

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 27th June, 1912.

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MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY.

The Legislative Assembly met at 3 p.m., pursuant to proclamation by His Excellency the Governor, which proclamation was read by the Clerk (Mr. A. R. Grant).

Mr. Speaker and hon. members, in response to summons, proceeded to the Legislative Council Chamber to hear the Governor's Speech in formally opening the session of Parliament (*vide* Council report *ante*), and having returned to the Legislative Assembly Chamber Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Premier: 1, Report of Railway Advisory Board on projected railway from Ravensthorpe to the Great Southern Railway. 2, Report of Premiers' Conference held at Melbourne, 1912. 3, Report of Organiser on establishment of the University. 4, Annual reports of (a) Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration and Trades Unions, (b) Fire Brigades Board, (c) Chief Harbour Master. 5, Regulations and amendments to regulations under (a) Audit Act, (b) Workers' Homes Act, (c) Matrimonial Causes Act, (d) Fremantle Harbour Trust, (e) Bunbury Harbour Board, (f) Gaols and Prisons, (g) Fisheries Act, (h) Early Closing Act, (i) Friendly Societies Act, (j) Factories Act, (k) Totalisator Regulation Act, (l) Shipping, Pilotage Consolidated Ordinance. 6, Amendments to Rules of (a) Supreme Court, (b) Local Court. 7, Scale and amendment to scale of rates of South Perth Ferry Service. 8, By-laws made by municipalities of (a) Perth, (b) Leederville. 9, Orders in Council under District Fire Brigades Act.

10, Proposed indentures for special licenses under Fisheries Act between the Government of Western Australia and (a) the Cape Leenwin Whaling Company, (b) the Fremantle Whaling Company.

By the Minister for Lands: Annual report of Department of Agriculture and Industries.

By the Minister for Mines and Railways: 1, Regulations under (a) Mines Regulation Act, (b) Inspection of Machinery Act, (c) Mining Development Act, (d) Government Railways Act, salaried staff. 2, Returns under Government Railways Act. 3, By-laws under Government Railways Act.

By the Minister for Works: By-laws of—1, Goldfields Water Supply Administration. 2, Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Department. 3, Municipality of Queen's Park. 4, Roads Boards of (a) Mullewa, (b) Capel, (c) Belmont, (d) Dardanup, (e) Yilgarn, (f) Mourambine.

By the Hon. W. C. Angwin (Honorary Minister): 1, Annual report of Immigration, Tourist and General Information Department. 2, Rules and Regulations under (a) Medical Department, (b) Perth Public Hospital, (c) Health Act, (d) Midwives Registration Board. 3, By-laws of Health Boards of (a) Black Range, (b) Osborne Park, (c) Harvey, (d) Dwellingup, (e) Cue, (f) Bullfinch, (g) Dowerin.

BILL—VICTORIA PARK TRAMWAYS ACT AMENDMENT.

The PREMIER, by leave without notice (by way of asserting privilege), introduced a Bill to amend the Victoria Park Tramways Act, 1904.

Bill read a first time.

GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

Mr. SPEAKER: Hon. members, I beg to announce that I have heard His Excellency's Speech and that copies of the same have been distributed among members of this Chamber.

BILL—SUPPLY, £1,003,361.

Standing Orders Suspension.

The PREMIER AND TREASURER (Hon. J. Scaddan) moved—

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to enable resolutions from the Committees of Supply and of Ways and Means to be reported and adopted on the same day on which they shall have passed those Committees, and also the passing of a Supply Bill through all its stages in one day, and to enable the business aforesaid to be entered upon and be dealt with before the Address-in-reply is adopted.

Hon. FRANK WILSON (Sussex): Do I understand that the Premier wishes to carry this motion this afternoon? The usual plan is to give notice for the next sitting of the House.

The Premier: We did it last session.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: Are we going to put it through now?

The Premier: Yes; this is the last sitting day before the close of the financial year.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: Are you going on with it before the motion for the Address-in-reply?

The Premier: Yes.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Standing Orders permit of such a procedure.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: I understand that, but I think it would be more in accordance with procedure if we had notice of it and proceeded with it on Tuesday of next week.

The PREMIER: My desire is to pass a Supply Bill through all its stages to-day because this is the last sitting prior to the closing of the present financial year, and I think it is due to the House that members should enable the Government to carry on by passing it. It was the practice last year to introduce the Bill on the first day and pass it through all its stages.

Hon. Frank Wilson: I do not think we did that.

The PREMIER: As a matter of fact, we are hardly following precedent; we are adopting a course that is not fre-

quently adopted, that of meeting Parliament before the close of the financial year in order to get supplies to carry on with, whereas the practice largely has been in the past to carry on without Parliament having granted supplies at all. We endeavour to avoid that by asking for supplies before the close of the financial year.

Question put and passed; Standing Orders suspended.

Message.

Message from the Governor received and read recommending appropriation in connection with this Bill.

In Committee of Supply.

The House having resolved into Committee of Supply, Mr. McDowall in the Chair.

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Scaddan) moved—

That there be granted to His Majesty on account of the services of the year 1912-13 a sum not exceeding £1,003,361.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: Without desiring to throw any unnecessary obstacle in the way of the Premier getting supply, we ought to have some intimation as to what the Premier purposed doing with this million pounds. Was he going to buy steamers?

The Premier: They are bought.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: Were they paid for? Was the Premier going to build sawmills and start brickworks?

Mr. Swan: He is going to make things hum generally.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: It was one's duty to find out how the Premier was going to make things hum. There should be some detailed information with regard to the purposes for which the money was to be devoted. How long was it going to carry the Government on; was it necessary to have a million right away, and what were the main items of expenditure? One could not remember a similar procedure having been taken before, to go on with the Supply Bill prior to the moving and seconding of the Address-in-reply.

Hon. W. C. Angwin (Honorary Minister): You have been spending money without authority; we do not wish to do it.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: That was all very well, but members wanted to know all about the expenditure before it was passed by the House. Members knew that the Government had been expending money without authority.

The Premier: Nothing of the kind

Hon. FRANK WILSON: The Premier had said that the Government had bought steamers, but they had no authority to incur that expenditure; yet the Premier calmly said that he had not been expending money without authority.

Mr. E. B. Johnston: He is carrying out the orders of the country.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: The Premier had been carrying out the orders of the country no doubt, but it was to be hoped that he would give the House full information as to what the present vote was wanted for.

The PREMIER: The confession of the leader of the Opposition that having only left the Treasury for nine months he had forgotten the method adopted for getting authority to expend money was somewhat astounding. The hon. member also forgot, and this was inexcusable in an ex-Treasurer, that every year immediately Parliament met the Government of the day asked for supplies in order to carry on the public services.

Hon. Frank Wilson: I have not forgotten that.

The PREMIER: Last year on the assembling of Parliament the Government had asked for the necessary supplies, the supply granted by the previous Parliament having become exhausted. The Government had done then as we were doing now. The Government met Parliament earlier than perhaps was wise on that occasion, having just assumed office, for the purpose of obtaining supplies, so that they might have the money provided by Parliament in a legal manner. The hon. gentleman opposite knew that in past years Parliament had not been called together until the end of June, and sometimes not till August, and the Government

of which the hon. member was Premier had carried on the expenditure of money without any authority from Parliament. The present Government refused to carry on under those conditions. The Government were asking Parliament as early as possible to grant supplies so that we could carry on until the annual Estimates were submitted. The amount asked for on this occasion was £493,846 from Consolidated Revenue, £499,515 from the moneys to the credit of General Loan Fund, and £100,000 from Loan Suspense Account, all of which was required for the services of the year ended the 30th June, 1913. This amount was based on the expenditure for the year just closing, being two-twelfths of such expenditure. It was impossible to say at this stage how the money would be expended, except that it would be expended in a legal manner; every penny of it would be spent according to the Constitution under which the Government were operating. The Government were asking for supplies in order to carry on the public services and nothing more, but if the Government did expend money in a manner that was not constitutional, the leader of the Opposition would have plenty of opportunity for taking the Government to account. If, however, he waited till that occasion arose he would have to wait a very long time.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: The point which the Premier had overlooked, was that he (Mr. Wilson) had no recollection of having introduced and carried through a measure of this description prior to the moving and seconding of the Address-in-reply. Often he had introduced a Bill and suspended the Standing Orders in order to get supplies, but never before the Address-in-reply had been moved.

The Premier: What is the difference?

Hon. FRANK WILSON: There was a lot of difference; the Premier had admitted that he had been expending money without authority.

The Premier: Nothing of the kind.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: The Government had no statutory authority for spending money on the purchase of steamers. Presumably this Bill was to cover the ex-

penditure which the Premier had illegally incurred for the purchase of those steamers.

Hon. W. C. Angwin (Honorary Minister): That is not illegal expenditure.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: The hon. member could prove that when he rose, but members were entitled to find out now before passing the amount how much had been expended on the steamers.

The Premier: This has nothing to do with last year's expenditure; this is for the expenditure for the coming year.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: The expenditure from Loan Suspense Account was not next year's expenditure.

The Premier: It is some of your expenditure that you have been carrying over.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: This Supply Bill was to cover the payment for the steamers if they had been purchased.

The Premier: Absolutely wrong.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: Then the Premier ought to amend the Bill and take more money.

The Premier: No, we can do with this.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: Presumably, the Premier was buying the steamers out of loan funds, and now was asking Parliament to authorise a vote of £100,000 from Loan Suspense Account to pay for them. If not, why did the Premier ask the House to vote £100,000? There was no desire to obstruct the granting of supplies in any way, but he did want information. Would the Premier give members the price paid for the steamers?

The PREMIER: Already members had been assured that the Government did not propose to spend a single shilling outside of the Constitution.

Hon. Frank Wilson: But you have done it already.

The PREMIER: That statement had already been denied, but he had no intention of debating it at this stage. Full opportunity for debating the subject would be presented later on. All that the Government were asking for was authority to expend money in accordance with the Constitution. The leader of the Opposition asked why £100,000 was asked for from Loan Suspense Account. The hon.

gentleman ought to know why, because he and previous Treasurers had been responsible for creating that Loan Suspense Account.

Hon. Frank Wilson: Not necessarily.

The PREMIER: That account had been in force for years, and it was to cover expenditure in the years when the leader of the Opposition was Treasurer.

Hon. Frank Wilson: Then you omitted your duty last session in not bringing in a Bill to cover it.

The PREMIER: When the last Estimates were before the House the necessity for the creation of the Loan Suspense Account had been explained. Large sums of money had been expended in one year, and instead of them being charged to that one year, they were carried forward under the Loan Suspense Account. The hon. gentleman knew that that had been done, particularly in connection with one work to which he was not desirous of giving too much prominence.

Hon. Frank Wilson: What work was that?

The PREMIER: Improvements to Fremantle harbour works.

Hon. Frank Wilson: Mr. Speaker, I absolutely deny that. There has never been a work carried out by me in this State that I have wished to keep secret, or to which I did not wish to give prominence.

The PREMIER: There was no intention to follow the leader of the Opposition in his denial. This was a matter that we might easily with credit to the State refuse to discuss at this stage. The hon. gentleman now asked why the Government were asking for £100,000 from Loan Suspense Account, but would the leader of the Opposition tell the House why in 1910-11 he had asked for £113,000?

Mr. George: Why did you not ask him then?

The PREMIER: Hon. members opposite seemed to imagine that the present Government could not be trusted with £100,000, but the present leader of the Opposition, when Treasurer, had asked for £113,000. Instances could be given of where the previous Government had, when

they obtained this authority, introduced new forms of expenditure without the authority of Parliament. He did not propose to do anything of the kind; the Government intended to carry on the functions of government with supplies granted to them by the House, and to bring down as early as possible the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure. They would be brought down earlier than had been customary in the past. For the time being, the Government were merely asking for a vote which represented two-twelfths of the expenditure in the last financial year under those two headings for necessary supplies, and he was doing exactly as the leader of the Opposition had done in 1910-11.

Hon. Frank Wilson: No, not exactly the same.

The PREMIER: Exactly the same except that the hon. gentleman had asked for a little more money.

Hon. Frank Wilson: What did you pay for the steamers?

The PREMIER: We paid good British coin for them.

Hon. Frank Wilson: How much, and where did you get the coin?

Question put and passed.

Resolution reported, and the report adopted.

Supply Bill introduced, etc.

Resolution in Committee of Ways and Means having been passed, a Supply Bill was brought in providing for the expenditure of £493,846 from Consolidated Revenue Fund, £409,915 from the General Loan Fund, and £100,000 from Loan Suspense Account.

Bill passed through all its stages and transmitted to the Legislative Council.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

First Day.

Mr. GARDINER (Roebourne): I rise with feelings of great pleasure to move the adoption of the Address-in-reply to His Excellency's Speech; and in doing so I avail myself of the opportunity of congratulating the Government on the deter-

mined and expeditious manner in which they have endeavoured to put into practical operation the wishes of the people as expressed at the last general election. At that particular juncture the all-absorbing topics were cheaper supplies in regard to the cost of living, and a reduction in the abnormally high and ever-increasing cost of house rents. I am pleased to say that the present Government have studied ways and means and gone into this matter thoroughly and that, to my idea and to their belief, they have devised effective means for, at all events, bringing about a substantial reduction in the cost of meat as well as the cost of house rents. The Government studied all phases of the question. They considered the construction of freezing works at Kimberley. With them I agree that this was the most impracticable scheme, inasmuch as, owing to the lack of reasonable facilities in the past, the stock at Kimberley are altogether unfitted for freezing purposes; and, taking into consideration the immense cost of erecting freezing works at that particular spot, by which the cost of meat would be greatly enhanced, probably there would be no reduction brought about at all. The Government went into these matters and found that in Kimberley and in the North-West of the State there is abundance of cattle to supply the metropolis and in fact all districts in Western Australia. Unfortunately in the past the smaller pastoralists, the small men engaged in this industry, have been unable to place their stock on the market. There must have been some reason for this; and on looking into the matter it was ascertained—I knew it long ago—that it was the operations of the meat ring in combination with the shipping ring that prevented the smaller pastoralists from shipping their commodities and enabled the others to keep up the price of meat in the metropolis. I ascertained during my recent travels in the North-West that stock was sold in those parts at considerably less than 1d. per pound, yet this meat on reaching Perth was charged for at the rate of 8d. and 9d. per pound. So we see it is absolutely imperative that the Government should establish a State steamship service to assist the small pastoralists in placing

meat on the market, at the same time providing the metropolis with a cheaper supply. Of course the opponents of the establishment of this steamship service stated or disseminated rumors to the effect that the Government had entered into this proposition without giving it the slightest consideration; but we realise the Ministry comprise men of practical experience and business acumen, and is it reasonable to suppose that these men would rush wildly in and purchase steamers without ascertaining whether there was a probability of finding work for the vessels? However, the principle of the proposition has never been attacked; the whole attack has rested on whether the method of purchasing was constitutional or otherwise. I contend that the purchase of these steamers will bring about a reduction in the cost of meat, but beyond that, I consider the great benefits they will confer on the north-west portion of the State thoroughly warrant the Government in their action. Those of us who have been fortunate enough to visit the North-West will realise that for many years past the great drawback has been the lack of shipping facilities, and they must realise the great difficulties under which the people on the north-west coast carry on, the excessive freights and high fares they have to pay, and the altogether inadequate service given to them. Even now as a person goes along that coast he will find all the jetties in a congested state with cargoes which will probably remain there for some time and cannot be shipped to the London or the European market. Why is this? It is because the steamship service is altogether inadequate to cope with the growing demands and requirements of the North-West. The member for Pilbara and I have repeatedly pointed out how the operations of the shipping combine on the North-West coast have militated against the chief ports of Western Australia, inasmuch as the steamers which trade to Singapore do all they can to divert trade from Fremantle to Singapore. They refuse to take cargo consigned *via* Fremantle to the North-West coast and compel it to be sent *via* Singapore to our North-West coast. This should call for consideration from the Government and should assist

them in regard to the establishment of a steamship service. However, I consider that the fact that the companies operating on our coast absolutely refuse to employ white labour is a consideration. A State steamship service will be the means of absorbing a little of the unemployed Australian sea-faring men and of abolishing the system of Asiatic work on the coast, while it will guarantee a regular service for the people of the North-West and connect them for the first time in their history with the southern and metropolitan portions of the State. On these grounds alone I think the Government are considerably justified and are to be commended for going into the matter of establishing a State steamship service. I am confident that in the near future the result of their efforts will be perceived in no small degree in the metropolitan and North-West parts of the State. To my knowledge several small mine owners have been compelled to close down their mines owing to the machinations of the shipping combine. It has been the custom to leave ore on the jetties for weeks and months, and in consequence the mine owners are unable to secure any return except for such amounts as the banks will advance upon the ore. It has been a great detriment to that part of the country. I think the North-West and the great bulk of the people of Western Australia are beholden to the Government owing to their action in the purchase of these steamers, seeing, as we must assuredly see, that the working of these steamers will lead to the reduced cost of meat, and also considering that they have passed a Bill for the purpose of establishing peoples' homes. Although the benefits to be derived from this Act have not manifested themselves as yet, they will in the very near future, when the scheme is put into practical effect. Because it will be the means of enabling men with practically no means to provide homes for themselves which they have been unable to do in the past, and instead have been compelled to pay exorbitant rents. The Government have decided to reduce the cost of these homes to a minimum by establishing State brick

works and extending the operation of State timber mills. This should bring down to the lowest possible level the cost of homes for people who require them. The Government are to be highly commended for the business acumen displayed in reserving the whole of the karri forests in this State, and at the same time obtaining the patent rights for the powellising process which makes the karri so suitable for sleepers. I understand it is the intention of the Government in the very near future—probably the works are already in hand—to establish saw mills in these districts to supply the Federal Government with sleepers for the Trans-Australian railway. This in itself will provide a considerable amount of work for those engaged in a State mill, but I hope in the not distant future to see the Government supply not only sleepers for the Trans-Australian railway, but karri sleepers for the markets of the world. The business capacity displayed by the Ministry in connection with the negotiations for the purchase of the Perth Tramways and also the acquirement of the South Perth ferry is to be highly commended and I am satisfied that their action will receive the endorsement of the whole of the people in this State.

Mr. Bolton : Oh no.

Mr. GARDINER : The majority, I should say, or, at any rate, all sensible people. They have succeeded in this much that they have made it possible for a person travelling throughout Western Australia to do so almost without leaving State concerns. They have State railways and State boats, and when they have taken over the tramways, they will have State trams. They have gone well in the direction of bringing about the nationalisation of all the means of transit, which to my mind, is a most desirable state of affairs. With regard to the administration of the various departments, I consider that good work has been done in this respect, more particularly in the Works Department. My own little knowledge gained during my brief stay in Perth taught me that when the present Minister for Works took over that department it was in a state of chaos.

Mr. Monger : Nothing of the sort.

Mr. GARDINER : The hon. member for York says "Nothing of the sort," but I would point out that on one particular job under the direction of the Public Works Department, there were four supervisors and five men, which proves the existence of an absolutely perfect state of disorganisation in the Public Works department. This state of affairs does not exist to-day, and I am satisfied that in the near future the department will be in a better state than it has hitherto been. Whilst on this subject, I would like to compliment the Minister for Works that while on his recent trip along the North-West coast he effected many reforms in this direction, straightening things out generally, and I think that things on that coast will be in future, owing to his visit, better than they have ever been in the past. Although this trip was referred to as a picnic, I well remember that the leader of the Opposition, when about to take a similar trip, after viewing the "Penguin," decided not to go and left it to a colleague. After my experience of the "Penguin" I think he was wise. I could continue for a considerable time eulogising the Ministry and pointing out the many good works they have effected, but I do not desire to do so. There are a number of subjects in the Governor's speech on which I would like to touch, and I must, therefore, discontinue referring to the magnificent works that the present Government have done during their brief term of office. One of the most important measures mentioned in the Governor's speech is the appointment of a convention of representatives of the people of Western Australia to deal with the matter of amending the Constitution. It will be realised that members of this party in the past have strongly opposed the bicameral system of legislation, and our opponents have taunted us with the fact that the people were not with us in this respect. Now we are prepared to trust to the people, and we are asking that a convention representative of the people shall be elected to say whether or not they are satisfied with the existing

conditions. I am satisfied that if this measure passes the legislature, and representatives are elected by the people, the time is not far distant when our desires will be given effect to, and that will be a great reform in the Parliament of Western Australia. I believe that if the people are given the opportunity, they will immediately abolish the bicameral system, because they are intelligent and realise that the legislature, as at present constituted, is not working for the benefit of Western Australia. They will adopt. I feel sure, the system of the initiative, the referendum, and the recall, which we have advocated for a considerable time. This system has been in existence in many parts of the world and has proved a great success, and if the people of this State are given the opportunity of bringing it into effect here, it will not be to the detriment, but to the benefit of Western Australia. Therefore, I hope that the Government will not be long in bringing forward this measure, and that it will be passed.

Mr. Monger: Never.

Mr. GARDINER: I do not consider the hon. member much of a judge in regard to public opinion. Another measure of importance is the amendment of the Arbitration Act. It will be remembered that at the latter part of last session a small measure was introduced by the Attorney General for the purpose of amending this Act. The Government in their wisdom could foresee at that particular time that industrial strife was imminent, and they set about devising ways and means of preventing this strife until such time as the schemes that they had in mind, the provision of workers' homes and the cheapening of the price of meat, could be brought into effect to stem the growing tide of discontent. Unfortunately this measure, after receiving the approval of the majority of this House, was so mutilated that it was unacceptable to the Government of the day. The result is well known. Shortly afterwards there followed a series of industrial strikes which could have been averted if this measure had been passed and put into practical operation. However, I am

pleased to see that the Government intend in the near future to introduce a measure which, if passed and put into operation, will be the means of averting at least a great many of the industrial troubles which have been the lot of many parts of the world and of ourselves in recent years. I notice also a reference to the pearling industry. As a representative of a north-western constituency, I cannot allow this subject to pass without referring briefly to this particular question. I understand that it is the intention of the Government to bring about some system whereby the pearl shell will be preserved for some considerable time and not slaughtered by those engaged in the industry at the present day. I am prepared to admit that it is a most valuable industry, and one which should be fostered for the benefit of the State, but I say that it would be ten times better for the Government to cripple the industry rather than have it carried on under the system in force at the present juncture. The statement has been frequently made that white men are not competent to work this industry. I do not admit that for one moment.

Mr. Monger: They have not been very successful up to date.

Mr. GARDINER: The percentage of casualties amongst whites is nothing compared with that amongst Asiatics. Unfortunately when a white diver meets with a mishap, it is published throughout the world, but when an Asiatic is killed or crippled nothing is heard about it. It is quite a usual thing to see a flag half-mast in Broome indicating the death of an Asiatic owing to his incompetency as a diver. If the industry cannot be carried on by white labour it should be closed down until such time as under scientific methods we can fish for the shell without endangering the lives of the white people of the State. There is one little anomaly which manifested itself to the Minister for Works during his recent visit to the North, and that was that the late Government saw their way clear and conceived it desirable to charge those people using white labour £4 for a license whilst those engaging aliens were charged

only £1 per annum. I cannot conceive what actuated the Government in making such a regulation. It should be *vice versa*. The pearlers in Broome who utilise coloured labour almost exclusively are charged only £1, whilst the people at Shark Bay, who employ mostly white labour, are charged £4.

Hon. Frank Wilson: Is the hon. member referring to Shark Bay where they receive special consideration?

Mr. GARDINER: Yes, the shell at Broome is infinitely superior to that obtained at Shark Bay, and the profits made are considerably more. Therefore I say that if there is going to be any distinction, those engaging Asiatics should be charged at least £20 per annum for the right to work their boats. Until the Commonwealth enforces the employment of white labour those people who are exploiting the industry with alien labour—Broome is nothing but a sink of iniquity—should be compelled to pay, at all events, a license fee of £20 per boat, and if there is any reduction those working with white labour should be allowed to pay only £1 per annum. It is not my intention to deal at great length with the several matters in His Excellency's Speech, but I cannot allow the occasion to pass without referring to the conditions existing in the North-West at the present time. There is no question about the fact that the North-West is a rich country. It abounds in natural resources, but unfortunately it has been languishing for a number of years. There must be some reason for this. A country cannot remain stationary; it must progress or retrogress, and it behoves the Government to look for the reason why the North-West is not going forward as it should. I have gone into the question, and I assign the backward movement in the North to two distinct causes. The first is the condition under which pastoral leases are held, and the immense individual holdings, and the second is the indiscriminate use of native labour on the stations and in other classes of work. In some parts of the North-West there are persons who hold areas of half a million acres, and in some cases more. I suppose the reason why they hold these

immense areas is that there shall be no occasion for them to go in for extensive improvements. I know of one station on the Ashburton, comprising half a million acres of the best pastoral land in Western Australia that is held by one firm. This land, though rich, is practically unimproved, and has practically no fencing and no wells.

Hon. Frank Wilson: Is it stocked?

Mr. GARDINER: Yes, but it is not carrying five per cent. of the stock. It should carry under a system of small holdings. On the whole station there are only three white men engaged.

Hon. Frank Wilson: What is the station.

Mr. GARDINER: Minderoo, owned by Sir John Forrest and Mr. David Forrest.

Mr. Monger: Nonsense.

Mr. GARDINER: It is owned by those two men, who work it with native labour, and will not permit the development of that magnificent territory. That is one instance among many of immense areas being held by one individual and not stocked as they should be. If the Government were to adopt strong measures, resume these holdings, cut them into smaller areas, and lease them to persons who would work and improve them, and probably employ a little labour, the country would go ahead by leaps and bounds. Turning now to the subject of the aborigines, there is no question that this is a controversial matter, and one which will have to be handled very carefully, but the fact remains that the present state of affairs cannot continue to exist in the Kimberleys and in the North-West of the State. There are stations even in my own constituency which would employ absolutely no white labour. Mr. S. P. Mackay, the holder of probably a million acres of land in that district, will in no circumstances, other than at shearing time, employ white labour, except perhaps some Englishmen out for colonial experience prepared to work for a mere pittance or nothing at all.

Mr. Monger: Another absolutely incorrect statement.

Mr. GARDINER: I can vouch for its accuracy. I am not in the habit of com-

ing to the House and making misstatements. If the hon. member is judging me by himself, I can assure him he is absolutely wrong. It was recently my lot to pass through the station owned by Mr. Mackay. I travelled over miles and miles of absolutely fertile country, and the only white man I met in my travels was at the homestead. The cook and the teamsters were natives. Absolutely the whole of the work was carried on by aborigines working for no remuneration whatsoever. There were a few of the younger generation, native women, on the spot ostensibly there for household duties. At Mardie, which is the worst place in Western Australia, there is no white man employed other than the manager. Shearing, fencing, and stock work are done by native labour, and when the work is over, or when there is insufficient work to absorb the natives, what do they do with them? Mr. Gale will tell us that the squatter is a philanthropist and treats the natives well and will send them on an annual holiday. The manager of Mardie does not do that. He supplies them with tea and sugar and a small boat and sends them out on the coast beachcombing or to adjacent islands where they mix with the Asiatic crews of the luggers, the women becoming in many instances the consorts of Japanese divers. We have in the North the dreadful scourge of leprosy, and to my mind its presence in our midst is due to this practice. An eminent authority on leprosy travelled through this district and reported this disease in its worst form on Mardie station. A number of the natives were removed from the station to an adjacent island, but this authority reported that leprosy was endemic in the district. His report was confirmed by a bacteriological examination since then, showing that there is leprosy in its most acute form at Mardie. The present Government are taking action, but in the past the natives were allowed to roam at their sweet will to the danger of Western Australia. The lepers have been segregated, but those who were contacts and associated with the lepers who were removed are still waiting at the table at Mardie and still cooking to the danger of

the community, inasmuch as they associate with travellers, and there is no knowing where the disease will stop. In fact white travellers going there meet with lepers. I point out that a medical practitioner has stated that it is practicable for the disease to be contracted and not manifest itself for from seven to twelve years, so that it is possible this disease may be disseminated through the length and breadth of the State owing to lack of attention at the present time. I appeal to the Government to take a hand in the matter and immediately segregate this tribe of natives, acting on the advice of this medical expert, in the interests of the whole community. I did not intend to touch on leprosy. I simply meant to deal with the native question on a broad basis. My contention is that if the natives are to be employed on the stations, if their labour is to be exploited, it should be paid for. I realise it is impracticable to pay the natives themselves, but every man engaged doing a white man's work should be signed on under the single permit system—the general permit system should be abolished as it is tantamount to slavery—they should be signed on under the single permit system and an amount commensurate with the ruling rate of wage should be paid into the Treasury for the maintenance of the natives when they become old. At present the State maintains the old and infirm natives. Mr. Gale tells us that this is not so and that the pastoralists provide for the natives when they become old, but I can assure hon. members it is not the case.

Mr. Monger: How many years have you been there?

Mr. GARDINER: Five years, but, being observant, I can tell the hon. member I would learn as much in five years as the hon. member would in fifty. The Chief Protector of Aborigines says that the native is not handed over to the State but is provided for by the squatters. As a matter of fact, immediately a native becomes infirm he is not handed over to the State, but is cast adrift to battle for himself. He goes into the hills and adjoining country until he becomes hungry and is starving, and then he will drift

back and become an indigent native to be maintained by the State. If the State maintains the old and infirm natives unfit for work, they should also make sure of the maintenance of those fit for work, and if the system of payment is not practicable, the Government should immediately resume areas and establish extensive native reservations, because I am confident that with judicious management and care they will become self-contained and the Government will be at no expense in maintaining the natives of Western Australia. However, with regard to the two points I have just mentioned, I consider the Government must take a firm stand. The plea may be advanced that it would be an injustice to those who took up their leases under the old system, but I say that if any system in existence is to retard the progress not only of that particular portion of the State but the whole of Western Australia and to interfere with the rights of the people, it is right that the peoples' representatives should take strong measures to remove the anomaly and at all events obtain control of some of these vast areas of country. Until such time as a move is made in this direction, the North-West cannot be of great use. It is at present not a white man's country. The pastoralists and pearlers discourage the white men. They do not desire to open up the country and prove its value because their run is coming to an end, but it behoves the Government to step in and prove it is a white man's country, and to fill it up. It will prove to be a country that will carry a large and happy community. The difficulty of peopling the empty spaces of the North will be overcome and they will be a valuable asset to Western Australia. I am pleased to have had the opportunity of moving the adoption of the Address-in-reply. I again congratulate the Government for complying with their pre-election pledges, to be watchful over the interests of the whole of Western Australia. They went to the country with a clear and definite policy to develop the whole of the State, and they have acted up to their policy by attending to the farthest North and the

farthest South. I maintain that the confidence placed in them eight months ago will be still retained and they will be returned with a greater majority than they were in the past. I will now conclude by moving the following Address-in-reply:—

May it please Your Excellency—We, the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of the State of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, beg to express loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to address to Parliament.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN (Forrest): In seconding the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-reply I desire also to congratulate the Government on their achievements in the recess which has just come to an end. I think the people of Western Australia realise the difficulties that confronted the Government when they assumed office in October. At that particular juncture we were in the throes of perhaps the worst drought that has come over our agricultural districts, with the result that the Government were called on at the outset to expend large sums of money in rallying to the assistance of the settlers in need. I have a fairly intimate knowledge of the State and have travelled over the greater portion of the wheat belt for eight or nine months, and I know that in these particular areas there is an intense feeling of deep gratitude to the Government for the assistance that was given in time of need. It may be pointed out by our opponents that we are meeting Parliament with a deficit which is mounting up, but the deficit is not at that alarming stage it reached some three or four years ago, and we realise as a party that the taxpayers of the State are behind us and that a meed of justice had to be done to a great section of the public service. The Government could have met Parliament with practically no deficit had they withheld the increases granted in the last eight months to men in our public service. These increases amount to something like £120,000, but the country is hopeful that, with the aid of Providence next season

will be a good one, and that with buoyancy of trade the deficit which has mounted up for the last few months will speedily disappear. The Government have been charged in some quarters with being out of sympathy with the men on the land, but the provision of water supplies and seed wheat and the granting of deferred payments and increased advances from the Agricultural Bank and other measures introduced by the Government, have had the effect of rooting many hundreds of settlers to the soil. I realise the difficulties confronting those settlers in the drier districts, and I know how the action of the Government in providing seed wheat and water has helped to put crops in, and paid accounts to country storekeepers, and kept these people on their holdings. I am pleased to note in His Excellency's Speech that provision is to be made to increase the amount available from the Agricultural Bank. Last session by an amendment to the Act we made available to the farmers a greater amount of cheap money than was previously possible, and during the last six or eight months the Agricultural Bank has been the means of saving hundreds of our settlers who could claim its protection at five per cent. when the private banks were asking eight per cent. and putting the screw on. I notice that at a meeting of the Farmers' and Settlers' Association, apparently a rival organisation in our enemies' camp, brought into existence because the alleged Liberal party are not giving satisfaction, one gentleman, a secretary in St. George's-terrace, said the Government had done nothing for the farming community; but, having travelled right through these districts, and being deeply interested in farming, I want to say that this statement made by one or two of the prominent men of the Farmers' and Settlers' Association can be summed up as nothing but black ingratitude. I believe that when the time comes for the settlers in these dry areas to express an opinion, they will readily admit that the Government gave them paternal attention and that no Government in the Commonwealth has rendered similar assistance. I regret that some of the mining centres

are not showing that activity we would like to see. We all realise that steps have to be taken by the Government to bring about a revival wherever necessary. I do not think there is anything more desolate than a deserted mining camp, but as the Speech states, new developments and discoveries have taken place in different portions of the mineral belt, with the result that we hope to see a revival in the near future. I believe the present Minister for Mines has a grip of the position, and that, notwithstanding the fact that his time is well occupied in dealing with those two big departments, he will be able to institute reform so that the gold mining industry will continue apace. Gold is the greatest magnet that the world knows, and just as it was the means of building up Western Australia in the past, in the future more attention will be directed to winning this wealth from our mineral areas. I desire to congratulate the Government on their vigorous public works policy. We have outlined in the Governor's Speech not less than half a dozen new railways. We have proposals for railways going into different parts of the State, and I am pleased to know that to some places where the settlers have been languishing for a considerable time, the Government propose to grant these facilities and give them a reasonable opportunity of making a success of their occupations. I am pleased to see, also, that attention is being paid to irrigation, because the future of the south-western portion of the State, going to be attempted by this Government in that direction. As a representative of the South-Western portion of the State, I realise, the same as every member, that with the long dry summer such as we have just experienced, the necessity for a vigorous irrigation policy becomes more pronounced. We have in that portion of the State millions of gallons of water running to waste every year, and it only requires a storage and irrigation scheme to conserve that water and carry it over the driest areas in the summer months. If the Government make that attempt they will earn the lasting gratitude of the residents of the South-West. We realise

that the soil there is prolific and that the people are prepared to do their part, and before the Government lay down their work as administrators and appeal to the country again, I, as a supporter of the Government, hope to be able to point to the success of the irrigation policy in the South-West and demonstrate by figures which will come forward that between Waroona and the Warren we have the Warrnambool of Western Australia. One of the most pressing reforms needed in this State is that foreshadowed in the Speech, an amending Arbitration Act. This is an old subject. It has been talked about for many years, but until last session not for eleven years had a genuine attempt been made to make the Act workable.

Mr. Monger: And then it was slung out.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: It was, and I believe that the people are prepared to saddle those responsible with the blame for a great deal of the industrial unrest that has been manifest. The Governor's Speech to-day and every Speech presented to this Parliament fairly bristles with amending measures; no matter what Government is in power, session after session and Parliament after Parliament, amending Bills are brought in as defects are made known and as the statutes get out of line with the true reflex of the aspirations of the people who send us here. But for ten years that Arbitration Act has been on the statute book without being amended. When it was passed there were only five Labour representatives in the House. Many industrial organisations have been bogged in a morass of legal difficulties in approaching the court, and other unions have been deprived of their right to take their grievances to that tribunal and have them settled. I wish to say, as I have said on every platform in the State, that I am pledged to the principle of arbitration, but I will not take that court and Act which my opponents would give me without the workers and their representatives having some say in the moulding of a measure, which if carried into effect will give confidence to both masters and men. We have to realise

when we pick up the *West Australian* morning after morning that in the old country the whole social fabric seems to be shaking. In that country hundreds of thousands of men are throwing down their tools and taking this means as the only method of redressing the grievances under which they have existed. But the conditions there are different from what they are here. There are thousands of people in that country who have not a glimmer of hope for the future. Here in Australia, in this sunny land, we want to try to prevent creeping in the conditions which are responsible for so much industrial revolt in the older countries. In order to bring that about, I am going to appeal to Parliament to bring in and pass an amending Bill which will have the effect of causing more contentment in the carrying on of our industries, and remove for all time the difficulties which to-day confront those seeking an award from that court which should be responsible for carrying into effect the wishes of the people in that regard.

Mr. Monger: Have the Bill framed on a different basis from that of last session.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I do not know what basis the member for York would like to see this amending measure framed on, but what we ask as a party doing our utmost to bring about contentment in the carrying on of all industries is that the Government may be able to carry a measure which will allay discontent and remove many of the anomalies and difficulties which are too apparent to-day. I ask them to take note of the remarks of the president of that court who time and time again has complained that he was unable to administer the Act and called upon Parliament to bring about necessary alterations. I hope that a measure for the amendment of the Workers' Compensation Act will also be carried. We should lay it down here, as is laid down in every Parliament, that every industry should look after its maimed and injured, and we should try to include in that Act provision giving the Minister sufficient power to proclaim diseases peculiar to the miner's calling. To date the gold-mining industry has produced over one

hundred million pounds in wealth and has paid £26,000,000 in dividends, and we have the fact also that the victims of that industry are being week after week thrown on the human scrap heap to battle for themselves or fill up public institutions. To-day the sanatorium at Coolgardie is full and we are building another in the Darling Ranges, and we have dozens of people trying to get admittance but unable to do so owing to the overcrowding of them. This position has to be faced. We must lay it down once and for all that if this industry is prepared in the future as in the past to make physical wrecks and send to an early grave so many of our best citizens, those who control it should be called upon to contribute to the maintenance of those stricken down with disease. I do not want to appeal on sentimental grounds, but I ask the taxpayer to look into this question more deeply and by saddling that industry responsible with a fair share of its liability they will be able to keep down the charity vote which is growing each year. I believe we should place on the shoulders of the men responsible for carrying on that industry responsibility to provide a greater amount as some recompense for the large amount of human toll exacted year after year in carrying on the industry. I am pleased to notice that the Government propose to call a convention to be elected on a proportional representation basis by the people. We realise that it is of no use the people of Western Australia stuffing this Chamber to the doors with men pledged to a certain policy if power is still left with another place to nullify our efforts and emasculate our measures. Our opponents in another place are claiming credit for a magnificent liberal victory in connection with the Upper House elections, but they must never forget that it was only a very small proportion of people who participated in that election.

Mr. Monger: We have had that before.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Some of them had ten votes. I wish to point out to the hon. member for York who seems to be in a fighting attitude this afternoon, though I suppose he will have the gloves off next

week—I wish to point out the evils of the bicameral system as it applies to-day. As an old Western Australian who has grown up with the industries of the State, is the hon. member prepared to withhold for the future the true representation that the democracy of this State have a right to claim? In my own electorate, for instance, there are 4,000 men and women who have a right to send me to Parliament year after year, and there are sixteen in that electorate who have the right to send in Sir Winthrop Hackett, Mr. Clarke, and Mr. McLarty as the representatives of a province in another place. Sixteen people out of 4,000!

Mr. Monger: Nonsense.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: It is an absolute fact. I have been through the rolls on more than one occasion.

Mr. Monger: They have disfranchised themselves.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I realise that to-day under our system of fixing £17 as the annual rental value we are dividing the people of Western Australia into two classes, the fit and the unfit, and unfortunately the great majority of my constituents are evidently deemed unfit to have a voice in the election of the Legislative Council.

Mr. Monger: Sixteen out of 4,000?

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: It is absolutely correct, and I have been at some pains to get the precise figures. I ask the member for York to accept my statement as absolutely true. When I give these figures to the public some will not be prepared to believe them and some will say that the condition of these workers is due to a lack of thrift, but in the dark days of the State the timber industry was responsible for the prosperity of the whole of the South-West. The men engaged in this industry are not paying the annual rental value. They are living in weatherboard houses at low rentals but they are men who have married and brought up large families, and the rental paid for these humble shacks do not entitle them to a vote for the Upper House.

Mr. Monger: I will never forget those figures, 16 and 4,000.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Those figures are absolutely correct, and I will give the

hon. member the opportunity to verify or refute them. I am absolutely convinced that my statement is right. The point I want to make is that 4,000 people have the right to elect me and 16 had the right to vote for the three gentlemen who represent that province. These men have been in that industry practically all their lives, but they are denied to-day the right to vote for the Legislative Council. If we are going to keep in the van as a progressive State we shall in future, in laying down our Parliamentary system, have to give a little more recognition to brains and character and less to bricks and mortar. That is the position as it appeals to me.

[*The Deputy Speaker took the Chair.*]

Mr. Monger: I have heard that statement before.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The member for York has heard a lot of things. I want to emphasise that point and when our opponents such as the member for York charge us with being advocates of unification—he even threatened on one occasion to head the military of York in a secession movement—and when they point out that we as a party are drifting towards a policy of unification, I would like to remind them that people are looking more and more to the Federal Parliament owing to the fact that they are being denied representation of their views in the Parliament of this State.

Mr. Monger: And because they will not send you there.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Any attempt I may make to get into that Parliament would, I claim, have a bigger measure of public support than fifty members for York could secure.

Mr. Monger: I doubt it.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The democracy of Western Australia are looking more and more to the Federal Parliament as the hope of the future, because they realise that no matter even if their strongest opponents, in the persons of Mr. Deakin and Mr. Cook, were at the head of the National Parliament the majority of Australians would be prepared to accept the will of that Parliament as a true reflex of the public opinion of Australia.

Mr. Monger: You will have the opportunity of testing it next March.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I hope the member for York will be successful in attempting to get rid of me from this Chamber; but whatever happens we want to face the position as we find it, and realise that no matter to which party we belong, if we are going to keep our State Parliament high in the confidence of the people, we will have to reform our system, and give the people greater representation, so as to enable a strong democratic element to be introduced into the Legislative Council as representative of the taxpayers of the State. I desire to congratulate the Government on the several State enterprises they have established during recess. As a party if we do not stand for State socialism we stand for nothing; we do not wish to nationalise everything, but we do desire to step in where we find middlemen operating to the detriment of the producer and consumer. It is in this spirit that during the last few months the Government have launched out in various enterprises. Closely associated as I have been with the timber industry, I may claim some knowledge of sawmilling; however, I will take another opportunity of dealing with the State mills, contenting myself now with affirming that when the figures are published they will speak more eloquently than I could do of the wisdom of the step taken by the Government. The leader of the Opposition is alarmed, and alleges that we have no contract to supply sleepers to the Commonwealth Government.

Hon. Frank Wilson: Mr. O'Malley said you had no contract.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Mr. O'Malley said that we had one contract only, namely that for 10,000 sleepers. This is very different from what the hon. member stated last night at the big Liberal rally at Bayswater. However, it is quite true that Millar's Company secured the first contract to supply 10,000 sleepers.

Hon. Frank Wilson: Have you a contract at all?

The Premier : What do we say about it in the Speech?

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I would like to stress this point: if an honourable understanding is given by one Government to another, certain negotiations can safely be put afoot. It is entirely different with the hon. member who occupied the Ministerial benches a short time ago, for he was not able to trust even another party of his own political kidney: but as a Government the Scaddan Administration are prepared to take the word of their colleague in office in the Federal Parliament.

Hon. Frank Wilson : And spend the State's money.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: It is going to earn the State money. In any case you spent your share of the State's money. I desire to point out that the leader of the Opposition need not worry. There is no doubt whatever about the sleeper order from the Commonwealth Government. And, as regards the carrying on of the mills after that order has been completed, there will be sufficient orders from other Governments for that timber for many years to come. I am not going to express any strong opinion to-night as to the quality of that karri timber.

Mr. Monger: The Minister for Works has expressed a sufficiently strong opinion.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The Minister for Works has acted on the advice of expert officers who have demonstrated by experiment that this timber can be made impervious to white ants. While I may be said to have a practical knowledge of the industry, yet when this question comes to be decided I will be prepared to stand aside and let the experts' opinion hold sway. The Government are acting on that opinion in preparing to utilise our magnificent karri forests with a view to bringing golden sovereigns into the State, and to preventing the wicked policy of ringbarking thousands of acres of that noble forest.

The Premier: It was absolutely criminal.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: We have ringbarked thousands of acres of magnificent forest down at the Warren. I am sorry

we destroyed that timber, but I am not going to blame the late Minister, because we did not then know the potentiality of that timber; we were not aware of the full value of the Powellising process. If a market can be opened up for this timber the Government will have been fully justified in the step they are taking to secure the patent rights of that process. I have a fairly good knowledge of our karri belt, and I fully realise that a little difficulty may crop up later on; not in regard to big orders for sleepers and bridging timber, but in regard to the marketing of timber of smaller scantling in the years to come. However, like my friend, Sir John Forrest, I am prepared to grapple with these difficulties when they crop up. I am pleased to know that the Labour Government are the first Government to launch out in the enterprise of the milling of this timber. It must be remembered, too, that they are doing it on the advice of the Commissioner for Railways, who knows the State pretty well, and also on the advice of their expert officers; and in taking up this enterprise of State mills they at least have differed from that policy of the past of giving away the most valuable of our timber areas to concessionaires. They have also been going in for socialistic enterprise in other directions as, for instance, the supplying of the hospitals with pure milk.

Mr. Mitchell: They have bought ten cows.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Even ten cows are better than no cows at all. Here, again, the Government have acted on the advice of their expert officers.

The Honorary Minister (Hon. W. C. Angwin): We have eighty cows now.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: So far as the production of a pure milk supply is concerned, the Government have acted on the advice of a committee of the hospital most affected, and that committee acted on the advice of the medical officers concerned; and when we have opponents of the State dairy remarking that it constitutes an insult to dairymen it serves to show that they fail to recognise the seriousness of the position.

Mr. Mitchell: Who said that?

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Sir John Forrest has stated in public that it was an insult to dairymen. To my mind, instead of the Government being condemned for the enterprise, they should be commended. As a rule if one is suffering under an injustice, one can make an effective protest; but I say the kiddies in the Children's Hospital were not able to make that protest, and the Government deserve the best thanks of the community for trying, as they are doing, to save the infant life of Western Australia.

Mr. Mitchell: By buying ten cows.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: If ten cows can supply milk of a pure quality to the Children's Hospital, it is giving the hospital something that institution was not getting recently; and I believe if the principle be extended to the other hospitals we may, within twelve months' time, have 500 cows in the State dairies. I also have to congratulate the Government on other State enterprises, such as the trams and ferries. Before I conclude, I want to say that, so far as I can see, there is no evidence of that depression the leader of the Opposition spoke of. Generally when a depression is in existence you will see the notice "house to let" in almost every street, whereas, at the present time, houses are well-nigh unprocurable in Perth.

Hon. Frank Wilson: What about the hundreds of men in Kalgoorlie waiting for a job?

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The reason why a number of Britishers are stranded in Kalgoorlie is because some of the prominent employers engaged in industries on the goldfields have been encouraging foreigners to the exclusion of Britishers, with the result that to-day we have some 500 foreigners employed on the Golden Mile, while twelve hotels on the goldfields are owned by foreigners.

Mr. Monger: They all belong to your unions.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: No.

Mr. Monger: They do.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member must not interject so much.

Mr. Monger: Not when charges are being brought against me?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have not heard any charges brought against the member for York.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I do not wish to cross swords with the member for York, because he will require to keep all his ammunition for next week; but I want to say the policy of providing employment for 500 foreigners on the Golden Mile, and the capturing of twelve hotels by foreigners have been largely responsible for the ousting of Britishers.

Mr. Mitchell: Have they been brought in lately?

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: No, they have been there for years, but they are getting into the mines off the wood lines, and I hope that in future we shall see preference given to Britishers. I realise there may yet be a temporary depression in regard to public works. As far as the timber industry is concerned, men are coming in from Gippsland and New South Wales at the rate of from 25 to 30 per week. These are axemen coming for employment, and I hope they will continue to come. The reason for the deficit is largely because we have given a measure of justice to a large number of public servants; and I am pleased to know that, with a couple of exceptions, the railway service, the police force, the school teachers, and generally speaking the whole of the civil service, are in a more contented frame of mind to-day than they have been for many years past. Some have not had the increases they anticipated, but I claim that with all the difficulties the Government can rightly say they have carried out their pledges, and done all they possibly could to bring about an improved position. It now remains for the public service to be loyal, and endeavour to do as much for the State as the taxpayers who employ them. I want also to say that I was surprised on reading this morning's newspaper to notice that the leader of the Opposition had addressed a big Liberal rally at Bayswater on the previous evening, and that he took the Labour party and the Government to task for exercising tyranny in certain directions. He mentioned a case where an individual was supposed to have been boycotted by a

union for not joining it, and that the individual was driven out of the mining industry, and then driven out of the boarding house in the timber district where he had been living, and then added that the same individual had been engaged on certain public works and when this Government came in they dismissed him, and that finally he and his brother and parents had been hunted out of the State and had gone to Victoria. I do not know where the leader of the Opposition got his facts from but let me tell him that they are absolutely incorrect. I know these people.

Hon. Frank Wilson: Give us the facts then.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I can give sufficient facts to show that the hon. member's statements are not correct.

Hon. Frank Wilson: I got the statements from the man himself.

Mr. Dwyer: You obtained your information from a biased source.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Did he tell the hon. member that his parents and his brother had been forced to leave the State? I was speaking to the brother only the day before yesterday.

Hon. Frank Wilson: Did you force him to leave the State?

Mr. Allen: You hounded him out of every job in the State.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: No. This State is large enough for everyone.

Mr. Munsie: More power to them if the man ratted.

Hon. Frank Wilson: What did he leave it for; you hunted him out of the place.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The leader of the Opposition appears to be an intimate acquaintance of this gentleman. Perhaps he can tell us what he left the State for.

Hon. Frank Wilson: I told you.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I am not going to labour the question further than to say that the leader of the Opposition was not correct in his statement. I have known the whole family for years past.

Hon. Frank Wilson: There is evidence of your tyranny at once.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: There are plenty that the hon. member would rather claim as a colleague than that same individual.

The point I want to make is that the leader of the Opposition, when he gets hold of a titbit like this, he wants to be sure of all his facts before he makes a public statement.

Hon. Frank Wilson: What about the other cases?

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Which other cases?

Hon. Frank Wilson: Those I spoke of last night; you have not read the speech.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I have read the speech, and it is full of glaring inaccuracies from start to finish. The leader of the Opposition also took the Government to task over the demonstration of last Sunday. He said that there were no Ministers there. Again he wants to be sure of his facts before speaking. I would have been pleased to have been there, but, unfortunately, I was not in the metropolitan area. The leader of the Opposition seems to have developed puritanical ideas all of a sudden. It matters little to the people of Western Australia if the demonstration is held on Sunday, and it matters not to me whether a citizen preaches the gospel or plays cricket on Sunday.

Hon. Frank Wilson: Why did you abandon your bands, flags, and procession?

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I think when the leader of the Opposition is launching an indictment against the Government he wants to have stronger grounds to go on than finding fault with thousands of people marching in procession, even to the accompaniment of martial music on Sunday and enjoying themselves. And not only enjoying themselves, but paying a tribute at the same time to the popularity of the policy of the Government. In that same speech the leader of the Opposition pointed out that there was a greater power behind the throne, and he referred to "Premier McCallum."

Hon. Frank Wilson: He is your boss anyhow.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The leader of the Opposition ought to have a little originality when he starts out to make a rallying speech for his party.

Hon. Frank Wilson: He is the Premier's boss too.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: These are practically the same words which were used by Mr. Peake, in South Australia. Why does not the hon. member step out of the beaten track? He told us last night about stagnation in the Lands Department, and said that while walking down Cathedral Avenue he found that a lot of officers had not sufficient work to do. I think the Government should place an item on the Estimates to reward the hon. gentleman for acting as a private detective.

Mr. Heitmann: A pimp.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I would not say that. I have been in Cathedral Avenue oftener than the hon. member, and I have seen the officers in the Lands Department busily occupied, and when I have gone there on business have had to wait in order to be attended to. I wonder what the hon. member was doing there, and I wonder what takes him into some of the dark corners of the city. The work of the Lands Department has increased considerably, and figures which have been presented dealing with land settlement will bear that out. According to the member for Wagin settlement in his district is proceeding with great rapidity, while the general indications are that we are holding our own, and in fact doing better than was done before.

[*The Speaker resumed the Chair.*]

Hon. Frank Wilson: Nothing of the sort.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Will the leader of the Opposition contradict the figures presented by the Lands Department, and if he is not prepared to do that, he must acknowledge that they are the result of working under a better system, in which case I congratulate the Minister for Lands.

Hon. Frank Wilson: Figures do not prove anything with regard to the applications for land.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: They prove too much for the hon. member. I am convinced of the correctness of these figures and of the work which is being done by the Lands Department. The leader of the Opposition should himself carry out the advice which he tenders to this party, and that is, not to decry the country.

Hon. Frank Wilson: I am decrying the Government, not the country.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I say it is not right for the leader of the Opposition to declare that the officials of the Lands Department have nothing to do. I am sure, however, that they are working under a better system. I want to sympathise with the leader of the Opposition in any action he may take this session because I realise that he is fighting a forlorn hope, a single-handed battle. He has with him the late Attorney General, who no doubt is a strong man in attack, and if that gentleman gives his services to the party during the session, that he has given to the party on other occasions, the leader of the Opposition may expect some help. Last session, however, the leader of the Opposition was all alone in his fighting. I want to say that the movement we represent to-day, from the Premier right down to the humblest toiler in the land, can claim that the credit of its growth is due largely to missionary effort. The Opposition have tried to galvanize interest in public affairs. The leader of the Opposition has stumped the country, and another gentleman, prominent in Liberal affairs, has helped him, and their work has resulted in the immense gathering at Bayswater the other night. I claim that while this Government proceeds on its present policy, although they may make mistakes just as other individuals do, the efforts of the leader of the Opposition and his followers in asking the Liberals to awake and resurrect a moribund movement will be in vain. I hope that the Government will try to develop every portion of the State, and that they will do their utmost to see that the people get the facilities they ask for; they will then secure that measure of sympathy and support which every legislator is prepared to give. Bards have written that the "Bushland leads ever the van in the battle," and when the time comes for this Government to go to the people the residents of the country will rally to their standard. I am convinced also that the residents of the gaslit area will once more set the seal of ap-

proval on the progressive policy of the most progressive Government the Western State has known.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—THE FREMANTLE DOCK.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. W. D. Johnson) : Before the House adjourns I propose to crave the indulgence of members while I place before them a report in regard to the construction of the dock at Fremantle. So much of this afternoon has gone, however, that I intend now merely to briefly outline the position, and to subsequently submit the full reports to the Press so that they may be available to the public, who will then know exactly what difficulties have been encountered and the reasons which have actuated the experts in advising the Government in the direction I intend to disclose. The Government have adopted this course because it is felt, in regard to a work of this description, that not only should Parliament be in possession of the progress which is being made, but especially should we take Parliament and the people into our confidence, and reveal the difficulties which have been met. It is my unpleasant duty to-day to report to Parliament that, while there has been since the start of the work a certain amount of anxiety, it has become more serious during the last few months, until at the present time I have to report that on the 30th May the resident engineer stated that a fault had been discovered, which caused him to seriously reconsider the advisability of further proceeding with the work of construction. On discovering the fault the resident engineer reported the matter to the Engineer-in-Chief, and when I returned from the North-West I obtained further reports, and personally had a look at the dock. After the inspection the resident engineer gave me a detailed report on the position, and certain advice. As I have stated, that report, instead of being submitted to Parliament will be handed to the Press for publication. After carefully considering the matter the Government decided, owing

to the definite advice received from their experts, to endorse that advice and cease operations. We claim that to proceed with the construction of the dock at this site would be both costly and certainly very speculative. From the figures quoted we may get the first section, an area of 700 feet, completed. The engineers submit this only as an estimate—the details will be given to the Press—but the estimate is £725,000 to get the first section completed, an area of 700 feet. However, the Government have decided not to proceed further with this dock. The work will be reorganised with a view to utilising the space for much needed wharfage accommodation. We recognise as a Government that our chief port, the first Australian port of call, must have ample dock accommodation, and it will be our responsibility to make inquiries and investigations to enable us to submit to Parliament a dock proposition suitable for present and future requirements. I want to say on behalf of the Government that the question will be approached with a view to getting a dock that will be in the best interests of the people generally. The Government have ceased operations as far as the present dock is concerned; they propose to utilise the work as far as it can be utilised for extending wharf accommodation which is much needed at our chief port; they recognise that docking accommodation is necessary, and that is their responsibility to get an alternative proposition to submit to Parliament. I have the details of the engineering difficulties encountered and a general historical sketch of how this site was fixed on. This will be handed to the Press, and I trust they will give it full publicity so that the people of the State will understand the full proposition.

House adjourned at 6.3 p.m.