

of establishing farm research centres in closely-settled farming areas. In the closely-settled areas south of Busselton, it would be advantageous to the dairying industry if an opportunity could be provided for settlers to study the complex problems that confront them as primary producers. A farmer has to understand markets, soils, fodders, grasses, diseases in stock and crops and the like, and I feel that when the time is opportune the Government might consider the possibility of establishing farm research centres in such rural areas. Primary production is the basis of our national wealth and prosperity, and I am sure that the Government will foster primary production so that the State will continue to progress.

Another great primary industry is seen in our timber resources, and here I should like to pay a tribute to the work of the Conservator of Forests, who is at present abroad. He has done wonderful work in maintaining and establishing the wealth in our forest areas of the South-West. In the immediate vicinity of Busselton, which is the port of the Sussex electorate, 17 timber mills are operating, and employed on those mills directly in the production of timber are over 400 men. There is great scope for the development of the timber industry in the South-West.

Here I should like to express the hope that the Government will give consideration to effecting some improvements to the port of Busselton so that it can be utilised for all-the-year employment for local waterside workers. Lately we have had a cessation of work on the wharf for three or four months of the year owing, it has been said, to adverse weather conditions. This has happened only in the past two years, and members will concede that no body of workers can live on eight months' work in the year. I hope the Government will consider making the port of Busselton, which is the natural outlet for the products of the immediate hinterland, available for shipping during the whole 12 months of the year. One hundred families are dependent upon the work of the men on the waterfront in Busselton, and I repeat that they cannot live on eight months' work in the year. I hope the Government will organise matters to such an extent as to enable all-the-year-round employment to

be found for the men on the wharf at Busselton.

Mention has been made in the Speech of the development of the great mineral wealth of this State. I would commend to the Government's attention the coal-bearing deposits and minerals in the Nanup district, as I feel that research there could be made with great advantage to the State. Mr. Speaker, the season has opened auspiciously; butter production is up; wheat crops are looking well; grasses, fodder and pastures are excellent. It would therefore appear that we may expect a bountiful harvest, and I hope the Government will share our blessings with a hungry and starved world.

MR. NALDER (Wagin): I formally second the motion.

On motion by Hon. A. R. G. Hawke, debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

THE PREMIER: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn till 4.30 p.m. on Tuesday, the 5th August.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 3.43 p.m.

Legislative Council.

Tuesday, 5th August, 1947.

	PAGE
Deputy President, election of Hon. W. J. Mann	11
Auditor General's Report, Section "B," 1946	12
Questions: Housing—(a) as to permits for brick buildings	12
(b) as to policy for sub-standard buildings	12
Water supplies, as to Canning Bridge-Applecross area	12
Motion: Condolence, late Hon. J. M. Drew, M.L.C.	13
Address-in-reply, second day	15

DEPUTY PRESIDENT—ELECTION OF HON. W. J. MANN.

The Clerk (Mr. L. L. Leake): I have to announce that the President, Hon. H. Seddon, is absent owing to illness. It is, therefore, necessary for members to elect one of their number, now present, to fill the

office, perform the duties, and exercise the authority of the President during such absence.

The MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. H. S. W. Parker): I move—

That Hon. J. A. Dimmitt be elected to fill the office, perform the duties, and exercise the authority of the President during the absence of the President, Hon. H. Seddon.

Hon. Sir HAL COLEBATCH: I second the motion.

Hon. A. L. LOTON: I move that a ballot be taken.

Hon. H. L. ROCHE: I second the motion. Ballot taken.

The Clerk: As a result of the ballot, Hon. W. J. Mann has been elected Deputy President.

[The Deputy President took the Chair.]

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT.

Section "B", 1946.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I have received from the Auditor General a copy of Section "B" of his report on the Treasurer's statement of Public Accounts for the financial year ended the 30th June, 1946. It will be laid on the Table of the House.

QUESTIONS.

HOUSING.

(a) *As to Permits for Brick Buildings.*

Hon. G. FRASER (on notice) asked the Minister for Mines:

For the quarter ended the 30th June, 1947, how many permits were issued for the building of brick houses in—

- (a) Metropolitan area;
- (b) country?

The MINISTER replied,—

- (a) 24.
- (b) 41.

In addition, permits for the building of timber-framed houses were issued as follows:—

Metropolitan area, 231.

Country, 200.

The total number of building permits issued for the quarter ended the 30th June, 1947, was 496 as compared with 502 issued for the quarter ended the 31st March, 1947.

The curtailment in the issue of permits for brick houses during the June quarter was due to an extreme shortage of bricks caused by an issue of permits during the year 1946, and the March quarter of 1947 in excess of the building materials available.

(b) *As to Policy for Sub-Standard Buildings.*

Hon. G. FRASER (on notice) asked the Minister for Mines:

Does the Government intend to implement the policy of the State Council of the Liberal Party, as reported in "The West Australian" of the 12th July, 1947, regarding the building of sub-standard houses? If so—

(a) What local governing bodies, if any, would permit these houses to be built in their districts?

(b) Failing permission by the local authorities, would the Government over-ride the decisions of these bodies?

The MINISTER replied:

The Government will not permit the erection of sub-standard houses, but it has under consideration a proposal to permit the erection of portion of a complete house in order to spread the available building materials over as many as possible of the applicants for houses. If the Government decides to proceed with this proposal the local government authorities will be consulted and their co-operation sought before any permits are issued.

WATER SUPPLIES.

As to Canning Bridge-Applecross Area.

Hon. G. FRASER (on notice) asked the Minister for Mines:

In order to obviate home building being retarded in the Canning Bridge-Applecross area through lack of water, will the Government give consideration to the laying of mains in every second street intersecting Canning Highway?

The MINISTER replied:

The Metropolitan Water Supply Department is laying approved extensions of the water reticulation main to supply homes in course of construction or vacant lands on which a permit has been granted to erect a home, in the order of date of approval, and as quickly as piping is available.

No special priority will be given to any one particular locality.

There is a shortage in water piping, and the department will not extend its reticulation mains to vacant lands until permits to build have been granted and application for water is received from the owner or contractor, when the proposal would be considered.

MOTION—CONDOLENCE.

Late Hon. J. M. Drew, M.L.C.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. H. S. W. Parker—Metropolitan-Suburban) [4.58]: I move—

That this House places on record its sincere appreciation of the services rendered to the State by the late Hon. John Michael Drew who, at the time of his passing, was a member for the Central Province, and to express its deep sympathy with his son in the irreparable loss he has sustained by his father's decease; and that the President be asked to convey the foregoing to the late hon. member's son.

John Michael Drew's career was one of outstanding achievement. His personal attributes were great, and for 15 years he led this House with the utmost distinction, despite the arduous nature of his task. He set a standard which will be difficult to maintain. His great ability was allied with courtesy, kindness and integrity that gained him the confidence and esteem not only of all members of this House, but also, I think we can say, of all the people of Western Australia.

Mr. Drew entered Parliament as a member for the Central Province in May, 1900, and with the exception of a break of six years from 1918 to 1924, represented that province—the province in which he was born—until his death. At different times during the years 1904 and 1905 he held the portfolios of Minister for Lands, Colonial Secretary and Minister for Agriculture. In 1911 he became Chief Secretary and continued as such until 1916. From April, 1924, until April, 1930, he was again Chief Secretary and also Minister for Education, and in 1933 he again became Chief Secretary, a position he held until August, 1936, but he continued as a member of this Chamber until his death on the 17th July, 1947.

At various times Mr. Drew was a school teacher, a journalist, a member of the Senate of the University, and a member of Parliament for 41 years, having been Leader of this House for 15 years. He was an outstanding example of public service, and we all feel proud to have been privileged to know him, and to have worked with him. His marked ability and wise counsel were of great influence in the shaping, over many years, of the destinies of the State. The good feeling that exists between members of all parties in this Chamber was largely, if not entirely, due to his kindly disposition, good nature and excellent example. With all his ability and his prestige he was the most unassuming and retiring of men.

It will be very many years before the memory of John Michael Drew fades in this Chamber, but the spirit of his worth I trust will always be here. We have all lost a great personal friend, and it is with much regret that I find the time has arrived for me to move the resolution before the House.

HON. C. F. BAXTER (East) [5.3]: I desire to support the remarks of the Leader of the House. The late Mr. Drew was a man of exceptional ability and integrity, and one who always gave consideration to other people. I do not know of one occasion, even though sometimes it may have been warranted, when he allowed the slightest trace of venom to issue from his lips. In his consideration of others he was kindness itself, and in the work of this House he was an object lesson to us all. For my own part, and I believe on the part of Hon. W. H. Kitson who followed Mr. Drew as Leader of the House, I think we adhered as closely as we could to the principles he laid down and to his way of working. He always took great care to keep members well informed, no matter how difficult that might have been, and he would always give the desired information to each and every one of us.

There have been very few men like the late Mr. Drew. During the time that he graced this House as Leader, and for the few years when he was just a member of the Chamber, he proved himself to be a wonderful acquisition and did a great deal to uphold the traditions of the Legislative Council. I deeply deplore his passing. When

I look back on the happy associations and close friendship I enjoyed over a great many years, I feel that we had in him a friend who was extremely helpful, always considerate, and who exhibited great lenience towards me, particularly during the 1930-33 period when it was necessary to bring down to this House a deal of unwelcome legislation. He was a great help to me at that time and was always ready to give advice when necessary. If we could emulate the late Mr. Drew's good qualities and follow his way of working it would, I am sure, be beneficial not only to us as individuals, but to the State in general. I support the motion of condolence, particularly as it applies to young Mr. Drew.

HON. E. H. GRAY (West) [5.6]: I have a feeling of deep regret that it has been necessary for this motion to be moved. As the Leader of the House stated, Mr. Drew gave over 40 years of service to the Parliament of this State. For nearly 25 years of that period I was actively associated with the late hon. gentleman. I owe him a great debt for the tremendous help he gave me during that time. I agree with everything the Leader of the House has said, as well as with everything that has fallen from the lips of Mr. Baxter.

Mr. Drew was a loyal member of the Labour Party. He believed in its principles, but he was not a bigot. He was a very tolerant man. He set an example that it will be difficult for us to follow. He gave scrupulous attention to the requirements of every member of this Chamber and, as the Minister for Mines has said, he set a standard of conduct that will be difficult for us to emulate. He was greatly respected and loved by the people who worked under him in his departments. It is a great tribute to a Minister that he should be respected and loved by those who worked under him. He was loved because of his fairness and sense of justice. I am sure we all deeply regret his passing.

HON. SIR HAL COLEBATCH (Metropolitan) [5.8]: The death of Mr. Drew removes the last of the four members who were in this Chamber when I became a member of it 35 years ago. A few years later I followed him in the office of Colonial Secretary, as it was then called. In the course of my administrative duties I had

frequent occasion to refer to old files. I say with complete confidence that I never came across a single minute in the name of Mr. Drew that did not express high appreciation of ministerial responsibility, wise statesmanship, complete impartiality, and an earnest desire to promote the best interests of Western Australia. I support the motion.

HON. C. H. SIMPSON (Central) [5.9]: I support the remarks of the Leader of the House and of other members who have spoken. I was a co-member for the Central Province with the late Mr. Drew. As has been said, he was born in that province. He was highly respected and held in great affection by all who knew him. I had known him for 20 years. I was secretary of the Mullewa Agricultural Society, and for 12 successive years we invited the late Mr. Drew to perform the opening ceremony. Every year he wrote to me to inquire whether there was any item of local interest or any special feature which I thought he might include in his speech.

I mention this to indicate his unfailing courtesy and the pains he took to bring his best to bear upon what was perhaps only a minor matter. It has been said of men who died after performing outstanding service to the community that "his life was an inspiration and his memory a benediction." That may truly be said of some of the great figures who have been members of this Chamber, but of none more truly than of the late Mr. Drew. I join in expressing this tribute to his memory. I trust that some message will be passed on to the relatives of the deceased gentleman.

HON. C. G. LATHAM (East) [5.12]: As a new member I desire to associate myself with the remarks that have already been made on this sad occasion. I knew Mr. Drew very well. He was always useful to new members who came into the political life of the State. He was also of great assistance if anyone wanted information. I remember many years ago when I became a member of another place the friendly manner in which he approached my introduction to him. He informed me that he was a friend of anyone. When I look back over his history and remember that he was one of the leading lights in the political Labour movement of this State, I realise

why Western Australia has been more fortunate than the other States in regard to comparative freedom from industrial disputes.

For that reason I think we can say that Western Australia has profited a great deal from the fact of Mr. Drew having been available to us and from his having played a big part in the foundation of the industries associated with Western Australia. For many years Mr. Drew was intimately connected with the Press of the State. He was never one-sided in his outlook. He was always very tolerant and ready to see the other man's viewpoint. His passing is a great loss to the State. We can truly say of him that he gave the best of his life to Western Australia, and that his work will long be remembered because of what he did whilst taking part in the political life of this State. I associate myself with the motion, particularly as it applies to the late Mr. Drew's son. The latter has lost a wonderful father and we a great friend.

THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT [5.14]: I take this opportunity of adding a few words to what has been said on this sad occasion. I knew the Hon. Mr. Drew long before I entered Parliament; I believe before he entered it. We were associated, in a way, in business. All down the years there were periods when we were both severely tried, but I always found him a man of most strict integrity and one who could always be relied upon. He did a wonderful job. He had great courage and was very patient, and no matter how unpleasant his task might have been, he always carried himself with dignity and his judgment was always sound.

I know that in his profession he was regarded as an ornament to the Press and one of those who helped to make the Press of this country and place it on the plane on which it now rests. I feel sure that all those who had the privilege of his friendship throughout the State very much deplore his passing. The late Mr. Drew will be recorded in the annals of this House and this Parliament as one of the most distinguished, most delightful, and best loved of men.

Question put and passed; members standing.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Second Day.

Debate resumed from the 31st July.

HON. E. H. GRAY (West) [5.16]: I desire to extend a welcome to the newly elected members of this Chamber. Mr. Logan was a perfect stranger to me before he came here. He is a farmer and should be able to make valuable contributions to debates on farmers' problems. Both Mr. Boylen and Mr. Davies have been known to me for many years. Mr. Boylen has a prominent business in Boulder, and his experience will be of great assistance to us. Mr. Davies, who has been elected as a representative of the West Province, has to his credit a long record of valuable service with the Fremantle City Council. He has been well trained, and should be able to help us in this Chamber.

The last, but not least, of the new members, is Mr. Latham. I have left him until the last because I want to tell a little story about him. This is the first opportunity I have had for many years to tell it, and to express my thanks to him. The hon. gentleman is no stranger to any of us, and he, also, will be a great help here. He has a broad outlook. During the stormy and troublous times of the depression Mr. Gibson used to lead a committee which dealt with the relief of distress in Fremantle, and I was secretary of the Married Men's Relief Committee in that town. In the course of my Parliamentary duties at that time I had to arrange a deputation from one of the distant places in my electorate to the then Minister for Lands, Hon. C. G. Latham.

Owing to rush of work in Fremantle, I forgot about the deputation, and some nine or ten men came from far away places in my electorate to be introduced to the Minister. I thought about the deputation at four o'clock in the afternoon. Mr. Latham got me out of my difficulty by telling the deputation that he had received a ring from me to say that my car had broken down, and I was stranded in the bush. A member of a political party who can tell a white lie to shield a political opponent is well worthy of a place in this Chamber. I feel somewhat strange addressing the House from this side. For nearly 24 years I occupied a seat on the opposite side, and in that

period, as Honorary Minister, I sat for nine years in the seat now taken by Mr. Wood. It will require a few weeks for me to get used to this position.

The Honorary Minister: It will take me a while to get used to mine!

Hon. E. H. GRAY: The new Government assumes office under very favourable circumstances. Despite the many problems facing the State, the preparations made by the previous Labour Government to develop secondary and primary industries here, and to overcome post-war difficulties—particularly housing—will give the new Government a chance to reap a bountiful harvest, one without parallel in our history of development and progress. I think everyone with a close knowledge of what has been done will agree with that statement. No other Government in Western Australia has ever taken office under such favourable circumstances. The new Cabinet, however, has heavy responsibilities to shoulder.

I congratulate Mr. Parker on being appointed Leader of this House and Minister for Mines and Health. His legal knowledge and experience will be of great assistance to him, as it would to any man occupying such important positions. I also congratulate Mr. Wood on being appointed Honorary Minister, charged with the administration of the Agricultural Department. He has an extensive knowledge of the agricultural and pastoral industries, which should be a great buttress to him in his responsible task.

The new Government has the job of implementing two big plans formulated by the Labour Government. The first is in connection with the State electricity undertakings, and the second is that dealing with water supplies. The announcement in the Press today of the approval of a modified rural water supply scheme, as recommended by the Commonwealth Government, will be welcomed by everyone. The original scheme provided for an expenditure of over £5,000,000. The Commonwealth Government's accepted proposal, recommended by the departmental committee, reduces this to £4,000,000; and if Cabinet's recommendation is agreed to with regard to bigger water pipes, it will be increased to £4,350,000. It is to be regretted that the original proposal was not accepted. The decision of Cabinet to give priority to the

northern and southern portions of the scheme is a wise one.

I strongly urge that everything possible be done to ease the position at the East Perth power house, and to make every effort to complete the South Fremantle power station. The war was chiefly responsible for the lack of maintenance at the East Perth power house and the delay in the completion of the South Fremantle scheme. We cannot afford to run the grave risk of loss to industry which a major breakdown at the East Perth power station involves. Besides industrialists, another important body of people intensely interested in the electricity supply and the completion of the metropolitan power scheme, is that comprising the poultry farmers in the metropolitan district. These people have for years during the breeding season, been in a state of intense anxiety. Some—though not this year, during which we have so far been very lucky—have suffered severely. I am therefore, expressing the views not only of industrialists but also of many poultry farmers when I say that everything possible should be done to complete the metropolitan scheme, and we all hope that every effort will be made to push forward with the plans laid down for the extension of the country electricity scheme. I feel sure that the Commission will be given every assistance by the Government, and if that is so, we can expect big developments in the country.

We can rest assured that the Leader of this House, and his Government, will give due credit to the ex-Premier and Treasurer Hon. F. J. S. Wise, and his Government for their masterly handling of the State's finances. Mr. Wise deserves the congratulations of all members of Parliament for his successful financial administration, particularly in respect of his negotiations with the Commonwealth Government and the Grants Commission. Here again the present Government is placed in a splendid position because of the basic soundness of the State's finances.

I trust that every encouragement will be given to the new secondary industries commenced in Western Australia, most of them with Government assistance, both Federal and State. I refer, particularly, to the charcoal iron and steel industry, to the potash undertaking

and to the Chamberlain tractor factory. The launching of these undertakings was the special job of the ex-Minister for Works, Hon. A. R. G. Hawke, who deserves the congratulations of all Western Australians. Many months of arduous work and negotiations were devoted to these tasks. As Honorary Minister I was closely associated with the Public Works Department and Mr. Hawke, and I know the tremendous load he carried, and the midnight oil that was burnt in order to launch these important State industries. I hope the present Government will be big enough in outlook to give every encouragement to the successful development of these major new projects.

It is evident that the Government realises that the housing problem is a first priority because it is giving every encouragement to the State Housing Commission to complete homes as quickly as possible in both the metropolitan area and the country. To achieve this objective the closest co-operation is necessary with the Commonwealth authorities, the Eastern States wholesale houses and the shipping firms. The organisation planned and put into operation in the Eastern States by the Labour Government for the supply of building materials and housing equipment is of great assistance to the present Government. That organisation was functioning long before the last election.

The next problem is that of the railways. The Railway Department has come in for a lot of unfair, unjust, and harsh criticism. The war, together with the legacy of the depression years, built up a huge leeway in railway maintenance and the supply of engines and rollingstock. The present Royal Commission, in connection with the railways, will, if it does nothing else, undoubtedly clear the air. Here again the plans laid down by the previous Government would undoubtedly have placed the railways on the upgrade so as to cope with modern transport problems.

I wish to refer to the Education Department and to make some, perhaps, new suggestions which I hope the Minister will carefully consider. The policy and planning of the previous Government, under the vigorous and efficient direction of the then Minister for Education, Hon. J. T. Tonkin, provided for the catching up of maintenance arrears,

and the building of area schools and high schools throughout the State. The high priority of buildings for homes, and not finance, was the chief difficulty in achieving that aim. These remarks also apply to hospital administration and to the building of new hospitals throughout the State. The present Government will act in the best interests of the people if it follows closely the policy adopted by the previous Administration.

In this connection I would direct the attention of the House to the progress made in Great Britain during and since the war in the task of linking education with the health of the people. I would ask: How is it possible successfully to educate the youth of a country if the young people are not properly fed? In Great Britain the food supplies for the people have been short for years and as we are all aware, the position is very unsatisfactory today. I will be merely expressing the hope of everyone when I say I trust Great Britain will successfully surmount the tremendous problems confronting her at this stage, and emerge ultimately to resume her former place as a leader among the nations of the world. The great sufferings of the people and food shortages in Great Britain forced the authorities to undertake responsibilities associated with providing the children of the country with a properly balanced food ration and their efforts in that direction have met with outstanding, successful results.

Anyone who has studied the position in the Old Country closely will realise that the people have undergone terrible sufferings, but I think we can take the authentic reports which have been received indicating that the health of the people, both old and young, is better today than ever before in the history of Great Britain. How such a result has been accomplished is little short of absolutely marvellous. I would like to inform members of what has been done in the Old Country. I do not advocate the provision of everything for nothing, but nevertheless I think the example set by Great Britain in the experiments carried out there is worthy of a trial in Western Australia. I say that because both the Commonwealth and the State Governments have definite ideas with regard to the provision of hospi-

tal accommodation and medical services for the people.

For my part, I am of the opinion that more attention should be given to the basic food needs of the community, particularly of the children, which procedure, if adopted, would, in the years to come save the State hundreds of thousands of pounds. Britain's war-time experiences, during which the country was shelled practically every day, were followed by one of the worst winters in her history. In spite of the terrible difficulties that confronted the country, Britain managed to maintain a wonderful milk scheme for the children. The necessary vitamin foods were supplied to keep the young people in good health. Concentrated orange juice and a cod liver oil compound were made available to expectant mothers and to children under 5 years of age. For expectant mothers not able to digest the cod liver oil compound, there were Vitamin A and D tablets. Black currant syrup and puree were sold through chemists to the older children and invalids.

I am sure that the Honorary Minister will be interested in the system that has been adopted throughout Great Britain in connection with supplying the children with milk. Under the present system the basic allowance of milk for adults varies from three pints per week in the summer to two pints during the winter months. Priorities provide that children under 5 years receive 7 pints of milk a week, and babies under 2 years of age may be supplied with an equivalent quantity of national dried milk. Expectant mothers and nursing mothers receive 7 pints per week, children over 5 years and under 18 years of age receive $3\frac{1}{2}$ pints of milk per week and children of 5 years and up to 14 years of age who are unable to attend schools receive 5 pints of milk a week. Invalids are able to obtain 14 pints, and hospitals and schools receive milk supplies as well.

The Honorary Minister: Does that refer to free milk?

Hon. E. H. GRAY: Yes. The milk supplied to the schools is free. Previously a charge of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per pint was levied but now throughout Great Britain the schools are supplied with free milk. That applies both to public and private schools. Under the National Milk Scheme, which was introduced

on the 1st July, 1940, nursing and expectant mothers and children of 5 years and under who did not attend school were supplied with milk at the rate of $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. per pint instead of being required to pay the current price of $4\frac{1}{2}$ d. per pint. If the head of the household was receiving public assistance or assistance supplementary to the old age pension, and in cases recommended by the Assistance Board, the milk supply made available would be free. By 1944, nearly 4,000,000 children at grant-aided, elementary and secondary schools were being supplied with milk under the scheme. Of that total 309,000 were receiving the milk free but the remainder received one-third of a pint per day for which they paid $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per pint. Figures relating to participation in the scheme show that 70 per cent. of the children attending schools in Great Britain benefited from the scheme, which on the 1st August, 1942, was extended to non-grant and unaided schools. These would be the private schools throughout the country.

The system of education in Great Britain is different from that operating in Australia. In the Old Country county councils and elected school boards control the education system with the aid of grants made available by the Imperial Government. Members will also be aware that since the introduction of family allowances in August, 1946 milk has been distributed free to all school children, and day nurseries are allowed milk at the rate of one pint per day per child. As I mentioned earlier, I do not advocate giving everyone something for nothing. Great Britain has concentrated on providing the children with a supply of milk and a properly balanced food ration which, in my opinion and in the opinion of health authorities, will provide a rich dividend for the Old Country. Despite all the food shortages, this scheme has been successfully carried out, and, in addition, a scheme of public restaurants conducted by local authorities has been instituted. This demonstrates that despite the effects of war, Britain has progressed.

Quite a number of public restaurants have been set up throughout England and Scotland under the supervision and control of local authorities or elected boards, and this movement has been highly successful. This prompts me to make a request that the Minister should give consideration to the installation of canteens in the school

throughout the metropolitan area and in the larger country towns wherever possible. In Great Britain, at the end of 1945 approximately 2,000,000 children were receiving meals in the schools. The system in vogue there could be adopted in this State. In England the cost of the food used in the meals is paid for by the parents and the cost of the service is borne by the education authorities. As the experiment has proved so successful in the Old Country it is at least worthy of trial in this State. Over a period of nearly eight years, in my capacity as Honorary Minister in the Labour Government, I gained great experience through my office being in James-street opposite the high schools, with a girl's school-room at the back of the building. For a long while, I gave consideration to the possibility of avoiding the tremendous waste that takes place at every school in the metropolitan area. I should say that the cost to the parents of lunches for children attending the James-street schools would mean a daily expenditure of from 1s. to 1s. 3d. at the tuck shops or fish shops.

When we see the class of food sold to the children in those shops, we must agree that it is a reflection on the city health authorities and everyone else concerned. Pies and pasties of very poor quality are purchased by boys and girls. Too much of the food goes into the rubbish bins. I used to see the waste that was going on every day; it was really appalling. It would be very much cheaper for the parents if a canteen system were to be inaugurated, with a roster arranged of the mothers who could help in the work. There might be some difficulty in that respect.

The Honorary Minister: It is done in the country districts already. They have the Oslo system there.

Hon. E. H. GRAY: At any rate, in the suburban districts it would be easy to arrange a roster of mothers to assist in the task, although in many cases the children would go home for lunch. I must mention the name of one lady who is doing a remarkable job in this direction. I refer to Miss Harbeck, who was the head teacher at the Mt. Hawthorn Infant's School. I would like to see her appointed as food controller in any such scheme inaugurated in connection with the schools in Western Australia. For many years she has been interested in

the food problem for children and, in association with the mothers, provided a very attractive Oslo lunch for the children at the Mt. Hawthorn school.

It would not be possible to do that at the James-street school, as the parents would have to travel too far. Some other arrangement would have to be made there, but at every other school in the metropolitan area and in other towns of any size it would be possible for the scheme to be included in the curriculum. It is no use to introduce such a scheme unless it is included in the curriculum. The mothers could be rostered to prepare the meal and the parents would be charged for the cost of the meal. In that way the children's health would be built on a sound foundation. They would have at least one well-balanced meal per day. The scheme would pay the parents handsomely, and it would result, as it has in Great Britain, in saving the State hundreds of thousands of pounds in hospital and medical expenses.

Hon. G. Bennetts: A similar scheme is in existence at the Midland Junction workshops, where very cheap meals are provided.

Hon. E. H. GRAY: Yes. Employers now recognise that it pays them to provide canteens in workshops. In Great Britain, any workshop employing 250 men or over must provide a canteen. All modern employers recognise, and have done so for a long time, the great value which accrues from supplying their employees, both men and women, with a wholesome meal. I make that suggestion to the Leader of the House, as I think it would be a splendid innovation. In some schools in the metropolitan area there is a scheme for providing the children with milk, and I again stress the great saving it would be to the parents and the great advantage it would be to the children if canteens were established.

There is another important matter with which I wish to deal, and that is wheat. I know this matter interests the farmers' representatives in this Chamber. I would like the Minister to make inquiries about the visit of Dr. D. W. Kent-Jones to New South Wales in March last. Dr. Kent-Jones is the outstanding cereal chemist of the world. He is an acknowledged authority on wheat both in America and Great Britain. He was invited by the bread manufacturers of New South Wales to visit that State

and examine the processes of breadmaking there and the quality of the flour used, and also to make recommendations for improvements.

For many years an organisation has been working quietly for the improvement of both wheat and flour. In this State the Agricultural Department, and its officers under Dr. Samuel, the wheat-breeding stations and the experimental stations have done a wonderful job. The same can be said of every State in the Commonwealth, but particularly of New South Wales. It was thought by many people, including myself—and I have given the subject much study for many years—that a change should be made in the method of grading our wheat. There are arguments for and against a change. Our expert officers have for many years tried to grow special wheats which would enable manufacturers of high-quality bread to produce a much better article. At present their efforts have been largely stultified owing to the method by which we assess our f.a.q. wheat.

The Honorary Minister: The trouble is that the millers will not pay a decent price for good wheat.

Hon. E. H. GRAY: The consequence is that the bakers cannot make good bread.

Hon. C. G. Latham: The flour is too new.

Hon. E. H. GRAY: I do not agree with that. Good flour cannot be made except from properly graded wheat. The efforts of the ambitious farmer, the conscientious farmer, the man who desires to grow good wheat for the benefit of the country, are stultified by his neighbours who will grow any kind of wheat as long as it will result in a big bushelage to the acre. At present, our f.a.q. wheat is being exported all over the world. It often includes wheat that from a food value point of view is hardly fit to feed to pigs; it is useless for making bread. The Bread Manufacturing Association of New South Wales sponsored the visit of Dr. Kent-Jones to examine the position in New South Wales. Dr. Kent-Jones arrived in March, having travelled via the United States of America.

The Honorary Minister: He did not get much support from his sponsors.

Hon. E. H. GRAY: He did.

The Honorary Minister: He did not, as I found when I attended the agricultural meeting the other day.

Hon. E. H. GRAY: Dr. Kent-Jones came to New South Wales with the latest information regarding the position in America. He made a wonderful impression on those farmers of New South Wales whom he visited. He gave two or three broadcasts and I may have time to read one of them to the House. He converted a large number of responsible people to his way of thinking. His report, so far as I know, has not been made public, although the main recommendations have been published. I know his report will interest farmers' representatives in this Chamber, and I therefore propose to obtain copies of it from New South Wales. If any member wishes to peruse it I shall be glad to supply him with a copy. It will be well worth reading. Dr. Kent-Jones made three main recommendations. He stated definitely that the f.a.q. system of grading wheat is obsolete and that the farmers of Australia are losing money by continuing that system.

I mention this because it is of great interest: He said that in America 98 per cent. of the people used white flour, while 75 per cent. of the people there ate bread that was fortified with synthetic vitamins. The result was a tremendous improvement in the health of the American people. The cost of putting the synthetic vitamins into the flour was very small indeed. The result is that America produces the finest flour and the best bread in the world. Dr. Kent-Jones pointed out that in the Old Country the manufacturers had to use high extraction flour and people there have been forced to eat bread made from that flour. I give you this assurance, Mr. Deputy President, that English people coming to Australia from Great Britain are very glad to be able to eat white bread. We must realise that people, notwithstanding that they will eat brown bread and may consider it to be all right, want white bread, and therefore it is better to manufacture a flour from wheat which will produce bread as a complete food.

The Honorary Minister: Do you know the cost of white bread in America?

Hon. E. H. GRAY: I was not talking about the cost of the bread; what I said was that the cost of the vitamins used in the flour was very small. The cost of everything in America is very high. As I said, Dr. Kent-Jones strongly recommended the

abolition of the f.a.q. system. Now that the war is over and the wheat shortage is likely to be overcome within a couple of years or so, we shall have to fight in order to maintain our markets overseas. If we continue our present obsolete f.a.q. system the result will be bad for the Australian farmer. Dr. Kent-Jones controls a large laboratory in Great Britain and it tests practically every shipload of wheat that comes into the country. Australian farmers cannot afford to ignore his advice, nor can the Government. Dr. Kent-Jones recommended that a system of grading should be instituted to replace the present obsolete f.a.q. system. Good bread cannot be made except from good wheat, and good wheat will not be available for export from this State under the present system.

Hon. L. B. Bolton: Why is it that one can generally get much better bread in the country than in the city?

Hon. E. H. GRAY: We have to try to improve the bread industry. In the metropolitan area the trouble is that the people like hot bread; tremendous improvement must be made in this State, and in Australia generally, in the quality of our wheat.

The Honorary Minister: Do you think the grading of wheat will make any difference?

Hon. E. H. GRAY: Yes. Great attention has been given to grading in Great Britain. Bread was brought into Western Australia during the war in submarines. It was nine months old and was eaten at Fremantle. It was of excellent quality. We must try to emulate the Americans in order to improve our methods. As I said, the basic recommendation of that eminent scientist, Dr. Kent-Jones, is the scrapping of the present system. That will take some doing, but I consider it the duty of the Government to do everything possible to bring it about. I expect that vested interests in wheat will oppose the recommendation.

The Honorary Minister: Vested interests in wheat?

Hon. E. H. GRAY: I am not talking about farmers, but about the people who buy and handle the wheat.

The Honorary Minister: The farmers still own it.

Hon. E. H. GRAY: I am stressing the necessity of doing something at once. We must realise that our neighbours to the north, who at present are in a state of rebellion, have for years been importing from this State a very inferior class of flour. The natives suffered by using that flour. The present unrest there will, I believe, shortly be over and it is to be hoped that the conditions of the native workers will be raised. Anyone who has visited that country will know that the natives are very fond of the white man's food. Again, when the present troubles are overcome, there will be an exceedingly large market for Australian flour in Indonesia, India, China and Malaya. Unless we can produce a satisfactory article, the American millers will deprive us of our legitimate trade in those islands. It is a very serious state of affairs. We cannot hope to continue exporting flour such as we have in the past and be as successful as we have been in former years. The flour has to be improved and the people in those Asiatic countries will demand a product of high quality. If they can get it from the United States, they will do so, and we will lose our markets. I am speaking on behalf of the farmers. This recommendation to abolish the f.a.q. quality of wheat was made long ago by Dr. Sutton, who at one time was Director of Agriculture.

The Honorary Minister: He was the king of the f.a.q. standard.

Hon. E. H. GRAY: He recommends its abolition now, and I think the Minister will find on the file a statement from him condemning it.

The Honorary Minister: After 35 years.

Hon. E. H. GRAY: That is all right. We must gain by experience. This is the only wheat exporting country in the world that relies on the f.a.q. system. We may only want three or four grades, but it is necessary in the interests of the farmers and the millers of this State for this old-fashioned, obsolete f.a.q. system to be abolished. The Honorary Minister interjected a little while ago about the millers. The millers have been converted to this new system.

I remember when Farrar wheats were brought on to the market and good strong wheats were first grown. The millers all over Australia did not like the business at all because of the difficulties they faced in

grinding the wheat. Now, after years of experience, they realise that something must be done. I wish to read a statement concerning the New South Wales flour-millers, which was published in the "Australasian Bakers and Millers' Journal." It is headed "New South Wales Millers Adopt Wheat Grading As Their Policy," and reads—

Whilst flour millers in other States have been chary about committing themselves to wheat grading or against the f.a.q. system, the New South Wales Flour Mill-Owners' Association, at a general meeting in Sydney during the month, of both country and metropolitan members, carried a resolution in favour of wheat grading as national policy, as urged by Dr. Kent-Jones, when here. The New South Wales millers had a conference with Dr. Kent-Jones during his visit and, after firing all manner of questions at him, were apparently convinced that he was right. There is now, indeed, a strong feeling amongst New South Wales millers that they themselves should have had a hand in bringing the distinguished cerealists to Australia.

They are now sorry they did not have a hand in it. The bakers brought him out at their own expense. The statement continues—

Originally only one or two were in favour of co-operation with bread manufacturers of New South Wales in this project. The Kent-Jones report to bread manufacturers of New South Wales has been received by the President, Mr. Sloan, and will be read by him to the Association Executive on June 11.

I think that from an agricultural point of view this visit of Dr. Kent-Jones to Australia was one of the utmost importance. He came here to examine the position, and there was another thing that he discovered while here; that is, that Australian wheat has higher nutrient qualities than wheats grown in other countries. That is a good advertisement for New South Wales wheat, and I think that ours is just as good.

The Honorary Minister: How many grades would you suggest?

Hon. E. H. GRAY: I am not in a position to suggest a number, but I should say two, three or four. That could be determined by the experts. I think there is a good market for a graded soft wheat for the manufacture of biscuits and cakes, and farmers would get a much better price for it than for f.a.q. standard, according to Dr. Kent-Jones. This matter is so important that I want to put on record what was said

by Dr. Kent-Jones in a broadcast to farmers. I think I can do it in the time available.

The Honorary Minister: You have all night yet!

Hon. E. H. GRAY: I would like to read the whole of it so that it can appear in "Hansard." This address was broadcast all over Australia to farmers and is worth a place in "Hansard" and should be available to the farmers' representatives in both Houses. It appears in the "Australasian Bakers' and Millers' Journal" of the 31st May.

The Honorary Minister: I have that.

Hon. E. H. GRAY: It carries the following introduction:—

The direct approach to farmers by Dr. Kent-Jones, on his recent visit to Australia, went further than most in the baking and milling industries realised. They saw only a few reports in farming journals—or not even these. But there was a broadcast to farmers in New South Wales, by the Rural Bank ("Agricultural Magazine of the Air") in which every country radio station in the wheat areas was linked. By this means thousands of farmers heard in their own homes a logical argument for the growing of better quality wheat and for the setting up of a wheat grading system. Here is the text of the broadcast by courtesy of the Rural Bank.

Dr. Kent-Jones's remarks were as follows—

Although I have only been in Australia for a few weeks on this occasion, it is necessary to remember that I am conversant with the different types of wheat grown in New South Wales. The reason for this is that practically no boatload of wheat, from anywhere in the world, arrives in England without a sample coming to my laboratory for examination. Because of that, in the ten years prior to the war, I suppose I examined some 5,000 or so samples of wheat. Not unnaturally, a large proportion of these came from New South Wales.

It must be remembered that there is considerable variation in Australian wheat. There is use for all types of wheat, but there must be grading or separation of those types. At one time, wheat was "much of a muchness," but this is not so today. "Much of a muchness" has to be discarded in the competitive world of today, or more particularly, tomorrow.

Some varieties of wheat are what are called "strong"—that is to say, they mill into flour which has all the characteristics required for breadmaking. Other wheats produce flour more suitable for cakes, pastries and biscuits. These wheats have quite different characteristics. Naturally, the bread baker wants flour suitable for making bread. He does not want the miller to make flour for him from a mixture of wheats, some good and some poor, for

his purpose. Therefore, you will appreciate the need to grade the wheats which are grown, not simply by physical appearance, but by the usefulness of the flour they yield.

Australia and New South Wales in particular, is capable of growing wheats very suitable for breadmaking and it is these wheats which should be milled by the miller for the bread baker. The softer and weaker wheats, suitable for other purposes, should not, therefore, be mixed with the stronger ones. This leads to serious problems for the baker, and results in the Australian public receiving bread of less attractiveness than is necessary.

At one time, good quality wheat (from the point of view of the baker) was associated with varieties which gave only a poor yield per acre, but this is changing, and already good breadmaking wheats have been produced which also crop well. There is, therefore, a direct relationship between the consumer who eats the bread, the baker and the farmer. I believe that, if the farmers really know what is wanted and why it is wanted, they will be sympathetic. This, at any rate, is my impression from the talks I have already had with growers.

The farmer takes a pride in the wheat he produces, but he requires information as to what is really wanted. There can be no rule, either hard or soft wheat can be grown and, undoubtedly, both will be grown. Therefore, wheat grading to separate the different types of wheat is essential, if the best use is to be made of the various types sown by farmers. The old fashioned system of the Fair Average Quality standard is not helpful to the consumer, the baker, the miller or the farmer. It must, as I mentioned before, be discarded in favour of grading. In this connection it should be remembered that all other wheat producing countries grade wheat, and it is necessary for Australia to do the same.

That a number of you are aware of this is apparent by the work being carried out or projected at the Wheat Research Station at Wagga, the Plant Breeding Station at Gurrlewis, the Experiment Farms, and by progressive growers.

Then, of course, there is the work of your own cereal chemists, as well as the progressive aims and ambitions of such organisations as your Department of Agriculture and your Master Bakers' Association.

I realise that a great deal of work is inspired by the thought of the future markets for your wheat. That when the world's hunger is appeased, your wheats may have to compete on an international market and that competition will be highly competitive. . . . But, for whatever reason, any work which improves your wheat generally, or in grading and separating, must be of benefit to your millers, to your bakers and to your bread.

This is not the last that will be heard of the matter in this Chamber. I ask the Honorary Minister and members—particu-

larly country members—to examine this proposal because I have for some considerable time, together with others in this State, realised that something must be done both in the interests of the farmers themselves and in the interests of the people who eat the bread and those that buy our flour, particularly after the famine period is over.

Dr. Kent-Jones made three recommendations: (1) abolition of the f.a.q. system; (2) examination of the proposal to introduce synthetic vitamins into flour and the necessity for a research institute; and (3) increased technical training in schools for our young bakers. I consider that to the farmers, millers and bakers of this country, Dr. Kent-Jones's visit to Australia has been of the utmost value and his statements should receive the serious attention of all concerned. I have pleasure in supporting the motion.

On motion by Hon. G. W. Miles, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 6.14 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Tuesday, 5th August, 1947.

	PAGE
Electoral: Sweating-in of member	24
Motions: Condolence, late Hon. J. M. Drew, M.L.C., late Mr. W. H. F. Willmott, M.L.A.	24
Questions: Housing—(a) as to Commonwealth-State scheme costs	25
(b) as to homes completed and under construction	25
(c) as to number of permits issued	26
Electricity supplies, as to South Fremantle power station	26
Colliery coal, as to Amalgamated Collieries leases and employees	26
Children's Court—(a) as to offenders charged, etc., and probation officers	26
(b) as to retirement of special magistrate	27
Emu invasion, as to ringlock fencing	27
Charcoal-iron industry inquiry, as to terms of reference and fees	27
Shipping, interstate—(a) as to arrangements for imported building supplies	28
(b) as to liaison officers and Honorary Minister's work	28
Koolan Island iron-ore, as to transfer of leases to B.H.P.	29
Education, as to use of shops as classrooms	29
Royal Commissions, as to Honorary Minister's attitude	29
Sitting days and hours	29
Government business, precedence	30
Bill: Supply (No. 1), £3,100,000, all stages	30

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