

as a receiver in connection with the estate of the board. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

House adjourned at 6.3 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 16th October, 1913.

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

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Premier: Report of the trustees of the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery for 1912-1913.

By the Minister for Works: 1, By-law of the Municipality of Boulder—No. 94. 2, By-law of the Municipality of Geraldton—No. 64. 3, By-law of the Municipality of Leederville—No. 2.

QUESTION—MAGISTRATE'S COMMENTS, EMPLOYEES' HONESTY.

Mr. FOLEY asked the Attorney General: 1, Has his attention been drawn to the statement of Mr. Roe, Police Magistrate, reported in the *West Australian* of

Saturday last, viz.:—"This only bears out a statement I made some time ago and to which I still adhere; that there is not a single big firm in the City that is not being robbed by some of its employees." 2, Can he give the reasons for justifying Mr. Roe making this statement? 3, If not, what action does he intend to take?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL replied: 1, Not before this question. 2, No. 3, On a previous occasion it was deemed that a similar statement made by the same magistrate being of a general nature and not directly connected with the case before the court, the matter was not a fit subject for extra-Ministerial inquiry. The repetition of the statement, however, makes the matter more serious. The Government regrets that such a statement, irrelevant to the case in issue, should be made from the magisterial bench, particularly as statistics prove it to be unfounded in fact. The magistrate will be asked to furnish an explanation.

QUESTION—FREMANTLE HARBOUR EXTENSION.

Mr. CARPENTER asked the Minister for Works: 1, Has any estimate been made of the cost of extending the Fremantle Harbour to Rocky Bay, including cost of removal of existing bridges, diversion of roads and railways, resumption of private properties, erection of new bridges, dredging, wharf construction and equipment? 2, If so, what is the amount of such estimate? In asking this question I would be glad if the Minister for Works will say why the information was not sent along yesterday at the appointed time.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: I am not in a position to state why. I desire to ask that the question be postponed to the next sitting of the House.

QUESTION—EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND TEACHERS' EXPENSES.

Mr. E. B. JOHNSTON asked the Minister for Education: 1, Is he aware that

the school teachers residing in the northern portion of the Great Southern districts were invited to attend a school of instruction in drawing at Narrogin on the 10th and 11th October last, and that some fifty teachers attended the said school at their own expense? 2, As the tuition received by the teachers was for the benefit of the children and the State, why were not the teachers' out-of-pocket travelling and subsistence expenses borne by the Education Department? 3, Is it true that the teachers were even refused the usual concession tickets on the railways which are granted to football and cricket clubs and all conferences? 4, If so, why? 5, Will he now have the amounts expended by these lowly-paid teachers out of their slender salaries, in travelling to Narrogin and subsistence there, refunded to them? 6, If not, why not? 7, As all other civil servants travelling on official business are paid their reasonable travelling expenses, will the Government extend this privilege to State school teachers who are invited or instructed to attend special classes?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: 1, Teachers were invited to attend a school of instruction at Narrogin on the 10th and 11th of October last. Attendance was optional; those attending were allowed leave with pay from their schools for the purpose. Thirty-nine teachers attended, five of whom belonged to Narrogin, and thirty-four to other places. No payment for expenses was made to the teachers attending. 2, It has not been the custom to pay the expenses of teachers attending voluntary classes, and no funds have been provided for the purpose. While the tuition received is for the benefit of the children, it is also for the benefit of the teachers. It assists them towards obtaining certificates, which will give them opportunities of rising in the service. 3, Concession tickets were not obtained from the Railway Department, but endeavours are being made to secure them for similar classes in future. 4, There was a misunderstanding about the conditions under which such concessions could be obtained. 5 and 6, The matter is under consideration, but no funds have been provided for the purpose. 7, The cases are not analo-

gous. There is a difference between ordinary business and voluntary gatherings for instruction.

QUESTION—MEAT SUPPLY, PURCHASE OF CATTLE.

Mr. GEORGE asked the Minister for Lands: 1, What price per head did the Government pay for the bullocks recently landed at Fremantle? 2, What price per head did the Government receive for the bullocks sold *ex* this shipment? 3, What justification have the Government for sending the balance to Yandanooka, and declaring that estate as a quarantine area?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS replied: 1, £3 15s., but this was subject to adjustment under the agreement. 2, £4 16s. 11d. 3, The cattle were sent to Yandanooka to be fattened, as their then condition rendered them unmarketable. Close inspection had been made, and no sign of disease discovered. As a precaution, however, they are being depastured in an isolated paddock. The wisdom of the course adopted is evidenced by the fact that the cattle are doing splendidly. The estate has not been declared a quarantine area.

Mr. George: Does that £3 15s. include steamer carriage?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: That is the price paid for the cattle.

BILL—CRIMINAL CODE AMENDMENT.

Report of Committee adopted.

BILL—BILLS OF SALE ACT AMENDMENT.

In Committee.

Resumed from the 23rd September; Mr. McDowall in the Chair, the Attorney General in charge of the Bill.

The CHAIRMAN: Progress had been reported on Cause 2, to which Mr. A. E. Piesse had moved an amendment that the following words be added:—"and by omitting the word 'growing' in the second

and sixth lines of the interpretation of the term 'chattels.' The question was that the words proposed to be added be added.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: It was understood by him that the hon. member who had moved the amendment was desirous that it should be withdrawn, and he (the Attorney General) believed that the hon. member for Northam had the consent of the hon. member for Katanning to the withdrawal, as the hon. member for Katanning would not be present at this sitting. The hon. member had, on consultation with him, agreed to substitute other amendments which would obviate the objections which he (the Attorney General) had raised to this amendment. He suggested now that the amendment be withdrawn.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: The Attorney General and the hon. member for Katanning had had a consultation on this amendment, and he understood that they had come to an agreement. The amendment had been suggested by the hon. member for Katanning with a view to enable a merchant to give a loan for fertiliser and wheat which was to be sold. The object was to enable a bill of sale to refer not only to a growing crop but to seed and fertiliser when it came into the possession of the man. The undoubted wisdom of this was agreed to by the Attorney General. He was not certain that the object could be achieved without altering the definition. However, he was perfectly willing to withdraw the amendment on the assurance that the hon. member (Mr. A. E. Piesse) did not consider it necessary. The next amendment of which notice had been given by the hon. member would have the desired effect.

Amendment put and negatived.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved an amendment—

*That the following words be added:—
"and by adding to the definition of 'registrar' the words 'and any person who may be appointed by the Governor a registrar for the purposes of this Act.'"*

This would prevent the necessity of the registrar invariably acting in person.

Amendment passed; the clause as amended agreed to.

Clauses 3 and 4—agreed to.

Clause 5—Amendment of Section 8:

Hon. J. MITCHELL moved an amendment—

That the words "need not" in lines 3 and 4 be struck out and "shall" inserted in lieu.

The object was to make the clause definite. At present the Act did not say whether or not a transfer need be registered, and there was some doubt about it. It was very necessary that a transfer should be registered, because it was important to all concerned that they should know by whom the bill of sale was held. It was one thing for the general creditors to sit under a bill of sale held by a man friendly to the other man who had given the bill of sale, and quite another thing to have the bill of sale held by one hostile to the debtor.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: The hon. member wished to make it compulsory to register a transfer. It was not easy to see why once a bill of sale had been registered it should be necessary to register afresh every successive owner of the same bill of sale. It could be assigned and transferred and the security would not be in any way altered. The object of registration was to show the creditors generally that there was an encumbrance upon the property, and it did not matter who was the owner of that encumbrance, who had the right to realise on it. Once the commercial world had by the registration of a bill of sale been informed that the property stood encumbered in this way the duty of the debtor and the creditor alike was performed. What advantage could there be, once the fact that a Bill of sale existed, of republishing every assignment and transfer.

Hon. J. Mitchell: In the case of a mortgage you must.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: There was a little difference between real property and personal property. Bills of sale were given over chattels, and the use of registration was to inform the world of the encumbrance existing on the chattels. That fact being known everybody

was put satisfactorily on their guard. It did not matter whether the security was held by one man or another, that particular property had the encumbrance against it. It was the same bill of sale in the hands of a different holder. The amendment would increase the expense, which was unnecessary.

Mr. DWYER: No reason had been shown why the transfer or assignment should not be registered. The existing law was that there should be registration and before any change was made in the existing law some reason should be given. The Attorney General said the object of the Bill was to assure the public that an encumbrance was placed on certain goods and chattels, and beyond that there was no necessity to inform the public. Take the procedure under the Transfer of Land Act, and it would be seen where the difference arose, and the necessity for registration came in. At one time there was no such thing as a system of registered land, and it was to reduce land conveyances as nearly as possible to the position of chattel conveyances that the Transfer of Land Act was passed. It was often useful to know who was the real holder of a bill of sale. Once a bill of sale was granted, the person to whom the bill of sale was granted was registered as the holder of that bill of sale, and if the bill of sale was assigned, the name appeared on the register and the public could see who was the owner of it. If we took away the system of registration we might have a system of dummyping brought about and he opposed any system of dummyping or any system that might lead to dummyping in transactions of this kind.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: There would be no more possibility of dummyping than under the existing law. The very object of the amendment was to make the law specific. At the present time a person need not register. There was nothing in the original Act, or in the amending Act, that declared the necessity for registration. The member for Perth took a view which he (the Attorney General) was surprised that the hon. member had taken, when he said that the Transfer of Land Act was passed for the sole purpose of

putting landed property and real estate on all fours with personal property. The member for Perth must be aware that real property had attached to it qualities that did not attach to chattels. He was not particularly wedded to the view that he was stating, but he wanted to state one reason why the amendment should not be accepted, and that was that the expense of the parties to a bill of sale would be multiplied. Once the registration had taken place a bill of sale was a negotiable instrument, if he might so express it, and all the world then knew that it was a charge on the chattels covered by the bill of sale. There was no fear of dummyping if the property was to be charged with the amount of the bill of sale; it did not matter whether a dummy held the instrument or anybody else. It was a charge against the goods.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: Section 21 of the Act of 1889 said, "Upon the production to the registrar of a memorandum of satisfaction of a bill of sale by way of security, signed by the grantee thereof, or his attorney, discharging the chattels comprised therein, or any specified part thereof, from the moneys secured thereby, or any specified part thereof, or from the performance of the obligation thereby secured"—

The Attorney General: That was only entering up satisfaction, and did not touch the point.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: But the registrar should know the person to receive satisfaction. The section went on to say that the registrar might, in his discretion, dispense with the production of the bill of sale on proof to his satisfaction, by affidavit or otherwise, that the bill of sale had been destroyed, lost, or could not be produced.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: That was to say that if a person was the holder of a bill of sale, and it had been lost or destroyed, he could by affidavit satisfy the registrar that it had been lost, destroyed or rendered incapable of production, and the affidavit took the place of the bill of sale. But where the bill was preserved the person holding it could

make a claim on the goods and enter satisfaction.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: Section 21 gave good reason why the registration should be insisted on. Under the Act a search could be made, and a search would disclose all the facts in connection with a bill of sale. It was one thing to have a bill of sale held by a decent man, and another thing to have it held by a money-lender who would squeeze the owner of the goods. The Attorney General had not given any reason why the amendment should not be carried.

The Attorney General: There was expense in connection with constant registration.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: Why register at all then?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: To let the whole world know that a bill of sale existed over the chattels. As far as registration was concerned, if a bill of sale was registered, all the world would know that the property was not free. The demands must be met before the property was free for commercial interchange. A bill of sale could be transferred and the grantor could discharge his obligation.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: The registrar should know that it has been transferred.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: The registrar required to know nothing except as to whether there was satisfaction for the amount shown in the bill.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: Satisfaction meant that the grantee informed the registrar that the bill of sale could be discharged, but in the meantime it might have been transferred.

The Attorney General: It means that the obligation has been discharged.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: The registrar would not know of any transfer, and he need not have the bill of sale before him. This would lead to complications.

The Attorney General: He must produce evidence satisfactory to the registrar.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: Perhaps the bill of sale could not be produced.

The Attorney General: Then you could have affidavits.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: The trouble could be avoided by insisting on registra-

tion. Would the Attorney General argue that it would not be better that a search should disclose the true position in regard to a bill of sale?

The Attorney General: The objection is the constant worry and expense of registration and re-registration.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: The registration would amount to about half-a-crown.

The Attorney General: It is not the half-a-crown fee, but the everlasting trouble.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: No matter what the trouble was, a bill of sale had to be registered, and upon transfer when a new owner was set up, registration should be insisted on.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: The hon. member's proposal would entail unnecessary trouble and expense. It would make business transactions more complicated, difficult, and irksome. The freer these things were the better. The bill of sale would be registered. The world would know that the property was encumbered, and when it was discharged there would be an end to it.

Mr. DWYER: Again he wished to emphasise that a man had a right to know who his creditor was. If the clause was passed a man would not know who his creditor was. He would know he had to pay a certain amount, but would not know to whom it had to be paid. There was no provision whereby the original grantor of the Bill of sale should receive any notice of a transfer. This Bill introduced a new system of bills of sale, and we would have all the money lenders of Perth lending on bills of sale and under fictitious names. It was the custom to register the assignment of a bill of sale, and the same system as obtained with regard to the transfer of leases and mortgages should obtain here. Any law which left the door open to the placing of nebulous persons or men of straw on the register or enabled the real creditors to refrain from disclosing their names was poor legislation.

The Attorney General: That can be done anyhow.

Amendment put and passed; the clause as amended agreed to.

Clause 6—Avoidance of unregistered bills of sale:

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved an amendment—

That in paragraph (a) of Subclause 1 after "bankruptcy" the words "or the liquidator in the winding up of the estate of" be inserted.

These words were omitted through an oversight in the drafting.

Amendment passed.

On motion by the ATTORNEY GENERAL, clause further amended by inserting in paragraph (b) after "bankruptcy" the words "or for winding up or the passing of an effective resolution for winding up."

Clause as amended agreed to.

Clause 7—Bills of sale void against claims for wages:

Hon. J. MITCHELL: The Attorney General ought to agree to delete this clause. It spoiled a Bill which in other respects would be useful. In the case of a mortgage over land, the security came before a wages claim. Unless money could be borrowed freely and lent safely, there would be less enterprise, less work, and less wages. No one would lend money on a bill of sale under such a clause as this, because the man who made the advance could easily be defeated. A man might have businesses at Perth, Albany, and Wyndham, and the property at any one place could be seized and sold to pay wages incurred in some business regarding which the lender of the money might know nothing. For 30 days after sale and delivery, the goods could be followed and seized by the creditor as a wage-earner and sold notwithstanding that, with the full knowledge of the grantor and grantee, money had been paid over by the innocent purchaser, who would thus lose his money. Further than that, the goods after seizure would have to be held to await the introduction of a wages claim. That, too, would mean inconvenience by the holding up of money. There was no limit provided. Wages might have been earned in five years and they would come before the security.

The Attorney General: I gave instructions for a limitation to be put in the Bill,

but I did not see a draft of the Bill. I have explained that.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: The Bill distinctly set out that wages standing over for any length of time would have the first claim.

The Attorney General: I am prepared to accept a limitation.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: Although the Attorney General was prepared to accept a limitation he (Hon. J. Mitchell) was not prepared to move any amendment because the whole clause ought to go out.

Mr. Dwyer: It is the best part of the Bill.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: It would not be possible to improve the clause in a way which would prove satisfactory to everyone. On the face of it it looked as if we were doing something to advantage the workman. As a matter of fact this would be to his disadvantage. No one wanted to see a workman done out of a penny of his wages. Men who did work should not be forgotten.

Mr. Green: How would you secure their wages?

Hon. J. MITCHELL: We should be fair to the worker and tell him frankly what was good for him.

Mr. Bolton: That is what we do. You have never done that.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: We wanted the workman to be protected, but we wanted to be fair to everybody. This clause would have an ill effect. The wage earner could command his wages weekly, and he could recover under a special Act. We allowed the wage earner a special advantage by being able to go to any court and sue. He was not compelled to wait for a local court day. He could take out a summons and in 48 hours the employer would have to answer it to satisfy the magistrate why he had not paid. This advantage was given to the worker by a Liberal Government. It was not his desire to say anything against the wage earner. Everyone's wish was that he should be protected to the fullest extent, but where money had been deliberately raised against a security, that security should come first.

Mr. GREEN: This was absolutely the most important clause in the measure, and the Attorney General should certainly not permit it to be deleted. The member for Northam pointed out that it would result in grave danger to capital lent on bills of sale if wages had the first claim. We knew that the amount for wages, compared with the total capital invested in an industry, was a small matter. We knew also in the past that the workers had been the people who had absolutely suffered, while those who had been granting money on bills of sale in many instances had fairly large interests and had got in and secured everything. The member for Perth, if his professional etiquette did not forbid him, could give an illustration of something that took place recently, but no such etiquette forbade him (Mr. Green) from referring to this incident. In March Mr. Zimpel, a well known furniture man in Perth, who had a bill of sale over the Royal George cafe, secured everything, and the workers in that particular instance lost what was due to them. There was a sum of £38 10s. due to the cook, as wages.

Mr. Broun: Why did he allow the wages to accumulate?

Mr. GREEN: Because he trusted the employer just as the farming employees trusted many of the cookies. The hon. member knew that in this country there were hundreds of men clearing land and waiting for the burning off so that the cookie could draw money from the Agricultural Bank, and so the employees trusted the farmer. If we took the dictum of the hon. member it would mean that his district would not go forward, because the workers would not trust their employers. In the instance of the Royal George cafe the employees trusted the owner, just as the farm employees trusted the cookie. The man in the instance of the cafe may have been in difficulties to a certain extent, but the point that should be stressed was that the cook was done out of £38 10s. for wages, and the object of the clause was to see that in the future these people received what was due to them. There was nothing revolutionary in a pro-

posal of that kind. In the same instance there were two waitresses, to each of whom £1 7s. 6d. was owing. It was not a large amount, but on the arguments of the member for Northam they were to be done out of their money, which they had earned by hard work. There was also a pantryman who had to forego 30s., and a waiter to whom £7 was due. The Attorney General should not listen to such shallow arguments as those used by the member for Northam. It seemed monstrous that any hon. member should advocate that a man such as Mr. Zimpel, who was worth thousands of pounds, should be able to do as he did in the case of the Royal George cafe, and secure the cream of everything and allow the employees in that establishment to go without what was due to them.

Mr. DWYER: As the member for Kalgoorlie had stated, this clause was easily the most important in the Bill, and if our Bills of Sale Act required to be amended in any direction it was certainly this.

Hon. J. Mitchell: Why not protect the butcher, the baker, and the boarding-house keeper?

Mr. DWYER: It was only necessary to call the attention of the Committee to the fact that the protection in regard to wages was recognised in the bankruptcy laws of this State and of Great Britain, and as regards bills of sale the protection of wages was known and recognised in Germany. Surely that was good enough for us. The bankruptcy laws protected the wages of a clerk or a servant coming under the definition of workman when a property was seized or when it got into the possession of the Official Receiver. What did the clause under discussion mean? It implied that a verdict had to be obtained in the court and then the court had to be moved by ordinary execution process before he got anything, and when the execution was in the hands of the bailiff it had, so far as wages were concerned, superior right to other claims under the Bills of Sale Act. The clause was an eminently reasonable one. In country places people must trust the employer or get nothing. They

worked on and worked on and had to await the result of the harvest before they received one halfpenny.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: Nonsense.

Mr. DWYER: There were many such cases. Surely it was a reasonable thing to expect that persons who devoted their labour to production and to furthering the business interests of the employer should be able to reap at least the wages which the employer had agreed to pay them. One would think that the worker was doing everything purely and simply for his own benefit, and it was often forgotten that in the case of a bill of sale the worker was working just as much for the benefit of the holder of the bill of sale as for his own benefit or the benefit of the giver of the bill of sale. He was helping the holder to keep the security valuable, and he was entitled to receive his wages for the work he put in.

Mr. FOLEY: This clause applied to the mining industry to a very great extent. Many small mine owners had to give bills of sale over their property, and the men working on these mines did not get paid weekly or fortnightly like the ordinary wage-earner. They trusted the employer and waited from crushing to crushing for their wages. They knew very often that if their wages did not come out of the ground they would not get them, and when the money did come out of the ground the workers who caused the wealth to accrue to the owner should have first call on it.

Mr. Wisdom: You cannot have a bill of sale over stuff you have not got out of the ground.

Mr. FOLEY: The bill of sale was over the property generally, and covered not only the product of the mine, but the machinery used in the production. By this clause the worker would be protected from both the man for whom he was directly working and the holder of the bill of sale if the product was going into his hands.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 8 to 12—agreed to.

Clause 13—Amendment of Section 18 of the Bills of Sale Amendment Act, 1906:

Hon. J. MITCHELL: This clause was re-enacting the original clause in the Act of 1899, which for some reason has been amended in 1906. The stock which were the subject of frequent sales were sheep, cattle and horses, and if a bill of sale could be obtained over them without notice that should be sufficient. The Minister, however, wished to include mules, camels, pigs and poultry. If there was any reason for re-enacting the clause of 1899 he had no objection, but he thought it was only necessary for the definition of "stock" to include those animals which were usually dealt in.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: The reason for proposing the deletion of the definition of "stock" in the amending Act of 1906 was that the principal Act of 1899 gave a definition which was more comprehensive. He did not see why we should restrict the definition as was done by the 1906 Act. There were now two definitions of "stock," one under the principal Act of 1899 and the other under the amending Act of 1906, and the clause was simply removing one definition so that there might be only one remaining.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: The amended definition of 1906 was the law, and was the only existing definition of "stock." He was content, however, to allow the amendment to pass although he thought it was probably unwise, because it removed that special protection which notice gave in the case of mules, camels, pigs and poultry, to an unnecessary extent.

Clause put and passed.

New clause:

Hon. J. MITCHELL (for Mr. A. E. Piesse) moved—

That the following be added to stand as Clause 14:—"Section 18 of the Bills of Sale Act of 1906 is amended by adding after the word 'consideration' in the third line thereof the following:—'or to any bill of sale over crops sown or growing upon, or about to be sown in or grown upon, the land mentioned in the bill of sale, such bill of sale being granted to secure payment of the purchase money of seed, fertilisers, bags, or twine for use by the grantor in put-

ting in, taking off, and harvesting such crops.'"

The desire of the hon. member was to make it possible for the merchant to advance wheat and fertiliser to the farmer and have one bill of sale covering the lot. That was a decided improvement on the existing law, and a very necessary amendment. This provision would mean a saving of money to the farmer and would be creating a security which would enable those having money to lend or wheat and fertiliser to advance to do business.

New clause put and passed.

New clause—amendment of Section 7:

Hon. J. MITCHELL (for Mr. A. E. Piesse) moved—

That the following be added to stand as Clause 4:—"Section 7 of the principal Act is amended by inserting after the words 'sown or growing' in paragraph (1) thereof the words 'or about to be sown or grown.'"

New clause passed.

New clause—amendment of Section 39:

Hon. J. MITCHELL (for Mr. A. E. Piesse) moved—

That the following be added to stand as Clause 10:—"Section 39 of the principal Act is amended by inserting after the word 'upon,' in the third line thereof, the words 'or about to be sown in or grown upon.'"

New clause passed.

New clause—Amendment of Third Schedule:

Hon. J. MITCHELL (for Mr. A. E. Piesse) moved—

That the following be added to stand as Clause 15:—"The Third Schedule to the principal Act is amended by inserting after the word 'upon' the words 'or about to be sown in or grown upon.'"

New clause passed.

New clause:

Hon. J. MITCHELL moved—

That the following be added to stand as Clause 16:—" (1.) When any goods have been let on hire with the right to the hirer to acquire the goods under any agreement hereafter made, and the lender has, after the passing of this

Act, lawfully seized the goods, then (notwithstanding anything in the agreement) the hirer may, within three days after such seizure, by notice in writing, require the lender to offer the goods for sale by public auction. (2.) The hirer shall, with such notice, deposit with the lender a sum equal to five pounds per centum of the amount which, together with the sum paid by the hirer prior to the seizure, equals the sum required to be paid for the purchase of the goods under the agreement. (3.) If such notice is given and deposit paid the lender shall, within fourteen days after the receipt of such notice, offer the goods for sale by public auction. (4.) If, at such auction, a bid is received equal to or in excess of the amount required to be paid to complete the purchase of the goods under the agreement and to defray the cost of seizure and sale (the sum paid by the hirer prior to the seizure being taken into account) the goods shall be sold, and the lender shall pay to the hirer the balance (if any) of the proceeds of sale remaining after satisfaction of such amount as aforesaid, and repay to the hirer the deposit paid by him; but if at such auction no bid is received equal to such amount as aforesaid, the deposit paid by the hirer shall be forfeited, except so far as it exceeds the cost of such auction, and such excess (if any) shall be repaid by the lender to the hirer. (5.) If a notice is duly given and the deposit paid by a hirer pursuant to this section, and the lender shall not duly offer the goods for sale by auction, the hirer may recover from the lender all moneys paid to the lender by the hirer under the agreement, so far as such moneys exceed a fair and reasonable rent for the goods during the period of hire, the amount of depreciation or damage sustained by the goods during or in consequence of the letting thereof, and the reasonable costs of and incidental to the seizure. (6.) No hirer shall be bound by any contract in so far as the contract purports to deprive him of any right under this section. (7.) Nothing in section

fifty-four of the principal Act shall prevent the application of this section to or in respect of any goods comprised therein.

His desire was to add something which would bring hire agreements into line, to some extent, with bills of sale. Under the law as at present a hirer of goods might pay the owner 80 per cent. of the value of the goods and, upon default in one payment, could have the goods forfeited absolutely. No honest dealer probably would do it, but it had happened that a hirer of an article valued at, say, £80, had paid the greater portion of the amount, and the goods, being seized and sold, had realised £30 or £40 more than was owing, and that £30 or £40 went into the pockets of the owner at the cost of the hirer. The law should make that impossible. A hire agreement was a convenient form of security and might extend to plants of considerable value. The new clause would make it imperative for the owner, if the hirer demanded it, to have the seized goods submitted to public auction, and the surplus above the amount owing returned to the hirer. This would be reasonable and only right. He had been told of cases where merchants had had goods seized and sold and had returned the surplus, but there were other cases where they had not returned the surplus. In any case we should protect the hirer after the merchant got the money he was justly entitled to. It was to be hoped the Attorney General would realise that he (Hon. J. Mitchell) had no desire to stop the use of the hire agreement, but only that there should be absolute fairness between the two parties in the transaction.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: While heartily in sympathy with the hon. member, and having no doubt that if these words were incorporated in the proper place, he would support the proposal, he was unfortunately of the opinion that we could not include the proposed new clause in an amendment to the Bills of Sale Act. It was really an amendment to the Sale of Goods Act, and was not at all cognate with the purposes he (the

Attorney General) had in view in proposing this measure. The Bill dealt purely and simply with registration and the effects of registration, whereas the proposed new clause would really make a new law relating to hire agreements. A new law was required, but this was not the place to put it.

Progress reported.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

BILL—PLANT DISEASES.

Second Reading.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. T. H. Bath) in moving the second reading said: This measure represents an amendment of the Insect Pests Act, under which we have been operating, so far as the supervision of orchards and other agricultural pursuits in the State are concerned, but in order to make the Bill more acceptable to the public most interested, the name has been altered to the Plant Diseases Bill. I may say at the outset that the main object of the measure is to invest the officers of the Agricultural Department, and more particularly those under the control of the Commissioner for the fruit industry with greater powers than they enjoy at the present time under the operation of the Insect Pests Act, and these greater powers, drastic as they may appear to hon. members on a perusal of the Bill, have been found necessary as the result of the administration of that particular branch of the Agricultural Department. For the information of hon. members I may point out the particular provisions in which this measure differs from the Insect Pests Act under which we have been operating since 1898. In the first place we are taking power to deal with neglected or abandoned orchards. At the present time it is impossible for our inspectors to take action in connection with such orchards unless they can find specific evidence of disease; but it is recognised by the fruit inspectors that these neglected or abandoned orchards constitute a very serious menace to those orchardists who are carrying on horticultural

tural pursuits as an investment or as a means of livelihood, and who recognise the absolute necessity for coping with the diseases and keeping their orchards scrupulously clean. Instances have frequently come under my notice in the guise of reports from inspectors, showing where dead and dying trees remain in their original position in the land, constituting, not only a bad advertisement for the State, but what is more serious, depreciating the value of the holdings near at hand, and, in addition, giving rise to the danger of becoming affected by disease at any time. Necessarily so long as these neglected or abandoned orchards are in existence, they occupy a portion of the time of the inspecting staff of the department, and we are taking power under this Bill to notify the owners or occupiers of such orchards and giving them sufficient time to deal with them, and failing their taking action, power is vested in the staff of the Fruit Industries Commissioner to deal with the matter. Then, too, we are taking steps—and this is as a precautionary measure—to prevent orchards from becoming infected. Under the existing Act, the Department has no power to compel orchardists to clean up fallen and decaying fruit unless it can be proved that the fallen and decaying fruit is actually infected with a specific disease. It is well known that our careful orchardists make a regular practice of collecting fallen fruit and destroying it as a precautionary measure, whether they find it infected or not, in order to reduce to a minimum the possibility of infection of the marketable fruit. This power is specially required when dealing with the fruit fly, an insect pest which is becoming a serious menace more particularly in those districts adjacent to the metropolitan area, but which has also been discovered in some of our districts remote from the metropolitan area. It can easily be understood that when the fruit flies first make their appearance in a district, and are few in number, there is a big possibility of the pest not being so readily noticed; but if fallen fruit were regularly and systematically destroyed, the danger of infection would be considerably

lessened, and it is with the object of giving to the inspectors power to serve a notice on the owners or occupiers of orchards to destroy this fruit, and power to exercise compulsion whether they can find specific evidence of disease or not, that this particular amendment is inserted.

Mr. Turvey: Is the method of destruction specified?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: Not specifically in the measure, but under the power which is conferred to make regulations to carry out the provisions of the Act, the method will no doubt be specified. Then we also seek power to enforce the stripping, on days to be specified, of fruits which are termed non-commercial, and included in these are such fruits as citronelles, Shaddocks, Seville oranges, limes, and kumquat, so as to prevent them acting as a carry-over for the fruit-fly during the winter months. The result of the investigations made up to date—and in this particular direction the Chief Inspector has been very active and has interested himself to the fullest extent in order to try and devise means for minimising and ultimately eradicating the fruit fly pest—has proved that the disease is carried over from one season to another, particularly through what are termed the non-commercial fruits, and in some centres through the existence of a particular variety of box-thorn hedge which bears a small berry which has been proved to be a source of infection and a means of carrying over the fly, that is, giving it a host in which to exist, and it is thus enabled to continue its depredations amongst fruits, more particularly the soft fruits, and cause destruction and loss to a considerable extent annually. The proposal is that these shall be stripped on a particular day in the year, and it is hoped that by this means one source of infection will be eliminated. It was pointed out at the Fruit-growers' conference—I think by the member for Toodyay—that the fruit-fly did not carry over the winter in fruit in his district, but hibernated in the ground; but recently the chief inspector found several oranges in the Toodyay district infected during

September, clearly showing that this fruit is providing a host for the pest during the winter months. Another proposal which is embodied in the measure and which will arouse discussion, criticism, and perhaps some opposition, is the specific power which is given to prevent the use, storage, or carriage within the State, or within specific portions of the State, of second-hand fruit cases or bags. It is known that secondhand cases are frequently disseminators of disease, and that the spread is caused by infected fruit being placed in the cases and the infection thus transferred to the cases. After the cases have been emptied they may be taken to a clean orchard to be refilled, with the result that the infection is left in the orchard. Fruit fly can easily be distributed through the medium of secondhand cases, and the department has limited the use of these cases by preventing them from being carried from one district to another. That is all for which we have power under the Insect Pests Amendment Act, but the power is now sought to, if necessary, entirely prohibit the use of secondhand cases in the State, or in any portion of the State which the Governor-in-Council may proclaim. It is possible that some means may be devised by which fruit cases, after having been once used, could be submitted to some system of disinfection, which could be cheaply operated and which would preclude any possibility of the disease being transferred from one district to another, and which, as a result, would enable us to utilise secondhand cases. I have discussed that matter with Mr. Moody, the Fruit Industries Commissioner, but he informs me that until some such scheme of an acceptable character is propounded we will be acting wisely, and only observing a necessary precaution, in taking to ourselves this power to regulate and if necessary prevent the use of secondhand fruit cases. A further alteration provided for in the measure is that which renders the destruction of prunings compulsory on all orchardists. At the present time there are many who not only destroy the prunings from grape vines,

but also the prunings from their orchards; and although it involves a certain amount of expense and trouble I think that those orchardists find that the expenditure is more than recouped by the fact that they thus free their orchards from the danger of infection in this direction. On the other hand, many growers allow the prunings from their orchards to remain in heaps for a considerable time. An instance recently came under the notice of the officers of the department where prunings from an orchard infected with San Jose scale had been carted to a rubbish tip and there allowed to remain, although orchards free from this scale were in the vicinity of the tip. Power is taken under the measure to have all prunings destroyed within a reasonable time after pruning. A further power which may be regarded as somewhat drastic is that which seeks to prohibit the growing of nursery stock amongst orchard trees. Here again the experience gained in the work of the fruit industries branch has impressed us with the necessity of making this provision. In a small nursery in a suburb of Perth young plants were being grown among orchard trees although the latter were infected with the San Jose scale. We take every precaution at the port of entry with nursery stock imported from the other States in regard to inspection, fumigation, and, if necessary, the destruction of those importations if there is any possibility of infection of our stock. It is just as essential in the interest of orchardists that this provision should be embodied in the Bill so that there may be no possibility of nursery stock grown within the State carrying infection to the orchards of those who hitherto have been able to keep those orchards clean.

Mr. Turvey interjected.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: No, not in this measure, because such a provision would be foreign to the title and scope of the Bill. In this instance the nursery was at once quarantined, and the young plants not allowed to be sold. But to prevent the risk of young trees being infected by those

growing alongside, power should be taken by regulation for prohibiting plants being grown among the trees in an orchard. In another clause we are bringing this measure into line with the Commonwealth quarantine legislation in connection with the prohibition of exportation of fruit infected with the San Jose scale. Hon. members will remember that during last March, prior to the beginning of the fruit export season in this State, West Australian orchardists were very much exercised in their minds at a statement made by the Commonwealth quarantine authorities that it was their intention to enforce the Commonwealth Act in this respect, and that they were going to prohibit the exportation of fruit infected with this scale. Representations were made to me as Minister controlling the department, and, as Acting Premier, when in Melbourne I waited on the Minister for Trade and Customs and asked that, so far as this State was concerned, the regulations should be waived during the then closely approaching export season. On my giving an undertaking that everything possible would be done by our officers and by the Government to ensure spraying and the taking of preventive means, the Minister agreed to my request. The result was that those who feared that they would be prevented from getting their fruit away were enabled to do so. At that time a promise was given, for we not only stated that we were making every effort to deal with this particular plant disease, but that we were prepared to bring our own legislation into line with the Commonwealth Act. Although that may not be considered necessary in view of the fact that the Commonwealth Act operates over the whole of the Commonwealth, yet as an earnest of our sincerity, as an evidence of our desire to cope with the disease, we have embodied in the Bill a provision similar to that in the Commonwealth legislation. While some of our orchardists may have regarded recent prosecutions as being somewhat arbitrary, as not having given them time to take necessary measures, yet in view of the promise we had given

to the Commonwealth Government we found it necessary to initiate those prosecutions, not only as an intimation to those most concerned, but also as a general intimation to the orchardists of the State that they must comply with the regulation and take the necessary steps to eliminate this disease from their orchards. It would be a very serious thing if, through neglect or acquiescence in neglect on the part of orchardists by the officers of the Agricultural Department, the export industry which we have been building up and which is steadily increasing was threatened owing to the fact that the export of our fruit was prohibited in consequence of the existence of this disease. One of the most promising markets, that of Germany, where during the recent season probably the best prices were realised, the authorities there have a prohibition against the introduction of fruit infected with this scale, and if we were not prepared to deal with it we would probably find that the doors of the German ports would be closed against our apples owing to the fact that some of them might be found to be infected with San Jose scale.

Mr. Turvey: Is Germany the only one?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: At the present time I think Germany is the only place making a direct prohibition. But when members realise how considerable was the proportion of our fruit which went to Germany, and realise also how good were the prices, they will recognise that it will pay us to meet the German objection in this regard. We also take power to include the owner, as well as the occupier of an orchard, amongst those on whom notice may be served relating to treatment or to action as required under the various provisions of the measure. Under the existing law the occupier is the responsible person, and we have found that in small town properties, in orchards in the metropolitan area, and also, of course, in other parts of the State, changes of tenants frequently prevent us from fastening the obligation upon the right person. We propose to still retain the power to serve the notice on the occupier, and to

require him to carry out any work which may be prescribed in connection with the eradication of disease. But it is also essential that we should have, in addition to this, power to compel the owner to do this, failing acquiescence on the part of the occupier. In some small town properties we have found tenants change when required to destroy trees infected with codlin moth. After the notice has been served a change of tenant has taken place and the work of the department hampered accordingly. One of our biggest difficulties has been in connection with gardens run by Chinese. These people have either failed to savee, or refused to savee. The fact remains that they very often run gardens in which there are a number of trees bearing a very neglected appearance. As a matter of fact, many outbreaks which have occurred, and which have entailed considerable activity and expense on the Agricultural Department, more particularly in connection with spasmodic outbreaks of codlin moth, have been in those gardens with a few neglected trees, gardens which have been rented or run by Chinese. And in my opinion if the measure does not go through with this provision included, we will have a continuation of the difficulties we have had to encounter in the past. We also provide in a new clause for the departmental officers to have the right to question the vendors of fruit as to where that fruit was obtained, and I may say that while this power is regarded as necessary, we have in the majority of cases met with the utmost courtesy and received every assistance from those conducting auctioneering rooms and other agencies for the disposal of fruit. We provide in this measure for the registration of fruit shops, markets, and auction rooms, in addition to orchards, vineyards, and nurseries, which were previously provided for in the existing Act. Shops, markets and auction rooms are included in this Bill so that the department may have a record of the addresses of these places and arrange for any inspections which may be regarded as necessary. In the clause which gives power to make

regulations, we have a provision which aims at safeguarding growers in the matter of obtaining reliable spraying material, in the same way as at the present time the producers are safeguarded in the matter of obtaining reliable fertilisers. Those represent the altered provisions in this measure. I may point out that the Bill represents a considerable alteration in some respects of the existing law. Some of its provisions may be regarded as essentially drastic, but when hon. members realise what care has been necessary to build up the orchard industry in this State, when they realise how satisfactory has been the progress made, and when they realise that those who are securing the best returns from their orchards are those who are most scrupulous in carrying out these precautions against the spread of disease, they will appreciate how essential it is for us to safeguard the future by assuring to ourselves these powers for coping with plant diseases. I just wish to say in conclusion, in connection with a proposal recently put forward by the Fruit Growers' Conference for the purpose of dealing more particularly with the fruit fly, that the Government after careful consideration have not seen their way clear to embody that proposal in this measure, and carry out the scheme of taxation which was advocated and adopted by that conference. In the first place, the differentiation between the large and small orchards was crude, and while we realised that what is termed the small back-yard fruit garden may often be a source of disease, it was not the best way to secure the eradication of such disease by imposing a tax representing the minimum prescribed of £1 on the owners of these small back garden orchards, for this reason, that there are many of them who are just as careful in regard to their trees and just as proud of them—

Mr. Moore: And many not.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I am coming to that. And rather than impose this tax which would have been very severe we propose to deal with

these in common with other orchards under the drastic provisions which are embodied in this measure. If the owner of a small plot with a few trees is regardless of his responsibility, he will carry out these precautions and will be just as anxious to keep them clean as the owner of any large orchard, but if, on the other hand he is neglectful, and his garden is a source of danger and a menace to others, then, under these provisions we can either compel him to keep them clean or destroy them altogether. And I think, after mature consideration, we will probably find this will be just as effective as the scheme proposed by the Fruitgrowers' Conference, whilst we will avoid the vexation and opposition which would be inevitably aroused by a proposal for a tax which, in order to raise sufficient money, must be oppressive on the owners of small blocks. With these remarks, I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. Frank Wilson debate adjourned.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES.

Message from the Governor received and read, transmitting the annual Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the financial year 1913-14 and recommending appropriations.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1913-14.

In Committee of Supply.

The House having resolved into Committee of Supply for receiving the annual Financial Statement, Mr. Holman in the Chair,

The PREMIER and TREASURER (Hon. J. Scaddan) said: For the third time since I assumed the responsible position of Premier and Colonial Treasurer of this State it falls to my lot to unfold the Annual Budget, or the 24th Financial Statement of the Government of Western Australia, and to furnish this Committee with those details to which it is annually entitled when resolving itself

into a Committee of Supply. On the last occasion I animadverted upon the fact that it is regrettable that, from whatever cause, the Treasurer's financial statement was not made to the Committee at an earlier date. I recalled how previous Treasurers had sinned in this respect, and although my good intentions on the previous occasion were frustrated from various causes, I found it was impossible to deliver the Budget until the third week in October. However, I promised to improve upon my predecessors, and also upon my own action in this respect, and I am glad to say that I am to-night in a position to fulfil that promise by bringing down the Budget at an earlier date than last year, namely, one day earlier. It is due to the Committee and the country, however, that I should explain that I had all preliminary arrangements completed for making my annual statement some four weeks ago, but, in the course of the ordinary office routine, it was seen plainly that the visit of the latest additions to the Commonwealth Navy and the attendant ceremony, and the visit of our English fellow-Parliamentarians, would make such large inroads upon my time, that I fixed this date, determined that nothing whatsoever should be the cause of any further postponement. I shall try to avoid labouring any particular subject, though conscious at the same time that it will be absolutely necessary for me to dwell at length upon a few items of more than passing importance to the State. I am adopting the usual course, however, of simultaneously placing in front of members a series of returns which it has been found so advisable to attach to previous Budget statements, which in themselves are informative, and which at the same time will consequentially dispense with the necessity for my going into details. With these few remarks I now turn directly to the task allotted to me, and trust that in asking for the forbearance of hon. members, I shall not, in the language of scripture, "weary them with my much speaking."

Premier's visit to London.

May I first mention my visit to London? Since the delivery of my last financial

statement I had the honour of representing this State at that centre. I take this opportunity of stating that I believe that in my capacity of Colonial Treasurer the visit was well timed, and has proved to have been in the best interests of the State. During my journeyings on the Continent, in England, and also in America, I seized every opportunity of inquiring into and investigating matters which would be of service to me upon my return. I need hardly say that the principal matters dealt with during my visit to the world's metropolis were the flotation of our last loan and the attending to the final stages in connection with the acquisition of the Perth tramway system. As the representative of this Parliament and of the State of Western Australia, I was received loyally on all hands from His Majesty and the Secretary of State for the Colonies downwards. I am further sure that the opportunities afforded me of speaking must have tended to dispel, to some extent at least, the misunderstandings and misrepresentations respecting the administration of a Labour Government. Our financial advisers, and men high up in the commercial world, on different occasions assured me that they were perfectly satisfied with the manner in which I placed the affairs of the State before the English communities which assembled from time to time at the various public functions, and that it would redound to the benefit of Western Australia. Whilst on this subject, I am glad to say that I was afforded the opportunity of meeting many prominent politicians, and I am more than ever convinced that an interchange of visits of politicians, such as that which recently took place within these walls, when a number of members of the Empire Parliamentary Association paid a visit, however brief, to our City, is of the greatest value to all concerned. Lord Emmott, the permanent Under Secretary for the Colonies, who was leader of the party recently visiting our shores, strongly emphasised the value of such an interchange of visits, but at the same time shared my views to the extent that under no circumstances should they be carried out within too limited a period. The ex-

tent of my inquiries during the visit to England, which, by the way, was completed within a period of four months, covered such subjects as new office for the State in London, our timber industry, electrification of railways, the fruit industry, emigration conditions, extension of our pearling industry, manufacture and supply of steel rails, utilisation of scantling from our State sawmills, etcetera.

London Agency.

As announced in the Press interviews shortly after my return from London, the Government purchased Savoy House situated in the Strand, and all who have seen it express the opinion that it is ideally situated and suitable for our purposes. The new offices are to be equipped in a manner which will admit of better administration, greater convenience to the public, proper accommodation for the staff, and window display. There is no doubt that the figure at which these premises have been secured represents a very satisfactory financial transaction on behalf of the State—one which could be turned into a substantial profit at any moment.

Public Debt.

Dealing with the public debt, the transactions connected with the public debt for the year were as follows:—Flotations were £4,049,388, redemptions amounted to £56,475, which leaves a net loan flotation of £3,992,913, less sinking fund augmentation £390,611, making a net increase of our public debt by loan flotations of £3,602,302. The flotations comprise £3,000,000 raised in London and the balance locally. I will refer in detail to these directly. The redemptions were £48,775 of local inscribed stock, which became payable under the terms of the issue on the 1st January last, and £7,700 of the 1878 to 1884 debentures under the system of annual drawings conducted by the Crown agents. The gross public debt of the State on the 30th June was £30,276,436, but as a set off against that amount we had £3,309,345 in the sinking fund, and £1,104,847 of unexpended loan money. There was also a sum of

£650,000 which had been transferred from loan proceeds to the Trust Fund to meet Treasury bills which became due in London on the 1st July last. These three amounts reduce the public debt to £25,212,194, being equal to £80 5s. 6d. per head of the population, which is an increase of £7 3s. 5d. per capita for the financial year. Although the public debt is £80 5s. 6d. per head of the population in the actual indebtedness, I do not consider that money borrowed to be advanced under the Agricultural Bank and the Workers' Homes Acts, which money is lent on ample security, can be fairly taken into account, although, of course, it is now a part of our loan raisings. It is repayable by the individuals concerned and should not be placed in the same category as loan money actually expended upon public works or services, for which the whole of the community is more directly responsible to the stockholder. I think, therefore, that I am justified in reducing the debt per capita by the amounts to which I refer, and this would leave us with a net debt per head of £78 19s. 5d., an increase of £5 17s. 4d. per head.

Sinking Fund.

The sinking fund which has been established for the redemption of our loans has now reached, as I stated, the respectable total of £3,309,345, being an increase of £390,612 for the year—an increase being accounted for by contributions from revenue £251,278, and investments and interest £139,334. The fund, as hon. members are aware, is controlled by trustees in London, and with the exception of £390,596 invested by the Crown agents in other Government stocks, and £4,048 held in cash for redemption debentures, the money is invested in the various stocks of the State. Full details of these investments are enumerated on pages 118 and 119 of the Public Accounts, which, I understand, have now been distributed to hon. members. In addition to the actual amount in the fund as stated, there was £78,178 in the Trust Fund awaiting payment to the trustees, but against this £48,775, representing payment of portion of the 1913 to 1923 local stock, has to be

met. I am in communication with the trustees upon the question of defraying this from the sinking fund, and in the meanwhile the amount has been charged in the balance sheet to advances. The usual Budget returns have been prepared and are available for the Committee. The Public Accounts, which, as I said, have also been distributed to-night, contain a mass of information and deal, I believe, with every phase of the finances.

Revenue and Expenditure, 1912-13.

In forecasting the revenue for the past financial year I anticipated receiving £4,596,962, but the actual amount was £4,596,659. I, therefore, over-estimated the revenue to the extent of £303. I think this is a record in the history of the State. If hon. members will turn to page 10 of the Public Accounts, they will see what amounts were over-estimated and under-estimated. I over-estimated the land tax to the extent of £15,481, the income tax by £2,225, the dividend duty by £1,536, the stamp duty by £4,347, and licenses by £3,688. Again, in regard to land, I over-estimated sales by £11,255, timber licenses, royalties, etcetera by £4,566, and under mining, gold mining lease rental, by £3,485, other sources £204, other minerals lease rental, £510, and other mining sources £89. In Budget Return No. 1 the over-estimates and under-estimates are summarised. With regard to the first item of revenue which was deficient, namely Commonwealth—hon. members will see that I over-estimated that to a slight extent—the reduction was mostly due to the fact that the estimate was based by the Commonwealth authorities upon an over-estimate of population. Of course, I cannot be held responsible for that. We accept invariably the estimate given to us by the Commonwealth Treasurer. It will be remembered that the payments to the State from this source were computed on the population as on the 31st December of each year, which has not proved to be an altogether satisfactory arrangement for this State, as the population is generally less at that particular date than during other periods, and in any future financial agreements with the Commonwealth this

matter should not be overlooked. Another item showing a considerable decrease is land tax. This was due to the proposed amended Land Tax Bill not having been passed. With regard to State hotels £18,000 of the amount was due to the non-establishment of proposed new hotels, and £1,000 owing to the failure to obtain a license for the Rottneest hostel, which I had taken into account. Owing to the same reasons, there was a decrease on the expenditure side of the State hotels of £16,600. The State steamships decrease was a natural deviation upon the inauguration of a new service and the same remark applies to the State ferries. The Perth electric trams were not taken over and there is a corresponding decrease in the anticipated expenditure. The under-estimates of revenue were probate, etcetera, as shown in Return No. 1. The only item which I think requires an explanation from me is harbour dues. In this instance the amount of £30,844 was transferred from trust, where it had been placed as a contribution to interest and sinking fund on account of the Fremantle dock. It was anticipated that the Fremantle Harbour Trust would take over the dock and become liable for these charges, but as the dock was not transferred they became a charge on the ordinary revenue and, therefore, the amount in question was a proper transfer to revenue. On the expenditure side there was an under-estimate of £22,836. Hon. members will see in the return exactly what I under-estimated. The amount under special Acts was made up of public debt charges £23,518, University of Western Australia £1,191, Court of Arbitration £400. With regard to the public debt charges, when the Estimates were prepared it was uncertain at what rate money could be borrowed, or how much would be obtained, and the increase is due to a quarter per cent. additional being paid in the case of £1,000,000 borrowed on the London market; also to additional interest on other raisings. The particulars of these I will detail later. The increase in the expenditure under railways was due to a general augmentation in cost of working, and I will refer to

this later. The over-estimates of expenditure are shown in the return. These were due to a general saving in the expenditure.

Consolidated Revenue Fund.

The position of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the year was :—Deficit from previous year £121,111, expenditure for the year £4,787,063, making a total expenditure including the deficit carried forward from the previous year of £4,908,174. To meet this we have revenue for the year £4,596,659, which left an accumulated deficit on the 30th June, 1913, of £311,515, being £23,140 more than was anticipated by me in my Budget speech. I here interpolate by saying that that is almost wholly covered by the difference in the interest charges in loan raisings.

State Balance Sheet.

The next Return No. 2 is a statement supplying the usual synopsis of the balance-sheet of the State. In this return the balance for which the Treasurer was liable on the 30th June last is shown. It will be noticed that the amount of the Treasurer's liability totals £10,958,616, this being an increase compared with the previous year of £920,256. The various debit items are :—Sinking fund £3,327,595—this represents the amount of the accumulated sinking fund, and although the Treasurer is nominally liable for the amount the whole sum is held by trustees in London; General Loan Fund £1,104,847—this is the balance of unexpended loan money inclusive (with the exception of a small amount) of the proceeds of the last London flotation; the next item is Savings Bank £4,564,918, which represents an increase of £139,246 in Savings Bank deposits, as compared with the previous year. The balance of the liability consists of trust and deposits accounts generally, £1,961,256. On the credit side of the balance sheet are—Advances £146,309—these are the usual advances of the Public Account; investments and sinking fund £8,011,690, these are investments all properly secured; stores £927,427—included in this

balance are railways stores £622,797. The whole of this amount is practically chargeable to loan, and therefore must be viewed as a "set off" against the balance of the General Loan Fund; cash in London £664,756—this amount is, unfortunately, required to meet Treasury bills falling due on the 1st July; remittances and cash £869,919; and the last, but not the least item in the return is the Consolidated Revenue Fund deficit of £311,515. The next return deals with loan authorisations and flotations. My remarks on the public debt and sinking fund will cover the transactions in this and the following returns. It will be sufficient for me to say that Return No. 6 shows a balance of £3,205,542, available for flotation on 30th June last under the last Loan Act, and this will be dealt with elsewhere.

Trade, Production, Population, etcetera.

Now, Sir, having made reference to our loan flotations in particular, I think it would be right that I should at this stage make some reference to our trade, production and population. In Return No. 8 the progress of the State is indicated over a period of four years, and the return is, therefore, both interesting and instructive. The outstanding feature of the return in my opinion is the production of wheat, which has increased from 5,897,540 bushels in 1910-11, which was a normal season, to 9,168,594 bushels for last year. In 1911-12 the production was only 4,368,904 bushels, but the rainfall for that year was below normal. Other important items are the imports and exports. It will be noticed that, excluding gold, the exports for last year show an increase of £1,248,653 over the previous year. The area of land leased has increased during the year from 11,595,445 acres to 21,170,037 acres, which is an indication that my colleague, the Hon. the Minister for Lands, has been most successful in his efforts in this direction.

Estimated Deficit.

I now approach the most important, and I may say the most difficult portion, of

my address, that being to deal with the finances of the current year. I may say at the outset that, notwithstanding that the balancing of the State ledger is not yet in sight, I do not propose for the current year to impose any severe form of taxation, relying rather on the natural recuperation of the State, and the exercise of the strictest economy wherever possible, to bring our "incomings" and "outgoings" into line. But in the meantime I propose an amendment to our existing forms of taxation, but not such as will be overbearing and thus retard the development of the State. I can foresee that, given a fair run of good seasons, and with the increased activities of the State's enterprises, an improvement in the finances must eventuate. However, I see no prospect of reducing the deficit this year, but to be straightforward I may say at once that I anticipate a shortage in the year's revenue and expenditure accounts of £135,206. In preparing the revenue and expenditure for the year I have attempted to disclose a true position. It will be seen that I have estimated a revenue for the current year of £5,393,024, that being an increase of £796,366 upon the amount actually received last year. I estimate that the expenditure will reach a sum of £5,528,230, being an increase of £741,167 upon the expenditure of the previous year. As I commenced the year with a deficit of £311,515, I anticipate an accumulated deficit at the end of the year of £446,721. I want to say that it would have pleased me much better, of course, had I been able to show a surplus, and I believe that if I had desired to mislead the Committee I could easily have done that, but I prefer to follow the rule which I set up when I took over the portfolio of Treasurer, that I would on all occasions produce to this Committee as true an account of the position of our finances as it is possible for a human being to do, and judging from the results last year I pride myself on being as correct as any Treasurer who has preceded me, and on this occasion I intend to present the true position of the finances, notwithstanding

that it discloses a deficit at the end of the year. I intend to refer in detail to the estimates of the various departments, but I will here enlighten the Committee with some details of the anticipated revenue and expenditure.

Estimated Revenue, 1913-14.

Commencing with the revenue, I anticipate an increase of £15,461 in the land tax. Of course that is now before the Chamber. I expect an increase in income duties of £7,225, dividend duty £1,536, land revenue £29,387, mining £4,030, railways and tramways £377,180, State batteries £3,616, State ferries and jetties £3,382, State hotels £14,175, State steamships £17,307, State implement works £70,000, Water supply £12,792, other public works, etcetera £218,827, reimbursements £52,002, Commonwealth £799. I anticipate a reduction from harbour dues to the extent of £22,613. This, of course, hon. members will understand, after debiting the amount that was brought into revenue from Trust Fund, really shows an increase in harbour dues on last year's earnings. I anticipate a reduction in Fees of £3,014, Miscellaneous £2,682, Law courts £588, and Probate £2,929. As my remarks upon the various departments will cover the reasons for these increases in revenue, I will confine them at this stage to the Commonwealth. I expect to receive from this source £612,810 under the financial agreement, being an increase of £7,664 compared with last year; and for interest on transferred properties £23,600, which is £6,865 less than for 1912-13, but this is due to arrears for two years having been included in last year's receipts.

Estimated Expenditure, 1913-14.

Now, referring to the expenditure. I have introduced into the Estimates an innovation in the shape of a statement allocating the interest and sinking fund charges against the various concerns upon which loan money has been expended: an allocation having been made for last year, also an estimated allocation for the present year. Hon. members will find that immediately following the estimated ex-

penditure under special Acts. This statement permits of the interest and sinking fund against not only the trading concerns, but other undertakings, being known, and will be of assistance to the Committee in arriving at the cost of these undertakings to the State, which is not generally disclosed in the departmental revenue and expenditure statements. As in the case of the revenue, the departmental expenditure will come under my review when speaking upon each department, the exception being the item "Special Acts." Under this head the expenditure has grown from £1,331,379 last year to £1,475,012 for the current year. The interest, of course, absorbs a large proportion of the increase. Loans floated last year, of course, have to bear a full year's interest. The details of these are set out in the Estimates. I have also a new sinking fund to provide for, which became operative under the Loan Act of 1909, during the month of June last. Hon. members will note that our loans do not carry a sinking fund for the first four years. A new one has been added to the list from the Loan Act of 1909. The contribution for the present year is £7,225. An increase will be noticed in the item "Commissioner of Railways," as, under a special Act, it has been decided to increase this officer's salary, in view of his increased responsibilities, to £2,000. Payments to the Court of Arbitration under the Industrial Arbitration Act also absorb an additional £400, they now having been brought under special Acts. Under the Tramways Purchase Act provision has to be made for £3,450 for payment to local authorities. The other principal increases in the estimated expenditure compared with the actual expenditure of last year are:—Minister for Agriculture £96,261. This is principally due to £64,568 being provided for agricultural implement works. This, too, includes the harbour works which were previously controlled by the Minister for Works. Minister for Railways £241,743. This is due to the inclusion of the trams and is more than accounted for in the increase of revenue. Attorney General £18,896. Minister for Education £42,757. This is a large increase.

and I will deal with the matter when speaking on the department. I want to emphasise that increase upon education. Minister for Works, Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage, £210,762. I will also explain this increase when speaking on the department. The decreases are:—His Excellency the Governor £1,993. This is occasioned by the transfer of expenditure to the Public Works Department. Colonial Treasurer £19,812. This is the result of various increases and decreases in the department under myself, the principal of these being an increase in the State hotels £6,858. Workers' homes £4,964, Government Savings Bank £3,364, and a decrease of £37,136 under Miscellaneous.

Loan Flotations.

To continue the works and services provided for under the Loan Act of 1911, also by the Act authorising £5,600,000 which was passed during the last session of Parliament, it became necessary to approach the financial markets. During the last few years the money market has not been favourable for raising money at the rates which previously prevailed, and this year the position was not improved. It is generally known that the Balkan war was a considerable factor in creating a financial strain. When we find a country such as Brazil raising a 5 per cent. loan of £11,000,000 at £97, and to which the public only subscribed to the extent of 10 per cent.—Germany borrowing £8,000,000 at 4 per cent., and more particularly when we consider China's £25,000,000 5 per cent. loan at 90—it would be only reasonable to expect that Western Australia would have to pay dearly for its money. Referring to China's loan, it has been stated that "Financial authorities considered that this loan became a factor in the world's markets, and its attractiveness has lowered the value of International securities." In view of all these facts it must be admitted that this State was fortunate in placing its loans at such reasonable rates. Our first loan during the financial year was placed on the London market in

December last. The issue was for £1,000,000 at £99, and will cost £4 3s. 5d. to maturity. A further issue of £2,000,000 was made in April. This was at 4 per cent. with an increase of 10s. in the discount compared with the December issue, and the money will cost the State £4 4s. 7d. per cent. As all the other States and New Zealand have been placing loans on the London market during this period, some comparison with our issues will be of interest. Taking New Zealand for instance, the Dominion issued a 4 per cent. loan for £3,000,000 at £98, and I have been advised that its money will cost £4 5s. 3d., which is 8d. per cent. more than our £2,000,000 loan which was placed about the same date. New South Wales issued a £3,000,000 4 per cent. loan at £98, which must certainly be a dearer proposition than any of ours. Queensland required £2,000,000 at 4 per cent. This was placed at £99. Victoria also borrowed £3,000,000 at 4 per cent. with a discount of 30s., and quite recently South Australia has issued a £1,000,000 4 per cent. loan at £97, which cannot be so favourable an issue as ours. The fact that this State was able to borrow money on the London market on more favourable terms than either New Zealand or New South Wales, is most satisfactory to myself as Treasurer, and is ample evidence of the confidence of the investors in Great Britain in the future of our great State, and is also a tribute to the business acumen of our Agent General, Sir Newton Moore. I must here mention that £650,000 of our £2,000,000 loan was required for the purpose of redeeming 4 per cent. Treasury bills issued by my predecessors, and which became due in London on 1st July last, and therefore the proceeds of the loan available for current purposes became reduced by that sum. Referring more particularly to our £2,000,000, the issue netted £95 8s. 5d. per cent., the average net proceeds of the two West Australian loans of £1,000,000 each, raised in 1907 and 1908 were £93 11s. 11d. per cent. These loans were issued at £97. Therefore after allowing for the difference of £1 10s. in the issue price, our flotation netted 6s. 6d. per cent.

more than those issues and 10s. 7d. per cent. more than the loan of £1,342,000 in 1910. The underwriting, brokerage, and all other charges of our loan were exactly the same rates as paid by my predecessors, the difference in the net receipts being due to less accrued interest having been paid to the investors than in the case of the earlier loans quoted. So far I have only dealt with London loans.

Australian money market.

I am aware that the Australian market is limited, and that after receiving £1,325,000 from this source during the previous financial year, and a further sum of £55,540 in the early part of this year, the whole of the issue being at par, I could not anticipate much from this quarter, and more especially in view of the fact that there were various municipal propositions on the market offering very favourable terms to investors. However, after due inquiry, I decided to issue a prospectus offering 4 per cent. interest, with a discount of £3, and to which the market responded to the extent of £493,448. This money will cost the State about £4 5s. 6d. per cent. I have always favoured the view of having a local loan on issue, not only because money awaiting investment is secured to the Treasury, but also it provides a safe and satisfactory method for small capitalists and others to invest their savings. The interest is payable promptly, not only here, but in the other States, free of charge to the lender. I was also able to obtain £500,000 from the Commonwealth on Treasury Bills. Summarised, the raisings on loan account were:—£1,000,000 in London at 4 per cent., £2,000,000 in London at 4 per cent., £548,988 in Australia at 4 per cent., £500,000 in Australia at 3¾ per cent., and some at 4 per cent., making a total of £4,048,988 for the year. The latest Colonial loan of which I have information is that raised by New Zealand, particulars respecting which were received to-day. This I find is for three and a half millions carrying 4 per cent. at £98 10s. This is the same as the West Australian issue, and I learn that no less

than 92 per cent. of this amount remains in the hands of the underwriters.

Loan Expenditure.

Before I leave altogether the question of loan flotations and loan expenditure, I want to make just a few remarks under the latter heading, and I can assure hon. members that during my term of office I have found no difficulty whatever in carrying out this portion of the programme. The calls upon the public purse in a country of such immense distances—requiring railways, water supply, and roads, also harbour improvements, and many other works of necessity which cannot be reasonably defrayed from Revenue—are enormous. I am satisfied, though, that our loan expenditure on the whole has been on lines most beneficial to the whole community, and such as will ultimately prove to have been of a reproductive nature. Upon reference to Budget return No. 7, it will be seen that the total expenditure was £3,409,218, the details of this sum being—Railways and tramways £1,903,991 (this includes £497,388 spent on the Perth tramways), £69,245 for water supplies for new lines, £563,355 for rails, fastenings and rolling stock, £202,541 for additions and improvements to opened railways, £155,910 for land resumptions (which were mostly at East Perth), £3,106 on the Port Hedland-Marble Bar railway, £21,941 on railways generally, and the balance £385,505 on construction of new railways, including £107,450 on the Wongan Hills-Mullewa, and £103,102 on the Wickepin-Merredin line. Our expenditure on railways and tramways was over 56 per cent. of the whole loan expenditure. The other items are—Fremantle harbour works £77,379, Fremantle dock and slip £11,330, harbour and rivers generally £61,790, sewerage in Perth and Fremantle £160,931, water supply £234,184. This last item includes metropolitan water supplies £53,320, goldfields water supply £45,162, water supplies in agricultural areas £84,486, and Albany water supply £27,089. The development of goldfields cost £78,143, which includes £26,574 on State batteries.

The development of agriculture accounted for £415,240. This item includes £259,808 for the Agricultural Bank, £10,453 towards the establishment of implement works, £5,135 upon the rabbit-proof fence, £22,605 for land at West Perth for new markets, £13,000 on Albany cold storage, and £102,400 on general development. The details of this last item will be found on page 109 of the Public Accounts, where it will be seen that the money was mostly spent on land surveys and in clearing land for new settlers. The next item is immigration, £63,447. This is comprised of what is known as agricultural immigration, £57,469, and £5,968 general immigration. State steamships cost over £100,000. This of course represents capital expenditure connected with our State Steamship Service, and we also expended £5,634 from Loan Suspense Account upon this service. In regard to workers' homes, the cost was £150,000 to provide capital for advances under the scheme for assisting to provide homes for workers. Sawmills cost £43,691, State hotels £17,580, public buildings £38,669, roads and bridges £37,818, and sundries £14,995. The last item includes South Perth ferries £4,993, milk supply £4,000, brickyards £1,121, harbour workshops and pipe works £2,190, and Boya quarries £2,683. On page 97 and elsewhere in the Public Accounts, full particulars of the loan expenditure are shown, and I will conclude my remarks on the subject by stating that our loan expenditure last year was equal to £10 17s. 6d. per head of the mean population of the State, being an increase of £3 0s. 7d. *per capita* compared with the previous year, but by deducting the Perth trams, Agricultural Bank, and workers' homes expenditure, which totalled £907,196, our loan expenditure would be practically the same per head as for 1911-12.

Loan authorisations and expenditure.

In view of the ever increasing demands upon the Treasury from all portions of the State, it will be necessary to again approach the money market at no distant date, and when contrasting our resourcefulness with that of other countries,

which from time to time approach the financial centre of the world, viz., the London market, I have no hesitation in stating that we shall be able to obtain our requirements at a rate which will compare favourably with that secured by any settled country in the world. This I know is saying a great deal, but with the best of financial advisers, and an ex-Premier as Agent General who knows the pulse of the community he is representing, and who, at the same time, is able to place authoritatively and unmisstakably the true facts of our vast State before the financial authorities, I have no hesitation in committing the country to these further responsibilities which our circumstances justly demand. May I here interpolate by stating that Sir Newton Moore expressed to me when in London, a desire to visit the State, should he be offered a further term as Agent General, in order to keep thoroughly up to date, which is so essential when charged with the duty of approaching the investor. The Government, as hon. members are aware, offered Sir Newton the position for a further term and readily agreed that it would be to our mutual advantage that he should visit the State.

Members: Hear, hear.

The TREASURER: He expects to leave London about the end of the present month.

Additional Revenue requirements.

I have been giving considerable thought and attention to the question of providing means to raise the additional revenue in order to meet the additional expenditure which is necessary in some directions, owing to the continued progress of the State. This is the more directly particular in reference to educational matters. At different periods during the last two years we have practically totally abolished the payment of fees in any of our educational institutions controlled by the State and in common with other sections of the community, increased salaries for the teaching staffs in our primary schools had to be made. In other directions further demands were made on

the public purse, but in none of these directions does the additional expenditure bring with it additional revenue, so that I am forced to provide this additional expenditure from other sources. Three courses are open to me, first, additional taxation, second, the retrenchment or a reduction in salaries and wages, third, by increasing payment for services rendered in the various directions. I may at once say that I am not prepared to consider the question of retrenchment or a reduction in the wages and salaries of public servants, largely because it is after many years of hard fighting on the part of the workers that they have been able to improve their industrial conditions. So far as increased taxation is concerned, this is, of course the correct method of deriving further revenue. By increasing taxation, I mean more particularly so arranging our present system of taxation in order to cause those in our community who are able to contribute more towards the cost of revenue to do so; also to raise additional revenue perhaps by increasing the stamp duties and similar forms of taxation. Together with this of course I hold that when the Government, representing the general taxpayer, render a service for an individual citizen, or a group of citizens, it is but right that such should pay at least the cost of the service rendered. Of course it might be claimed that the cost of the service rendered might be made without increasing the existing payments by reducing the cost of such service, but I am satisfied, after very careful consideration, that about the only method by which this could be done, if we desire to continue to render the same service as at present, would be to reduce salaries and wages paid to men employed in those Government activities. I have already expressed my opinion on that matter and have now decided that wherever it can be shown that services are being rendered at a loss to the general taxpayer, that an adjustment shall be made.

Taxation proposals.

It is proposed therefore to submit fresh taxation proposals by amending the Land

and Income Tax Act and the Stamp Act. From land and income tax and totalisator duty I estimate that we will receive an additional sum of £24,000 during the current financial year if the proposed Land and Income Tax Bill is passed this session. Under services rendered, in some directions we have already increased the tariff at tourist resorts such as at Rottneest Island and the Caves House, but not sufficiently, I claim, to make those places unpopular. Again we propose to revise railway rates, more particularly as affecting coal, fertilisers, and perhaps at a later date, timber. From these additional rates I estimate for this year we will probably receive £25,000 to £30,000, which, together with the increase in taxation, should amount to approximately a total additional sum of £60,000 for the balance of the year.

Transfer of State Debts.

This is a very important subject and in view of the fact that Sir John Forrest, the present Commonwealth Treasurer, announced when unfolding his budget on the 2nd inst., that the Commonwealth Government proposed to introduce a Bill to take over the State debts as they mature, and to relieve the States of all liability in respect of such debts afterwards, I have naturally as Colonial Treasurer of this State given the matter some consideration. In this connection I may remark that when it is remembered that the indebtedness of Australia on the 30th June last was £301,903,435, and of this sum £294,472,486 belongs to the States, the immensity of the problem to be faced will readily be seen. The provision under the Commonwealth Constitution Act is as follows—

The Parliament may take over from the States their public debts, or a proportion thereof according to the respective numbers of their people, as shown by the latest statistics of the Commonwealth, and may convert, renew, or consolidate such debts, or any part thereof; and the States shall indemnify the Commonwealth in respect to the debts taken over, and thereafter

the interest payable in respect of the debts shall be deducted and retained from the portions of the surplus revenue of the Commonwealth payable to the several States, or if such surplus is insufficient or if there is no surplus, then the deficiency or the whole amount shall be paid by the several States.

It will be noted that the power given to the Federal Parliament by this section is absolute, and may be exercised without the consent of the States. This of course being concurred in by the people of Australia by means of a referendum, it is not within our province now to object. In fact, I agree with such a provision. The power, further, can only be exercised under an Act passed by the Federal Parliament for the purpose. The effect of the transfer will be to substitute the credit of the Commonwealth for the credit of the States—practically to make the Commonwealth the debtor to whom the bondholders will have to look, and release the States from any obligation to the bondholders, imposing on them (*i.e.*, the States) an obligation to indemnify the Commonwealth for the amount of principal and interest. Two alternatives are open under the provisions of the Commonwealth Constitution Act, to the Commonwealth Government in taking over the debts—either to take over the whole of the debts of all the States as existing at any given date, or to take over from each State a certain definite sum per head of its population. If it chooses to adopt the latter course, it may fix the per capita indebtedness to be taken over at any amount up to, but not exceeding the per capita indebtedness of the State whose per capita indebtedness is the lowest.

States Public Debts.

The public debt of the various States on the 30th June, 1912 (the latest figures available for the whole of the States), is—New South Wales, £100,052,635; Victoria, £62,819,849; Queensland, £48,539,893; South Australia, £35,111,960; Western Australia, £26,283,523; and Tasmania £11,349,905. This, on the existing population as at 30th June, 1912, to which

these figures relate, make the per capita indebtedness of each State as follows:—New South Wales, £56.287; Victoria, £45.503; Queensland, £76.270; South Australia, £81.639; Western Australia, £85.858; Tasmania, £57.551, thus showing that the lowest per capita indebtedness is in Victoria, being £45.503. It will be noticed that Western Australia's per capita indebtedness was £85.858 on the 30th June, 1912, so that should the Commonwealth authorities adopt this alternative approximately 56 per cent. only of our total indebtedness would be taken over by the Commonwealth. As this money has been raised at varying rates of interest it would make the application of this alternative very difficult and, I think, very undesirable.

Federal Treasurer's Proposals.

I am not quite clear as to just what the Federal Treasurer proposes, and in the circumstances I think it would be inopportune and perhaps improper to refer to this matter in too great detail. But there are one or two aspects of the question to which I am justified in directing attention. The Federal Treasurer's statement appears to imply that his Government will make provision to raise the necessary moneys for the redemption of existing State loans, and to relieve the States of all direct liability in respect of such debts afterwards. While doing this, however, he evidently proposes to further borrow for the States, if requested to do so; but at the same time not to restrict the States borrowing as at present. I think the latter course would really defeat the very object that the people of Australia had in their minds when they gave the power to the Commonwealth to take over the State debts. I do not mean to imply by this that it was intended that the Commonwealth Government should restrict the borrowing powers of the individual States, but that they should certainly restrict them to the extent of preventing them from also appearing on the money market for further loan moneys, and that the Commonwealth should be the one borrower, replacing the several States.

Redemption of debts.

I further note that the Federal Treasurer says that a sinking fund of one-half per cent. invested in trustees for the redemption of the debts will be provided, and that no financial complications between the Commonwealth and the States can occur, as the interest and sinking fund will be provided from the surplus revenue paid to the States. This latter statement I am unable to understand, that is, the statement that sinking fund also will be provided from the surplus revenue paid to the States, as no such powers except voluntarily conferred on the part of the whole of the States seem to be given to the Commonwealth Government under their Constitution. It should be noticed that the Commonwealth Constitution provides that the States shall indemnify the Commonwealth in respect to all the debts taken over, and thereafter the interest payable on the debts shall be deducted, and retained from the portions of the surplus revenue of the Commonwealth payable to the several States; or if such surplus is insufficient, or if there is no surplus, then the deficiency or the whole amount shall be paid by the several States. This, it seems to me, does not empower the Commonwealth Treasurer to deduct from the surplus revenue payable by the Commonwealth to the several States for other than interest, so that I see some difficulty in the provision of a sinking fund unless, of course, it be from Commonwealth revenues. In any case, although from a West Australian point of view, we having already made provision for substantial sinking fund on most of our loans, and an equal one to that proposed by the Federal Treasurer on the balance, namely one-half per cent., and this sinking fund already amounting to a large sum—over three millions sterling—and further, as no loans of any magnitude mature for many years, it would be a very serious matter if the amount that we contribute to our sinking fund to be handled judiciously by the trustees were transferred to the Commonwealth.

Investment of Sinking Fund.

At present practically the whole of this three million pounds is invested in our own stocks, and as the fund increases the additional amount will in all probability be likewise invested, so that this money is continually made available for further development. Unless a guarantee is given, therefore, that the contributions to the sinking fund by each State will be invested in that State's stock Western Australia at least would be a heavy loser. This is an aspect of the question, of course, which I, as the Treasurer of the State, will not allow to be overlooked. Of course one has to admit that there are advantages and disadvantages in the Commonwealth Treasurer's proposal. For instance, financiers would not be influenced by a State having a temporary deficit, or being temporarily influenced adversely by local conditions, when the States as a whole showed a surplus, as the security would be on the whole of the Commonwealth and State assets. There are other disadvantages, as follow:—(a) that through Western Australia being so far distant from the centre of control, and the authorities not knowing much about the conditions and the need for development of the State, it is not likely that due consideration and support would be given to the State's requirements; and (b) seeing that the Commonwealth will control all loans it is only reasonable to suppose that some fixed basis will be laid down for the raising of such loans, and which will be made applicable to all the States; consequently as Western Australia occupies a position entirely different from any of the other States, and on account of her extent of territory has need of much loan money for development purposes, any such basis for raising loans may act detrimentally to this State.

Commonwealth and power of veto.

The fear has been expressed as to whether the Commonwealth Government might assume authority to veto any works contained in a schedule to a State Loan Act for any reason, such, for instance, as being politically opposed to the State Government. But I cannot see any power

in the Commonwealth Constitution which permits them to do more than take over the debts of the States, and if such power to regulate or veto the borrowing by the States exists it has not come under my notice. At the conference of Commonwealth and State Treasurers in 1904 and 1905 the Commonwealth Treasurer insisted upon the States handing over the control of the gross receipts of all State railways so as to ensure the interest and sinking fund instalments being met annually. To comply with such a request would mean placing the States in such a position that they would be absolutely under the thumb of the Commonwealth Treasurer. Again, I am unable to see how, without absolute concurrence of the whole of the States in such a proposal, the Commonwealth could insist upon such a provision. In any event the Commonwealth Constitution Act so definitely insists that the States shall indemnify the Commonwealth in respect of the debts taken over, that such arbitrary methods do not appear to me to be necessary. If any State should fail to meet its obligations under the indemnity it is held that it is within the power of the Federal Parliament to make laws conferring the right to proceed against the State or States in such a matter. Before leaving the question, may I turn to another aspect of the case, namely, that it has been admitted by the Commonwealth Treasurer, and all the State Treasurers in the past, that Western Australia is in a very sound financial position when compared with the Eastern States, insofar as she has financed on sound business lines by providing a sinking fund for the redemption of all her loans, and, therefore, giving the necessary security to her financiers. However, notwithstanding all aspects of this subject Australia, in my opinion, is ready for action in the direction proposed by the Federal Treasurer so long as it is done on a basis that is equitable to all of the States. But as the subject is such a complicated one, and provides such an immense problem for solution, I hold that the Federal Treasurer, before taking definite action, should certainly confer with the other parties to the proposal, namely, the respective State Governments.

Taxation.

Now, Sir, let me deal with the question of taxation. It is satisfactory to note that the revised estimate of revenue for the financial year 1912-13 has been exceeded in each item, the total excess of revenue being £16,724. A revision of the original estimate was made necessary because Parliament did not pass the new taxation proposals on which it was based. The following figures show the excess of the anticipated revenue in the several items:—land tax £519,—that is after being adjusted—income tax £5,774, dividend duty, £8,464, totalisator duty, £1,842, totalisator licenses £129, miscellaneous alone being £4 less. The expenditure for the year was less than the estimate by £1,959.

Land and Income tax.

The new Land and Income Tax Bill which will shortly be before the House proposes to amend the taxation of land and incomes on the same lines in many respects as the Bill of last session, namely, in land tax to abolish most of the existing exemptions from the tax, to tax improved and unimproved land at the one rate in the pound, to make the five year's exemption in regard to conditional purchase land operate only for land taken up prior to the passing of the Bill, and to make a minimum land tax charge of 2s. 6d. on every owner of taxable land; under income tax to repeal the Dividend Duties Act, but to tax all companies on their profits made in this State, but, as at present, at 1s. in the pound, all other incomes to be taxed at the graduated rates fixed by Parliament last session; to all taxpayers other than companies an exemption of £250; to allow mining undertakings, whether companies, private individuals, or syndicates, to write off the cost of development work incurred during the year; to tax life assurance companies on the same basis as other insurance companies are at present taxed in lieu of only on their income from rent and interest; to tax all interest on debentures where the debenture capital is invested in this State, and where the interest is claimed as an expense on the profits earned in this

State; to tax undistributed profits of companies made in past years only when they come to be distributed—unless this is done the undistributed profits of local companies will escape taxation—and to charge a minimum income tax of 2s. 6d. The estimate of revenue for 1913-14 has been based on the assumption that the Bill to be submitted during the current session of Parliament will be passed as submitted. The revenue for 1913-14, estimated on this basis, is, land tax £62,000, income tax £80,000, dividend duty £100,000, totalisator duty £11,500, totalisator licenses £400, miscellaneous £100; total £254,000. I may here just make reference to a statement which appeared in a certain newspaper that every man, woman, and child pays £14 per head in taxation. For the purpose of its contention that newspaper puts down the whole revenue as taxation. The revenue from taxation is, really, land tax £46,519; income tax, £72,775; dividend duty, £98,464; totalisator tax, £11,342; stamp duty, £70,652; probate duty, £47,929; licenses, £45,934; Commonwealth Customs, £605,146; or a total of £998,761. On this sum the rate would be, not £14 per head, but £3 4s. 2d. It would be absurd, in my opinion, to class revenue items such as railway receipts, water supply, land revenue, harbour dues, mining revenue, and revenue from our law courts as taxation, as the money is paid for services rendered or some other equivalent to the particular individual, and is therefore not taxation as applicable to the community.

Government Savings Bank.

In common with all other financial institutions the Government Savings Bank has felt the effects of the financial strain caused by the world's nations and Balkan war demands. Notwithstanding the drain on the bank's funds by departing depositors and others who had availed themselves of the excellent opportunity offering to invest their savings in mortgage and other securities providing a more lucrative return, it is pleasing to know that the Savings Bank deposits have increased by £36,609 17s. 9d.

—this is the actual excess of deposits made by depositors in the year—which, when the accrued interest to the 30th June (estimated at £125,738) is added, will show an advance on the balance of 1912 of approximately £162,347. The business of the bank, as will be observed on reference to the published figures, has been expanding in every direction. The balance due to depositors has grown from £4,408,320 to approximately £4,570,379 inclusive of accrued interest to 30th June last. The number of separate deposits has grown from 406,112 to 449,322, whilst the withdrawals advanced from 236,883 to 265,074. The deposit receipts increased from £3,514,008 to £3,728,623, and the withdrawals from £3,317,437 to £3,692,302. That, of course, is the amount of money which passed over the counter during the year, namely, those two items added together. The number of depositors who have accounts open has increased from 108,622 to 117,087. Better facilities have been extended to the large goldfields centres at Kalgoorlie and Boulder, where the agencies hitherto existing have been converted into fully equipped branches at which the local accounts are kept, and the same privileges and facilities granted depositors as are enjoyed by the depositors in Perth. Fully equipped branches in the large centres will be opened in the near future. The number of branches and agencies has been increased from 163 to 180 during the period under review. The children at the schools have entered again on an active campaign of saving their pennies. Fifty-nine schools have been added to the list of school agencies, making the present number 280. The accumulated balance has grown from £12,751 to £17,520, the number of separate deposits from 122,847 to 154,315, and the withdrawals from 4,888 to 6,194. The total number of personal transactions has grown from 642,995 to 714,396, and the combined total due to ordinary and school depositors from £4,400,391 to approximately £4,605,487, inclusive of depositors' unclaimed balances. The total amount deposited has increased from £9,382 to £12,437 in the schools, and the

total withdrawals from £5,553 to £7,967, whilst the accounts remaining open at the 30th June have grown from 12,399 to 15,457. The total number of all depositors on the bank's book has grown from 108,622 to 116,699. The foregoing figures show unmistakably the value of this institution to our people, but when I come to analyse the business done between our Savings Bank and those of the sister States for, say, twelve months to the 31st May last, we find some very interesting information, showing as it does that an exceedingly large sum of money, which in ordinary circumstances should be spent by the families whom it maintains finds its way to other States. During the twelve months referred to, no less a sum than £175,085 was sent away, whilst only £61,853 came into it through the Savings Bank. In other words, £113,232 has been forwarded there through our bank for the maintenance of relatives and for other purposes. Having said this, I need only add that the following sums were transmitted to the States mentioned during the period under notice:—Victoria, £86,679 1s. 8d.; New South Wales, £48,759 6s. 8d.; South Australia, £34,126 19s.; Queensland, £4,830 14s. 4d.; and Tasmania, £689 2s. 9d., making, as I have stated, a total of £175,085 4s. 5d.

The Savings Bank and the Commonwealth.

I feel sure that hon. members will expect me to say something this evening with regard to correspondence which has taken place between the Commonwealth and the State Government respecting the transfer of our Savings Bank to the Commonwealth Bank. As I have already stated, owing to the unwillingness of this Government to too readily hand over this institution with all its attendant benefits to the State, and into which I have fully entered into the negotiations, no arrangement was come to between the Commonwealth and State authorities. In the interim, however, the Commonwealth Bank has started its operations in this State and incidentally opened up savings bank branches at all our principal centres. Notwithstanding all the criticism that has

been hurled against the present Government by the Press and others in this State, I want to assure Parliament that at no time did we approach the stage of signing an agreement to hand over the State Savings Bank to the Commonwealth authorities. I unhesitatingly assert here that this was due to no other cause than that we were not satisfied with the terms offered. While conferring with the Federal authorities on this matter, we have not been neglectful of our responsibility, and have done everything possible to retain the usefulness of the State Savings Bank. This is evidenced by its successful operations during the past year to which I have just alluded. Need I emphasise this by stating that the amount standing to the credit of the depositors has increased during the year to £4,580,324 as against £4,404,320 at the end of the previous year, and the profits on the operations of the Bank last year amounted to £24,681, as compared with £6,600 during the previous year. It certainly seems a great pity to see two sets of machinery at work for the one purpose, namely, encouraging the thrift of our people, and I will, of course, watch with interest the further action of the Commonwealth Government in this matter, in view of the following utterance by Sir John Forrest when recently delivering his Budget statement:—

The Government have not yet been able to do anything in the direction of preventing the duplication of the Savings Banks throughout the Commonwealth, and the consequent large unnecessary and wasteful expenditure. There was in the opinion of the Government, no necessity for the Commonwealth to enter into competition with the savings banks of the States, which were beneficent and going concerns whose operations greatly assisted the agricultural development of the Commonwealth. . . It is proposed to consult the State Governments with a view of placing the Savings Bank on a basis which will prevent duplication, and at the same time meet the requirements of the people.

Railways

Turning to the 1912-13 returns for our largest revenue-producing department, the railways, we find that the estimated revenue was £2,050,000, and the revenue actually received, £2,047,820, representing an over-estimate of £2,180. I think that estimate must be admitted to be pretty close. The estimated expenditure was £1,451,881, and the actual revenue, £1,516,793, or a difference of £54,912. The excess in that case is not quite four per cent. on the estimate. The following particulars were under-estimated—the cost of earning additional revenue, the effects of the new coal contracts, the arrears of work due to the iron trades strike in January, 1912, and the cost of working new lines. The interest was estimated to be £485,000, but it actually amounted to £505,925, in this case an under-estimate of £20,925. This is explained by the fact that the mileage of lines taken over was more than was expected and there was a larger expenditure on resumption than was anticipated. Coming to the year 1913-14, the estimated revenue is £2,310,000, being an expected increase of £262,180 over the actual revenue for last year, or an increase of 11 per cent. It is expected that this increase will be made up of £48,000 from passengers and £214,000 from goods, including increased rates. The estimated expenditure for the current year on railways only is £1,678,786, an increase over the actual expenditure of last year of £161,993, equal to 9 per cent. There is an increase provided for in re-laying, amounting to £12,500, and in compensation to provide for payments to the Government workers' compensation fund, amounting to £6,500. It is necessary, of course, that the Government should pay for injuries received by the workers in the various departments, just as the private employer has to do under the Workers' Compensation Act passed last session. We have established a fund for that purpose and an increased amount has to be found by the Railway Department. The balance of the increase in expenditure, amounting to £143,000, is provided to earn the additional revenue and work the additional mileage. The estimated in-

terest is £543,000, an increase over the actual interest for last year to the extent of £37,075. This is to provide for interest on the estimated additional capital. Summarised the results estimated for 1913-14 are, for the railways—earnings, £2,310,000; expenditure, £1,678,786; interest, £543,000; total of expenditure and interest, £2,221,786, leaving an estimated surplus on the working of the railways, of £88,214. From tramways, we estimate the earnings to be £115,000, the expenditure, £79,750; the three per cent. payments to the local authorities, £3,450; interest, £27,625, making a total estimated expenditure of £110,825, and leaving a surplus after meeting all these charges, of £4,175. It is interesting to note that the total railway mileage open on the 30th June, 1912, was 2,598 miles, and at the 30th June, 1913, 2,857 miles, or an increase of 259 miles for the year. Those figures refer to railways operated by the working Railways Department, and it is further interesting to note that we have been building railways at such a rate that the population per mile of railway is only 108, this being the lowest proportion in the Commonwealth.

Electrification of railways.

Whilst dealing with this important department, I cannot avoid reference to another portion of my journeyings, when absent from the State in the early part of the year, namely, when giving attention to the question of the probable electrification of part of the railway system of the State, from Northam to Perth, in connection with the western terminal section of the Trans-Australian railway. I spent several days in connection with this matter in Italy, and also gave further attention to the subject when in London and Manchester. Arrangements were subsequently made for the Engineer-in-Chief to inspect the Giovi line and the Simplon tunnel electric railway from Iselle to Brigne. I have just been advised from London that the Agent General and Mr. Thompson have spent some time in this neighbourhood making full inquiries, and that the Engineer-in-Chief will submit a report on

the proposals upon his return to the State. I do not wish to weary hon. members this evening by going into details regarding this proposal, more especially in view of the fact that upon my return from the Old Country, several interviews were given to the public Press; and pending the subject becoming a definite one for consideration, and Messrs. Merz and McLellan being called upon to report definitely thereon for the information of the Government, I think the subject can be left for the present. Suffice it to say, however, that there can be no gainsaying the fact that unless any unforeseen obstacle arises, and which so far has not occurred to our electrical experts, a great saving will be effected by the electrification of that portion of our system to which I have referred, provided it is carried out on the up-to-date lines adopted at the centres mentioned. In order to permit of electrification, if eventually found desirable, we have slightly altered the original plan of the new power station being erected in Perth. These alterations, however, do not detrimentally affect, but rather increase its efficiency.

Railway coal supplies.

While on the subject of railways, let me say that the question of coal supplies for railway purposes is one that causes considerable thought, and as we propose to make an alteration in the rates for coal carriage, the Government consider that in the interests of the men, the proprietors and the State, a thorough inquiry should be held. After careful consideration the Government have decided to appoint at an early date a Royal Commission to inquire into every aspect of the coal industry.

Government Tramways.

Turning now to the subject of Government tramways, hon. members will know that just at the present time we are about to commence the erection of a new power station for the purpose of supplying electric current for tramways, lighting, and other purposes in the

metropolitan area, and, as I have before stated, one of the principal matters to which I gave attention in London was the concluding of the transaction for the purchase of the Perth electric tramway system. Simultaneously with this I had conferences with Messrs. Merz and McLellan and the Agent General, with the object of placing all preliminary matters well in hand for the establishment of the new and modern power house for the generation of electric current. In order that we might be able to supply all requirements for the railways and tramways, and in accordance with arrangements entered into with the City council for the supply of power and light everything possible has been done to accomplish this object at the earliest possible date. The agreement was signed to-day by myself representing the Government, and the mayor representing the City council, and I gave notice this afternoon of my intention to submit the agreement for the approval of Parliament at an early date. Quite a number of conferences have taken place between the Mayor of Perth and myself, and we have been in close touch with Messrs. Merz and McLellan throughout, and although the agreement appointing Messrs. Merz and McLellan as engineers for the Government in connection with this matter was only signed in Perth on the 30th December last, plans, specifications, et cetera have been prepared in London, tenders invited and accepted, and contracts made for the principal parts of the work, the formal documents being now in the hands of the responsible officers of the Railway Department.

Tramway Plant.

The contracts referred to are as follow:—In the first, Messrs. Babcock and Wilcox, Limited, contract to erect the power station buildings, complete boiler house equipment, and other plant for £124,424. This contract includes all iron and steel framework for complete power station, buildings for plant of four 3,000 kilowatt turbo-alternators, a 40 ton electric travelling crane, six water tube boilers, with economisers, mechanical

draught, boiler feed pumps, coal breaking plant, ash and soot handling plant, piping system, motors for driving apparatus included in the contract, and galleries, ladders, etcetera to complete the building.

[*Mr. McDowall took the Chair.*]

The TREASURER: The contract date for the completion of the whole of the work is fixed as for the 30th June, 1914. The second is let to Messrs. Willans and Robinsons, Ltd., who undertake the supply of the necessary turbo-alternators, transformers, and motors for £30,982. This contract comprises 3,000 kilowatt three-phase turbo alternators complete with exciter and unit transformers, pumps, piping, valves, and platforms. The three turbo alternator sets are to be completed respectively on 7th April, 1st May, and 30th May next year, and two power and lighting transformers are to be completed on the 7th April. Under the third contract the British Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company, Limited are to supply four 750 kilowatt rotary converters and their stationary transformers with starting apparatus and accessories (called converter sets) for £9,863 f.o.b. Liverpool, where the material is to be delivered for shipment on or before 1st December next. Advice has been received that the tender of Messrs Willans & Robinson, Limited, for the condensing plant, has been accepted at £23,252, but the contract documents containing detailed particulars have not yet been received. In addition to the above four contracts already confirmed, recent advices from London say that preparations are well in hand for the invitation of tenders for the following additional items:—1, switch gear, cables, and wiring, estimate £15,000; 2, power house flooring and spares for boiler house equipment £5,000; 3, buildings for two lighting and one combined tramway and lighting sub-stations on ring main, with switch gear and cables, £27,100; 4, high tension cable work for ring main and connecting existing tramway feeders to one tramway sub-station in power

house, and one sub-station on ring main, £21,000; 5, overhead pole line to railway workshops at Midland Junction, £10,000; 6, sub-station equipment at railway workshops, £7,000. The four contracts let amount to £188,521, and the remaining items are estimated at £85,100, approximately £274,000 in all. The conditions of contract provide that the 48-hour week and current local rates of wages shall apply to all work carried out within the Commonwealth, and fully protect the Government against every contingency of default. They lay upon the contractors the onus of maintenance of the contract works for 12 months after completion and for the supply of additional machines, spare parts, and duplicates at certain scheduled prices, and within certain periods of delivery if so required.

New Power Station.

The site of the new power station formed the subject of special investigation by Messrs. Merz & McLellan, with the result that they recommended that the building should be placed on the right bank of the Swan River slightly to the north of the South-Western railway bridge—the Bunbury bridge, as it is popularly known. The primary foundation will take the form of 1,400 powellised jarrah piles, each of which will be driven not less than 30ft. into the ground. On these will be laid a concrete floor or raft of varying thickness, 175 feet long by 150 feet wide and containing about 6,000 cubic yards of reinforced concrete weighing about 10,000 tons. With the buildings, etcetera, there will thus be a weight of about 22,000 tons resting on the pile bed. The execution of this work will be put in hand on the ground by the commencement of the construction of sidings to bring the material for the foundation of the site. The necessary piles have been ordered from the railway mill at Dwellingup and will be powellised at Bunbury. Six thousand casks of cement, together with the necessary quantity of metal, will be procured, so that the construction of the raft may be carried on as soon as the piles are driven. The utmost expedition will be

necessary in this first essential to the work in order that possession may be given to the contractors for the building at the earliest possible date, that specified in the contract being early next January. The estimated cost of the foundation, including pipes, drains, etcetera, is in the region of £35,000. The main building, which consists of a basement and upper floor, will have walls of ferro-concrete panels. Its height from the ground level to the apex of the roof will be 80 feet, and the roof, which will be in two spans of 67 feet and 64 feet respectively, will be constructed of crescent-shaped steel principals. Including annexes, the width will be 175 feet and the length or frontage to the river 150 feet. The boiler house will contain six water tube boilers for the operation of the three turbo alternator sets giving the plant on completion of existing contracts a capacity of 9,000 kilowatts. Room is allowed in the design for another set of two boilers, and turbo alternator with which to increase the power to 12,000 kilowatts. Calculations have been based on an output of 12,000,000 units per annum, the advantages of which will, it is expected, be so quickly realised as to necessitate filling the vacant space with the fourth unit of 3,000 kilowatts capacity very soon after the plant now under consideration is in operation. Approximately, 20,000 tons of Collie coal will be required per annum—

Mr. Lewis: That makes the hon. member for Collie smile.

Mr. A. A. Wilson: Hear, hear!

The TREASURER: And the most modern system of automatic handling from the truck to the furnace, by bins, conveyors, and automatic stokers, is provided for. In this connection twenty 25-ton hopper wagons of the type now used for the conveyance and delivery of coal at the elevated stages of the Railway Department will be necessary, the construction of which at an estimated cost of £10,500 has been authorised, so that they may be available when the plant is completed.

Inspection and testing of Plant.

Under the terms of their agreement, Messrs. Merz & McLellan undertake, in respect of any accepted tender, the responsibilities appertaining to consulting engineers. These responsibilities include the preparation of any further specifications, drawings, details, etcetera, and examination and dealing with contractors' designs. The firm will also make inspection and tests of material prior to shipment and are bound to a general supervision of the work covered by any such contract in strict accordance with the specifications, conditions and drawings, for which purpose it is necessary that they should have a representative or resident engineer in Perth. In pursuance of the last stipulation the firm have appointed Mr. Charles T. Briggs, an engineer in whom they have every confidence, to act on their behalf in Western Australia. Mr. Briggs left England last month and is expected in Perth towards the end of October. In order to provide in advance for tramway renewals and extensions, the latter of which will only become possible when the new power house is supplying additional current, the Government have decided to invite tenders for 10 miles of tram rails and fastenings, which will be done as soon as a standard section has been fixed by the Chief Engineer of Existing Lines. It will also be impossible in the meantime to put into traffic additional cars which are so urgently required to relieve the congestion during rush hours. For this reason every advantage will be taken of overhauling and bringing up to standard at the Midland Junction workshops those cars which have been running continuously for many years and which can now be relieved by the use of the additional new cars which the Government have lately imported or built. It may be of interest to hon. members to include here the expression of opinion of the managing director of the late Perth Electric Tramways, Limited, in a recent letter I received from their Mr. Stoneham. He said—

There cannot be the slightest doubt that your Government have done a marvellous stroke of business for the State,

and if the purchase had been delayed a few years hence, or the price had been settled by arbitration, you would have had to pay a much larger sum without the accruing benefit of the immediate extensions which you are now enabled to carry out; and I am sure you feel justly proud of having obtained so good a bargain.

Mr. Allen: Bosh!

Trade of Western Australia.

The TREASURER: Before I turn to the departments to any extent of detail, may I refer to the trade of Western Australia for the year ended 30th June, 1913. The total trade of the State was £18,435,784; the total imports oversea £5,323,272; total exports oversea £6,501,831; total imports interstate £4,266,473; total exports interstate £2,344,208. The total imports exceeded the exports by £743,706; the oversea exports exceeded the imports by £1,176,559; but the interstate imports exceeded the exports by £1,922,265. The interstate trade amount to £4,266,473. Of this large sum food supplies represent £1,795,116, and food for stock, etcetera, £75,747. The latter item is made up as follows:—Barley, £291; beans and peas, £4,528; maize, £1,344; oats, £10,490; bran and pollard, £49,280; hay and chaff, £615; oilcake, £5,306; fodder, £1,554; and other food for animals, £2,339. In payment for the imports from the Eastern States we sent them products of the State, including gold specie £1,556,000, to the value of £2,169,389, and other goods to the value of £174,819, making a total of £2,344,208. The balance of £1,922,265 was probably sent to London to meet engagements on behalf of our creditors in the East. The balance of trade for the year in favour of our Eastern neighbours amounts to nearly £2,000,000. The food supplies imported from the other States, which should in my opinion be produced here, represent roughly some 45,000 tons, the freight and charges on which would not be less than £70,000. This amount is naturally passed on to the consumer and

must, therefore, in some measure, account for the high cost of living in Western Australia. It should be considered a duty devolving upon the Government and Parliament to adjust this, and so far as the Government are concerned, we propose with the support of Parliament to make every effort to do so. For the first six months of the calendar year it has been reduced by £14,079, and I confidently expect further reductions in the future. In the long list of supplies received from the Eastern States there are, of course, many items which cannot be produced in this State, and others which, at present, it probably would not pay to produce, but it cannot be denied that the fertile lands of Western Australia should at least produce sufficient of what is known as dairy produce for all local requirements. On a certain Saturday recently wheat was quoted in Adelaide at 3s. 8d. and in Perth at 3s. 7d.; bran and pollard were quoted f.o.b. Adelaide £4 15s. 0d., and Perth f.o.r. £6 2s. 6d., so it would appear that the price of locally made bran and pollard is regulated by the price at which the imported article can be landed here. With regard to the locally produced article, someone is pocketing the difference between the £4 15s. Adelaide price, and £6 2s. 6d. Perth price. Judging by the price of wheat quoted above, the amount of £1 7s. 6d. per ton is divided between the miller and the produce merchant, the grower receiving no more for his wheat than the farmer in Adelaide. The large increase in the local production of flour has had a marked effect on the importation of bran and pollard, the figures being 1911, 13,288 tons; 1912, 9,300 tons; and for the first eight months of the present year, 6,579 tons. The poultry industry shows a very gratifying increase in the local production of eggs.

Mr. Lewis: It deserves more encouragement.

The TREASURER: In 1904 we imported 1,773,510 dozen eggs, and in 1912, the importations dropped to 525,868 dozen, and for the first nine months of 1913 the figures were 357,172 dozen.

Interstate export of products.

During 1912-13, for the first time probably in the history of the State, Western Australia exported to the Eastern States of the Commonwealth hay and chaff to the value of £18,777, and oats to the value of £16,135. In connection with the importation of food supplies it may be stated that when our State produces sufficient for our own requirements, it will mean the distribution of some two millions of money now sent to the Eastern States amongst the producers of Western Australia, while the cost of production will be distributed among the workers of the State. Exports overseas show a falling off of £2,572,177—overseas, of course, does not take into account exports to the Eastern States—the principal decreases being specie gold £3,496,582, gold uncoined £319,854, timber £61,238, and wool £63,796. Very satisfactory increases, however, are shown in wheat £614,575, pearl shell £194,543, flour £152,797, sheep skins £36,586, copper ore £36,661, whale oil £32,388, tin ore £2,369, and bark tanning £1,841. Flour exported shows an increase of 18,780 tons, as compared with 9,902 tons in 1911-12, and 28,682 tons in 1912-13. While we may congratulate ourselves on the foregoing increases the solid fact remains that until a large sum of money is devoted to the development of the South-West, we will be dependent on the Eastern States for most of our principal items of food. As a matter of self-preservation, the South-West country should be opened up speedily as possible.

Lands and Surveys Department.

I will now turn to that Department which has been so freely discussed from time to time, namely, the Lands and Surveys Department. Though for reasons to which I will subsequently refer, there has been a slackening off in some respects, the Lands and Surveys Department continues to be one of the busiest branches of the service. Prior to the accession of the present Government, a large number of subdivisions had been thrown open in districts far removed from railway communication, lacking water supply, and in

which the rainfall was not assured. And a large amount of work was going on with the intention of throwing open further areas of like character. The result was that many settlers were suffering great hardship and appealing to the Government for assistance. It was decided by the present Government to suspend all work of this nature, and to refrain from throwing open subdivisions in which there was any doubt as to the question of effective rainfall, or where there was no probability of facilities for communication being provided immediately. As a result of this, a large number of subdivisions, covering nearly one million acres of land, which were being prepared for throwing open for selection, were held up. This has had the effect of reducing the feverish demand of a speculative nature, but the call for holdings for genuine settlement has apparently been in no way lessened. This was shown in the case of subdivisions which had been submitted to the public, as during the year 42 subdivisions, comprising 863 locations, have been made available, and in many cases there was more than one applicant. For 226 of the locations there were, in all, 1,199 applications, the highest number for any one block being 36. These figures do not refer, of course, to the usual weekly list of isolated blocks thrown open, such being generally in eager demand by the holders of adjacent lands. Returns are attached showing the work during the year and the revenue and expenditure of the department which will be found by turning up the accounts.

Land selection.

In considering land selection it should be noted that, although there is a reduction in the number of conditional purchases, the applications of all classes number 8,099, as compared with 7,076 for the previous year, the increase being largely in the pastoral leases and in leases of town and suburban lots. The return of homestead farms selected is generally regarded as the most reliable indication of the nature of land settlement, as each selector of a homestead farm is looked

upon as a new settler. During the year 965 applications for homestead farms were approved as against 1,290 for the preceding year. The abnormal season experienced in certain districts a couple of years ago had the result of placing a number of our settlers in a serious financial position and the Government appointed a board to deal with cases in which assistance or relief was sought. This board has been sitting almost continuously from the beginning of the year, and in addition to dealing with applications for deferring the payment of rents (which have been held over to the extent of £66,300) and other Government accounts, it has been largely occupied in arranging with merchants and other outside creditors. A scheme was drawn up, after consultation with the Chamber of Commerce, and this is now in operation with every prospect of highly satisfactory results. The area under crop this year is 1,199,991 acres as against 1,072,653 last year, and the outlook for the season, owing to the generous rainfall, is exceedingly bright in all parts of the State. The new regulations for the leasing of town and suburban land, instead of disposing of the freehold, have received the hearty approval of the public generally. A return which has been prepared shows that from the 1st March, 1912, to the 30th June, 1913, no fewer than 1,486 leases of this nature were approved, while in 1911-12 only 778 town and suburban lots were disposed of in fee simple, and 783 in 1912-13. A further feature in the returns is the fact that the departmental expenditure for the year was reduced by no less than £40,000, the figures being £163,859, as against £203,644 for the preceding year. This large decrease was due to reductions of staff where circumstances warranted the course, and to the partial discontinuance of subdivisional surveys for the reasons already set forth. The revenue for the year, despite the large amount of rents held over, to which I have previously referred, was £378,575, as against £376,747 for the preceding year.

Department of Agriculture and Industries.

The disbursement on Agriculture and Industries, another department controlled by my colleague, Mr. Bath, from revenue during the past financial year, amounted to £87,100, while the amount collected was £45,500. From Loan Funds an amount of £49,100 was expended for the assistance of settlers who suffered by reason of the two recent dry seasons, and in sundry other directions of a lesser nature. The total area under crop during 1903, or ten years ago, was 230,000 acres, while in 1912-13 it was 1,200,000 acres, and the total for the year 1913-14 is 1,391,000 acres (wheat, oats and barley only). The area under wheat in 1903 was 92,000 acres, and there was a yield of 985,000 bushels. In 1912-13 the area under wheat had increased to 793,000 acres, with a yield of 9,169,000 bushels. For 1913-14 the area sown is 1,200,000 acres; the acreage for grain and hay are not yet separated. The quantity of wheat exported in 1912 was 334,000 bushels, and the quantity for the current year to the end of July was 3,691,000 bushels.

Harvest Prospects.

It is anticipated that the wheat yield this season (1913-14) will reach 12,000,000 bushels, valued at £2,000,000. Of this quantity we hope to have about 8,000,000 bushels for export, as against a little over 3,000,000 bushels this year. Our flour millers, who made such a fine display at the recent Royal Agricultural Society's show, are doing a lot to conserve to the State those products for which we have in the past been sending away huge sums of money. I speak of flour, bran and pollard. It is gratifying to note that there was a decrease in the first half of this year, as against the first half of last year, of nearly £7,000 in the amount sent to the Eastern States for bran and pollard alone. Ten years ago the area under oats was 10,000 acres, the yield being 168,000 bushels. In 1912-13, so far as oats are concerned, the acreage was 128,000, and the yield 2,106,000 bushels. For 1913-14 the acreage is 178,000 (acre-

age for grain and hay not yet separated). May I mention just here that the imports of oats for the six months ended June, 1912, amounted to £23,614, and for the six months ended June 1913, £3,249, or a decrease of £20,365. The exports of oats for the six months ended June, 1912, represented £1,400, while the exports for the corresponding period of the current year represented £18,315, or an increase of £16,916. With reference to barley, the position is as follows:—1903, 3,800 acres, 46,200 bushels; 1912-13, 5,626 acres, 93,400 bushels; 1913-14, 14,421 acres (quantities not yet separated). The advance with regard to hay is indicated by the following figures:—1903, 105,800 acres, 94,000 tons; 1912-13, 231,700 acres, 255,800 tons.

Cultivation of the soil.

Without wearying hon. members with other figures bearing upon the estimated crops for the year, may I make reference to the area under fallow, as I hold that the fallowing of our lands in Western Australia is essential to profitable farming. The total area under fallow ten years ago was 70,700 acres, but this year saw an increase to 639,600 acres. It is pleasing to note that settlers are being enlightened as to the advantages of fallowing. With reference to potatoes, large quantities have been imported for many years past. In 1912 they were imported to the extent of £50,000, and to the end of June, 1913, the imports of potatoes aggregated £21,200. A few outbreaks of Irish blight occurred some years ago, but prompt measures resulted in these being stamped out. It is satisfactory, however, to note that the protected portion of the South-West still remains immune. The area now under crop is treble what it was two years ago. We are now in a position to supply seed of best quality, guaranteed clean, to Eastern States' growers. At the present time inquiries are being received for seed potatoes from such places as South Africa and India. In the poultry industry considerable progress has been made during the past year or so. Five years ago Western Australia's importations of

this produce amounted to approximately £80,000 per annum, but last year they were less than half this amount, and a considerable reduction on the total of the previous years.

Irrigation.

With reference to irrigation, in the sister States (particularly Victoria and New South Wales) examples of what can be done in this direction are supplied at such places as Mildura and Renmark. The employment of irrigation in this State will do much to enable us to overtake our requirements in the matter of dairying, and will render successful orchard cultivation possible over a very much increased area that is now deemed unprofitable. Already 3,000 acres have been placed under irrigation, comprising plots of two to ten acres, and in some instances even larger areas.

Agricultural Bank.

In dealing with our land and the prospects of the coming harvest one cannot overlook the fact that the operations of the Agricultural Bank have done a great deal to bring about the satisfactory results that are anticipated. The number of applications received for the year ended 30th June last was 5,019; loans authorised 3,442, applications declined 567. The amount applied for was £923,885; amount authorised £660,765, amount of applications declined £184,255. The purposes for which the amount authorised is to be used are as follows:—to pay off liabilities, £47,700; to purchase stock, £70,566; to purchase implements, £12,019; to carry out clearing, ringing, blackboy and poison grubbing, fencing, draining, wells and reservoirs, fallow and buildings, £530,480. The amount actually advanced during the year was £636,723 9s. 9d., making, with the amount previously advanced, a total disbursement of £2,582,907 14s. The repayments during the same period amounted to £33,527 14s. 1d., making a total amount repaid of £668,980 5s. 10d., and leaving a balance outstanding on the 30th June, 1913, of £1,883,927 8s. 2d. The improvement actually effected by farmers, with

the assistance of the Bank's funds, are as follows:—Clearing, cultivating, ringing and scrubbing, fencing, draining, water supply, buildings, orchards, blackboy and poison grubbing, and fallowing, £494,585 11s. 1d. The total amount voted to date, with the assistance of the bank, is £2,517,843. It is interesting to note that during the year 1908-9 the actual net amount of cash found for the purposes of the Agricultural Bank was £225,000; for 1909-10, £100,000; for 1910-11, £39,800, making a total for those three years of £364,800. The net cash found for the purposes of the Agricultural Bank during 1911-12 was no less than £303,919, and during 1912-13 a total of £603,195, or £907,114 of fresh capital during the two years that the present Government have been in office. The amount found to pay off liabilities during the three years 1908-11 was £21,885, whereas the total for the succeeding two years that the present Government have been in office is no less a sum than £167,324. May I here interpolate that without that £167,324 having been found by the Government for the purposes of the Agricultural Bank, many farmers would have been forced off their holdings by other financial institutions. May I also say that the Government had last year to find new cash to the extent of £150,000 for the purposes of workers' homes. Although the amount of loan repayments for the two years ended the 30th June, 1912, was less than that for the preceding three years by £294,482, the amount actually advanced to settlers amounted to £246,023 for the same period, therefore the amount actually found during the two years ended the 30th June, 1913, exceeded that of the previous three years by £540,505.

Bulk handling of Wheat.

With reference to the bulk handling of wheat, I may mention that inquiries are being made with a view to ascertaining whether the installation of modern methods is possible here, as by their adoption at the present stage a considerable saving should result to the State and the settlers.

Norseman-Esperance District.

With regard to the Norseman-Esperance district, it should be noted that the Agricultural Department is supplying settlers with different varieties of wheat for trial in that district, and is arranging for tests to be made in a reliable manner. The season was unpropitious last year, and consequently the crops were indifferent. A majority of settlers in that locality however, are confident of success. Monetary advances are being made on similar lines to those provided by the Agricultural Bank in other localities. The total amount advanced to settlers in the Norseman-Esperance district to date is about £6,000, and in that sum 56 settlers participated.

Seed Wheat and Fertilisers.

On account of the two recent indifferent seasons seed wheat and fertilisers have been advanced to settlers during the past year. As a result of the Government's recent decision any settler who can satisfy the Seed Wheat Board, to which I have previously referred as having been appointed, that he has a chance of eventually making a success of his operations, and who arranges to distribute the proceeds of his crop in an equitable manner (either with or without the aid of the Seed Wheat Board) will be allowed to remain on his holding.

Fruit industry.

Dealing with fruit, I find that the area under orchard in 1903 was 6,800 acres, whereas in 1912 the area had increased to 22,444 acres, including vines. Experimental orchards have been established at the Denmark and Brunswick State farms, for the purpose of demonstrating up-to-date methods in connection with planting, cultivating, marketing, and exporting fruit. At the Brunswick orchard, as soon as it has reached maturity, it is intended to demonstrate fruit growing, canning, cider making, etcetera. The highest commendation has been accorded Western Australian fruit for the qualities, state of preservation, and manner in which it is put up

for sale in the English and Continental markets. It is interesting to note that prices obtained in London have been—apples 40s. per bushel case, pears 40s. per bushel case, grapes 38s. for 28/30 lb. box.

Stock, Abattoirs, Cold Storage.

In referring to stock I may say that it is reported that the health of stock in this State is, generally speaking, exceptionally good, there being less disease than in any other State of the Commonwealth, or in any other country in the world. The dairy cattle are very healthy, there being comparatively few cases of tuberculosis. Most of the stock imported now represent animals intended for stud purposes and not for meat supplies. In 1912 we exported 14,800 head of cattle, and 22,400 sheep. Stock sale yards have been established at North Fremantle, to which stock can be sent from any part of the State and be disposed of under the best competitive conditions. The Government abattoirs at Kalgoorlie are satisfactorily coping with the Eastern Goldfields trade. The Fremantle and Midland Junction abattoirs have been commenced, and in them the Government will kill, thus saving a considerable amount of handling and ensuring proper inspection and grading, as well as humane and cleanly slaughtering. Government control ensures meat free from disease being offered to the consumers. It is estimated that when these works are in full operation about 550 bullocks and from 5,000 to 10,000 sheep will be slaughtered weekly, and this will account for about 80 per cent. of the metropolitan trade. Later on a more elaborate, up-to-date, thoroughly equipped, and efficient undertaking will be provided at Fremantle, which will embrace export facilities for fruit, lambs, etcetera. The existing Government cold stores at Perth have been found inadequate for the trade, and railway extension also necessitates that they should be removed. The Government intend to erect at West Perth adjoining the railway up-to-date works which will be centrally situated and alongside the City Markets. I cannot refer to stock

without some allusion to the meat which is retailed to customers. Since the establishment of retail butchers' shops over 162,000 customers have been served and over 650,000 lbs. of meat distributed, at prices under that which obtained at the time when this work was commenced. Thirty thousand acres of the recently purchased estate at Yandanooka are reserved as an adjunct to this and other Government undertakings. Here store stock will be either purchased or brought from such sources as the aborigines stations in East Kimberley to be "topped" up for use in the State butchery business.

State Implement Factory.

During the year 1912 the amount of money sent out of the State for agricultural implements amounted to, approximately £180,000, and up to the end of June of this year about £72,000. The Government are now about to manufacture these implements locally. Besides dispensing with the cost contingent upon importing this machinery, which is no small sum, it will be possible to considerably reduce the price to the settlers. Efficient implements mean efficient farming. Increased farming operations mean increased revenue to the farmer, and consequently, to the State as a whole. The factory is now nearing completion, and the cost of this is expected to be about £40,000. The works at an early date should employ about 300 hands, with considerable expansion as progress is made. The machinery will be placed in the hands of the farmers direct from the factory. The middleman's charges will be dispensed with. An economic arrangement has been made by the Government whereby the Fremantle Harbour workshops have been amalgamated with the State implement works, thus saving the cost of dual control, other buildings, a separate plant, and the numerous other items of expense entailed in running two such establishments. The one manager controls both concerns.

Dairying.

Considerable interest is now being taken in dairying. The Agricultural Commissioner

for the South-West (Mr. Connor), who, every member knows is an enthusiast, delivers lectures and is continually touring the South-West visiting individual holdings. He instructs as to the various kinds of crops to grow, the most suitable stock to acquire and methods of handling dairy produce. A pure milk supply has been provided for Government institutions in the metropolitan area. Only tuberculin tested cows are being used. A fine herd has been established on the farm of the Hospital for the Insane at Claremont. Practical demonstration in up-to-date methods is provided at the Brunswick State dairy farm, where all cows are tuberculin tested. A State farm has been established in the Denmark district and buildings erected, which will include a creamery for handling the supplies produced in this district.

Workers' Homes.

Any statement made by a Treasurer under the present regime would not be complete, I think, without a reference to the operation of the Workers' Homes Board, seeing that this was one of the creations of the present Administration, and for the success of which it takes a due amount of praise. Let me then for the information of hon. members, give a brief outline of the operations of the board since its inception. The Workers' Homes Act was assented to in January, 1912, and the board was constituted and held its first meeting on the 1st March, 1912. The total advances made during 1912-13, under Part IV., better known as the freehold section, amount to £155,228, and to date £218,573. The number of new buildings which have been or are being erected, is 514, representing £200,040, and the houses completed or improved, 56, equal to £13,445, or a total of £213,485, which has been approved for almost entirely new houses. Buildings under Part IV.—that is the freehold section—are being erected throughout the Metropolitan area in Geraldton, Northam, York, Bunbury, Beverley, Katanning, Bridgetown, Narrogin, Wagin, Pingelly, Brunswick, Moora, and Lion Mill. Land has been thrown open

for the purpose of Part III. (where the land is found and leased by the Board) known as the leasehold section of the Act, at Fremantle, Narrogin, Subiaco, Midland Junction, Victoria Park, Meckering, Geraldton, Merredin, Beverley, Wagin, Cottesloe Beach, Buckland Hill, Northam, Katanning and Albany, and additional areas will be available in other localities at an early date. Notwithstanding that Part III. has virtually only been in the position for operations for a comparatively short time, 107 applications have already been approved and 25 are in progress. The dwellings which have been approved represent an outlay of approximately £50,310, and applications in progress, if approved, are estimated to involve a further £11,250. Dwellings are to be erected in Geraldton, and 31 are already approved to be erected in the first area dedicated to the board in Fremantle; at Subiaco 29 have been approved, Narrogin 5, Buckland Hill 4, Katanning 3, Northam 1, Wagin 1, and Victoria Park 3. Ten others under Section 13a—which provides that the board may buy any block and lease it to the applicant—in various parts of the metropolitan area, or a total of 107 dwellings approved to be erected under Part III. In addition 66 mortgages have been discharged, representing £17,250; and 164 homes have been purchased, involving £60,910. May I here interpolate that the lifting of those mortgages has saved already thousands of pounds to those who possess homes. It has come to my knowledge that we have lifted mortgages where some were paying as much as 12½ per cent.

Mr. Lewis: And probably would have lost them.

The TREASURER: Yes, but for the action of the board. As a considerable number of buildings are in various stages of progress, the whole amount represented above will, of course, not be immediately necessary. But 270 applications are now in progress, which represent an amount applied for of £106,663. Therefore, the approved loans and other loans in progress, with a reasonable prospect of success, amount to a grand total of £398,298. It will therefore be astonishing

to the members of the public who have complained that there has been procrastination and delay, when it is known that practically since July, 1913, the board has had to arrange for business under both sections of the Act, representing a total of £541,135. In conclusion let me say that although occasional delays may have eventuated in connection with country payments, such occurrences are rare and are attributable to causes incidental to the establishment of a new Government department or financial institution in the service in the short space of twelve months, and one which, with careful handling, can be made as valuable to the community from another point of view, as our much appreciated Agricultural Bank.

Fire Insurance Fund.

Believing that it is always to the interest of the Government to have its own fire insurance fund, where possible, and recognising the undoubtedly growing importance of the operations under the Workers' Homes Act, the Government are giving consideration to the advisability of creating a fire insurance fund in connection with this particular part of the Government administration. Whether, however, this shall form portion of a general insurance scheme, which has been in contemplation for some time, or be conducted solely and directly through the Workers' Homes Board, still remains to be determined. The Government are also considering whether it is possible to formulate a scheme of insurance in connection with workers' dwellings in order to cover the risk incurred in the event of the purchaser dying before the loan has been redeemed, so as to ensure the house becoming the property of the widow or family or representative. The advantages of such a scheme are obvious, and I am inclined to think that it is possible of accomplishment, and the Government Actuary has been asked to report on the subject as soon as possible.

The Mining Industry.

I now turn to another industry which has meant a great deal to the progress of Western Australia, and as hon. mem-

bers are aware was really responsible for the establishment on its present basis of the agricultural industry. I refer to the mining industry. During the year 1912 a total of 2,688,868 tons was milled. The output from all sources was 1,282,658 fine ounces of gold, valued at £5,448,385, and for the first nine months of 1913 the output was 972,503 fine ounces, valued at £4,130,931. The value of the mineral production of the State to the end of August, 1913, was £4,295,679, exclusive of gold. The value of gold to the end of September was £113,429,803, or a total value of mineral production to 31st August of £117,725,482. The most satisfactory features of the year 1912 were the increased output in the Coolgardie field, which was the highest since 1907, and the substantial increase in the Yilgarn field, the output from which was higher than for many years. The field right throughout is looking well, and the yield for 1913 is expected to show a still greater improvement. When two old fields like these are again on the up grade it is exceedingly encouraging, and a proof of the oft repeated assertion that most of the auriferous portions of the State have to now been imperfectly prospected. The centres of Comet Vale, Ora Banda and Weston's are opening up well, and their future is very promising. The mines at Meekatharra also continue to open up splendidly, and this centre is very prosperous. The East Coolgardie field is still the largest producer, the output being over 50 per cent. of the total. The tin output shows an increase, attributable to greater activity at Greenbushes. The production of coal was greater the previous year by 45,180 tons, the output being 295,079 tons. This is due to the improved machinery in use and to an increase in the bunkering trade. The dividends paid by gold mining companies from 1890 to 30th June, 1913, amount to no less a sum than £23,429,336. The number of men engaged in the industry is 14,961. For every 100 fine ounces of gold produced in Australasia during 1912 the respective contributions were: Western Australia 48.36, Victoria 18.10, Queensland 13.12, New Zealand 11.73, New South Wales 6.23, South Aus-

tralia, Northern Territory, Tasmania, and Papua 2.46.

State Batteries.

The capital expenditure for the year 1912-13 on erection account was £26,574, and from the inception of the scheme to the 30th June, 1913, £328,298. The revenue shows a falling off of £2,915 against that of the previous year, but should the supply of stone increase sufficient to keep all the mills working for a portion of the year, there is no reason why the revenue should not meet the expenditure. The working account for 1912-13 resulted in a loss of £10,509, but the cost of several extensive renovations and renewals was defrayed from revenue. The State owns and controls 35 batteries and three tin dressing plants. From the inception of the State battery system to the end of 1912, gold and tin to the value of £3,956,337 has been recovered at State plants: 900,416 tons of gold ore were treated and produced £3,340,774 worth of gold by amalgamation; £447,072 worth by cyanidation; £95,186 worth from slimes; and 56,883½ tons of tin ore produced tin to the value of £73,304. During the year 1912 the gold ore treated was 56,636 tons for 53,828 fine ounces. During 1913 to the end of August 34,734 tons of gold ore have been treated, yielding £109,189 worth of gold by amalgamation, £16,317 worth by cyanidation, and £1,275 worth of slimes; and 5,722 tons of tin ore yielded 54.32 tons of black tin.

State aid to Mining.

The following sums were advanced during the year 1912-13 under the provisions of the Mining Development Act, 1902:—Advances in aid of mining work and equipment of mines with machinery, £12,118; advances in aid of erection and equipment of crushing plants, including subsidies paid on stone crushed for the public, £1,960; advances in aid of boring, £3,572; providing means of transport, £241; making a total, leaving out the shillings and pence, of £17,892. In addition to the above £6,708 was expended from the Mining Development

vote on account of tailings. Included in the amount set against "Advances in aid of erection, etc." is the sum of £1,174, being the subsidies paid to owners of plants crushing for the public, the conditions being that they crush for the public at fixed rates in most cases, a further requirement being imposed as to treating or purchasing tailings. Though an increase of revenue of £7,298 is expected from the departments controlled by the Minister for Mines, it is possible on the one hand that a larger amount may be collected, and on the other that it may not be attained. There are two principal sources of revenue, one being the rents and fees collected under the Mining Act and the other the crushing charges collected at the State batteries, and it is always difficult to estimate what will be received from both sources. The revenue under the Mining Act may be largely augmented in a short time by a favourable discovery in a new locality: similarly the failure, temporary or otherwise, of a few mines may cause the abandonment of many leases and other holdings. It would, of course, be possible to increase revenue under the Mining Act by increasing rents and fees, but it is recognised that every encouragement should be given to hold and work mining lands, as the indirect revenue received from this source and the employment of large numbers of men fully compensate the State for the comparatively small direct revenue obtained from them. Battery revenue is also hard to forecast. For instance, the revenue received fell short of the estimated revenue by £4,717, the tonnage delivered for crushing being less than expected. It is anticipated that a larger tonnage will be crushed this year. The revenue from the mining school will be reduced by about £500 this year in consequence of the decision of the Government to cease charging fees. The total expenditure for 1912-13 was £122,007 as against £121,753 for the previous year, or an increase of £254, while the estimate set down for this year is £126,621, an increase of £4,614 as compared with the actual expenditure of 1912-13, made up of increases to officers

receiving under £204 per annum, and two additional inspectors of mines, the largest item being shown in battery expenditure which is necessitated by the larger tonnage expected.

Education.

Now I come to the subject of education. During 1912 no fewer than 3,215 children were admitted as new pupils into the primary schools of the State, which means an advance of nearly 12 per cent. on the figures for 1911. This, of course, necessitates a heavy demand upon the public purse for school buildings as well as for additions to the teaching staff. The expenditure on school buildings and educational requirements during the past financial year, including £4,250 for the University, amounted to £77,084. In the course of last year 36 new schools were erected and 35 classrooms were added to existing schools, but the call for further expenditure is still acute. A new scale of salaries for teachers was brought into operation by the Government at the beginning of this year, and general increases were given in the lower and middle divisions. The discontent which had previously existed in these ranks has been removed, and teachers of even the smallest schools now have the opportunity of rising to a very fair salary. The Government have further liberalised the educational system by the abolition of fees at the Modern School, and we are providing for a new secondary school at Kalgoorlie which it is hoped will be available for tuition at the beginning of 1914. While the position of the teachers has been vastly improved, the welfare of the children has been by no means neglected. A new curriculum based on the latest scientific lines, and affording a wider scope for both teacher and pupil has been devised. The continuation or evening class system has been enlarged and improved and is now under the direction of a senior inspector of schools. Every effort is being made to popularise these classes and make them fulfil their functions as a step towards higher education. May I say that the demand is

greater than we can meet in some areas. The accommodation at the Modern School has been increased, and there are now nearly 400 pupils in attendance. A new scheme just in operation provides for specialised instruction at central schools in industrial, commercial, and domestic courses. These courses are designed to give the necessary training for the particular walk in life selected, and to enable us to send out our youths from the schools well equipped for the privileges, and not forgetting, too, the responsibilities of citizenship. The cost of education to the State for the financial year just ended has increased by £38,000 over that of the previous year. On one item alone, that of granting allowances to families outside the compulsory radius in order to enable them to drive their children to school, the Government have spent £3,600. A secondary school for Kalgoorlie and Boulder will open next year. A farm school is to be opened next year, and further facilities for agricultural education will be given if a real demand is found to exist. In regard to the University we found £3,000 for temporary buildings, and further demands are being made because the number of students is beyond expectations, with the result that the Government are now asked to find an additional £9,000.

State Steamship Service.

To deal now with the State Steamship Service: Owing to the resignation by Mr. Sudholz of the position of manager the Government had to make prompt arrangements for conducting the business of the service. The Colonial Secretary met the commissioners of the Fremantle Harbour Trust and it was mutually arranged that certain officers of the trust should for six months, with assistance from some of the old staff, perform the duties, the trust to be remunerated by the Steamship Service for the help thus rendered. So far the arrangement has worked well, and a thorough reorganisation of the service is being effected by Mr. Stevens. The difficulties attending the initiation of the undertaking were numerous. A business connection had to

be built up against strenuous and well established competition. The stock season was over when the "Kwinana" commenced operations, and it was nearly ended when the "Western Australia" was put on the trade. This meant missing the bulk of the stock trade, which is a lucrative one. Then the "off" season came on with little time to arrange profitable contracts. This year the steamers have carried large quantities of stock, and profitable contracts have already been entered into for the "off" season, while a large proportion of the space for the next stock season has already been booked. The prospects for the future, therefore, look considerably brighter. In the past there has been a fairly large expenditure necessary to fit the steamers for their respective trades. The vessels are now in such condition that no very serious outlay need be anticipated in the near future. The cost of the No. 3 survey of the "Western Australia," which is a very searching survey, will, however, have to be met in a few months time. As the audit of the balance-sheet to 30th June has not yet been completed, the position of the profit and loss account for the year cannot be stated, but as soon as the Auditor General has completed his work the statement of accounts will be submitted to Parliament. During the 1912 season 37,000 sheep and 1,350 cattle were carried by the State steamers. During the 1913 season to date 9,100 cattle, 100 horses, and 8,000 sheep have been conveyed by the Government boats.

Public Works Department.

The amount voted during the year 1912-13 under the control of the Minister for Works and Water Supply, and the expenditure against each of the groups was as under:—Against Loan £1,444,596. expenditure £1,187,077, or an underdraft of £257,519 made up as follows:—salaries and incidentals, £53,822; railways, £522,442; harbours and rivers, £139,999; abattoirs, cold storage, markets, etcetera, £36,044; roads and bridges, £35,279 (the overdraft was due to expenditure on feeder roads to new railways); public buildings, £36,578; sundries, namely, saw

mills, Boya quarry, brick yards, workshops, State hotels, £62,814. Against Revenue the amount voted was £301,158, and we expended £258,449.

Property Trust.

On the Property Trust section of the Estimates the amount expended was £34,161. Of the total sum voted under this head £28,901 was on account of school buildings, of which £24,072 had actually been expended on the 30th June. These figures show that in the aggregate, £1,787,492 was voted the Works Department, the total expenditure being £1,479,687. The amount voted for salaries, that is, Loan, Revenue and Property Trust, was £65,707, the expenditure being only £57,697 and showing an underdraft of £8,010. I wish to call special attention to the fact that the cost of Administration this year was the lowest on record, the percentage of salaries to all other expenditure being 4.057 as against 4.70 for the preceding year, which in its turn was the lowest for very many years.

Railway Construction.

The following lines were completed during the financial year and handed over to the Working Railways:—Gnowangerup-Ongerup (2nd section), 35 miles; Northampton-Ajana, 33¼ miles; Upper Darling Range Railway, 1½ miles; Quairading-Nunagin, 48¼ miles. Since the close of the year the Dwellingup-Hotham Railway and extensions, 41 miles, were handed over, and the official ceremony in connection with the opening of this is to take place on the 1st November. This represents a total, including the Dwellingup-Hotham line, of 297 miles. Substantial progress has been made with the Wongan Hill-Mullewa and the Wickepin-Merredin railways. In regard to the former, it is anticipated that the rails will have been laid and have junctioned up before the 31st December. The rails are already laid throughout the length of the Wickepin-Merredin line, and traffic is now being run on this line. It is proposed to hand over to the Working Railways the section from Merredin to Nunagin in November or December next. The length of these

two lines is: Wongan Hills-Mullewa, 198 miles; Wickepin-Merredin, 108¾ miles. Work has also been commenced on the Yilliminning-Kondinin, 73 miles; and the Brookton-Kunjin line, 55 miles; and as large quantities of plant and material have been stacked in readiness to make a start rapid progress with construction should be made. It will thus be seen that the mileage of railways at present under construction is 435 miles. Further, as a result of negotiations entered into with Messrs. Millars' Timber and Trading Company, it has been decided to enter into an agreement for the purchase of the Margaret River-Flinders Bay railway, including jetties and accessories, and a Bill ratifying this will shortly be introduced.

New Railways.

Dealing with new railways may I say that with a view to preventing the recurrence of the trouble of the "battle of the routes" after a Bill for the construction of a railway has been passed, it is intended in the future to obtain Parliamentary authority for the survey, after which a Bill for the construction on the route surveyed will be submitted to Parliament. Any objections can then be decided by Parliament, and thus obviate deputations, complaints, etcetera regarding the route which any particular railway shall take, and that which perhaps is a very much more important matter, namely, the removing of the possibility of a Minister, by means of any deviation, being able to subvert the will of Parliament.

Harbours and Rivers.

In Harbours and Rivers substantial progress is being made at Fremantle with the construction of additional wharfage accommodation on the north side, and dredging to a depth of 36 feet is also being proceeded with. A scheme providing for additional berthage accommodation, etcetera, at Albany has been approved by the Government, and an early commencement will be made with this work. Proposals for additional accommodation at Bunbury and Geraldton are also receiving attention by the

departmental officers. The Mary Ann Passage lighthouse is in course of erection, that on Anchor Island being now exhibited. Abattoir accommodation at North Fremantle and Midland Junction has been authorised, and the works are now well in hand. A considerable sum was expended last year on providing additional feeder roads to new railways, and this policy will be pursued during this financial year.

Public Buildings.

Members are aware that the new Public Library was completed during last year and handed over to the trustees, and the following works were also completed:—Albany cold storage, female, epileptic and nurses' quarters at the Claremont Hospital for the Insane, Perth Technical School additions, Perth University temporary buildings, Collie court house, and Northam lands office. A commencement has been made with the construction of the sanatorium at Wooreloo, and it is anticipated that the work will be sufficiently advanced to enable some patients to be accommodated within 12 months.

State sawmills.

Although the work of construction of these sawmills, with necessary connecting railways, has been considerably hampered owing to the extraordinarily wet season experienced in the South-West districts, yet it is anticipated that by the end of this month the No. 1 mill will be operating. By working one shift this mill has a capacity of 40 loads per day, which can naturally be doubled if two shifts are worked. It is anticipated that by the 30th June this mill will have produced about 170,000 of the sleepers required for the Trans-Australian railway. The Nos. 2 and 3 mills, having a capacity of 80 loads per day, and 120 with one mill working double shift, will probably commence operations in February, and the output of sleepers for the Trans-Australian railway will probably total 170,000 by the 30th June, making 340,000 from the three mills. Each

shift of mill will turn out 30 loads of sleepers and 10 of scantling.

State brickyards.

As a result of very careful inquiry the Government decided to establish brickyards at Beenup. The deposit is reported as being one of the best yet discovered. The site is situated about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the Beenup railway station, and a siding is in course of construction. It is estimated that the production of the bricks required for building the Hoffmann kiln will commence in December, and the bricks should be available for Government buildings by May or June next. In order to meet the convenience of the public it has been found necessary to further improve the accommodation house at Rottnest and to erect additions to the Dwellingup and Gwalia State hotels. Tenders are now being called for the erection of new State hotels at Bruce Rock and Coarin.

Consolidated Revenue and sale of Government Property.

Turning now to the Consolidated Revenue and Sale of Government Property Trust Estimates for the year 1913-14, it will be found that under the head "Minister for Works" the sum of £439,809 has been provided from Revenue, and £36,137 from Property Trust. Although the saving in salaries last year was about £10,000, it is anticipated that there will be a further saving of, approximately, £3,800 during this financial year. As compared with last year's expenditure, the revenue voted, £439,809, is £138,651 in excess of the amount voted for last financial year, and £181,360 in excess of the actual expenditure last year. These excesses are mainly accounted for as follows:—Municipal subsidies, £17,500, which has been provided this year under the head "Public Works Department" instead of under the Treasury as heretofore; State sawmills, including the supply of jarrah sleepers to the Commonwealth Government, £177,000, the estimated cash receipts up to the 30th June being £199,000; brickyards, £1,400 (it is

estimated that the Revenue will be equal to the actual expenditure; that is the revenue actually brought to account at the Treasury by the 30th June); education, an increase of £1,000. There are decreases under the heads of Harbours and Rivers, Boya Quarry (working expenses), salaries, rents and incidentals, and, in the case of workshops, a decrease of £33,200, accounted for by the transfer of the workshops, pipeworks, and agricultural implement works to the control of the Minister for Agriculture. The total estimated revenue receivable from the Public Works Department is—sawmills and sale of jarrah sleepers, £199,000; Boya quarry, £8,000; traffic receipts of railways under construction, £8,000; State brickyards, £1,400; rents, £6,500; payments from Commonwealth for services rendered, £4,000; other services rendered £2,300; or a total of £229,200. The amount received from this department last year was £51,696, which included £26,204 on account of the Fremantle workshops.

Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Department.

The amalgamation of water, sewerage, and drainage undertakings and works throughout the length and breadth of the State has been satisfactorily accomplished, and operations are now being smoothly conducted on a commercial basis as a single huge business under departmental control. Substantial economies and greater efficiency have resulted. The capital expenditure on works and services taken over is £6,700,000, and the number of persons employed thereon, exclusive of casual labourers, is 771. For the ensuing year the expenditure on revenue account is estimated at £232,900, and the gross revenue receipts at £387,000.

Goldfields Water Supply.

The total capital expenditure on the goldfields water supply from Mundaring amounted to £3,373,168, having increased during the year by £55,724.

The gross income reached the record figure of £254,920, exceeding by £11,399, the returns for the preceding year. The earnings sufficed to pay working expenses, £89,388, and interest, £106,190, and to contribute £59,342 towards the sinking fund annual instalment of £91,294. The net result of the year's operations after meeting working expenses, interest, and sinking fund charges shows a deficit of £31,952, being £4,770 greater than for the previous year. During the ensuing year, the gross income is estimated at £260,000, and the working expenses at £103,900. The increase in estimated working expenses is due to the necessity for providing for a large extra expenditure on the maintenance of the main conduit, and on measures for reducing the corrosive influences of the water, also to the expenses of operations. The new 10,000,000 gallons storage reservoir at Kalgoorlie, estimated to cost £26,000, and now in course of construction, will safeguard continuity of supply during the progress of any extended repairs to the pipe main.

Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage.

The total capital expenditure on these undertakings amounts to £1,439,769, having increased during the year by £155,288. The working expenses amounted to £29,230 and exceeded the previous year's figures by £2,151. The gross income amounted to £92,866, being greater by £19,105, than the income for the year before. The interest and sinking fund payments by the Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Department for the year amounted to £68,074, which, added to working costs, made a total charge against revenue of £97,304. The net financial result of the year's operations was thus a deficit of £4,438, which had to be financed from the general revenue of the State. For the ensuing year the gross income is estimated at £107,000, and the working expenses at £32,200. The principal items of capital expenditure in the year are—sewerage and drainage construction (in progress), £89,072 ;

sewerage connections on behalf of householders (in progress), £96,450 ; water supply, reticulation services, improvements, etcetera (in progress), £36,055 completion of 10 million gallon service reservoir on Mount Eliza, £30,161.

Water Supplies in agricultural districts and towns.

Additional expenditure on Loan Account has been incurred during the year in agricultural districts to the extent of £74,300. The work done comprised the construction of 88 wells, 61 tanks and 987 bores. So far as town water supplies are concerned, undertakings were brought into operation during the year or are now in progress at Derby, Geraldton, Meekatharra, Pingelly, Roebourne, Albany, Wagin, and Busselton, representing an expenditure of £115,093. Further schemes of water supply are contemplated for Katanning, Collie, Bridgetown, Narrogin, and Carnarvon. The total capital expenditure on town water supplies during the year amounted to £47,682.

Mines Water Supply.

Exclusive of places served from Mundaring, and of those under the Water Boards Act, the capital expenditure during the year on Mines Water Supply in providing increased facilities, amounted to £26,963. A sum of £22,115 was spent on operating costs, and the gross revenue receipts amounted to £11,852. For next year the operating expenses are estimated at £20,300, and the income at £12,500. The principal items of capital expenditure consisted of £14,590 on the Oroy Banda water supply, and £12,373 on various wells and other water supplies throughout the goldfields districts. New works or investigations and preparation of schemes are contemplated during next year in respect of water supplies at Linden, Norseman, Parker's Range, Randalls, and Ruby Find, and also boring and the sinking of a new well in the Pilbara district, whilst on the other goldfields water supply and development generally is being attended to.

Land drainage, irrigation, and artesian boring.

The number of land drainage undertakings now in operation is nine, of which one is under departmental control and the remainder are controlled by local boards. The total capital expenditure is £41,400 of which £15,000 has been charged against the undertaking and £26,400 provided as a national contribution. The additional capital expenditure in the year amounted to £5,885. Works were commenced, are in progress, or have been completed in the following localities:—Lennox river, Harvey, Stirling Estate, Brunswick State farm, East Jandakot, and Torbay-Grassmere. The new works contemplated during the year comprise Wannerup, Busselton (broadwater drain), Harvey district, and West Jandakot. The total capital expenditure on the Harvey Irrigation scheme amounts to £3,130 of which £2,950 was expended during the year. Owing to the non-passage last session by the Legislative Council of the Rights in Water and Irrigation Bill, the work had to be suspended, but it will be resumed as soon as the necessary legislative sanction has been obtained and the scheme, which is estimated to cost £22,000, will then be vigorously proceeded with. Investigations into further potential projects for irrigation in the South-West are in active progress. Artesian boring has been in progress during the year at Rottnest, Moora, and Derby. The expenditure incurred amounted to £8,000, and at the last mentioned place the work is still in progress.

State Hotels, Inspection of Liquors, Tourist Bureau.

The present Ministry are responsible for amalgamating into one sub-department under the control of the Colonial Treasurer, the State hotels, inspection of liquors, and the Tourist Bureau, and during the year the profits under these various sub-departments have been well maintained. It will be remembered that the State hotel at Dwellingup was purchased by the present Government,

and the financial results, taking into account the good quality of the liquor sold, have shown a handsome return on the outlay; in fact, the whole capital outlay thereon has been returned to the State, and the public fully appreciate the very low rate charged for meals; indeed it is questionable whether anything better is procurable in Perth for the low price charged. In connection with the State hotel at Gwalia, the Government have provided for the use of the people a reading room, replete with the latest magazines, newspapers, etcetera. This is availed of from early morning until late at night and it is a boon to the residents of Gwalia generally: consequently the State is providing for the people advantages, which are non-existent at privately owned hotels. Under the new order of things, up to date methods have been instituted in regard to the inspection of liquors, and good results are being obtained therefrom. The public are protected as far as possible from inferior liquors, and our return of prosecutions compares most favourable with that of previous years. The police are now notified of any hotel which is not being properly conducted and action is taken to remedy same. In addition, the Commissioner of Railways is notified of any shortcomings in connection with the railway refreshment rooms, and this should have a good tendency in protecting the welfare of the travelling public. During the past year the Caves House at Yallingup was considerably enlarged and the patronage given thereto proves the attraction this part of the State affords to holiday makers; in fact, it has been a record year for the number of visitors to the caves. The Rottnest hostel was open for the first time during the last financial year, and the demand for accommodation was at times too great to comply with. The financial results are not, however, satisfactory, as without a license for the sale of liquors, a deficit must be shown. Others are reaping the financial advantages which should accrue to the State; in fact the State is making the business and not reaping the reward therefrom.

Without doubt a license for this hostel is essential and the complaints from the public generally about not being able to obtain from the Government what they are able to obtain elsewhere, however, have been general. With a license for the sale of liquor at Rottneest the Government would be able to make this concern a payable one, and moreover minimise the evils of the liquor traffic. A measure dealing with this subject is now before Parliament. When a valuation of our concerns under this department is made, the Government will be able to furnish such information as will satisfy the public that their efforts in this direction have been most favourable from a trading and public standpoint.

Public Service Superannuation scheme.

It is not my intention to-night to deal at any length with matters affecting the public service. I propose to reserve my remarks on that subject until we reach the division of the Estimates dealing more particularly with it. But I desire to inform the Committee that we propose to institute a superannuation scheme in respect of all Government employees, and with that end in view, instructions have been given to the Government Actuary to submit a report. That officer is accordingly conducting an elaborate inquiry into the rates of mortality, retirement, and withdrawals from the public service for the last ten years. Nearly 14,000 cards have been sent in and a few still remain outstanding. As soon as they have been received it will be possible for the inquiry to be seriously commenced. Having regard to the magnitude of the task, it will be impossible for the Government Actuary to submit a report for several months. There are still several points which are agitating those who come more particularly under the purview of the Public Service Commissioner, and most of these can only be adjusted by an amendment of the Public Service and Superannuation Acts, the latter of which I have just referred to. The report of the conference of permanent heads and sub-heads, dealing with the suggested amendments

of the Public Service Act was recently laid upon the Table of the House. Time will not permit of an amendment of this Act being introduced during the present session, but I hope that hon. members will take the earliest opportunity of carefully perusing this report, as an amendment will in all probability be brought down next session.

Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration—Friendly Societies.

Owing to the passing of the Industrial Arbitration Act last year, it is anticipated that an increased volume of business will require to be transacted by the court. The new regulations under the Act have necessitated a considerable amount of discussion and consideration, and are now practically ready for publication as soon as they have been approved by the Governor. It is anticipated that their publication will facilitate the reference of disputes to the court, and it is expected that an increased expenditure of about £220 will be incurred during this financial year, as compared with last year. Additional apprentices are being registered almost daily, the consequence being that an increased amount has to be provided for examination fees. The financial position of the friendly societies continues to improve. A short Bill has been introduced into Parliament with the intention of further assisting the management funds of those societies. In this connection it may be stated that at the end of 1909 the debit balances amounted to nearly £4,000, that is to say the benefit fund had been misapplied to that extent, owing to the impecuniosity of the management fund. The credit balances at the end of 1909 were £3,311, and at the end of 1911 the debit balances were £1,348, and the credits £7,039. At the end of 1912 the position was much better still, though the actual figures are not yet available. From an actuarial point of view all the friendly societies are in a much better position as a result of the administration of the last three or four years.

Gaols.

The estimated expenditure on gaols for the year 1912-13 was £21,823, and the actual expenditure was £22,293, or £470 in excess of the estimate. On the draft Estimates for 1913-14 provision has been made for a slight advance on the actual expenditure of last year. It is anticipated, however, that in view of the recent closing of the common gaol at Wyndham and the reduction in staff, at the Fremantle gaol, it will be possible to effect a substantial reduction in the figures. The new prison regulations which came into force on the 1st October provide for more liberal treatment of prisoners than at present obtains. The mark system has been extended to prisoners serving sentences of one month and over in lieu of three months and over as hitherto, and the system of gratuities will apply to those serving three months and over in lieu of over three months as at present. The most important amendment is the abolition of the separate treatment system, in consequence of which it has been found practicable to close a considerable portion of the Fremantle gaol and to reduce the staff of warders.

Workers' Compensation Act, 1912.

Under the new Act the benefits to workers suffering from injury have been considerably increased and the Government have, of course, a greater burden to bear. A workers' compensation fund has, therefore, been established under the management of the Government Actuary to cover the risks in respect of all Government employees. Each department has placed on the Estimates a certain amount in accordance with a scale which has been drawn up and all legal claims will be met from this fund. The scheme has now been properly put into force and is working satisfactorily. All claims are being settled by one officer on a uniform basis. Of course the rates of premium adopted are only provisional, and may be varied as is proved to be necessary. On account of the large number of employees in the Government departments, it will be possible, in the course of a few years, to have a

thorough actuarial investigation made, so that a reliable basis may be fixed and the desirability of extending its operations to other than Government employees can then be considered.

Mr. Gill: Hear, hear. The sooner the better.

Immigration.

The TREASURER: For the year ended 30th June, 1913, the total number of State-aided immigrants was 7,259, made up as follows:—2,277 men, 2,681 women, 2,301 children under 12 years of age. There were 49 steamers employed as against 62 for the previous year. At the end of the year 3,500 persons who had been approved for nominated passages were awaiting berthing accommodation. Of the above immigrants all were British except 50 who came from various European countries. In addition to State-aided immigrants, approximately 5,000 third-class passengers arrived in the State exclusive of interstate traffic, as compared with 7,360 during 1911-12. There was a decrease of 3,350 in the number of assisted immigrants, while there was an increase of 895 in the nominated arrivals. The number of persons approved for nominated passages was 4,990, as against 7,146 for the previous year. Forty-four per cent. of the above were nominated by persons who themselves had come out as State-aided immigrants. Practically the whole of the male assisted immigrants were placed at work in the country. Domestic to the number of 412 were introduced, and 2,558 persons passed through the Immigrants' Home, the net cost being 1s. 1d. per head per day. The net expenditure upon immigration amounted to £66,453, being less by £35,478 than for the previous year. The cost per head of arrivals was £9 3s. 1d., as against £10 10s. 2d. for 1911-12. Of the total expenditure, £55,610 was spent on passages and £3,798 in advertising inclusive of shows in Great Britain. It may be added that owing to the prospect of a bounteous harvest it is anticipated that there will be ample work for a large number of farm labourers, and at the present time the demand is exceeding the supply.

Medical and Health Department.

I will merely touch upon matters affecting some of the remaining departments, and hon. members will be able to obtain more detailed information when we consider the departments concerned, but I must include some reference to the Medical Department, in which my colleague, the Hon. W. C. Angwin, Honorary Minister, takes considerable interest, and has rendered good service during the last two years. The vote of the Medical and Health Department shows an increase in expenditure of £2,546 on the amount provided on the Estimates for the previous year. The Government are in sympathy with the safeguarding of the health of the community, and have assisted the pioneers in the agricultural and industrial districts by granting a subsidy to medical men to settle in districts which warrant their appointment, and in a variety of other ways. One of the chief drains on the resources of the people is the invasion of tuberculosis, which is a widespread disease, and the Government are making every effort to cope with it and to afford people infected with this disease an opportunity to recover from it. The new sanatorium at Wooroloo should play an important part in counteracting this scourge. A start has been made with the erection of buildings for the treatment of consumptive cases at Wooroloo. The work is being pushed on and it is expected that before the end of the year the first batch of cases will be under treatment there. The Government are doing everything possible to prevent the spread of the dread disease, and the institution of the new sanatorium should go a long way towards combating it. In connection with hospitals, we have this year written off no less than £11,102 0s. 3d., as against £7,332 0s. 11d. in 1912, and £24,852 11s. 4d. in 1911.

Mr. Munsie : And foreigners owe a considerable amount of it.

The TREASURER : The Minister in charge of the department is making inquiries with a view to preventing that in future.

Food and Drugs.

The food and drugs conference, an important interstate conference, was convened with the primary object of, as far as possible, bringing into line the regulations framed in the various States. From a trade point of view the disadvantage of varying requirements regarding labelling and the composition of food and drugs are obvious. The conference was composed of professional and trade representatives from the Commonwealth and all the States. The Government joined in the conference with a sincere desire to bring about uniformity, and it is pleasing to record that complete unanimity in this direction prevailed at the conference. So far as this State is concerned, it is not expected that there will be any difficulty in agreeing to the conference report, and it is very satisfactory to learn that the conference endorsed the regulations recently framed by the Government of this State. If all the other States act likewise then the much to be desired unanimity will be secured.

Charities and Labour Bureau.

For the year ended 30th June, 1913, the sum of £12,589 13s. was expended from the vote in payment to women on whom children are dependent. On the 30th June the number receiving assistance was 367, with 1,116 children dependent upon them. The amount authorised on that date totalled £15,100 per annum. Other assistance to destitute persons during the year amounted to £4,145. The amount expended on the Old Men's Home Claremont, and the Women's Home, Fremantle, amounted to £123,666 for the year. The expenditure on orphanages and industrial schools and children boarded out, amounted to £17,228. As regards the Labour Bureau there were during the year 1912-13, 11,822 individual persons (10,011 men and 1,811 women) registered for employment. Engagements were found for 7,935 persons (5,774 men and 2,181 women). During the year fares were advanced to 1,346 men to proceed to employment, the cost being £1,459 3s. Of this amount £1,091 16s. 2d., or

74.82 per cent. was collected by the Labour Bureau and paid to revenue. This percentage exceeds that of any previous year since the opening of the bureau.

Fisheries.

The expenditure under Fisheries for the 12 months ended 30th June, 1913, amounted to £3,964, as against £3,409 for the previous 12 months. This shows an increase in expenditure of £557. Against this the revenue received for the past 12 months amounted to £4,863 5s. 3d., as compared with £1,965 10s. 10d. for the 12 months ended 30th June, 1912, showing an increase of no less than £2,897 14s. 5d. From the above it will be seen that, for the past 12 months, the Fisheries Department has not only been self-supporting—for the first time, it is understood, in the history of the State—but has contributed £916 17s. 1d. to general revenue. The Pearling Act passed last session, which consolidated the various pearling measures in force at that time, came into operation on the 1st April last. This measure, while affording the Government further revenue, will make it possible to give additional protection to the industry itself. A pearling inspector has now been appointed at Broome, whose duties it will be to safeguard the revenue of the State in pearling matters, as well as to generally supervise the industry and protect the pearling grounds from becoming exhausted. The introduction of white divers has not met with the success which was hoped. At the present time not any white divers are working. The Commonwealth Government have now notified me that the coming into operation of the regulation demanding the employment of white divers and tenders has been extended to the 31st December, 1916. During 1912, 54,167 cwt. of pearl shell was exported from our North-West ports of a total value of £421,609. To this must be added the value of pearls received, which is estimated at £60,000, making a total production valued at £481,609 for the 12 months. Four hundred ships were employed and 364 Europeans, 2,309 Asiatics, and 59

aboriginal natives were engaged in the industry.

Aborigines.

The expenditure for the 12 months ended 30th June last amounted to £23,421, being £6,301 less than for the previous 12 months. The lock hospitals show a decreased expenditure of £5,340, of which the collection and transport of diseased natives is accountable for £540. The expenditure on the Moola Bulla native cattle settlement also shows a decrease which amounts to £2,250. The main point of interest in the year's work is the success which has attended the Moola Bulla native settlement. Not only is this so in the direction of a cessation of cattle killing in the country within the tribal influence of the station, but also from a financial standpoint. To the 30th June, 1912, a profit of £368 8s. 5d. was disclosed, and, although at the present date it has not been possible to complete the balance-sheet for the year ended the 30th June last, owing to the returns from Hall's Creek not yet having come to hand, there is every reason to expect that the figures will be very gratifying.

Harbour and Light.

This department has been actively engaged throughout the year in seeing that all necessary matters relating to light-houses, pending their being taken over by the Federal Government in October next, received due attention. The various jetties, apart from those controlled by the Railways, have also been attended to in various ways, whilst the management of the ferries on the Swan River, recently taken over by the Minister for Works, is receiving due consideration. In this connection I may say that tenders are being considered by the Government for the supply of up-to-date steamers, built on the lines of the Sydney ferry boats, and capable of carrying 400 to 500 passengers for the Mends-street and Barrack-street service.

Hospital for the Insane.

The introduction of the eight hours principle at the Claremont Hospital for the

Insane has necessitated increasing the staff, and an additional 28 attendants and nine nurses have been appointed. This entails an extra expenditure of about £4,500 per annum.

Whaling Industry.

When delivering my Budget speech last year I referred to this new industry in our midst, and doubtless it will be interesting to hon. members to know what has been done since. The Western Australian Whaling Company commenced operations in July of last year with a steam factory ship and two steam whalers. It has taken time to discover the trek of the humpback whale, which frequents the North-West coast in the winter months. I understand that the result of the first season's operations was, therefore, regarded as disappointing, and doubts arose as to whether whales occurred in sufficient numbers to ensure commercial success. During the summer months fishing was continued on the south coast, which is frequented by the sperm variety of whale, and in May of this year the fleet, which had been increased by a sailing vessel used as a factory ship, and four whalers—a total of two factory ships and six whalers—moved north and commenced operations in the vicinity of Point Cloates, where fishing has been carried on with gratifying results. From this year's experience, it is considered that the whales occur in sufficient numbers on the North-West coast to permit of the industry being established on a more permanent basis, and to warrant the expenditure connected with the establishment of a shore factory for the manufacture of the bi-products, namely guano and bonemeal, which will be disposed of locally. Since commencing operations the company have expended locally about £35,000, principally on supplies. It is expected that this amount will be considerably increased during the next year. During the past 18 months the catch is reported as 243 humpback whales valued at £20,000, and 285 sperm whales, producing 1,000 tons of oil, valued at £20,000, a total of £40,000.

Police.

Though it is rather late in the evening, I cannot conclude without making some reference to the Police Department. The expenditure for 1911-12 was £125,165, of which salaries accounted for £101,461 and contingencies £23,704. The expenditure for 1912-13 amounted to £127,179, being £2,014 in excess of the previous year's disbursements. The expenditure for salaries was actually £2,231 more than that of 1911-12, whilst the contingent expenditure showed a decrease of £362 as compared with the previous year. The additional expenditure under salaries was mainly caused by an increase of strength of 10 men in the constabulary, and automatic increases of pay to the police in accordance with the approved scale. An additional detective-sergeant was also provided for. The decrease of £362 in the actual expenditure under contingencies resulted from the saving effected under the items of forage, provisions for prisoners, shoeing and saddlery, travelling and transport, and incidental. The estimated expenditure for the present year, as set out in the draft estimates of the department, is in excess of last year's actual disbursements. It may be explained that salaries and allowances are provided for the full year, but invariably savings are effected, owing to transfers and changes in the force through resignation and otherwise. There is practically no increase, therefore, in the total vote for salaries as compared with the previous year. Most of the important requests put forward by members of the force during past years have now been conceded, including rates of pay and allowances, long service and accumulated leave, representation on the Benefit Fund Board, free passes to the coast, etcetera, whilst many other minor matters and requests have been approved and will soon be embodied in the regulations. I cannot omit to express my personal appreciation of the marked efficiency of our police force, which has also recently been favourably commented upon by different sections of the public and Press, not only of this State but elsewhere. This is but

a small tribute which I consider is well deserved.

Conclusion.

My task, Mr. McDowall, is almost ended, and hon. members will, I trust, have found the information placed before them such as to be of some value, and to enable them at the same time to possess that knowledge which is so essential to the proper elucidation and understanding of the financial affairs of the State. Let me say, however, that I am conscious of the fact that much more might have been said under the respective headings, but anything further I propose to leave to my colleagues to dilate upon when dealing with their individual sections of the Estimates, which are now before you, together with the Public Accounts for the past year. The resources of this State are perhaps, not beyond limit, but in discussing this question we sometimes forget that, after all, those of us who are here are only the passing political entities of the State. We have our entrance and our exit; but the State is great, and long after we are forgotten and our acts have become but small factors, its progress will continue. It will be said that we have made mistakes. Granted that such be the

truth we find that exemption from mistakes is not the privilege of mortals, and I contend that most of our mistakes have been involuntary. In the words of a well known writer, "It is the best Government that desires to make a people happy and knows how to make them so." As with individuals, so with Governments, the Administration that makes no mistakes makes nothing. We have tried to attain those ideals which we foreshadowed on the hustings to carry out the wishes of the people by a people's Government, and answerable only to the people. The sun of prosperity shines on this great State, even if for a brief period its lustre was dimmed, or may I say with the astronomer, even though it suffered a partial eclipse, visible only in but a comparatively speaking small area. The present Government, however, intend to persevere in their endeavour to raise the mass of the people to an adequate allowance of the great prosperity that appears to be its undoubted destiny. I beg to move the first item on the Estimates, namely—

His Excellency the Governor, £1,701.
Progress reported.

House adjourned at 11 p.m.

**APPENDIX TABLES Nos. 1 to 8, referred to in the Treasurer's
Financial Statement.**

[Return No. 1.]

Revenue, 1912-13.

	£	
The Treasurer's estimate for the year was	4,596,962	
The actual amount received was	4,596,659	
	<hr/>	
Or a total net over-estimate of ... ..	...	£303
	<hr/>	
<i>The over-estimates were—</i>	£	
Commonwealth	7,233	
Income Tax	2,225	
Dividend Duty	1,536	
Licenses	3,585	
Stamp Duty	4,347	
State Batteries	4,716	
Land Tax	15,481	
Land	6,886	
Railways	2,179	
Mining	4,030	
State Hotels	20,319	
State Steamships	6,807	
State Ferries and Jetties	2,882	
Perth Electric Tramways	7,250	
Other Public Works and Services	9,697	
	<hr/>	£99,173
	£	
<i>The under-estimates were—</i>		
Probate	17,929	
Royal Mint	1,019	
Totalisator Tax	1,842	
Water Supply and Sewerage	16,808	
Harbour Dues	42,613	
Law Courts	6,288	
Reimbursements-in-aid	9,253	
Residue	3,118	
	<hr/>	£95,870
		<hr/>
		£303
		<hr/>

Expenditure, 1912-13.

	£	
The actual amount expended was... ..	4,787,063	
The Treasurer's estimate for the year was	4,764,227	
	<hr/>	
Or a net under-estimate of ... ..	...	£22,836
	<hr/>	
<i>The under-estimates were—</i>		
Special Acts	a 25,380	
Minister for Railways	60,912	
Colonial Secretary	26,560	
Minister for Education	4,053	
Residue	2,712	
	<hr/>	£119,617

a Mostly Public Debt charges, £23,518, University of Western Australia, £1,191, and Court of Arbitration, £400.

The over-estimates were—

	£
Colonial Treasurer	4,782
Minister for Lands	10,287
Minister for Works and Water Supply	a 63,316
Minister for Mines	3,254
Minister for Agriculture	9,274
Attorney General	5,855
Residue	13
	<hr/>
	£96,781
	<hr/>
	£22,836
	<hr/>

a Water Supply, £20,607.

[Return No. 2.]

Synopsis of Balance Sheet for 30th June, 1913.

Dr.	£
Sinking Fund	3,327,595
General Loan Fund	1,104,847
Savings Bank	4,564,918
Trust and Deposits Accounts generally ...	1,961,256
	<hr/>
	£10,958,616

CR.	£
Advances to be recovered	146,309
Investments and Sinking Fund	8,011,690
Stores on hand	927,427
Cash in hand—	
Treasury	10
Agricultural Bank Redemption Account ...	5,374
Current Accounts	39,209
Trust Accounts	437,779
Eastern States	57,770
London	664,756
Remittances in transitu	356,777
Consolidated Revenue Fund—Deficit... ..	311,515
	<hr/>
	£10,958,616

[Return No. 3.]

Estimated Receipts for Year ending 30th June, 1914.

Heads.						Receipts for Year 1912-13.	1913-14.
STATE.						£	£
Land Tax	...	...	...	...	...	46,519	62,000
Income Tax	...	...	...	...	...	72,775	80,000
Dividend Duty	...	...	...	...	...	98,464	100,000
Totalisator Tax	...	...	...	...	...	11,342	11,500
Stamp Duty	...	...	...	...	...	70,652	71,000
Probate Duty	...	...	...	...	...	47,929	45,000
Licenses	...	...	...	...	...	45,934	46,000
Land	...	...	...	...	...	361,613	391,000
Mining	...	...	...	...	...	26,420	30,450
Railways	...	...	...	...	...	2,047,820	2,310,000
Tramways, Perth Electric	...	...	...	...	...	...	115,000
State Batteries	...	...	...	...	...	42,884	46,500
State Ferries and Jetties	...	...	...	...	...	23,819	27,200
State Hotels	...	...	...	...	...	32,785	46,960
State Steamships	...	...	...	...	...	66,193	83,500
State Implement Works	...	...	...	...	...	...	70,000
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	374,208	387,000
Harbour Dues	...	...	...	...	...	190,613	168,000
Royal Mint	...	...	...	...	...	31,019	30,000
Other Public Works and Services	...	...	...	...	...	100,254	319,081
Reimbursements-in-Aid	...	...	...	...	...	177,700	230,603
Fees of Public Offices	...	...	...	...	...	51,835	48,820
Law Courts	...	...	...	...	...	25,587	25,000
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	14,682	12,000
						3,961,047	4,756,614
COMMONWEALTH.							
Financial Agreement, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	605,146	612,810
Interest on Transferred Properties	...	...	...	...	...	30,465	23,600
						4,596,658	5,393,024
Deficit from Year 1912-13	...	...	...	...	...	...	311,515
Total amount available for Expenditure						...	5,081,509

Details of Commonwealth Receipts.

	£
25s. per capita on estimated population of 320,000 as on 31-12-13	400,000
Special payment to Western Australia	212,810
Interest on transferred properties, being $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on £677,459	23,600
Total for the year	636,410
Total amount received from the Commonwealth for the year 1912-13	635,611
Estimated decrease for 1913-14	£799

[Return No. 4.]

Estimated Expenditure on Administration, Recurring, and Revenue-producing Expenditure, Year 1913-14.

	£	£
<i>Special Acts—</i>		
His Excellency the Governor, Ministerial Salaries, etc. ...	10,900	
Pension, Sir John Forrest	500	
Aborigines	10,000	
Annuities	250	
Auditor General	800	
Commissioner of Railways	2,000	
Commonwealth Pensions	3,600	
Court of Arbitration	800	
High School	1,000	
Judges' Pensions	1,000	
Judges' Salaries	7,100	
Land Improvement Loan Fund	10,000	
Parliamentary Allowances	25,400	
Pensions under Superannuation Act	14,000	
Public Service Commissioner	850	
Tramways Purchase Act	3,450	
University of Western Australia	13,500	
		100,900
<i>General—</i>		
Government House	1,701	
Parliamentary	13,502	
Executive Council	45	
Premier's Office	1,192	
Treasury	11,335	
Audit	9,523	
Compassionate Allowances	1,281	
Savings Bank	22,335	
Government Stores	14,654	
Government Motor Cars	3,193	
Indenting Office	4,912	
Lithographic	6,461	
London Agency	4,942	
Printing	40,299	
Public Service Commissioner	2,374	
Refunds	3,000	
Taxation	14,953	
Workers' Homes Board	7,398	
Lands and Surveys	85,388	
Woods and Forests	12,689	
Agriculture	36,238	
Rabbits and Vermin Boards	17,384	
Stock	21,143	
Agricultural Bank	17,879	
Mines	41,847	
Explosives	5,286	
Geological Survey	11,153	
Machinery Inspection	6,314	
Carried forward	418,421	100,900

					£	£
	Brought forward	...	...	...	418,421	100,900
<i>General—continued.</i>						
Mining School	...	...	...	...	5,692	
Crown Law Offices	...	...	...	...	17,602	
Electoral	...	...	...	...	18,951	
Land Titles	...	...	...	...	16,017	
Stipendiary Magistracy	...	...	...	...	28,188	
Supreme Court	...	...	...	...	10,876	
Education	...	...	...	...	319,312	
Colonial Secretary	...	...	...	...	14,098	
Aborigines	...	...	...	...	11,402	
Charities	...	...	...	...	60,234	
Fisheries	...	...	...	...	4,739	
Friendly Societies	...	...	...	...	3,520	
Gaols	...	...	...	...	20,636	
Harbour and Light	...	...	...	...	14,769	
Lunacy	...	...	...	...	46,949	
Medical and Health	...	...	...	...	111,193	
Observatory	...	...	...	...	1,976	
Police	...	...	...	...	128,982	
Public Gardens	...	...	...	...	2,273	
Registry	...	...	...	...	9,170	
Parliamentary Expenses	...	...	...	...	3,280	
London Westminster Bank, Commission	...	...	...	...	4,000	
Royal Commissions	...	...	...	...	50	
Incidentals	...	...	...	...	9,287	
Public Works and Buildings	...	...	...	...	25,428	
						1,306,995
<i>Revenue-Producing Expenditure—</i>						
Royal Mint	...	...	...	...	22,500	
Public Batteries	...	...	...	...	56,329	
Railways and Tramways	...	...	...	...	1,733,536	
State Hotels	...	...	...	...	38,231	
Refrigerating Works, Abattoirs, etc.	...	...	...	...	41,788	
Ferries, Jetties and Tramways	...	...	...	...	17,997	
State Steamship Service	...	...	...	...	86,700	
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	232,900	
Agricultural Implement Works	...	...	...	...	64,568	
Saw Mills, Quarries, and Brickworks	...	...	...	...	185,900	
						2,480,449
Total Administration	...	...	...	...		3,888,344

[Return No. 5.]

General Expenditure for Year 1913-14.

	£	£	£
Interest and Sinking Fund on Public Debt ... ..	...	...	1,347,362
Subsidies to Municipalities ... ..	...	...	17,500
<i>Public Works—</i>			
Roads Boards—Subsidies	45,500		
Roads—Revotes	5,900		
Roads—New	17,100		
Bridges—Revotes	4,002		
Bridges—New	1,500		
Total Roads and Bridges ... ..	...	74,002	
Miscellaneous ... ..	...	4,418	
<i>Public Buildings, etc.—</i>			
Schools and Quarters	33,920		
Hospitals and Quarantine	9,463		
Gaols and Quarters	840		
Police Stations, etc.	7,600		
Court Houses, etc.	2,652		
Land Offices, etc.	1,711		
Mechanics' Institutes, Halls, etc.	3,750		
Harbours and Jetties, etc.	16,600		
Victoria Quav	15,000		
Various Buildings, etc.	45,443		
	...	136,979	
<i>Railways—</i>			
Relaying Great Southern Railway ... ..	...	25,000	
Total Works and Buildings ... ..	...	...	240,399
<i>Sundry Grants, etc.—</i>			
Hospitals and Benevolent	3,920		
Exhibitions	25		
Fire Brigades	7,500		
National Grants	80		
Cemeteries	550		
Chamber of Manufactures	100		
Parks and Recreation Grounds	4,050		
Land for Schools	5,000		
Public Libraries	3,950		
W.A. Museum and Art Gallery	3,800		
Zoological Gardens	3,600		
Mechanics' Institutes	1,750		
Literary and Scientific	100		
Various	200		
	...	...	34,625
Total General Expenditure ... ..	...	...	<u>£1,639,886</u>

[Return No. 6.]

Loan Authorisations and Flotations.

			£	£
Authorisations to 30th June, 1912	...	...	27,769,253	
Do. for 1912-13	...	...	5,600,000	
Total Authorisations	...	...		33,369,253
Flotations—				
General Loans	...	...	23,288,253	
Local Debentures	...	...	246,100	
Local Inscribed Stock	...	...	5,156,288	
Treasury Bills	...	...	1,473,070	
				30,163,711
Balance available for Flotation	...	...		£3,205,542
Actual Loan Indebtedness—				
Gross Debt on 30th June, 1912	...	...	26,283,523	
Flotation during year	...	...	4,049,388	
				30,332,911
Less—				
Bonds redeemed	...	...	56,475	
Sinking Fund (as on 31st March)	...	...	3,309,345	
				3,365,820
Net Indebtedness 30th June, 1913	...	...		£26,967,091
Net Public Debt per head of population on 30th June, 1913				£85 17 2
Do. do. do. do. 1912				77 5 11
Do. do. do. do. 1911				73 7 10
Net Public Debt less unexpended balance of Loan Money per head of population on 30th June, 1913	...	...		80 5 6

[Return No. 7.]

Loan Flotations and Expenditure.

Works and Services.	Flotations.	Actual Cash spent.
	£	£
Railways and Tramways	16,586,057	15,327,384
Harbours and Rivers	3,363,631	3,070,136
Goldfields Water Scheme	2,903,078	2,689,823
Water Supply Generally	644,854	538,062
Sewerage	836,087	766,814
Erection of State Batteries	259,991	236,317
Development of Goldfields and Mineral Resources ...	1,327,550	1,205,741
Development of Agriculture	2,343,938	2,305,903
Telegraphs	276,721	269,308
Roads and Bridges	353,487	300,693
Public Buildings	670,912	590,345
Immigration	179,429	49,831
State Hotels	8,754	17,580
Workers' Homes—Working Capital	69,264	150,000
Steamships	46,076	100,000
Saw Mills	55,289	43,691
Miscellaneous	238,593	125,245
	30,163,711	27,786,873
Cost of Raising ... ..	...	1,264,417
Unexpended Balance ... ..	...	1,104,847
Balance London Issue outstanding on 30th June ...	...	a 7,574
	30,163,711	30,163,711

a Approximate.

Loan Expenditure for 1912-13, compared with previous years.

Undertakings.	1912-13.	1911-12.	1910-11.
		£	£
Railways and Tramways, including Land Resumption	1,903,991	1,320,309	750,449
Fremantle Harbour Works	77,379	35,813	53,754
Fremantle Dock and Slip	11,330	80,842	48,168
Harbours and Rivers generally	61,790	69,109	69,429
Sewerage—Perth and Fremantle	160,931	93,572	95,811
Water Supply	234,184	31,417	17,696
Development of Goldfields	78,143	92,345	52,960
Development of Agriculture	a 415,240	362,406	196,374
Immigration	63,447	96,805	78,425
Steamships	100,000	...	...
Workers' Homes—Working Capital	150,000	...	...
Saw Mills	43,691	...	...
State Hotels	17,580	...	...
Public Buildings	38,699	91,707	52,945
Roads and Bridges	37,818	23,106	52,296
Sundries	14,995	12,121	34,783
Totals	3,409,218	2,309,552	1,503,090
Loan Expenditure per head of mean population	£10 17 6	£7 16 11	£5 6 10

a Includes £259,808 Agricultural Bank Working Capital.

Trade, Production, Population, etc.

	1909-10.	1910-11.	1911-12.	1912-13.
Railway Revenue	£1,649,397	£1,858,914	£1,896,579	£2,047,823
Railway Mileage	2,145	2,376	2,598	2,854
Wool produced (exported)	£269,904	£1,047,456	£1,008,858	£2964,938
*Wheat produced (bushels)	5,602,368	5,897,540	4,358,904	9,168,594
*Hay produced (tons)	195,182	178,891	299,695	255,751
Gold produced	£6,553,314	£6,003,789	£5,634,004	£5,493,072
Timber produced (exported)	£907,702	£932,800	£1,001,593	£965,308
Coal produced... ..	£114,487	£104,016	£121,109	£150,184
Other Minerals (exported)	£328,471	£155,277	£150,490	£195,764
†Number Sheep	4,731,737	5,158,516	5,411,542	4,596,958
†Number Cattle	793,217	825,040	843,638	806,294
†Number Horses	125,315	134,114	140,277	147,629
Area of land selected... .. (acres)	1,904,780	1,922,112	1,973,565	1,408,108
Area of land leased (acres)	10,330,373	9,314,310	11,595,445	21,170,037
*†Area of land for cultivation (acres)	4,685,607	5,309,832	5,650,628	6,714,565
*Area of land for crop (acres)	722,086	855,024	1,072,653	1,199,991
Tonnage Shipping, Inwards... ..	2,279,852	2,408,803	2,597,156	¶2,695,235
Tonnage Shipping, Outwards	2,271,879	2,419,078	2,615,952	¶2,696,790
Exports, including Gold	£8,576,659	£8,177,272	£10,443,570	£8,846,039
Exports, excluding Gold ... ..	...	...	£3,300,473	£4,549,126
Imports	£6,932,731	£3,450,855	£9,283,722	£9,589,745
Savings Bank's Deposits	£2,400,099	£3,170,345	£3,504,626	£3,716,184
Savings Bank's Withdrawals	£2,070,776	£2,667,377	£3,316,113	£3,681,220
Excess of Arrivals over Departures	2,691	12,013	9,319	9,206
Population §	271,162	287,855	302,271	314,157

* Seasons ended 28th February. † Years ended 31st December, 1909, 1910, 1911, and 1912. ‡ Area cropped, cleared, fallowed, ringbarked, etc. § As on 30th June. ¶ For the year ended 31st March, 1913.