

time the Mundaring scheme should be reserved for the agricultural and mining industries. It is understood that the consumption of water in the metropolitan area during the summer months is four times the capacity of the Mundaring scheme. If this be so, those who are asking for a hills water supply to serve the requirements of the metropolitan area will see that it is just as well to get on with the Canning scheme. I have been informed that plans and specifications in connection with that scheme have been completed for a long time, and that the original scheme has been approved by the expert who was brought to Western Australia to advise the Government on the question. I understand that that expert declared that the Canning scheme was the best to serve the requirements of the metropolitan area for all time. The North Perth people will be glad to hear that they will get something out of their taps other than mud or silt during summer months. The Premier's announcement in the daily Press, which announcement finds repetition in the Governor's Speech, to the effect that land settlement and developmental matters rather than the introduction of Bills, will engage the attention of Parliament this session, is one that I am sure will appeal to hon. members. I fervently pray that that will be so. It is only by increased land settlement that we may expect a return of anything like the good old times we had in earlier years. There is a lot of work ahead of the Government, but there is also success assured. Regarding recent legislation, it is pleasing to know that I, as President of the Royal Agricultural Society, have been informed that the Stations Act passed last session has been put into operation and has given general satisfaction. The Minister for Agriculture has promised that this year we will have a comprehensive Dairying Bill dealing, among other things, with the registration of pure-bred bulls. This is important in connection with the dairying industry, and it is to be hoped that the Bill will be introduced at an early stage and will become operative as soon as possible. I understand that the operations of the Agricultural Bank will be such that no advances will be made respecting bulls, unless they are pure-bred. There is another point about land settlement which so far has not been dealt with, and that is the necessity for an increased yield per acre. This can be brought about by the establishment of an agricultural college, which, in turn, would establish a laboratory for an agricultural chemist. I am sure that the work of an agricultural chemist would be of great value to Western Australia and to the farmers themselves. In Western Australia the services of the agricultural chemist have not been availed of as they might have been. I am told that wheat production can easily be increased by one or two bushels per acre, and if that be so, it is quite worth while establishing a laboratory to deal with the soils of the State.

Hon. H. Stewart: Do you think you could get more that way than you could with the use of pedigreed seed?

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: We should follow something along the lines adopted in America in relation to rural life. There they have colleges dealing with many thousands of students, and they keep in close touch with the rural community, supplying literature to them of every description and generally making life as satisfactory to the individual as is life in the city. In conclusion, may I express the wish that the labours of hon. members during this session may give satisfaction to them and to the people of Western Australia as a whole, buoyed up with the certain conviction of good times ahead. If we only give our attention to the questions which will arise from time to time during the session, and assist the Government with a generous support, particularly in connection with the immigration scheme, we shall have done something in the interests of Western Australia as a whole.

Hon. G. POTTER (West) [4.11]: I formally second the motion.

On motion by Hon. A. Lovekin debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 4.12 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 27th July, 1922.

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MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY.

The Legislative Assembly met at noon, pursuant to proclamation by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor and Administrator, which proclamation was read by the Clerk (Mr. A. R. Grant).

MESSAGE—OPENING BY COMMISSIONER.

A Message from the Commissioner appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor and Administrator to do all things necessary for the open-

ing of Parliament requested the attendance of members of the Legislative Assembly in the Legislative Council Chamber; and hon. members having accordingly proceeded to that Chamber, and heard the Commission read, they returned to the Assembly Chamber.

Sitting suspended from 12.11 to 3 p.m.

BILL—ATTORNEY GENERAL (VACANCY IN OFFICE).

The PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) by leave without notice (by way of asserting privilege) introduced a Bill for an Act to provide for the exercise of the powers of the Attorney General during any vacancy in the office, and for other relative purposes.

Bill read a first time.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

Mr. SPEAKER: In company with hon. members of this Chamber, I attended to hear the speech which His Excellency the Administrator of the Government was pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament; and for greater accuracy I have had printed copies of the speech delivered to hon. members.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

First Day.

Mr. GIBSON (Fremantle) [3.41]: I move—

That the following address be presented to His Excellency in reply to the Speech he has been pleased to deliver to us:—
“May it please Your Excellency. We, the members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of the State of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, beg to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to deliver to Parliament.”

It gives me great pleasure to move the motion, and my pleasure is the greater because I do not think that any previous session of this Parliament has been opened when the future gave greater promise for the prosperity of the State. Splendid rains have fallen throughout the agricultural areas and have removed anxiety from those engaged in the occupation of growing wheat.

Mr. Lambert: Do you take credit for that?

Mr. GIBSON: No; but I am endeavouring to point out the position of the State at the present time. In addition to these favourable conditions, there is the fact that a considerable area of additional land has been cleared and put under crop, and so the anticipations suggested some little time ago, that this will be the record wheat harvest of the State, seems likely to be realised.

Thus it is probable that we shall be brought appreciably nearer to that goal which the Minister for Agriculture has set, and towards the attainment of which he is doing so much. Further, the Premier has returned and has told us that in the course of a few weeks the question of unemployment will no longer trouble this community.

Mr. Marshall: It has not troubled the Government too much up to date anyhow.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. GIBSON: I have sufficient faith in the promises of the Premier to believe that he will do the utmost possible to relieve the present position. The most important subject referred to in the Governor's Speech is that of immigration. No one can deny that Australia—particularly Western Australia—is very much under-populated. From a defence point of view this is a matter which has given those of us who think about the future of our country a great deal of concern. Every political party in the Commonwealth has as one of its principal planks the maintenance of a White Australia. To maintain this ideal it is essential that we should do all we possibly can to set up a stream of white people into this country in order to help us to defend Australia should ever the occasion require it. Quite recently a conference was held in Washington, when it was agreed by the great powers that navies should be reduced, and that a period of disarmament should ensue, extending over 10 years. During that period we shall be certain of meeting with no interruptions in our efforts to do what I suggest, and I think we should use our utmost efforts in that direction. Lack of population is responsible for many of our social and economic ills. Railways and public works represent too heavy a burden on the shoulders of the taxpayers because of our lack of population. We need more people to assist in the development of the resources of the State. The need for extra population is self-evident, and the Premier and those associated with him have set themselves to remedy the existing state of affairs. To our Premier I consider great credit is due for the arrangements which have been made with the Commonwealth Government and the Imperial Government in respect to immigration. Hon. members will recollect that in the early part of this year the Premier went to Melbourne and there laid before the Commonwealth Authorities a scheme of immigration for land settlement. That scheme apparently met with the approval of the Commonwealth authorities, who agreed to assist our Premier in the carrying out of his policy. In this connection I may point out that Western Australia has been the first State to move in the matter of immigration. At a gathering held at the close of last session the wish was expressed by practically the whole of the members of the Assembly who were present that the Premier should go to London for the purpose of endeavouring to enlist the sympathies

and the practical assistance of the British Government in an immigration scheme. The Premier acceded to the wish that was expressed, and I consider that the magnificent results of his trip to London entitle him to the greatest credit. I am proud to have been the first Western Australian to congratulate the Premier at a public function on the results of his trip. Under the arrangement made with the Federal Government, the Commonwealth undertake to foot the bill for the cost of propaganda work and of transport, thus relieving this State of a very considerable financial burden.

Mr. Corboy: The people in London said differently.

Mr. GIBSON: I am going by the Premier's statement. Such being the case, we shall be relieved of a considerable financial burden. Further, provision has been made to send back those who, shortly after their arrival, are found to be mentally or physically deficient. By this means we shall ensure obtaining only the best class of immigrants and be certain that there will be none who will become a burden on the State.

Hon. P. Collier: The fact that undesirable immigrants come here constitutes a reflection on the selection at the other end.

Mr. GIBSON: I was about to touch on the point referred to by the Leader of the Opposition. It has been my good fortune to meet many of the immigrants who landed at Fremantle during recent years, and, while I recognise that a proportion of them may not be all that could be desired, yet I consider the great majority of them will make very suitable citizens. Although the Commonwealth undertakes to pay the cost of propaganda and transport, the selection of the immigrants on the other side remains with the State officials, and I believe that they have been instructed to ensure that only such persons as are suitable for the conditions existing here shall be sent out. I do not suppose there is anyone interested in the welfare of Western Australia who has done more for the future of this State than the Premier has done. The first time I made the acquaintance of the hon. gentleman was when he was touring the goldfields some years ago, at a period when the gold yield had begun to decline.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: He sits on the wrong side.

Mr. GIBSON: At a time when various so-called experts were stating that we would never be able to grow in this State wheat sufficient to meet our own demands, the present Premier was encouraging the miners out-back to proceed to the agricultural areas and grow wheat. I know that many of those miners took his advice and are now in a position of independence on the land. In my opinion the whole of the State and all members of this House are behind the Premier and his Ministers in their endeavour to get our lands settled. If the Premier succeeds in his effort he will prove one of the greatest benefactors Western Australia

has known, and the best Premier the State has ever had.

Mr. Munsie: He should make a good deal more of the State available for settlement by the people who are already here.

Mr. Latham: They had opportunities in the past.

Mr. GIBSON: The figures quoted in the Governor's Speech show that between 1909 and 1921 over 45,000 people arrived in the State, and that at the end of the period the increase in the population was only 9,468. This suggests that the problem confronting the Government is not so much one of bringing people here as of inducing them to remain. I presume that is one of the objects for which the money raised on such advantageous terms is to be used. Previously it was my impression that it was to be used specially for clearing land and for land settlement, but I am pleased to see that the scope is to be widened to embrace the retraining of the settler's life more tolerable by the provision of better roads, water supplies and the like. As a metropolitan member, I realise that the city and towns depend entirely on what is being done in the country, and that to the condition of the country we must look for our future good. That being so, it behoves the Government, in framing policies for future settlement of the land, to take the greatest care that the settlers shall not be burdened with a heavy load of debt, so that when their five years' interest-free period elapses, they will be in a position to meet their obligations to the State. We are told in the Speech that it is the intention of the Government to introduce into the State 25,000 persons per annum. It is an ambitious task. Some say it cannot be done, but I understand that in 1910 some 11,000 persons were introduced into Western Australia. If it could be done in that year, surely with the greater facilities we have to-day and the larger amount of money available, 25,000 persons may be introduced without all the difficulty which some seem to fear.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That was not in 1910, but in 1912.

Mr. GIBSON: It is near enough.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: It is not; there was a different Government in power.

Mr. GIBSON: I am quite ready to believe that the hon. member had something to do with the bringing in of all those people. It would appear to be the intention of the Government to establish 6,000 settlers in the South-West. I do not know whether the coastal land between Fremantle and Bunbury is included in that comprehensive term "South-West," but if it is not, I commend that area to the attention of the Government. I believe that in the not distant future all that land, including the Peel estate, will be fully occupied. When, recently, the Prime Minister was over here, we took him along to see what was being done on the Peel estate. There, on a swamp which six months earlier had been under water, I saw Sedan grass three feet high, and potatoes growing wonderfully well. Shortly after-

wards, when the conference of agricultural Ministers was held, several of the Ministers and their departmental experts visited the Peel estate. On their return I chatted with two dairy experts from New South Wales and Queensland respectively. They both expressed astonishment at what they had seen, and said that on similar land in the Eastern States it would be necessary to allow the land to sweeten for three years after draining. It was amazing to them that, on the Peel estate, immediately the water was drained off, the land could be utilised. Technically they accounted for it by the abundance of limestone, which serves to offset the acidity of the soil. There is down there a large area of land peculiarly suited to the cultivation of dairy produce, and it is by no means mere optimism to say the day is not far distant when the whole of that district will be occupied in producing butter, bacon, eggs and cheese, for which we are now sending hundreds of thousands of pounds annually to the Eastern States. I am not going to say much about the financial position; sufficient that it has proved even worse than was expected. In large measure this has been due to circumstances over which the Treasurer had no control.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: It would have been better if he had retained the Taxation Department.

Mr. GIBSON: In that respect, what we have lost this year we shall gain next year. But, without economy, it will be impossible to make the State's ledger balance, since the Federal Government have taken control of all avenues of taxation save that of the imposts on income.

Mr. Marshall: Are not the Federal Government justified in that?

Mr. GIBSON: Personally I think it is nearly time the State Governments took concerted action to appeal to the Federal Government to leave to them the avenues of taxation which it was originally intended should be theirs.

Mr. Richardson: We ought to cut away from them altogether.

Mr. GIBSON: It might be possible to improve the finances of the several Government departments by more economical management. In view of the report of the Royal Commissioner on Railways, it should be advisable to initiate a similar investigation into the workings of other departments. It is the impression of the man in the street that the public service is over-staffed. Recently I heard an hon. member give it as his opinion that there were employed in the department at least 30 per cent. more men than were necessary. If that is the case, it is certainly time we had an investigation to see whether further economies could not be effected. The railway operations for the year were responsible for more than half the State's deficit, notwithstanding that economies showing a saving of £180,000 were effected. It is difficult for me to understand how those economies could have been brought about if the statements made

in this House last year were correct. We were told that expenditure was cut down to bed rock, and that there was not a superfluous man in the department. That these economies have been made indicates to me that they could have been made earlier. In reply to my query as to why there were some 1,200 more men in the department in 1921, than there were in 1917, when as much freight and as many passengers were carried, I was informed that we were making more commodities for the department. Since then I believe that the services of about 700 men have been dispensed with. We cannot be blamed for thinking that those men were not necessary to the working of the railways. However, there will be an opportunity shortly of discussing the report of the Royal Commissioner, Mr. Stead.

Mr. Marshall: Many men have to walk because they cannot afford to ride at the present prices.

Mr. GIBSON: I have not noticed my friend walking very far. The Government intend to propose the construction of further railways. This may be necessary, but when the Government introduce the Closer Settlement Bill I hope it will contain very much more stringent conditions than the Bill of last year. If it does and the measure meets with a better fate than its predecessor, it may not be necessary to construct more railways.

Mr. Munsie: If they make the Bill strong enough new railways will not be necessary.

Mr. GIBSON: Until such time as the land adjacent to existing railways is put to its full use, we should hesitate to build any more railways. It would be advisable for the Government to initiate a policy of main road construction, for roads are as vital to the development of the country as are railways. A board similar to that in existence in Victoria should be constituted to undertake the control of main roads and lay down a definite policy for future operations in this direction. The gold yield of the State, unfortunately, continues to decline, and I do not see much promise of any improvement. The Government should be congratulated on their efforts to foster the industry, and I hope the prospecting parties which have been sent out will be responsible for discoveries which will recoup the Government for some of the outlay involved. Unfortunately our goldfields are differently situated from the goldfields of other States. Around Ballarat and Bendigo were rich agricultural areas and, although the gold yield declined, the towns continued to prosper. I am afraid that the same cannot be expected of our goldfields, except perhaps the area represented by the member for Yilgarn. I hope that in this area we shall soon have thousands of supporters of the Country Party.

Mr. Corboy: Thousands of farmers, but of the right political breed.

Mr. GIBSON: One matter of importance referred to in the Speech is that of arbitration.

The Minister for Agriculture: Is there only one?

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Yes, there are $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres under crop in the North-West.

Mr. GIBSON: I am glad that it is the intention of the Government to appoint a permanent President of the Arbitration Court. During the last 12 months we have been singularly free from industrial troubles, but with the change in economic conditions, the court may be kept much busier during the ensuing year. When a President is appointed permanently, the business of the court will be carried on much more expeditiously. Efforts should be made to bring about a better co-ordination of the work of the Federal and State Arbitration Courts than exists at present. We have instances of conflicting decisions which make the position difficult for both employers and employees. The State court has a far better opportunity than the Federal court to make itself acquainted with the local conditions and thus be in a position to give reasonable decisions. Recently there was issued a Federal award affecting men in the district of Fremantle. These men had been reduced from a very fair wage to £3 11s. 6d. per week. Had that case been decided by the State court, such a big reduction would never have been made. It is impossible for a man with a wife and two children to live in reasonable comfort on that amount. We are living in a State which is rich enough to pay a fair return to every man for a fair day's labour, a return which will enable him to adequately feed and care for his family.

The Colonial Secretary: Why have the Federal court and the State court?

Mr. GIBSON: I suggest that these local matters be left to the State court. The headmaster of the Boys' Central School at Fremantle informed me the other day that the average family represented by the boys in that school was between four and five.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I told you it was a healthy district to live in.

Mr. GIBSON: Unemployment has unfortunately been very rife during the last 12 months, but I believe the most serious stage of the difficulty is past, and that in the near future there will be no such thing as unemployment. One phase of this question to which attention should be given is that affecting returned soldiers and sailors. On Anzac Day, I heard Sir Talbot Hobbs, in the course of an address, refer to the promises made to the men before they went to the war. These promises have not been kept to all the men. I believe the Government have done their best, but it is not entirely for them to see that these men are provided with employment.

Hon. P. Collier: What is the Loyalty League doing about it?

Mr. GIBSON: While I realise that among the soldiers were some ne'er-do-wells, not much good before they went, while they were away, or after they returned, there are many

deserving men among the unemployed. Before the men went away they were promised everything. Frequently we heard the phrase "the last man and the last shilling," and while some employers have shown their readiness to act up to this promise, there have undoubtedly been some who shut up their pockets long before the last shilling was called for. Another matter which should be dealt with by the Arbitration Court is that relating to apprentices. Not a day passes but I have some parent asking what can be done with his boy. I suggest the appointment of an apprenticeship board similar to that in Queensland, an honorary body comprised of representatives of the unions and of the employers whose duty it would be to make the conditions of apprenticeship more elastic.

Mr. McCallum: Ours is the best apprenticeship system in the Commonwealth. It is showing results that challenge comparison with those in any of the Eastern States.

Mr. GIBSON: I am suggesting the appointment of a board with the object of giving our system greater elasticity. I know of firms who would take more apprentices if they were permitted to employ them. In conversation with one of the leading contractors of this State recently, I was informed that more than half the men working for him were well beyond middle age, and that it was impossible to get men.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The contractors will not take them.

Mr. GIBSON: I realise that one of the difficulties which surround this question is the small number of our secondary industries due to our small population, but in this respect we can confidently expect improvement. The finest of wool is produced in Western Australia, and every encouragement should be given to the establishment of woollen mills. It is gratifying to note the increased interest manifested in cotton growing, and I trust that this industry too will soon be established and factories opened.

Mr. Wilson: We have ideal conditions for mills at Collie.

Mr. GIBSON: I do not care whether the mills are built at Collie, Albany or Fremantle, though preferably I would have them at Fremantle, so long as they are built. The Government have intimated their intention of not continuing the compulsory wheat pool owing to the organisation associated with the production of wheat having expressed the desire for a voluntary pool.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: A great mistake.

Mr. GIBSON: A voluntary pool is of no use at all unless it can be made compulsory and that of course is a contradiction of terms.

Mr. Pickering: Should not the farmers have a say in that?

Mr. GIBSON: If we have a compulsory pool not under State management, it may become a monopoly and any price could be fixed for wheat for local consumption as was done in Victoria quite recently. There consumers were charged 6d., 7d., and 8d. a

bushel more than the export parity. In the interests of the State, the State pool should be continued, if only for the greater security it would give the Government for the money advanced to the farmers. The construction of the Como tramway has caused great controversy and I do not intend to say much about it at this stage. The necessity for tramway extensions in the metropolitan area is undoubtedly great if we desire to meet the needs of those people who have gone out long distances from the city in order to secure the benefit of cheap land to establish homes for themselves. The work of the Forests Products Laboratory in charge of Mr. Fowler is fraught with great possibilities. Already it has been proved that paper can be made from the pulp of karri and that the bark of this tree contains a considerable percentage of tannin. I believe that a company is being formed to exploit this industry. The State Government should do all in its power to provide further assistance for this institution or else induce the Federal Government to do so.

Hon. P. Collier: Do not you think that matter can be well left in the hands of the Royal Commission on forests?

Mr. Pickering: Yes, we are well able to deal with it.

Hon. P. Collier: In fact they are just entering on to that phase of the inquiry now.

Mr. GIBSON: Reference has been made to the question of harbour extension at Fremantle. Some little time ago a conference was arranged with the object of passing resolutions and waiting on the Government to urge that necessary harbour works be undertaken. However, the ground was cut from under our feet by the Harbour Trust Commissioners who stated that they considered the present accommodation sufficient to meet the requirements of the next 10 years. The Commissioners, I think, were unduly optimistic in putting the period at 10 years. Long before that, I believe it will be necessary to provide further accommodation for our shipping. Mr. Angwin and Mr. McCallum have given notice of some questions regarding the Fremantle railway bridge, which is also referred to by Mr. Stead in his report, so I shall make no remarks about it at present. The inadequacy of the water supply and the question of stormwater drainage at Fremantle have occasioned considerable anxiety, but I shall have another opportunity to deal with these matters. May I conclude by expressing the hope that our efforts this session will result in bringing great prosperity to Western Australia and that the State will never again look back.

Mr. SAMPSON (Swan) [4.14]: I second the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-reply, and in doing so congratulate the Premier on the success of his mission to the Old Country and on his safe return. The address to which we have listened reveals the intentions of the Government in respect to their immigration policy. That policy is certainly in the best interests of the State. With

a vigorous policy of immigration Western Australia should again advance. I heard with gratification the statements regarding land settlement, the additions to our railway system, and the other necessary works which are to be carried out. Undoubtedly these are essential portions of this great scheme. The Speech also sets out what it is proposed to do, particularly in the South-West and North-West parts of Western Australia.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I have been looking for it and cannot find it.

Mr. SAMPSON: We all regret the menace that hangs over Western Australia—that is the menace of a small population. This position must be relieved as soon as possible. The policy of the Premier to settle the land of Western Australia with an approved type of immigrant is in the best interests of the State and is calculated to remove that menace. It is gratifying to realise that there is, for those who take up work on the land, a splendid local market. It is gratifying in that respect, but in other respects the position is far from gratifying. I intend to quote a few figures to indicate the importations to this State of primary products. Last year we imported dairy produce to the value of £914,000, of fruit and fruit products to the value of £295,000, of wines to the value of £104,000; miscellaneous products including timber, tobacco, etc., to the value of £966,000, and agricultural products, such as potatoes, onions, bran, etc., to the value of £407,000. Under the headings mentioned the amount of £2,686,000 was sent out of this State.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: And another £400,000 for implements, etc.

Mr. SAMPSON: In addition there is a heavy amount for livestock, namely, £142,000. From the Eastern States alone we imported goods to the value of £7,620,000, whereas our exports to the Eastern States totalled only £1,362,000. Our imports reached an amount of over £44 per head and our exports amounted to a trifle under £37 per head. A great difficulty our producers have to face is that of marketing. I venture to say that the most approved method of bringing about relief is the inauguration of a wise and comprehensive system of cold storage. Recently I had the pleasure of going through the Government Cool Stores at Victoria dock, Melbourne. Those stores were established in 1889. From that period until June of this year, 38 million pounds worth of produce, such as butter, fruit and meat, were treated for export overseas. This is a valuable testimony to the efficacy and usefulness, in fact, the utmost importance of refrigeration. Cold stores are necessary in Western Australia. If our fruitgrowers are to have a suitable market, we must have an efficient system and a sufficient number of cold stores. We want refrigerators at the point of production in the district, or on the orchard; We require cold stores at the point of consumption or treatment, that is in the city, or at the factory, and we also require cold stores at the point of shipment. Much has been

said previously in regard to the need for planting the right varieties of trees. Our local jam factory, which is a good factory, and one that makes one regret that we have not more of its kind, suffers from the fact that the right varieties of fruit are not produced in this State.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: It suffers much more from the importations from the Eastern States.

Mr. SAMPSON: Fortunately the inspectors in the field are able to give the growers valuable advice as to the right varieties for certain districts, the soil, and the situation. I hope the advice which is being given will be continued, and that the best possible type of inspector will be obtained. An inspector is a most valuable officer in connection with the fruit-growing industry. Western Australia presents many problems to the industry. The conditions here are different from those in many other parts of the world. Consequently, experts are necessary in order that the best advice may be given to growers. It is a well-known fact that partly owing to trees having been sold untrue to name in past years, there are to-day thousands of trees of an almost useless nature growing in our orchards. I am glad to say that this evil does not exist to the same extent to-day. In the best interests of the industry these trees should be grubbed out and replaced by others of the right varieties.

The Minister for Works: Would you make those who sold those trees pay for them?

Mr. SAMPSON: The difficulty about that is the identification of the trees after so long a period has elapsed. It would be in the interests of the State if the House considered the passing of a Pure Seeds Bill. It would be possible, if we had such a measure, for the inspectors of the Agricultural Department to check the trees received from various nurserymen, watched them as they matured, and compared them with the invoiced names as they came into bearing.

The Minister for Agriculture: That is proposed.

Mr. SAMPSON: I am glad it is proposed to bring down such a Bill. The Perth City Council intend to have introduced a Bill for the purpose—

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Do you see anything about that in the Speech?

Mr. SAMPSON: I am now referring to something that is not in the Speech.

Hon. P. Collier: You have some inside information.

Mr. SAMPSON: It is fairly public information. It is a Bill to enable the City Council to control the marketing of fruit and produce in Perth. All I have to say in this connection is that the grower must be represented on the board of control.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member had better reserve his remarks on that point to the time when the Bill comes before the House.

Mr. SAMPSON: In all matters affecting the welfare of the grower, the grower himself must have representation.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member will be in order in discussing this question when the Bill comes before the House.

Mr. SAMPSON: Not only in this regard but in all other matters of the kind the grower must have representation. The time has gone when the grower can be regarded merely as a worker, and has nothing to say in the administration of his own affairs. I would like to see the grower lifted from the position of a serf, which is to a large extent the position he has occupied in the past.

Mr. Harrison: Your remarks are full of the grower.

Mr. SAMPSON: In addition to refrigerators, dehydration, canning, jam making, and other well-known necessities, co-operation on the part of the growers is required. If the growers do not work solidly together they will become the victims of the middlemen. This has often occurred in the past. The dairying industry is a very important factor in the life of this State. I hope to hear that it is the intention of the Minister for Agriculture to import a good stud stock in order that the herds of cattle within the State may be improved. The principles of co-operation might well be considered by the dairymen. The price of offal hits the dairymen very hard. It is stated that in Western Australia the price of offal is higher than it is in South Australia.

The Minister for Agriculture: That is not so.

Mr. SAMPSON: I have here a cutting from the Adelaide "Chronicle" which bears out my statement. The price of offal quoted in that journal on 22nd July was £9 12s. 6d. The price here is said to be £9 5s. at the mill door, but I am assured that no trade can be done at the mill door even if the dairymen goes along with the money with which to purchase.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: There is nothing in the Speech to talk about; you have my sympathy.

Mr. SAMPSON: I hope the Government will bring down a Bill with the object of forcing into use those non-productive and non-utilised lands existing alongside our railways, and for some miles from our railways. The railway system cannot be expected to pay its way unless there are goods to transport to and fro.

Hon. P. Collier: The conference meets next month, so be careful!

Mr. SAMPSON: I am told that the timber industry is languishing; not so, however, the price at which timber is sold. The House might well consider this question. Perhaps the Minister in charge of the State Sawmills will take into account the price of fruit-case wood.

The Minister for Works: I am always considering it.

Mr. SAMPSON: If the Minister will consider it some good will have come of my remarks this afternoon. It has long been felt

that the price of fruit-case wood is unduly high. Afforestation is a subject of widespread interest. When I was in New Zealand recently I had an opportunity of ascertaining what has been done in respect to afforestation there. I found that upwards of 90,000,000 trees, mostly pine, but many of them Australian gums, had been planted on land which was regarded as unfertile and otherwise practically useless.

The Minister for Agriculture: Have you given evidence before the Royal Commission?

Mr. SAMPSON: No. When these 90,000,000 trees are matured they will be worth, still standing, an average of £1 each. This means that a very important industry has been added to the other industries of the Dominion. The trees were planted by prison labour.

Mr. Stubbs: How long do the trees take to mature?

Mr. SAMPSON: Many of the roads in New Zealand have been constructed by prison labour. This subject must be approached with a good deal of caution, but I cannot help thinking that something along these lines might well be considered by hon. members. I would not suggest that the people in our penitentiaries should be employed in works adjacent to large centres. They should be placed on roads and in districts far removed from settlement. I have no desire to exploit those unfortunate men, for who can say who may be the next? It is gratifying to realise that hon. members appreciate—

Hon. P. Collier: The possibilities of the situation.

Mr. SAMPSON: Yes. Those men should be employed in useful work of this nature. Our prisons are not established merely for the purpose of meting out punishment. Their aim is also reformation, and a prisoner will, upon finishing his term, be a better man if he has been employed at natural work in natural surroundings than if he has been merely kept in the Fremantle or some other gaol. Further, those prisoners who do such work should be allowed some payment. The remuneration could be paid to the family of the prisoner if he is married, or else to the man himself upon his release. Our road boards require increased subsidies. Prior to the war a much more generous scheme of subsidising those boards was in force. To-day the maximum amount payable to any road board is only £300. In this connection I desire to offer a tribute to the Minister controlling roads and other public works in this State. Undoubtedly the man on the land outback, who has great difficulties to contend with, possesses a real and practical friend in the Minister for Works.

The Minister for Works: All the other Ministers are the same.

Mr. SAMPSON: The men on the land look to the Minister for Works to insist, so far as is possible, when discussing the subject with the Premier and other members of the Cabinet, upon a more generous vote being granted to road boards, thus affording country dwellers the

urgent necessity of decent roads. The need for completing many of our main roads, and what I may term sub-main roads, is an important one. It is a remarkable fact that very few of the roads in this State have been completed. Close to Perth itself, in the Belmont district, which forms part of the Canning electorate, there is a road which remains in an incomplete condition. I refer to the Maida Vale-Belmont road. Until that road has been completed, the settlers in the district cannot convey their produce to market except under very grave difficulties. I am glad to know that it is the intention of the Minister for Works to introduce a main roads Bill this session. Country residents look forward to that measure with a good deal of anxiety, and also with the hope that it will provide a solution of many of the difficulties confronting road boards at present. I understand that the measure will aim at the standardisation of roads, at uniform construction, and at co-operation in the use of plant and of the services of departmental officers. Any speech on the Address-in-reply would be incomplete without a reference to the education of our children. Undoubtedly education is one of the most important functions of government, and should proceed hand in hand with the development of the country. Our schools, and particularly our country schools, require the utmost consideration. We are fortunate in that we have in the Minister for Education, and those associated with him, men who are most sympathetic towards the charge entrusted to them. I hope that the fullest consideration will always be extended to the education of our children, and particularly children resident in the country. We know the difficulties of life; we know that the trained mind can grapple with difficulties which the untrained mind fails to solve. I now turn to the need for water supply, which is very severely felt in many country districts. It may come as a surprise to hon. members to learn that in districts adjacent to the Mundaring water scheme there are townships where water has not yet been made available. Unfortunately, existing legislation shuts out those townships from water supply in the absence of a certain financial guarantee. To Darlington, Glen Forrest, Parkerville, and Swan View, the advantage of a water supply has up to the present been denied; and these places are in close proximity to the Mundaring supply. I trust it will be practicable so to amend existing legislation as to enable the needed facilities to be given to those centres and to others similarly circumstanced. I know that water is urgently needed in many outback districts as well. Another phase of the water supply question is the matter of the resumption notices which have been served upon orchardists in the hills. The position to-day is that the State has a number of reservoirs and that the Minister is put to great trouble in order to provide the necessary water for the metropolis. It seems that in this respect also the country dweller has to suffer in order to provide comforts for

the resident of the metropolitan area. I await with some degree of impatience a definite statement by the Minister regarding the resumption of certain lands in the hills districts. The time has come when we should know definitely whether the Upper Canning water scheme is to be gone on with, and, if so, when. I understand that the adoption of the scheme would furnish sufficient water for the metropolitan area for years to come. However, the engineer looks with a covetous eye upon every brook in the hills districts; and since those brooks are usually the sites of orchards, it is easy to understand the disquiet and anxiety which fruitgrowers feel in regard to the matter. I trust it will be possible for the Minister to make a speedy and definite pronouncement on it.

The Minister for Works: There is no covetousness about it; it is simply a matter of duty.

Mr. SAMPSON: I desire again to extend my congratulations and thanks to the Premier and to all the Ministers associated with him. I have never yet approached a Minister without receiving the most courteous and sympathetic and practical consideration. More than that no man can ask. We have been passing through troublous times, but there is a brighter day in store. I recognise that Western Australia has faced, and is facing, many difficulties; but it has innumerable advantages, such as climatic conditions, superiority of situation in regard to European markets as compared with Eastern Australia and New Zealand, cheap lands, and widespread opportunities. These features combine to make the West the most attractive of all the Australias. With the initiation of the great scheme of immigration now launched, it may be said with confidence that Western Australia stands on the threshold of an abounding and permanent prosperity. The hand of destiny beckons; the pathway to national greatness lies before us. No idle thought this, for in all respects the stage is set. The text is at the heart of the people, the characters are taking their places, and as the curtain of doubt and uncertainty is lifted, there will be disclosed a contented and a prosperous people, dwelling in a country rich in those ideals and elements of material prosperity whose realisation will exceed the forecasts of the most optimistic.

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

House adjourned at 4.41 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 1st August, 1922.

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

QUESTION—MINES, KALGOORLIE, DEEP BORING.

Hon. R. G. ARDAGH asked the Minister for Education,—Owing to the renewed activity of mining at the North end of the Kalgoorlie goldfield, will the Minister for Mines cause inquiry to be made as to the advisability of testing the ground below the present known workings by systematic diamond drilling?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied:—A complete geological examination was made in 1916, and the results published in *Bulletin No. 69*. A study of this would disclose the most suitable points at which there was a reasonable chance of successful boring operations being undertaken. There is already in existence a standing offer by the Department to subsidise boring on the same terms and conditions as have been granted to those boring at the South end.

QUESTION—FISH MARKETS, FRE- MANTLE.

Hon. F. A. BAGLIN asked the Minister for Education: Will he lay on the Table of the House all letters and files relating to the Fremantle fish markets?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: Yes, I have the papers here, and I will place them on the Table.

BILL—FEDERATION REFERENDUM.

Introduced by Hon. A. Lovekin and read a first time.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Second Day.

Debate resumed from 27th July, 1922.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN (Metropolitan) [4.43]: All of us are from time to time indebted to the Leader of the House for the many acts of courtesy and kindness he extends to us, which I am sure we all appreciate. To-day I wish to further congratulate him on the able manner in which he drafted His Excellency's Speech.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: How do you know he drafted it?