s. 9d. Thus he would still be £100 short of his annual expenses, and back debts would have no chance. As regards financing on the problematical price of wheat, there is hope that the farmer may receive more than the current price. Let us hope that the good news of the last few hours regarding a rise in price will be maintained. Even with a considerable rise, however, the position will be practically hopeless for the majority of the farmers who are in difficulties to-day. Perhaps 10 per cent. of the men now farming should be off the land, but even for the remaining 90 per cent., who are willing to strive and struggle, there will be little hope for years to come. Debts must be held off for the time being. To ask men to grow wheat at a cost of 3s. 4d. or 3s. 6d. per bushel and to sell it at 1s. 8d. or 1s. 10d. per bushel is absurd. On the matter of stored wheat, which is rather a question for the law courts, I have here a letter from a farmer. There is a strong impression abroad that merchants have sold

wheat as they have received it, and have obtained for it prices far above those shown in their statements to the farmers. My correspondent writes—

There is the question of stored wheat. The farmers think it is established that the merchants shipped the wheat overseas as they received it, and presumably sold it at the price then ruling, which would show them a substantial margin. If this is so, the farmers say that considering the position of the industry, this one profit should be sufficient.

Further extracts from this farmer's letter are—

While the danger of a hold-up of wheat has been apparently shelved it is only a postponement. It is said that a hold-up would be a very foolish and wicked thing. Well, what of super, cornsacks, etc.? Will the merchants sell them at any old price, merely to save the country? Do they consider they hurt themselves most by holding their goods until they get their price? They distinctly state their price, and we must pay or go without. Therefore it is perfectly reasonable, right and proper, for us to say, "A reasonable price or no wheat."

I continue to quote from the letter—

Sir James Mitchell says the farmers will need assistance not for this year only, but for many years. That is perfectly true. Under existing conditions assistance will be needed as long as there is a farmer left. Sir James further says the farmers are not the only ones in difficulties. True again. But the farmer is the only one who can get the country out of its difficulties. Sir James also said, "Every penny lent the farmers had to be borrowed." But do the Government pay compound interest? Is it not correct that interest on Government bonds has been reduced by 2½ per cent. approximately? Yet we still pay 6 per cent. to the Agricultural Bank. It is suggested that the Government write down all debts, Government and private, by an amount equal to 6d. per bushel. On last season's production we never got the bonus. Let the Government reduce their interest to the rate they are actually paying. Let them help the farmer by the payment of a bonus to bring the price up to the cost of production, estimated at 4s. per bushel; and by the issue of non-interest-bearing Treasury bonds, which can be redeemed by the Commonwealth Government when they wake up or alternatively from revenue over a period of years. This appears a tall order, but it must be remembered that we are selling our wheat at half, or less than half, the cost of production. This also is a tall order, which cannot possibly continue. So why not face the music? If something of the sort is not done, there is nothing for it but a hold-up. We might as well all go out together, as dribble out in single file. The price of cornsacks is another matter causing a lot of concern. There is a widespread feeling that mer-

chants are exploiting the position year after year. Yet nothing is done to check this.

I am curtailing my remarks to-night because there will be an opportunity to say something further when the Royal Commission's report is under consideration. One aspect I wish to voice is what is taking place in Great Britain by way of dumping and consequent destruction of our markets. Early in the year I asked some questions regarding that phase. A prominent agriculturist who is now dead and gone, Senator Elliott, passed through here after a visit to England; and I had a long conversation with him as to foreign dumping in Great Britain. He showed me certain graphs, illustrating the extraordinary manner in which the acreage of agricultural lands had decreased at home. In 1871 there were 3,500,000 acres under cultivation. In 1905 the area had shrunk to 1,500,000 acres. The explanation is simple. As is known to the Minister for Lands, in the county of Kent there is a great strawberry growing industry. What happens? There is an open market, and Holland comes in with a hundred tons of strawberries just at the time when the Kent grower is prepared to market his crop. As a consequence, that grower is ruined. The same thing applies to the potato growers on the eastern side of Britain. Spain had a great potato harvest, and dumped her potatoes on the English market, practically ruining the English growers.

Mr. Withers: So much for free trade!

Mr. GRIFFITHS: As regards wheat, there is East Prussia growing a surplus. Germany says to these Prussian growers, "You must not send that wheat past the Dantzig corridor. We will pay you £1 per quarter to send it to Great Britain." That wheat is dumped in Great Britain from East Prussia. A similar position obtains as regards France. Simply for the sake of a few thousand miserable gallons of French wine which we do not permit to enter the Commonwealth, France establishes practically an embargo against Australian wheat. We must also remember that Spain, Poland, Czecho-Slovakia, Bulgaria, and Italy have closed their ports to our products, have endeavoured to become self-sustaining as regards requirements of theirs which we have hitherto supplied. The result is that they no longer want our products. The time has come for Great Britain to en-

courage the overseas dominions to supply whatever they are able to produce for British requirements. In the days when Joseph Chamberlain desired to promote Empire trade between the Motherland and the Dominions, the latter were not in a position to supply what was required. To-day that situation has been rectified. The growth of the various Dominions has been enormous, both in regard to the production of wheat, meat and fruits of all descriptions, as well as in the production of raw products generally. What has been the attitude of foreign countries regarding their respective Dominions? Since the war, Japan and France have adopted a new policy, and have granted preferential treatment to their own colonies. Trade statistics show enormous increases in the quantity of commodities those countries have imported from parts of their own Dominions, at the same time indicating enormous decreases in the purchases from Britain and the British Dominions. Of the products required by the United States of America, 80 per cent. is taken from the American colonies; France takes 65½ per cent. from her possessions, and Japan 53 per cent. from her colonies. On the other hand, we have the spectacle of Great Britain allowing Russia to dump her wheat and other commodities at British ports, making the goods available at prices much below the cost of production. Butter and bacon are brought from foreign countries to the detriment of our own trade. Toys, sweets and every imaginable article are admitted to Great Britain to the detriment of her own industries and those of her Dominions, and thus we see that even to-day, an economic war is being waged against Britain and her Dominions.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I think the hon. member is getting away from the Agricultural Vote.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: To return to the Agricultural Vote, the Government should take action to force the hands of the Federal Government to bring pressure to bear on the Imperial Government. I received a letter from Lord Beaverbrook, in which he said in effect that we had the position largely in our own hands, and that we could force the British Government to grant preferential treatment to the Dominions in the Home markets. I shall not dwell upon this subject at greater length, beyond again em-

phasising the fact than in three respects the Government have been somewhat dilatory. They have not declared a policy regarding farmers' debts. I do not know what has been going on. I have endeavoured to give the Government every credit for what they have attempted to do, but to-day the position is most grave. Something must be done to reduce agriculture to the level of a business, and thus remove the element of gambling that permeates it to-day.

Mr. Wansbrough: Are the farmers' debts you refer to, private debts?

Mr. GRIFFITHS: The private debts amount to about £30,000,000.

Mr. Wansbrough: Is that owed to the Government, or does the money represent private debts?

Mr. GRIFFITHS: I believe £14,000,000 is owing to the Government, and the balance represents debts to merchants, banks and others. If the position is to be allowed to drift on until the industry collapses, there will be most meagre dividends available. The Government should step into the breach with firm administrative action and do something effective to retrieve the position. Unless that course is pursued, there will be a total collapse of the industry. I cannot understand why the people in the city are so indifferent. They do not realise the gravity of the position to-day. Surely the article published in the "West Australian" this morning should awaken people to the seriousness of the agricultural situation at present. I have trespassed too long on the time of the Committee, and I shall not proceed any further. I commend to the Government the urgency of taking action regarding the farmers' debts and the issuing of some assurance that will tend to remove the existing horrible uncertainty. I shall have something to say later regarding tariff matters and handling charges on the wharves. Our ports represent taxing machines for extorting money from primary production for the benefit of the Treasury. Later on, too, I shall have something to say about stored wheat.

[Mr. Richardson took the Chair.]

HON. M. F. TROY (Mt. Magnet) [8.20]: I would like to follow the member for Avon (Mr. Griffiths) in the variety of subjects he dealt with, but unfortunately my

disability will not permit me to do so. Apparently he is most dissatisfied with the record of the Government. He stated that nothing had been done.

The Minister for Agriculture: He said we had done wonders.

Hon. M. F. TROY: For a man who thinks the Government have done wonders, he has a remarkable number of complaints to make. I do not think I ever before heard any member make so many complaints as emanated from him this evening. He emphasised that little had been done for the section of the community he represents. If the conditions of those people are as bad as he states, the industry must be in a parlous state indeed. I hope the Minister will be duly impressed by the hon. member's remarks. I want to say a few words about the Agricultural Department, with which I was associated for three years as Minister, and in the activities of which I am keenly interested. I doubt if there is one department other than the Agricultural Department that can render such important services to primary industries. In the Agricultural Department the State has provided the necessary facilities with which the farmers and other producers may be assisted. So far as I am aware, the great majority of the officers in the department do their work very well. There are many excellent officers, although I have my own views regarding the administration of the department—not of the Minister. I have no complaints to make about him, except in regard to one matter to which I shall refer later on. I believe the Minister knows his job; he may not have had much administrative experience, but he will get over that difficulty. It has been asserted that the Agricultural Department is the guide, philosopher and friend of the man on the land. The department has solved a number of difficulties that have confronted the farmers of this State. The department has a great opportunity. I know of no other departmental section in which an officer can render such services to the State. The ordinary civil servant has to carry out his routine duties, and in such circumstances cannot render any particular services to the country. On the other hand, an officer of the Agricultural Department can render magnificent services to the State. What better objective can a man have in life

than to be useful to his fellow citizens? In that respect the officers of the Agricultural Department have the fullest opportunity. I have always been interested in the work of the State experimental farms. When the Attorney General was at Ghooli and Merredin, and when the Minister for Agriculture was at Dampawah—incidentally I would like to remind the latter that Dampawah is in my electorate, and I shall be glad to be informed by him when he intends to visit that centre—

The Minister for Agriculture: Yes, I am sorry about that. I thought it was in another electorate.

Hon. M. F. TROY: That is all right; I quite understand that was the position. Although not directly associated with the department now, I am still deeply interested in the experimental farms. I do not know of anything that has been of more advantage to the wheatgrower than those farms. They have produced wheats that have been of material benefit to the agriculturists, who have desired to secure suitable wheats for their districts. On the farms experiments were carried out with a variety of wheats, in order to ascertain which were the most suitable for Western Australian conditions. I believe I am quite right in saying that, as a result of the work of the experimental farms, there has been an increase in our wheat production of from four to six bushels per acre. I know from experience that Nabawah, Merredin, GERALYING and BENCUBBLIN have proved suitable wheats for the Eastern Wheat Belt. They are now generally in use, and by this means farming in the outer districts is upon a sounder basis to-day, a position directly attributable to the work of the State experimental farms. I embrace this opportunity to throw a bouquet or two at the previous Government under the Leader of the Opposition. The Labour Government can be credited with having done quite a lot for the agricultural industry. That fact will be recognised when I mention that the State experimental farms at Dampawah, Ghooli and Salmon Gums were established by the Labour Government. An ex-Minister for Agriculture (Mr. H. K. Maley) selected the site for the Wongan Hills experimental farm, and carried out the initial work, but it was the Labour Government that equipped the farm and established it as a going concern. In addition to that, we established the Agricultural College at Mur-

esk. We can say with justification that, in the course of a few years, we created agricultural history in this State, the effects of which will be noted in Western Australia's progress in the days to come. Thus we can throw bouquets at ourselves, because the Labour Government did do useful work that should have been carried out at a much earlier stage. If the settlers who had become established in the Southern Cross and other outer areas, had had the benefit of the experience gained as the result of the establishment of State farms, their lot would have been far more satisfactory. In the Esperance and Salmon Gums districts, the farmers had laboured under great disabilities for many years, but since the establishment of the experimental farm at Salmon Gums, they have made marked progress. That has been due largely to the instruction and experience gained as a result of the experimental farm established in that area. Other Governments have done much work in connection with the agricultural industry, but the Labour Government have nothing to be ashamed of with regard to their record. In the Esperance and far eastern areas, the experimental farms, particularly at Ghooli and Salmon Gums, have been remarkably successful, and have been of considerable importance in aiding land settlement in those parts. My idea is that, in respect of all future operations in presumably unsafe districts, we should carry out systematic experiments first. In the past our policy of land settlement has been rather haphazard. We have embarked upon schemes from which the country expected much, but which resulted in great losses. This was largely due to the fact that no initial experiments had been carried out. The Minister for Lands will be aware of the fact that in the northern parts of the State, beyond Yuna, experiments are being carried out in connection with farming operations.

The Minister for Lands: I must show you photographs of some of the crops.

Hon. M. F. TROY: Before throwing land open for settlement in that district, although great pressure had been brought to bear upon me, I took a definite stand and refused to make any land available for selection until experimental work had been carried out. I am glad that the experiments proved successful. If we were to carry out those experiments over a number of years, we could embark upon agricultural development with

every degree of certainty. We had not done that in the past. If I were administering the department again I would experiment before embarking a large sum of money in any form of land settlement. We did that in regard to the 3,500 farms scheme. The "West Australian" a few days ago said the country had been spared from a great loss in that the scheme had not eventuated. The leader writer implied that really it would have eventuated but for unforeseen circumstances. As a matter of fact it could not have eventuated unless its success was assured, for the Government pursued a most careful policy regarding the whole of the programme.

Mr. Wells: It came too late for a lot of settlers.

Hon. M. F. TROY: If we had pursued the line of settlement which the hon. member's party pursued, the whole scheme would have eventuated and we would have lost several millions of pounds over it. However, I was never keen about pushing on with the scheme, and although I was accused of holding it up, we made haste slowly and properly investigated the scheme. In consequence, the State did not make any mistake about it. Still I am convinced that within the next few years that land will be brought under settlement. The only hope of extending the wheat belt is through that area of country. The scheme has been delayed, but that will not be of any disadvantage, because the experimental farms at Ghooli and Salmon Gums are working out the problems associated with the district and, as I say, I feel convinced that before another 10 years have gone by that area will be successfully settled. Land development in this country has not ceased; we are only beginning it. There will be another era of progressive settlement, when all that country will come into its own. I am not prepared to say that Dr. Teakle cannot go wrong. Doubtless he is right in saying there is salt in some of the land down there. In some areas I can tell by the timber whether salt exists. The land adjacent is magnificent wheat-growing country. A certain percentage of salt may be found down there, but that disability will pass with cropping, and that country will then come into its own. If every Government in Western Australia were to follow out as carefully their land settlement schemes as we did the 3,500 farms scheme, the business of the country would be in safe hands. May I say that we also extended

the Denmark State farm. It was the only experimental dairy farm in Western Australia, but its 80 acres were absolutely inadequate to the purpose, and so we extended it by adding another 100 acres. Truly we can say that in our programme we acted wisely, and that the policy pursued by us has been of material benefit to Western Australia. I should like to say there is an idea abroad that—but perhaps I had better not say what I was going to say.

The Attorney General: Count one hundred.

Hon. M. F. TROY: I will be more discreet. However, I should like to say a few words regarding the wheat yield, which last year realised 50,000,000 bushels, although it was not as valuable as we hoped it would be, since we had the bad luck to strike low prices. I am most amused when I hear farming members say that really they grew this wheat in consequence of having listened to the appeal of the Federal Government to grow more wheat. They assert they now have a grievance in that they grew the wheat but did not get a bonus for it. I too have that grievance; I grew wheat but did not get any bonus. But let me be candid and say that if the Federal Government were to appeal to me to do something against my judgment, their appeal would fall on deaf ears. I confess I did not grow one single acre of wheat because of the appeal of the Federal Government. So, too, with many other farmers. We grow wheat because we have to grow it, because we have land suitable for it and because that is our business in life. No one has appealed to any of us to grow wheat this year, but we have grown it just the same, and we will continue to grow it in the hope that we shall come out all right in the end. This year the result of wheat-growing will be very satisfactory. I shall be surprised if we do not get a pretty high average yield, for the season has been fairly good throughout. In view of that, although the area sown is less than in the previous year, it may be found that the production of wheat will not fall very far behind last year's production. Whatever may be said of the future of the wheat-growing industry, I think I can say we have to go on with it. I believe the great majority of the farmers will go on with it. I am not impressed by the moanings of those who talk about the outlook. If we get through this series of years of depression by making as little loss as possible, and

carry on with our endeavours to find a market at reasonable prices, we shall be doing very well indeed. I have said on previous occasions that the best policy to pursue in regard to agriculture was to grow a smaller acreage of wheat, put it in well, sow it on the very best land and utilise the rest of the land for grazing purposes, going in also for side lines. All along have I said that is the only hope, and I still believe it. If we do adopt that course with new and fertile areas, we shall have a chance of competing with any other country of the world. Even America has tried to bolster up the industry by heavily subsidising it. The Government of the United States advanced the Farm Board £50,000,000 with which to maintain the industry. Consequently, the American farmers put in more wheat, and as a result the market became worse. All the rest of us have reduced our areas somewhat, realising that the world was over-supplied with wheat for the time being. This year the greatest wheat-producing country in the world, save Russia, is America, a condition brought about by the activities of her Farm Board. If it had not been for that board taking an enormous quantity of wheat off the market, the production this year would have been reasonable and the market would have greatly improved. When we have over-supplied the market we have to retrace our steps. Practically the whole wheat world is retracing its steps, and so the time is coming when we shall get reasonable prices again. In this House in the period between 1911 and 1914 and again in 1915 when first the Country Party secured representation here, we heard the same doleful talk about the desperate position of the farmers. Yet within seven years everything was all right again. History repeats itself, and in four or five years' time people will be talking about the magnificent prospects of the farmers of Western Australia, and all the lessons learned during the last few years may be forgotten. Let us not be downhearted, for the position will certainly right itself. The member for Avon referred to members speaking the truth. If I may claim any virtue at all in this debate, it is for exactly that. Why should I go out of my way to seek political kudos and cultivate the goodwill of the community by playing up to certain people and stressing their grievances and difficulties when I know in my heart they are not in any

degree worse than those suffered by the rest of the community? Why should a member always have in mind the votes of certain people? I cannot understand members being condemned for speaking the truth that is in them. When I was a Minister I gave my utmost to the farmers. I had the greatest possible sympathy for them, and when any of them in trouble came into my office my heart went out to them. If I entertain one policy in life it is that when a man can afford to pay his debts he ought to pay them. That is a very old philosophy and may be entirely worn out, but I still adhere to it. When people are prospering, their first obligation should be to pay their debts, after which they can do what they like with the rest of their money. So, as I have said, whenever I talk to a farmer who is in trouble through no fault of his own my heart goes out to him.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: Then you are simply with the big majority.

[*Mr. J. H. Smith took the Chair.*]

Hon. M. F. TROY: Certainly the big majority of the farmers have my sympathy, especially those in trouble through no fault of their own. But I will never hesitate to say that when I was Minister for Lands there came under my notice numbers of men who were not playing the game by anybody. When a crisis like the present comes it robs the Government of all opportunity to deal with such men. We are not going to build up stable conditions in this State by carrying on people who will not do the fair thing by themselves or by the country. That will not get us anywhere. If any member on the Government side employs a man who does not play the game, he sacks him. Members of that party have been most definite in insisting that every man shall play the game and do his work properly. Consequently, when the files came under my notice, I told Mr. McLarty that people who would not attempt to pay their debts, who were indulging in extravagance, who were selling wheat which was not theirs to sell and who were acting dishonourably and dishonestly should be got rid of. That is the policy I shall always stand for. When a man sells his wheat and will not pay his debts, lives extravagantly and acts dishonourably, no Government and no party can stand to him. So long as he plays the game and does his best, we will be with him

to the end. The man who does his best will always have my greatest sympathy and help in this Chamber. I do not know whether Mr. McLarty acted on my instructions, but I give them to the House as I stated them, and members may make what political capital they like of them. They may quote them against me if they like, but I am convinced that had one of my predecessors in office giving the bank similar instructions, many of the farmers would not have been in difficulties. They would have met their interest and paid their way, but they did not do so because a previous Minister always played up to them. Consequently they cultivated an attitude of irresponsibility, which always ends disastrously. I am glad that the department are encouraging the production of fat lambs. I should like to know whether the officials are sure that they are recommending the right type of sheep to produce fat lambs. There is a possibility of the department laying down a rule that lambs should be produced from only a certain type of sheep. The director has no knowledge of the matter at all. He is a good man in his own line, but on the breeding of fat lambs he has an idea that only a certain type of sheep should be used, and instructions are issued to farmers to breed from sheep of that type only.

The Minister for Agriculture: Not instructions, only advice.

Hon. M. F. TROY: That is the danger. This is a State of varying conditions. The agricultural area stretches from Northampton and beyond to Albany and Esperance, and it is not reasonable to suppose that one type of sheep will do well throughout that vast area. What is suitable in the South-West may not be suitable elsewhere. The department would be wise to obtain the experience of men who have succeeded in this undertaking. The greatest producer of fat lambs in the southern hemisphere is New Zealand. There the problems have been worked out. Why did not the department get some information from New Zealand.

The Minister for Agriculture: The conditions are very dissimilar.

Hon. M. F. TROY: That is correct in some respects. The south island is dissimilar, but the north island is similar. The north island has climatic conditions like those prevailing along the Midland railway. The south island has conditions worse than those in any part of Western Australia; it

has a hard and severe winter. In the north island we could have got valuable information; yet the Department of Agriculture has sent out instructions to settlers of the type of sheep to breed from. In that respect I have no confidence in the director because he has no knowledge of the subject. I should ignore his advice personally, and should try to get information from people who had had years of experience and had worked up the industry.

The Minister for Agriculture: That is exactly what he has done. He had a committee of successful lamb breeders and based his advice on their experience.

Hon. M. F. TROY: I am sorry if I have misjudged him. If we in this State, with its varying climatic conditions, tie ourselves to the production of fat lambs from one type of sheep, there will be dismal failures in many districts. I hope the department will not follow any stupid policy such as insisting upon settlers breeding from one type and one type only, because it will work out unsatisfactorily. I am glad that Dr. Bennett has solved the problem of what is known as the Beverley sheep disease. I do not know that it is right to call it the Beverley sheep disease. The people of Beverley rather resent it.

The Minister for Lands: They have a new name for it—the Braxy-like disease.

Hon. M. F. TROY: Dr. Bennett was brought to the State for the purpose. He has had several years of research, and I am glad that he discovered the cause of the disease. The reasons that Dr. Bennett gives are somewhat the reasons given to me by an old settler in the district when Dr. Bennett first entered on the work. I propose to refer to an argument I had with the Minister some time ago regarding the restrictions on cattle from Fraser Downs Station in West Kimberley. The Minister was very hurt when I went to his office with a deputation urging him to allow cattle to be brought from the southern portion of West Kimberley.

The Minister for Agriculture: Would it not be advisable to leave that to the Royal Commissioner who has been appointed?

Hon. M. F. TROY: There are a few facts I wish to mention. I say the Minister was very hurt, but I claim the right to introduce a deputation on any matter if I think I can present a proposition that has not previously been investigated. I have no ob-

jection to the Minister sticking to what he considered right in the administration of his department. That is the proper attitude for him to adopt. If he gave way simply to please me, I should regard him as a very weak man. If he sticks to what he considers to be right, I have no quarrel with him personally. I may quarrel with his point of view, but I must respect his opinion. There is no quarrel between us, but I have a quarrel with the department. The department who refused to allow cattle to be brought from Fraser Downs Station had no objection to the importation of cattle from Victorian areas that had been pleuro infected. I want to know how much confidence we can have in the officials who, at the time I administered affairs, laid down the dictum that certain things could not be done, but immediately another Government took office, departed from that attitude. My experience of importing dairy cattle from the Eastern States for group settlers was that I was confined to selecting cattle from the northern districts of New South Wales. The Department of Agriculture laid it down definitely that they would not agree to the importation of cattle for group settlers except from the northern portion of New South Wales, or from New Zealand. Even then, cattle from northern New South Wales had to be quarantined for three months in New South Wales. When we desired to bring cattle from South Australia to meet a shortage on the eastern Goldfields, cattle to be slaughtered at Kalgoorlie, the department set their face against it. They only agreed finally on condition that a certificate was produced—

Hon. P. Collier: Not the department, the veterinary officers.

Hon. M. F. TROY: No, the department, in this instance. The director is the head of the department.

Hon. P. Collier: On the advice of the veterinary men.

Hon. M. F. TROY: They insisted on the production of a certificate, which was quite proper, and they insisted that the cattle should not touch the ground until they reached the slaughter yards at Kalgoorlie. Consequently we connected the slaughter yards with the railway in order that the cattle should not touch ground but should go straight into the slaughter yards to be slaughtered. I endeavoured to break down

the policy of requiring me to purchase cattle solely from New South Wales because it limited the market and made the purchase price higher. But the department would not agree. I was told it could not be done. It could not be done during the time I was Minister for Lands, and yet in the space of a few weeks Sir James Mitchell was able to bring cattle from Victoria which had been a prohibited area. How was it done? What confidence can we have in officials who in a short space of time completely change their opinion?

Hon. P. Collier: Reputed veterinary officers—they were behind it.

Hon. M. F. TROY: The director is the permanent head of the department. Can we say of the permanent head that he is entirely guided by the veterinary officers?

The Minister for Agriculture: Do not you think the department should be guided by the expert officers in such a matter?

Hon. P. Collier: Then why did the department change?

Hon. M. F. TROY: Yes, that is the question.

Hon. P. Collier: Did the position change with a change of Government? You are a nice crowd!

Hon. M. F. TROY: What miracle enabled Sir James Mitchell to accomplish in a few weeks something we could not do in three years? The reply I got was that there had been no pleuro for two years in the districts in which the cattle were purchased, but the retort to that is that on Fraser Downs Station there has been no pleuro for 18 years. Yet the present Government would not allow cattle to be brought from Fraser Downs Station, but admitted cattle from Victoria where there had been pleuro some years ago. I took this matter up personally in the Eastern States with the Victorian Minister for Lands, who told me that pleuro might recur at any time. He said it was quite safe to import our cattle. I said, "On your word of honour is it safe to import cattle from your State," and he said, "Well, pleuro might break out at any time." The department raised objections to their own citizens in their own country getting a market, but within a few weeks they allowed cattle to come from another State in which pleuro might break out at any time. It is quite true that pleuro might disappear for many years and then break out again in the same locality. My objection is against the head

of the department, not against the Minister. The Minister pursues a policy which he thinks is wise in the circumstances. The opinion is his. My quarrel is with the department, which forces one Government to buy in a restricted market, and allows another to buy anywhere. In order that the Government might get cattle at a reasonable price, I had arranged to send a buyer to New Zealand rather than purchase any beasts from Victoria or South Australia. The Mitchell Government, however, overcame the difficulty in a few weeks. If pleuro breaks out in the South-West, they must be held responsible. Pleuro has already been discovered in the South-West.

The Minister for Agriculture: Where?

Hon. M. F. TROY: Not far from Perth. The records are in the Minister's office. I have no quarrel with the Minister. If in his wisdom he thinks the course he is adopting is the best in the circumstances, I must respect his opinion, and I do respect it. I strongly object, however, to the department being so inconsistent as to take up an attitude for years with one Government, and then abandon it a few weeks later when another Government comes into power.

Hon. P. Collier: There is a mighty lot wrong with the department.

The Minister for Agriculture: It is all right now.

Hon. M. F. TROY: An inquiry into the pleuro question is to be made by Mr. Max Henry, Chief Veterinary Officer of New South Wales. I think the Government have pursued the proper course in this direction, and I hope the inquiry will bring forth good results. If cattle in the North have pleuro they should not be allowed to come South; if not the restrictions should be removed. The department should not be allowed to adopt one attitude to-day and another to-morrow. In such circumstances there can be no confidence in the department. I have no quarrel with the Minister if he thinks he is acting in the best interests of the country, but I have a definite quarrel with the department, which took up a definite stand with one Government, and abandoned it with another. I am glad to know the butter production in this country is increasing. We have spent £6,000,000 in group settlement, and if we do not get a return for that money in the development of the butter industry, things will be in a bad

way. We have lost as much money in group settlement as would keep every man, woman and child in the State in butter for nearly three years. Happily the butter output is increasing, and in years to come the supply will gradually increase, although we shall never really recover the money that has been lost because of the interest and capital expenditure. Nevertheless, the progress the industry is making is all to the good for Western Australia. I was very much struck by an article written by Mr. W. Hawker of South Australia. It bears out my point of view to a large extent. Before I became Minister for Agriculture the department had embarked upon the zone system in the dairying industry. Certain zones were restricted to Guernseys, others to Shorthorns, others to Jerseys, and so on. No one strongly objected to the principle, and though I looked upon it as merely a stunt, and could not see much in it, I took no action to abolish it. I always felt, however, that if I lived in one of these zones I should prefer the type of beast I cared most about and knew most of. I can see nothing more absurd than to compel people to purchase a beast for which they have no fancy. If I were asked to purchase Jersey cattle, I would refuse, because I prefer the Shorthorn, which is the most profitable beast a man can go in for. In these particular areas people are compelled to stick to the Shorthorn, the Guernsey or the Jersey. All dairymen are not of the same mind. They may be wrong in their fancies, but they generally have a fancy one way or the other. The dairyman who has a particular liking for a type of cattle is the man who makes a success of his business. No man will take a pride in cattle he does not like, and he feels he has been imposed upon in being compelled to breed those cattle. Mr. Hawker is a judge of cattle at the Royal Show, and he speaks most glowingly of the possibilities of Western Australia. Concerning the dairy industry he said—

If you are going to progress in your dairying you must get rid of that stupid and grotesque zone system which apparently has been devised to bolster up two breeds at the expense of the rest. Why in the name of common sense do you not sweep away this stumbling block to progress, and put every breed on the same footing, and let each breed most suitable to the local conditions win out, without let or hindrance?

People are entitled to their choice in cattle. The successful man is the man who has his own fancies, and the unsuccessful man is he who will take anything. I always looked upon the zone system as a stunt, which gave certain officers publicity and kudos. As no one had any objection to it at the time, however, I raised no objection. If I were in the South-West and in one of the zones, I would insist upon having the cattle I wanted. I was very interested in the discussion regarding the possibilities of tropical agriculture in the North-West, as enunciated by the member for Gascoyne. I hope he will not think I am opposed to tropical agriculture in the North. The Collier Government had the idea of establishing an experimental farm in the Kimberleys. In our tropical agricultural adviser, Mr. Wise, we have a man who is well qualified for his position. I have frequently met him and discussed tropical agriculture with him. I also have some knowledge of the question, because I was brought up in the sugar industry in Northern New South Wales. It is out of the question for us to attempt to grow sugar in this State as yet. Nothing could be more ridiculous than the articles that have appeared in the "Sunday Times" on this question. Sugar could possibly be grown in the Ashburton and Gascoyne by means of irrigation at a time when the population of this State runs into millions, and the necessity exists to bring those areas under cultivation. Bananas also may grow well in the sheltered valleys along the Gascoyne River. The proof of the value of an industry lies in whether the product can be grown and marketed at a profit. I could grow bananas in the wheat belt if I sheltered the plants and looked after them, but I could not do so at a profit. In the Carnarvon area good bananas are grown in the sheltered valleys, but under present conditions I cannot regard the industry as a promising one. I saw the bananas grown in that part of the State, and I was very sorry for the planters. I hope the Government will not spend money in tackling a proposition like that. They should, however, establish an experimental farm in the Kimberleys. There is a good rainfall over four months of the year, and it would be possible to grow many things up there such as peanuts, maize and the like. Maize represents an excellent food for stock.

Almost all the food produced and given to pigs in New South Wales and Queensland is maize.

The Minister for Lands: It should be possible to grow sugar up there if maize can be grown.

Hon. M. F. TROY: That is absurd. Maize matures in about 90 days. Sugar, on the other hand, is an annual crop which takes 12 months to mature. Sugar must have abundant moisture, and it is generally produced in a rainfall of from 80 to 110 inches in the year. There is insufficient rainfall in the Kimberleys for the growing of sugar. It is of no use embarking upon schemes like that. We must produce the things which can be sold at a profit. I have no doubt bananas could be grown in the Kimberleys where there are springs and good water supplies. I do not want the Government to stand behind schemes, and endeavour to produce products where the environments and conditions are unsuited for them. No doubt when Western Australia has a population of five or six millions, and there is no land available down here, very great use can be made of the North. Tropical products will then be produced in abundance, but this will require irrigation and the installation of a packet service for the marketing of the goods. Such conditions do not appertain to-day. Everything must come in its turn. Let us not waste time in endeavouring to do things before we are ready. I now propose to say a word or two about the department. I have my own idea about the administration of the department, and nearly put certain schemes into effect. I will tell members why I did not do so: it was because I did not wish to pull certain men down. It is quite wrong to place the department under a director who has only special agricultural qualifications. I have nothing to say against the present occupant of the position as a wheat expert, or about his work as an officer. He is a hard worker. I cannot, however, conceive anything more out of place in the department than that the head, a wheat expert, should interfere with the sheep expert, the fruit expert, the veterinary expert, and so forth.

The Minister for Agriculture: In what way does he interfere with them?

Hon. M. F. TROY: I know he does, or he did do so. I had to protect the wool

man. I have had personal experience of him.

The Minister for Agriculture: That is only due to your animosity against him.

Hon. M. F. TROY: I cannot conceive of reasonable and happy relations in a department, except under duress, where one man who knows about one subject can interfere with men who are experts in other subjects. In the Public Works Department it is preferred to have as Under Secretary a business man, and to make every expert supreme in his own department. I do not say that the experts in the Agricultural Department do not do their work, but I do say that each man should receive encouragement in his own particular branch. Mr. Sutton is eminent in wheat producing, and Heaven knows there is enough work among Western Australian agriculturalists to absorb the whole time of a man of his qualifications. He should go round the country preaching how to cultivate wheat. Coming down the Wongan Hills line recently, I was struck by the great amount of barley among the wheat crops. That will represent a loss to the State and to the farmers. The time of the wheat expert ought to be absorbed among the farmers, showing them how to grow wheat, how to fallow, and so forth. There is a tremendous amount of work of that kind in this country for the wheat man. As an instance, what happened at Southern Cross when the miners' settlement was formed there? The Agricultural Bank insisted that there should be no crops put in except under the best fallow conditions. What was the result? From 30,000 acres a record crop of 18 bushels to the acre.

The Minister for Agriculture: Was not that done on the advice of the Director of Agriculture?

Hon. M. F. TROY: No. To my great amazement I read in the "Bulletin" an article saying that this had been achieved under the guidance of the Director of Agriculture. The Director of Agriculture was never consulted.

The Minister for Agriculture: He was, and his advice is on record in the Agricultural Department to-day.

Hon. M. F. TROY: I do not care what is on record there. I am more competent to speak on that subject than is the Minister, because I administered the department at the

time in question. The miners came to Perth and asked the Government to allow them to crop their land. This is on record in the Press. I gave a reply in the negative, and said they must fallow.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: That has been the policy of the State for 20 years.

Hon. M. F. TROY: A policy more honoured in the breach than in the observance. This Southern Cross settlement was the only scheme in Western Australia controlled by the Government, and the Government insisted upon proper fallowing. The result was that from 30,000 acres there was the highest yield ever obtained in Western Australia. Had that policy been inculcated throughout Western Australia by educational means, it would have been a great advantage to the State as well as to the settlers. I should put Mr. McCallum very high as a sheep expert. The sheepmen of this country have great confidence in him. Yet I found another officer buying sheep for the State farms. Those sheep were bought, not by Mr. McCallum, but by a man who does not know anything about sheep. I am not going to believe that the man who does not know about sheep is qualified to buy sheep of the type most suitable, and that the chief sheep expert of the department should be ignored in the matter of purchasing sheep for the State farms.

Hon. P. Collier: Why was this? Because of the Director?

Hon. M. F. TROY: I do not know why. Mr. Wickens is an extraordinarily good fruit man. He has not a superior, I believe, in Australia. We are lucky to have him. We nearly lost him to the Federal Government. I am extremely glad he did not go. Of Mr. Baron Hay also it can be said that he is a very able man. I greatly regret the death of Mr. Richardson, a most courteous, obliging and capable officer. In him the department lost a very good man indeed. Here is a department in which the officers are all experts in their own jobs, and all subject to an officer who, while not knowing their jobs, has strong convictions about them. In my opinion that position is entirely wrong. If we want to get the best results out of those men, we must give them credit for their work. Men do not live by bread alone; they live also by getting some of the kudos for what they do. My view of the Agricultural Department is that it should be admin-

istered by an under secretary who does not pretend to know the experts' work, but is a business man and leaves the experts to do their jobs. Again, the scientific men in the department are highly valuable. I repeat, in my opinion it was a grave mistake to put the department under a Director of Agriculture of Mr. Sutton's qualifications. One man cannot be a master of all trades. The Director does not know everything. I should put in an under secretary and make every expert supreme in his own branch. Then the State would have better results. I am glad to have had the opportunity of speaking on this department in which I am highly interested. In my opinion it is of great service to the country. I can see a big future for the Agricultural Department. When all the lands of Western Australia have been settled, the Agricultural Department will be the most important department in Western Australia.

[Mr. Richardson took the Chair.]

MR. ANGELO (Gascoyne) [9.23]: I have always regarded the Agricultural Department as one of the most important, if not the most important, of our State activities. It may be described as the keystone of the governmental arch. The Lands Department send the settler out, the Railway Department convey him to his land and carry his produce away, the Public Works Department provide him with roads, bridges, and so forth. We all realise that the primary producer is the backbone of the country. Whether he makes good or not depends largely on the advice and assistance that are given to him by the Agricultural Department. Therefore I consider it would be wrong for the Committee or the Government to stint the department financially. The department must be run economically, but I should indeed be sorry to see any of the fine band of experts at present attached to the department cut out for the want of a few pounds. I have heard this evening a good deal of the difficulties affecting the farming community, the fruit-growers, and even the vegetable growers, in the southern parts of the State. But the producers of that part of Western Australia have not a monopoly of difficulties. The pastoralists in the North also have hurdles to get over at present. The Minister

for Lands this afternoon gave the Chamber some idea of those difficulties, on which I shall not dwell at present. There is, however, one difficulty which represents the worst stumbling-block in the path of the pastoralist of the North at present; and that is what to do with their surplus sheep. Some 15 years ago there were more sheep in that part of the State north of the Murchison River than in the portion south of it. Consequently there was always a market for the sheep in the metropolitan and southern areas. But as the years have gone on mixed farming has advanced, and huge areas have been taken up and stocked in the Eastern Goldfields district. The position has changed entirely, and there are now nearly twice as many sheep south of the Murchison River as there are north of it. In view of the high cost of freight and the lack of railway communication, it is difficult to find any market that will return even a few shillings to the owner of sheep, even though they be fat. It is impossible to sell store sheep or culled ewes, even though these be culled for age or wool and are still fat. That is one of the great problems in connection with which we want the assistance of the Government. I do not refer to financial assistance; there are other ways in which the Government can help. One proposal which we have been discussing with the Agricultural Department for some time is the possibility of a short run at the Carnarvon works with the Wyndham Meat Works staff when they finish their Wyndham season—a short run from, say, the middle of September to the end of December for a boiling-down proposition. Some little time ago there was a prospect of arranging this; but unfortunately the price of tallow, which was then about £34 per ton, fell to £16 per ton, so that even if the pastoralists brought their sheep to Carnarvon the return from boiling down would hardly pay the cost of droving the sheep and operating the works. On the other hand, if the price of tallow rises in the near future, and if the price of skins increases in sympathy with the price of wool, there may be a possibility of having a season at Carnarvon next year if we can get the Wyndham staff to assist us. It seems a cruel waste that from 80,000 to 100,000 sheep—most of them fat because of the really good season—should be killed in the Gascoyne district simply because they

cannot be disposed of in any other way whatever. I know of one station which is taking surplus sheep to the cliffs near the coast and throwing them into the sea. If the price of tallow will only rise a little, and sheep skins improve in value somewhat, it may pay next year to bring sheep down in the wool to the works at Carnarvon, thereby saving a considerable amount of expense for shearing, and also the cost of carting the wool from the station.

Hon. P. Collier: Would there be any market for lambs up there?

Mr. ANGELO: It is impossible for us to produce lambs, because the lambs which are dropped about June are not fit until the warm weather starts, and then they cannot hold their own. The climate is a bit too hot for them, and they soon begin to waste.

Hon. P. Collier: You cannot produce lambs?

Mr. ANGELO: We can produce lambs, but we cannot hold them long enough to enable them to go through the meat works.

Hon. P. Collier: Then why did you put the State to the expense of £40,000 for freezing works at Carnarvon?

Mr. ANGELO: That was for fat sheep, not lambs.

Hon. P. Collier: Then what about the sheep you have referred to just now?

Mr. ANGELO: I do not want to go back over that old subject. The Leader of the Opposition knows perfectly well that the pastoralists of the district contributed £55,000 of their own money for that venture, and it was due to wrong advice given to them that failure resulted.

Hon. P. Collier: The State Government put £40,000 into the venture.

Mr. ANGELO: Yes, later on.

Hon. P. Collier: No, at the same time.

Mr. ANGELO: No, the pastoralists contributed their £55,000 first. Unfortunately that amount included 500 sovereigns of my own.

Hon. P. Collier: The State is responsible for £40,000, quite apart from the accumulated interest.

Mr. ANGELO: The Leader of the Opposition knows that, owing to bad advice tendered, the works were constructed on too elaborate a scale.

Hon. P. Collier: They were not Government works; they were established entirely by private enterprise.

Mr. ANGELO: I am not blaming the Government at all.

Hon. P. Collier: You cannot blame the Government, because private enterprise planned the works and erected them.

Mr. ANGELO: The original scheme was for the treatment of 500 sheep per day.

Hon. P. Collier: And the works did not treat one sheep.

Mr. ANGELO: Unfortunately, before the works started operating, the directors were advised to increase the capacity of the works from 500 sheep per day to 2,500 daily. That advice was quite wrong, because the producers of the stock could not have maintained a supply of 500 sheep a day at that time, quite apart from 2,500 sheep daily. I hope we shall be able to revert to a 500-sheep-per-day proposition. We may be able to sell some of the more expensive machinery and with the proceeds, instal a smaller plant capable of successfully dealing with 500 sheep a day.

Hon. P. Collier: The hon. member knows that Carnarvon is outstanding in the number of its ventures that have failed!

Mr. ANGELO: I do not know that that is quite correct.

Hon. P. Collier: Yes—fish, sharks, lambs, sheep, peanuts, bananas!

Mr. Marshall: And pineapples.

Mr. ANGELO: I may deal with those phases later on. People in the North have been pleased to see the effort launched to promote the fat lamb export trade at Fremantle. We realise that if a trade is opened up with other parts of the world, there will be greater possibilities available to place our products in our own southern markets. There is another direction in which the Government may be able to assist the people of the North and help us to get rid of some of our surplus sheep. I refer to the possibilities of trade with the Dutch East Indies. Years ago I took 1,000 sheep from Carnarvon to Singapore, and I landed 70 at Java. When I returned to Batavia a fortnight later, the merchants to whom I had sold the sheep told me that they had proved popular with the people at that port, but unfortunately they could not afford to pay 25s. or 30s. per sheep, that being the price I had to charge at that time. They pointed out to me that the people could not afford to pay that price for sheep when they could

purchase goat wether mutton at from 12s. 6d. to 15s. per carcase. They said that if we could supply mutton at anything like the price of goat flesh, the people would naturally prefer the mutton. At present, wethers can be purchased at, say, an average of 6s. per head f.o.b. Carnarvon, and with the help of the Government in the reduction of freight, we could land sheep at Java for 12s. or 13s. per head. Communications have passed recently with those interested in the proposal in Java and we have been told that if we could supply at anything like the price I have mentioned, the people of Java would be prepared to open up a profitable trade.

Hon. P. Collier: I looked into the question of opening up trade with Java and Singapore, but I found that we could never establish a trade in the manner you suggest unless we could secure freezing works there.

Mr. ANGELO: I was coming to that phase.

Hon. P. Collier: You cannot arrange such a trade by sending a shipment forward now and another in three or six months time. You must maintain continuity of trade and we must have freezing works in order to do that.

Mr. ANGELO: I would remind the Leader of the Opposition that when he interested himself in endeavouring to open up that trade, we could not have sold sheep at the prices I have indicated now. We could only have sold at from £1 to £1 10s.

Hon. P. Collier: The price does not matter so much as the continuity of supplies.

Mr. ANGELO: I agree with that.

Hon. P. Collier: And that can be done only with the advantage of freezing works.

The Minister for Railways: We have been trading with Java and Singapore.

Mr. ANGELO: But not with the Dutch East Indies along the lines I have suggested.

Hon. P. Collier: I am afraid the market is not so much in Java as in Singapore.

Mr. ANGELO: We have the trade with Singapore now.

Hon. P. Collier: Yes, but nothing like to the extent we ought to have.

Mr. ANGELO: Java has a huge population. Apart from the coloured races,

there are millions of Eurasians who eat goat mutton. In addition, there are the Dutch people and numbers of Chinese. They would eat our mutton if they could purchase it at the same price as they pay for goat mutton.

Hon. P. Collier: But you could not establish that trade unless you could maintain continuity of supplies.

Mr. ANGELO: That is quite so. We have suggested the establishment of the live sheep trade because the native population will not eat frozen meat. They require to see the sheep killed and they have to be satisfied that it is a male sheep before they will eat it. That is the trade we think could be worked up. If we could do so, I believe the frozen meat trade would follow in due course. Last year 55 sheep only were landed in Java from Western Australia. We should be exporting 550,000 sheep per annum to the Dutch East Indies. The other day we heard from some people who are interested in the project and they are prepared once more to take our sheep and introduce the trade in Java, provided we can supply at 12s. 6d. or 15s. per head. In those circumstances, we do look to the Government for any assistance they can render in the direction of freight reduction.

Mr. Marshall: What about the private shipping companies operating on the North-West coast? Will they not reduce freights too?

Hon. P. Collier: And, in any event, it is not so much a question of price as of continuity of supplies.

Mr. ANGELO: That is so. I think we can guarantee regular supplies now.

Hon. P. Collier: Not with our shipping service.

Mr. ANGELO: The "Kangaroo" could take up 3,000 or 4,000 every time she made a trip up the coast. That would serve to open up the trade.

Hon. P. Collier: But her trips are irregular.

Mr. ANGELO: There are the Singapore boats in addition.

The Minister for Railways: That would not pay the "Kangaroo," without other cargo.

Mr. ANGELO: That is so.

The Attorney General: What would there be in exchange?

Mr. ANGELO: I am coming to that phase.

Hon. P. Collier: At any rate we must be sure of regular supplies and shipping services before the trade can be promoted.

Mr. ANGELO: I think that could be secured with the addition of the Singapore boats. Quite apart from them, there are a number of vessels that run to the Far East with our wheat. Those vessels could carry sheep on the decks, if they were given the opportunity.

Hon. P. Collier: But that is merely a seasonal provision. You cannot open up a trade unless you can guarantee shipments every month or so.

Mr. ANGELO: I agree with the Leader of the Opposition. On the other hand, if we sit down and do nothing, we shall not get anywhere.

The Minister for Railways: Who is sitting down?

Mr. ANGELO: I am not saying that the Government are sitting down, but the people who are interested in the project.

The Minister for Railways: They were not interested in the meat trade when they were getting good prices for the wool.

Mr. ANGELO: That is quite so.

The Minister for Railways: If the trade you suggest is to be opened up, it must be maintained at all costs.

Mr. ANGELO: Naturally the people would not desire to sell their sheep when wool prices were high, and the runs were not fully stocked. To-day, however, it is a different proposition. As to return freights, the "Kangaroo" is running to those ports now and she must bring down some freight in return. What we suggest, would not interfere with her ordinary freight because the sheep would be carried as deck cargo.

Hon. P. Collier: What does the "Kangaroo" bring down as return freight?

Mr. ANGELO: I do not know.

Mr. Marshall: Is it not mostly petrol?

Mr. ANGELO: I know she brings cattle down the coast.

Mr. Coverley: Case petrol is taken as deck cargo.

Mr. ANGELO: At any rate, what we suggest would not interfere with her normal trade. There is another matter I will place before the Government. We have been told many times by people in the Dutch East Indies that they will take our products if we will take theirs in return. That naturally opens up the question of sugar, and this involves a Federal problem. A month ago I would not have advanced any such suggestion, because it would have been hopeless. On the other hand hon. members may have noticed that, two or three weeks ago, a telegram appeared in the "West Australian"—this is a small thing but it creates a precedent, which is just what we want—stating that the Federal Government were remitting the duty on Guinness's stout, because Guinness's were taking Tasmanian hops. That creates a precedent, and it is now merely a question of the dimensions of the exchange. If it is good enough for the Federal Government to vary their policy to allow Tasmanian hops to be used by a brewer, in return for which they allow the brewer's product to be admitted free of duty, it is surely up to Western Australia to ask that that concession shall be extended to us.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: One is competitive and the other is not.

Hon. P. Collier: Is it worth while getting into an argument involving the tariff?

Mr. ANGELO: But surely we can point out that as the Federal Government have given that concession to Tasmania, they should give us a similar concession to the extent of the value of our exports.

Hon. P. Collier: But would they do that?

Mr. ANGELO: They ought to. We are told it is costing Western Australia £600,000 per annum more for sugar than we would have to pay if we got it from Java. And in addition we are losing the possibilities of a trade worth £600,000. Is it not worth asking the State Government to request the Federal Government for a concession similar to that given to Tasmania? We have to do something in the way of getting rid of our surplus sheep, which are one of the greatest disabilities the pastoralist in the North has to deal with at the present time. I was very much alarmed when up in the Gascoyne district a month ago to hear reports of the spread of the blow-fly. All the stations up

there have had to establish traps with a view to saving their sheep from this pest, which is causing a big mortality amongst the flocks. I was glad to hear the remarks of the Minister for Lands, when he introduced these Estimates, regarding our tropical adviser. I urge the Government to retain the services of that very efficient officer. Mr. Wise was in Carnarvon when I was there, and I can assure the Committee he was at work from half-past five in the morning until late at night, making the conditions of life up there far better than they have ever been. He is advising, not only the settlers around Carnarvon, but also the residents at the various stations as to the best means of growing fruit and vegetables. Not only that, but I believe he is assisting at the birth of a big industry. I heard what the member for Mt. Magnet had to say about the growing of bananas. That member is an authority on a great many subjects, but I must say that Mr. Wise's opinion appeals to me more than does that of the hon. member. We have now two or three Queensland banana growers established at Carnarvon. The member for Mt. Magnet the other evening asked why they had left Queensland. The reason is that they were established at a considerable distance from Brisbane, and the extension of the banana industry along the northern rivers of New South Wales was hurting them in their market, so they decided to come over here and have a look round.

Hon. M. F. Troy: There has been no extension of the industry along the northern rivers of New South Wales.

Mr. ANGELO: One of those planters brought a letter to the member for Mt. Magnet, but that gentleman did not hold out much hope. In the end the growers came to me. I told him we had successfully grown bananas at the Gascoyne, but that a pest had come along, and since nobody could tell us what to do we had lost a lot of money on the enterprise. But the position is vastly different now, for we have in Mr. Wise one of the best advisers we could get anywhere. He understands his job, and is determined to make a success of the industry. These Queenslanders are satisfied that they are on the eve of big things. They were satisfied after seeing what had been done by laymen of no experience, and so they went back and sold their holdings in Queensland and have

now put all their money into the Gascoyne district. When I was up there recently they had put in thousands of banana plants and some 12,000 pineapple plants, and were going in for paw-paws, peanuts, and many other products that we are now importing.

The Minister for Railways: You do not want bananas from Java, because you are growing them at the Gascoyne.

Mr. ANGELO: Although we are convinced that we can grow those things, we have not yet the numbers. Still, we hope that next year we shall let Perth see that we can grow bananas. Probably in the following year we shall have rendered it unnecessary to import bananas from either Java or Queensland.

The Minister for Agriculture: The quality of your fruit is better than that of either of the other varieties.

Mr. ANGELO: Yes, that was officially reported to the department by a previous officer, Mr. Mooney, who said the bananas grown at Carnarvon were the finest he had ever tasted. It will be remembered that I brought down two bunches and got them exhibited in Messrs. Sandover's window. They were considered by experts to be as good as they had ever seen. But that is not the full extent of Mr. Wise's activities. He has experimented with all kinds of fodders, some of which he hopes will be successfully grown, not only in Gascoyne, but also farther north, to the advantage of sheep and cattle products. Later on when money is again available and some of the Kimberley rivers can be dammed and Mr. Wise's fodders established there, we may be able to compete with the Argentine or any other country of the world with baby beef; the only reason we cannot do it now is that we have not a continuous supply of succulent feed. Mr. Wise also considers the Gascoyne particularly adapted to the growing of citrus fruits, and he has given every encouragement to the production of vegetables and fruits required farther north. About a month ago I had the honour of opening the horticultural show at Carnarvon. I am not going to disparage the South-West, but I say unhesitatingly that the vegetables exhibited at Carnarvon were 50 per cent. better than those I saw at the Royal Show. That is the

opinion also of Mr. Wise. And it is not merely the growing of one or two varieties, for one station alone, working under the directions of Mr. Wise, produced 72 varieties of vegetables. Once again I want to say that my brother and I lost £4,000 experimenting up there, lost it simply because the Government of the day withdrew the tropical expert they had promised to maintain there. There are now up there dozens of men throwing in all their capital and working without any financial assistance from the Government, simply because they know they have an expert adviser to rely upon. So I trust his services will be retained. What can be done there I am sure can be done on the many rivers farther north, but of course one step at a time. The other day I heard a very sad debate in the House regarding the number of failures on our group settlements and land settlements. I am glad to be able to say we have a settlement at Carrarvon. It is not being financed by the Government, yet nearly everyone on that settlement has been able to make a living. I am pleased indeed that the Minister has such able advisers on his staff, and I feel certain this Committee will not in any way object to any little expenditure that may be required to maintain the importance of this department.

HON. W. D. JOHNSON (Guildford-Midland) [1958]: For many years I and other members of the House have devoted special attention to the distribution of revenue derived by Governments. We devoted our attention to the Public Works Department and the Treasury Department and those departments that dealt with expenditure: because the main responsibility of Parliament was to see that the revenue received was distributed in the best manner for the development of the State. But to-day it is a totally different proposition. We are concerned about expenditure, but our main interest is with regard to the revenue side, and we scan the Estimates to see exactly what is proposed, and try to judge whether the anticipations will be realised. The great need of the State is not so much to care for expenditure as to try to increase revenue. We must now look to the estimates of the Department of Agriculture. It is by primary production that we shall

increase the revenue and stabilise the financial position of the State. The Department of Agriculture, the administration of the department, and the sound judgment displayed by the experts will help the State to overcome the difficulties of the present period. The views expressed by the Department of Agriculture constitute the very foundation of the Estimates. The Railway Department is the great spending and earning department, and the revenue rises and falls in ratio to the returns from primary production. The freight provided by the wool, wheat and other commodities keeps the railways going. What can be done by the Department of Agriculture to stimulate production assists to stabilise the financial position of the railways. Water rates, harbour dues, taxation and in fact all the avenues of revenue really radiate from the Department of Agriculture. Although country members may agree that the present Government are doing all that may be deemed necessary for stabilising revenue by the activity of the Department of Agriculture, I say definitely I am disappointed with the woeful inactivity of the Government. The Government are composed of a composite party, one section representative of the commercial and financial interests, the other section representative of the primary producers. In no Government in Australia has the country representation greater influence than in that of Western Australia. The Country Party representation in the Cabinet is sufficient in number to give the primary producers greater consideration than has usually been given by previous Governments. It is claimed that the Country Party are a special party elected mainly to safeguard the interests of the primary producers. They have been elected to join with and form part of the Government, and one would naturally expect that, as a result of their doing so, there would have been much activity and greater encouragement to primary producers. Yet no State of the Commonwealth has done less during the last two years—the trying period—than the State of Western Australia. I wish to place that on record.

The Minister for Lands: But it is not true.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: While they talk of what ought to be done, nothing of any note has been done up to the present. I also wish to point out that there is grave dis-

satisfaction throughout the agricultural districts owing to the—

The Minister for Lands: Activity of some members opposite.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: Owing to the Cabinet having done so little for the agricultural interests. The time has arrived when we must review the situation from the point of view of the producers. I quite agree with those members who eulogise the experts associated with the Department of Agriculture. I have no complaints to make. I share with members the good opinion expressed regarding the work of the experts. But their work to-day is not of the same value to the State as it was five or ten years ago. Those officers are trying to maintain activity to secure increased production. We do not want increased production in this State. The problem of to-day is to market that which we are producing, and those officers, from the point of view of State development, are really superfluous, because we have arrived at a stage when we have to transfer attention from what we have been educated for many years to do, namely, stimulate and encourage production, and turn our attention to what we should do with the produce we are raising. I know the Premier has always maintained that the function of Government is limited to encouraging people to produce, leaving to others the responsibility of seeing that the producer gets for his product a living wage or a return somewhat commensurate with the cost of production. I have always opposed that view. The general attitude of the world has changed considerably in recent years. The best informed countries changed their opinions many years ago. The most flourishing countries in the world to-day in point of agricultural development, production and marketing are those countries which devote special attention to marketing as distinct from production.

The Minister for Lands: To what countries are you referring as regards wheat production?

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: I am speaking generally of those countries which have developed to a considerable extent. One turns to Denmark—

The Minister for Lands: Not much wheat there.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: And to California. As to wheat, one can turn to Can-

ada as a striking illustration of wonderful progress over a few years. I admit there are difficulties regarding wheat because of the special circumstances connected with it. Nevertheless those countries which have shown the greatest consideration for their primary production are those that have devoted special attention to proper organised marketing as an adjunct to production. Governments associated with commercial and financial interests naturally try to encourage people to increase production. It is upon production that they maintain their business. I have no grievance against them. What I complain of is that Governments will go on doing things, imagining they are helping the producer. On the other hand, the producer desires to get away from the ordinary channels which have been using him for so long in order to pay dividends, and wants to save some of the costs so that he may share in the dividends himself. The Government recently appointed a Royal Commission.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I would draw the attention of members to Standing Order 64, which says that every member of the House, when he comes into the House, must take his place, and shall not stand in any of the passages or gangways.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: The Royal Commission was not appointed to assist production, but to investigate the disabilities of the producers. I am disappointed with their findings. They certainly gave figures of the cost of production, and brought forth much evidence, but said very little about the removal of the burdens that are harassing the producers to-day. There is very little of practical use in the report, other than the suggestion that we might get away from the multiplicity of agents who are now handling wheat, and have one handling organisation. The idea is to effect economies by having one organisation to do what half a dozen are muddling with. The present position is not only unsatisfactory to the producers, but it has led to the disorganisation of transport. There is only one economical way to deal with the matter, and to overcome the difficulties of transport and other troubles associated with marketing, and that is to have one handling agency. We had no right to expect very much from the Royal Commission because of its composition. If members

of the Country Party want an investigation into the problems of primary produce, they must get the producers to do the job.

Mr. Wansbrough: Quite correct.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: We cannot expect merchants and others who have had a financial and commercial education to do the work in the way the producers would like to see it done. We certainly require the representation of that element, but if we want the producers' problems investigated, the producers themselves must be in the majority, although they can be assisted by others. It was clear from the inception that the report of the Commission would gloss over some of the greatest problems confronting the agricultural industry, and that it would deal with side issues the importance of which are as nothing compared with the real disabilities associated with production. I hope that the next time such a Commission is appointed, the producers will see that their representatives upon it are in the majority, so that the questions in which they are interested may be inquired into from their point of view. I am pleased that "Hansard" is being distributed in the agricultural districts to a greater extent than before. The producers are reading it in order to learn what Parliament thinks of these problems, instead of relying on the condensed newspaper report. I am speaking to-night more with the desire to give information through "Hansard" so that the producers may learn for themselves how members are dealing with these problems. The marketing of primary products from the export point of view is unnecessarily expensive and is certainly inefficient. Our main products are wheat and wool. The system of marketing must be on the most economical and efficient basis possible. We have an organisation to deal with that. It has been eulogised by many, and I have been a complete supporter of it ever since it came into existence. I am, however, not blind to the fact that it is not as efficient as it should be; nor is it as representative as it should be. The work done by the Wheat Pool is a credit to the trustees, but it does not enjoy the necessary patronage. It is being exploited by the minority of wheatgrowers. The majority do support

it, but there is always the minority undermining its influence. The pool handles about 60 per cent. of our wheat, but there is always the 40 per cent. in direct competition with it. What we have to do is to devise means by which we can improve that organisation, and get every possible farthing we can for the products we send overseas. To-day we are losing an enormous amount of money because of inefficient marketing, notwithstanding that we have a voluntary wheat pool.

[Mr. J. H. Smith took the Chair.]

The Minister for Lands: Do you think it saves money?

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: I say most emphatically that as long as we have 60 per cent. of our wheat competing against 40 per cent. of our wheat on the world's markets, so long shall we fail to get the actual value of the product.

The Minister for Lands: Our percentage of wheat on the world's market is very small.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: The wheat produced here is of vital importance to the world's consumption. We do not produce the ordinary wheat that comes into competition with, say, Russian or Argentine wheat; we produce a special wheat. Because it is a special wheat, we could market it well, had we only the will to do it. The will to do it must be initiated by the Government; there is no other means of attaining that end. The same thing can be said in regard to wool. The exploitation in connection with wool marketing is a downright scandal. Commissions are paid that ought never to be paid; charges are imposed that should never be imposed. The competition in regard to wool is all right from the buyer's point of view, but all wrong from the producer's point of view. Undoubtedly a function of Government is to protect the producer of wool against the exploitation that goes on to-day because of marketing arrangements which have been built up for years and have now become a crushing burden upon the wool producers of Western Australia and of Australia generally. The producers themselves cannot overcome the difficulty. Look where we will in the world, there is no country where the producers themselves have effectually overcome the

difficulty without Government assistance. Take Great Britain to-day. I venture the opinion, since a general election is taking place, that the difficulty will be more pronounced than previously. During the time of the MacDonald Government, the question of marketing was prominent in the public policy of Great Britain. Legislation on the basis of that operating in parts of Australia and elsewhere in the world had actually been framed, and its introduction was contemplated. We want marketing organisations in connection with our wool and our wheat. We want it very badly indeed in regard to fat lambs. That trade in particular is to-day being murdered by inefficient marketing. We need only look to the fact of the neglect to secure shipping space. That resulted in enormous loss to the Western Australian producers of fat lambs. The lack of attention to the reserving of sufficient refrigerated space for the purpose of lamb transport caused a pecuniary disaster. Naturally, the lambs had to be carried over through missing shipment, with the result that they were sacrificed on the local market. The circumstances completely exposed the fact that organisation in regard to fat lamb export requires close attention from the experts of the Agricultural Department. The same remark applies to pork, butter, eggs, apples and fruit generally. There is the Western Australian Freezing Company, established by the producers with assistance from the Government. The producers have put their money into the concern, and the Government have assisted. To-day that establishment is a burden upon the producers and a burden upon the Government. It cannot meet its liabilities in the way of interest payments. Yet fat lambs are available for marketing, and the market is available to absorb them. But we cannot organise our business so as to ensure that the fat lambs available will go through the organisation created for that very purpose. The Western Australian Freezing Works were established for the express purpose of dealing with this trade. Vested interests, however, got to work and crippled us by competition. The Western Australian Freezing Company are exporting lambs, and another company are doing so as well. The two companies are in competition with each other. I suggest to the

Minister that the trade cannot carry that competition. The trade is not big enough for the two organisations. There is no need for two companies. I know it will be maintained by some people and by the Press, particularly by the latter, that the two companies provide advantageous competition. But there is no competition. The two companies are of no value apart from obtaining certain profits for their shareholders, and providing a certain amount of work. However, the Western Australian producers of fat lambs have to pay for the two companies. Therefore, I maintain that the business should be organised on the basis of marketing the lambs without competition. Why should the Minister's lambs come into competition with my lambs on the British market? Why should we be fighting one another on that market? Why cannot we do as sane people do in other parts of the world? Instead of competing for a market that is available, let us combine to utilise that market. That is the method adopted in every organised country of the world. But here in Western Australia, just at a time when we are building up the trade and when we should be pulling well together, we are divided. As long as that position obtains, we shall not be successful. The member for Mt. Magnet (Hon. M. F. Troy) spoke about the class of lamb raised here, and as to whether it was wise for experts to make recommendations regarding the breeding of lambs. That does not concern me a two-penny-bit. We shall discover the right class of lamb to produce. That is not a difficult problem. It only means a few years of experimenting to arrive at a solution. I wish to commend the Agricultural Department for their very fine Royal Show exhibit, especially from an educational point of view, of fat lambs for export. One had only to see the lambs and find out their breeding to realise the class of lamb unsuitable because of the special breed, and the class of lamb suitable because of the special breed. A farmer had only to see the results in the shape of the lambs that had been slaughtered, to come to an immediate decision as to what he would do in regard to the breeding of fat lambs.

The Minister for Agriculture: And we go on producing unsuitable lambs.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: Yes, but that will come right; and it would come right all the quicker if we organised the marketing. The trouble to-day is to get the right kind of lamb for marketing, and that is the thing to which we devote no attention. We tell the farmers to go on producing fat lambs, but we have not the organisation to show them how fat lambs can be marketed, and thus we are unable so to organise the trade as to educate the farmers with regard to what is suitable and what is unsuitable. So long as there are separate marketing organisations, we will fail to get the class of commodity that is essential for success. Take the position that arises in view of the increased number of pigs produced, and the need that exists for securing an export market for pork and bacon. Last year, I spoke about this difficulty. There is a great market for Western Australian pork in Britain. We produce it at a period when the market there is bare, and we are favourably situated from a shipping point of view. Instead of getting together and making the freezing works a success by organising the export market on a proper basis, by which pork would be put through the freezing works under conditions that would make for economic success, we find someone else building special freezing works for that purpose. Now the producers will have to carry the burden of three freezing works, although we have barely sufficient to support one. I appeal to the Minister to realise that we cannot continue in this way. We must build up one organisation, and make a success of it. That is infinitely preferable to allowing numerous organisations to exist merely to cripple each other. The competition is costly to the producer, and is of no value to him. It injures his interests, and reduces the value of his commodity. I submit that it is distinctly unfair that one section should be content to export, and the other section should take advantage of the lean market locally. We will never establish the fat lamb export trade on a proper basis until we thoroughly organise it. Some will export while others will hang back to take advantage of local conditions. We must organise on the basis of controlling the local as well as the export market. To-day there is no organisa-

tion, no control, no economy. All we have is exploitation going on, and we are ruining a trade that could be successful if controlled by commonsense organisation. Let us take another point of view regarding wheat. I stated that the wheat pool organisation was a credit to the State, as far as it goes. It does not go far enough; it seems to be unable to go any further. For years we have had 60 per cent. of the wheat, and it appears that we shall never have more than that under existing conditions. That 60 per cent. of our wheat has been responsible for an enormous amount of work in regard to the value and sale of wheat and has done that work for the 100 per cent. of the wheat produced here. For instance, the commission paid on the sale of wheat to-day is reduced considerably compared with the rates that obtained when the pool commenced operations. I remember that at one of the earliest meetings after the inauguration of the wheat pool, Mr. A. J. Monger was in the chair and he read out a list of figures relating to commission and brokerage, rebrokerage, and recommission and duplication of all kinds of payments. After he had read the balance sheet I questioned it, and in effect he told me, "I do not know why we pay these charges. I do not know what services are rendered for them, but it is the custom of the wheat marketing trade to pay these charges and we have to work along ordinary channels." Wisdom and experience taught the pool that they must overcome a lot of those expenses in the interests of the producers. After a while some of the trustees were sent to the Old Country to study the problem on the spot, and to ascertain how expenditure could be cut down. As a result, a tremendous saving was effected in the interests of the wheatgrowers. Commission was cut down, brokerage charges reduced, and exploitation regarding out-turns avoided. We always experienced difficulties with regard to shipments from Fremantle to ports of the world. It seemed impossible to get the same quantity and quality unloaded at the other end. There was always some difficulty in the way. It seemed impossible to overcome the position until it was investigated and the decision arrived at to create our

own organisation overseas. Now there is a company operating in London. It is controlled by the wheat pool of Western Australia and it attends to all out-turns. That has revolutionised that part of the trade. The tales told about the scheming that went on with regard to the unloading of wheat and the methods adopted to exploit the producers in connection with out-turns are most interesting. It is useless to go into that particular phase, but all those tales were reported to the wheat pool and, as a result, the difficulties have been overcome to a large extent and many thousands of pounds have been saved to the producers of Western Australia. The point I wish to emphasise is that 60 per cent. of the wheatgrowers are doing all that, and 60 per cent. of the wheat is carrying the burden of the charges of investigation. Most emphatically I declare that what we require is an organisation to deal with the marketing on the basis of 100 per cent. of the wheat, not of 60 per cent. What applies to the wheatgrowers, applies exactly similarly to those who will produce fat lambs for market. With proper organisation at either end and the concentration of the work in proper channels, the expenditure involved in the business can be cut down enormously and the price increased to the producer correspondingly. Look at the position regarding bulk handling. Work is being done by the organised wheatgrowers of the pool. Again, 60 per cent. of our wheat has to carry the cost of that investigation and experimenting. The building that is going on to-day for the equipment of bulk handling facilities at certain sidings is being paid for by the organised pool, patronised by 60 per cent. of the wheatgrowers. Why should that be so?

The Minister for Lands: Are they not merely advancing money for that purpose?

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: No.

The Minister for Lands: I think you will find they are.

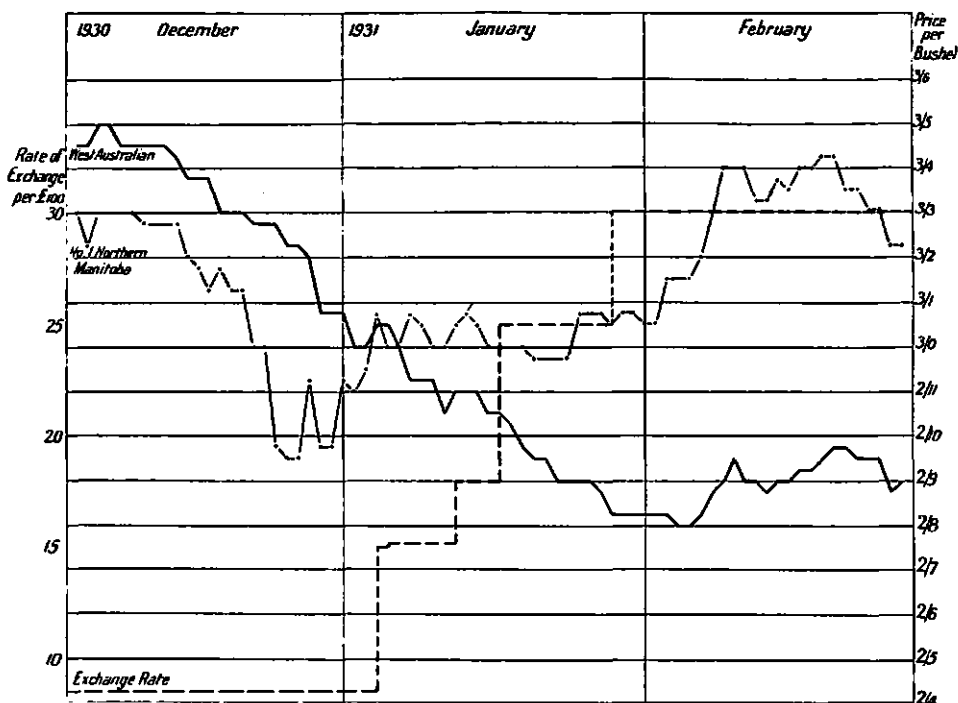
Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: I tell the Minister that a considerable sum has been expended on experimental work and has been paid for by the pool wheatgrowers.

The Minister for Lands: The money has been advanced by the wheatgrowers.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: No. There is a certain amount of the work in respect of which money has been advanced, and in respect of some of the buildings, the money will be returned. A great deal of money that is being expended in experimental work will not be returned. It is being provided by a section of the wheat growers, not the whole of them, although the work being done is in the interests of the whole. That is another reason why I claim that the Minister must try to direct his department in the way of organising marketing on a more scientific basis, try to get his officers to appreciate the fact that they have done their work well in regard to production, but that the trouble to-day is that the production is not marketed on a profitable basis. I should have liked to give some details regarding the actual marketing of wheat as it occurred last year. I want to make one little point in passing. The wheat of Western Australia was handled, 60 per cent. by the pool and 40 per cent. by others. Amongst those others was the firm of John Darling & Co. The wheat pool organisation got their money from London; the Co-operative Wholesale Society of Great Britain financed the pool. It was London money that came to Western Australia to make the initial advances to wheatgrowers, and that money had to be paid back in London, with the result that the wheat pool could not take advantage of the exchange position to the extent that Darling could. Darling's money was Australian money, and when Darling sent his wheat Home he could sell his Australian money on the London market and get the full beneficial result of the exchange. But there was no difference in the price paid for the wheat. Darling did not pay any more than the pool paid. It has become a practice to-day that the price declared by the wheat pool and the Western Australian Farmers is the standard price. There is very little variation if any, and if there is any variation there is some little temporary circumstance responsible for it. But why should one organisation be able to carry on, making an advantage out of the exchange as compared with the other organisation, yet the producer got no return? I have here an interesting graph which I have prepared from figures and market re-

ports in the columns of the "West Australian," taking the period October to February. It reveals a most extraordinary

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: I know, but I want them to realise that their activities in regard to production cannot be used to-day



thing. The exchange rate soared until ultimately it reached 30 per cent. During the period the exchange was soaring, the price of Manitoba wheat, a wheat which comes into direct competition with ours, soared too. This graph clearly discloses that just as the exchange rate went up, the price of Western Australian wheat came down. An enormous amount of money was lost to us because of that, and I am satisfied that if the experts of the Agricultural Department had been watching that, they would have been able to expose it and protect the wheat growers against the enormous loss. The wheat growers lost it, while those associating wheat marketing with exchange made huge profits. But the producers of this country should have had that amount if we had had properly organised marketing. We want the experts of the department to watch these things and assist us when we cannot help ourselves by reason of the fact that we have only an insufficient organisation to cope with big problems of this kind.

The Minister for Agriculture: The Agricultural Department is not a marketing department, not at present.

as they were years ago, but that their activities can be used enormously in the problem of marketing. It is interesting at this period to review the utterances of Sir John Russell in regard to the position of production and marketing as declared by him when in Western Australia in 1928. Everybody knows that he is the director of the experimental farm at Rothamsted, England, possibly the greatest experimental farm in the world. He has devoted all his life to the question of production. Experiments of all kinds were made in regard to the varieties of wheat and other grain, the question of manures and all the rest of it. What he said in Perth in 1928 applies to-day to an even increased extent. It was as follows:—

Experience has shown, however, that neither increased production nor cheaper production entirely solves the farmer's problem. There is a profit in food production, but in many cases in Europe and in England, the profit goes to the middleman, not to the farmer. It is not a question of production, but of marketing. But in speaking of the achievements of science we must never forget this serious economic problem lurking in the background, and the tragic spectacle of the farmer accomplishing much in the way of food production and seeing all the profit go to someone else.

There speaks one of the greatest authorities in the world on production. He said that science had got production to the stage that there is no fear of the world not being fed. He said that science has removed that fear, and that the world has produced more than the world needs. A few years prior to his coming to Western Australia expressions of opinion had been given that the world was going to be short of food supplies in a given period. As a matter of fact, as he points out, science came to the rescue, and we are producing more than sufficient, and there is no longer that danger. But he says science has done its work in regard to production, and now the problem is to market that which we produce. I want the Minister to realise that the problem of his department is no longer one of production but is one of marketing. Sir John continued—

The fear of world's starvation has gone and the achievements of science are only at their beginning. The problem of the world now is to ensure that the farmer shall get his fair share of the profits so as to encourage him to use all that science can teach him.

I appeal to the Minister to note Sir John's remarks in 1928, and to appreciate that the position is more acute to-day from a marketing point of view than it was at that time. I do not wish to cause members to miss their trains, and I do not propose to say all I intended to say about the department. Other opportunities will occur; but I do not want to resume my seat without appealing to the Minister to realise that we have this great problem of marketing, and that the only way to overcome it is to utilise the means adopted in other States and countries. Queensland is the most flourishing State of the Commonwealth. It has flourished for some time. Ten or 12 years ago Queensland was in a very bad position. I venture the opinion that Queensland's success is due to its organisation of the marketing of primary products. The best organised State of the Commonwealth from a primary producer's point of view is Queensland. Though a Labour Government introduced the organised marketing system, it has been reviewed by other Governments. At present a Country Party Government is in power and as strongly supports the system as the Labour Government did. It was thought that this was purely one of the experimental socialistic ideas of the Labour Party that would

not stand the test of time, but it has operated for 10 or 15 years, and successive Governments have increased their support of it, and increased its activities. The primary producers have been led to believe that, under the Primary Products Marketing Act, the control of their commodity was transferred from the producer to the Government. That is wrong. It is not part and parcel of the organisation. True, the Government assist, but to a limited extent only. The Primary Products Marketing Act of Queensland has been copied by New South Wales. The better Act is that of New South Wales, where the producers have profited by some of the difficulties and failures of Queensland. In those two States the producer has an opportunity to declare whether he desires to control his commodity and whether he wishes to direct the marketing himself. That is what we want in this State. I took an active interest in a purely honorary capacity, with Mr. T. H. Bath, in the marketing of eggs, and as a result of 12 months' close application gained an intimate knowledge of how the industry operated. We decided that there were too many people operating in the export of eggs. We found that producers were losing the value of their eggs through coming into competition with another lot on the London market. One poultry farmer put eggs on a ship and another poultry farmer put eggs on the same ship, to go to the same merchant for sale. It is natural that the merchant should play off one against the other, and the producer instead of getting the real value of his commodity, got the competitive value. The competition was really amongst the producers of Western Australia. That is all right for those who make the profits and pay big dividends, but the poultry farmer is groaning under the load he is carrying and is not flourishing because of the defects of marketing. Mr. Bath and I recommended the cutting out of one organisation. We had the Producers' Markets exporting eggs and the Westralian Farmers at Fremantle exporting eggs. The co-operative movement was actually competing in the sale of eggs overseas. We decided to amalgamate the two organisations to obviate the competition. Immediately we cut out one organisation, Messrs. Brown & Dureau entered the business and so there are still two in it. I emphasised to the poultry farmers that they have to pay for

the extra organisation. I have no grievance against Messrs. Brown & Dureau; they are a reputable firm, but they work for profits and dividends. They are not in the business for philanthropic reasons; they are there to exploit the producers by using their commodity for the purpose of gain. We do not want the extra organisation; we had too many before. When I asked Parliament to pass a Bill to overcome that position, I was defeated by the activities of the Country Party. I do not say they would repeat their opposition again, because I believe they have been educated to the fact that organised marketing will be necessary before the producer gets a fair deal. The fact remains that when the offer was made, they defeated the measure. Producers will realise this year from actual operations how they stand in the marketing of eggs. I want an organisation such as exists in Queensland. What would happen if we had an Act like that of Queensland or New South Wales operating here? The poultry farmers would declare that they desired to organise the marketing of their product. They would petition the Minister for Agriculture, and if he was satisfied that the petitioners were sufficiently representative of the industry, he would order a register to be prepared of all the poultry farmers, and would arrange for a poll to be taken to ascertain whether a pool should be formed for the marketing of eggs. If a substantial majority declared in favour of pooling, the whole of the eggs would be pooled and a marketing organisation would be created, not by Government officials, as some people endeavour to convey, but by the producers themselves. The Minister would create an organisation representative of the industry. That organisation would attend to the marketing of the eggs, somewhat on the lines followed by the Dried Fruits Board. The Dried Fruits Board is not functioning well. It is doing only a minimum amount of work because its operations are limited. It has a life of only 12 months, because the Legislative Council keeps on limiting its life. Meanwhile the middleman goes on doing the marketing. It is a disgrace that we should have so many organisations living on the producers of dried fruits. There are altogether too many organisations and middlemen, but we cannot get rid of them because of the limitation placed upon the life of the board.

The Minister for Lands: The board was given a life of two years on the last occasion.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: Two years does not go very far.

The Minister for Lands: Do not blame the Legislative Council for that.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: When the Act was first brought down a limitation was placed upon the life of the board. If it were extended, the Legislative Council would again reduce the period. The member for Toodyay tried to get a further three years of life for the board.

The Minister for Agriculture: And another place agreed to that.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: How long a term has been given now?

The Minister for Lands: Until 1935.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: Another place is improving.

The Minister for Lands: You are always wrong.

The Minister for Agriculture: You are unfair to another place.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: The extension to 1935 does not give the board an opportunity to create an organisation to export dried fruits.

The Minister for Lands: It is already created.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: We must have continuity, and we cannot get that on a limit of a few years. The Act is of no value except that it gives the board an opportunity to induce the growers to concentrate to a limited extent. Nevertheless the marketing is spread over a number of middlemen whose presence is unwarranted. Not only do we want primary products properly marketed, but we want our marketing done on a proper basis. We want to be able to deal with butter as Queensland and New South Wales do. We want to deal with our wheat so that it can be handled on a proper footing to the advantage of our producers. We shall never properly serve our producers until we tackle the problem of marketing. I recently met representatives of the dairying industry from the Peel Estate and discussed their problems with them. Their difficulty is purely one of marketing. The Minister knows they must go out of existence unless something is done to overcome the difficulty. Nothing can be done without legislation. I told these people they could not go on unless they organised

their industry. The minority is always defeating them. The majority cannot function because the minority upsets their organisation. The Government must do something for the marketing of milk and the products of milk if our dairy farmers are ever to arrive at a flourishing position. I have said sufficient to convey to the Government that I will never be satisfied until they realise that we are losing money through our marketing methods, and that production itself is not the seat of the trouble. We can reduce the cost of production to an extent. We can do much through a review of the tariff. Where, however, we can save pence in the cost of production, we can save shillings through marketing. So long as we carry on the number of organisations that exist to-day, interfering with the free exchange between consumers and producers, so long will our producers be in difficulties. Queensland and New South Wales stand out as the marketing States of the Commonwealth. We must get into line with them. We can do things better than they are doing. We are nearer to the markets and we are beginning with some of our industries. We have not built up a big vested interest. If we give our producers an opportunity to control the marketing of their products, and give them the full result of their labour, they will have a chance to overcome their difficulties. In the interests of the men, women and children associated with our primary industries I appeal to Parliament to do something to tackle the marketing problem.

Progress reported.

House adjourned at 11.7 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Thursday, 29th October, 1931.

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

QUESTION—UNEMPLOYMENT.

Farm Labour Subsidy.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL asked the Chief Secretary: 1, Is it a fact that the Government have decided to discontinue, as from the 14th November next, the farm labour subsidy scheme? 2, If so, what has caused this decision? 3, How many men are at present engaged under the scheme?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied: 1, Yes. 2, Because it has served the purpose for which it was devised. 3, 2,500.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

On motion by Hon H. Seddon, leave of absence for six consecutive sittings granted to Hon. C. H. Wittenoom (South-East) on the ground of urgent private business.

BILLS (2)—THIRD READING.

- 1, Reserves (No. 2).
- 2, Roads Closure (No. 2).

Passed.

BILL—LAND TAX AND INCOME TAX (No. 2).

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

HON. J. M. DREW (Central) [4.38]: There is no doubt that owing to the low prices of wool and wheat the condition of the farmer and the pastoralist calls for sympathetic consideration. No one