

Legislative Assembly.

Wednesday, 16th August, 1939.

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

QUESTION—AGRICULTURAL BANK.

Advances to Clients by Stock Firms.

Mr. SEWARD asked the Minister for Lands: (a) Is it the policy of the Agricultural Bank to restrain stock firms from making advances to Agricultural Bank clients? (b) If so, what rules governs such restriction? (c) Does such restriction apply to certain districts only? (d) If so, to what districts does it apply?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS replied: (a) No—stock firms can make advances to Bank clients without restriction, but if they require such advances to take precedence of the Agricultural Banks claim they must obtain the Commissioners' consent. (b) Answered by (a). (c) No. (d) Answered by (c).

QUESTION—AGRICULTURE.

Assistance to Wheatgrowers.

Mr. DONEY asked the Premier: 1, Has his attention been drawn to the letter—appearing in the "West Australian" newspaper on 14th August—from the Prime Minister relating to the payment of the bounty for the 1938-39 wheat harvest? 2, In view of the fact that the Federal Government has now declined to introduce legislation to authorise an anticipatory further payment to the States, will the State Government—on the security of the home consumption price collections—immediately advance to West Australian wheatgrowers a substantial part of its estimated share of the proceeds from the flour tax collections to the end of the year to enable those growers to finance their operations?

The Premier replied: 1, No, not yet. 2, The matter has not been considered.

QUESTION—RAILWAYS, NARROGIN STOCKYARD.

Installation of Pump and Motor.

Mr. DONEY asked the Minister for Railways: 1, Were the pump and electric motor which were installed in July of this year at Narrogin stockyard (for the purpose of pumping water for the cleansing of stock trucks) procured outside this State? 2, If so, from what firm, what State, and at what price were they landed at Narrogin? 3, Was the purchase so made because neither the Midland Junction Workshops nor other local foundries were capable of doing the job?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, Yes. 2, Thompson Engineering & Pipe Co., Castlemaine, Victoria, per Noyes Bros., Ltd., Perth—£139. 3, No, but costs would have been too great.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

On motion by Mr. North, leave of absence for two weeks granted to Mr. Willmott (Sussex) on the ground of ill-health.

On motion by Mr. Wilson, leave of absence for one week granted to Mr. Raphael (Victoria Park), on the ground of ill-health.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Sixth Day.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

MR. HOLMAN (Forrest) [4.33]: Naturally, as a new member, I propose to associate myself with other hon. members in congratulating you, Sir, upon your elevation to the office of Speaker. I also wish to add my quota to the congratulations extended to the new Ministers. I know them personally and I expect that as member for Forrest I shall be only too pleased to deal with them in their official capacity. It may not be out of place at the present time to thank hon. members for the very kind words they have spoken in relation to my late sister, Miss May Holman. The only answer I can give to those remarks on such an occasion as this is that I shall try to express my thanks in a practical way to the constituency I represent, to the Assembly, and to the country in general by endeavouring to follow the good

example she set and by doing all I can in the interests of the State in the circumstances in which I am placed. The speeches made by various members during the short period I have been in the House have proved fairly interesting. I say "fairly" interesting because some of them were not too interesting. The main points that have been stressed have been the position of the wheat industry, the influence of world prices upon the economics of this State and the Commonwealth, and the position of the unemployed in Western Australia and throughout Australia. It appears to me at the outset that, while we are considering ways and means of effecting the rehabilitation of an industry that, to my way of thinking, has not paid its way in this State for some time past, we are missing a very important point; we are failing to look after those industries that have proved beneficial. I represent a constituency that is in the happy position of being able to in the happy position of being able to assist the State in its financial difficulties. Because of the increased export in the fruit industry and the tremendous value of the timber and dairying industries, the South-West portion of the State is contributing largely to assist another industry that is faced with serious difficulty. I read with interest the remarks of those who attended the conference in the Eastern States, at which our Premier and the Minister for Agriculture were present. I have also listened with interest to the statements of my friends, directly opposite. The point at the back of my mind is that we are probably on the verge of spending a tremendous sum of money in rehabilitating the wheat industry; at the same time it is difficult to convince some members of the need for expenditure in the South-West. We have only to examine figures relating to the productivity of that portion of the State to discover what an asset it is. If we consider only one particular industry—that of apple-growing—we find that since 1932, while the wheat industry has been steadily declining owing to world conditions, the apple industry has been steadily growing. The export figures are a convincing proof of its value to the State.

Hon. C. G. Latham: The industry has been subsidised for a long time.

The Premier: Not as much as the wheat industry.

Mr. HOLMAN: If the apple-growers were offered a bonus of about a quarter of a million pounds I do not think there would be any apple-growers left. They would all drop dead.

Mr. Hill: The indications are that prices will be higher next year.

Mr. HOLMAN: In addition to the development of the fruit industry in my electorate, we find that the same progress is being made in the fruit-growing centres elsewhere in the State. I will leave out 1938, because of the extraordinary circumstances in which the industry found itself, and will content myself with saying that this year 1,301,295 cases of apples were exported, compared with an export of 701,967 cases in 1937. These figures are quoted with a view to impressing upon the minds of members the fertility of the South-West.

In common with the constituents of Murray-Wellington, the electors of Forrest are very pleased with the actions of the Government and the Minister for Works concerning the development of irrigation in the South-West. We know that irrigation has been responsible for considerable progress in the Eastern States, and that the Minister for Works has an intimate knowledge of this undertaking. Further work of the same kind will have to be embarked upon in this State if the Government intends to carry on the policy of increasing the productivity of holdings in the area in question. The proof of the pudding is in the eating. The results already gained serve as a convincing illustration of the value of irrigation.

Milk is one of the staple foods of the community. Since the introduction of irrigation in the South-West, the quantity of milk produced by the dairy herds has more than doubled. The same thing can be said with regard to the fat lamb industry, as well as the pig-raising industry in that part of the State. I hope the Government and the Minister for Works will go on with the proposed new Stirling dam. Up to date, I suggest to the member for Murray-Wellington (Mr. McLarty), the Forrest electorate has been supplying his district with most of its water requirements. The time has now come when the Forrest electorate should provide water for itself. Although the new project will be very expensive I think the expenditure

will be justified. The results obtained in the Murray-Wellington electorate afford sufficient proof of the value of irrigation. The increase in dairy products in the road board districts of the South-West is astounding. I do not propose to bore members with too many figures, although I notice that the member for Avon (Mr. Boyle) is apparently very familiar with statistics.

Mr. Boyle: I hope my figures were not boring.

Mr. HOLMAN: The sale of margarine is having a serious effect upon the butter industry throughout the State. Although Victoria as well as Western Australia has endeavoured to minimise the danger of margarine, from the point of view of butter production, serious thought still requires to be given to the matter. Because of the interests concerned in the production of margarine, and because of the texture and colouring of the article in question and its similarity to butter, not only are the people who want it getting margarine but other people are being given it as a substitute for butter. The argument against this may be that people are entitled to buy what they require. Members of my own party may say we should not penalise workers on the basic wage by not allowing them the opportunity to buy margarine. If that be the case, the reasons for fixing the basic wage at a given figure are unsound, for one of the main items of food taken into consideration by the court is butter, and not margarine.

Mr. Thorn: You do not want to feed people on margarine, do you?

Mr. HOLMAN: No, and I do not want to eat it myself.

Mr. Marshall: People have not the money with which to buy butter.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. HOLMAN: If we work on those lines, and thus crucify our main industries, none of us will have sufficient money with which to buy the products of the State. We must do what we can for the expansion of a valuable asset, the dairying industry.

Let me also express my earnest desire for the continuance of the Metropolitan Milk Act, which has had a stabilising effect on the dairying industry of the South-West. Speaking for the producers of that district I can state definitely that the measure has been of great assistance to the industry. It is an object lesson to members of the Coun-

try Party to refrain from criticising the action of workers in banding themselves into an organisation for the purpose of securing the true value of their labour. That object lesson may eventually induce those hon. members to acknowledge at least that the Labour Party has a solid foundation in organisation. Having learnt the lesson, Country Party members will find that the people whom they are supposed to represent will be able to secure, through organisation, the value of their work. It is a lesson to be learnt from the banding together of the milk producers. There are certain features of the Metropolitan Milk Act which require amendment, but I shall not now enter upon that phase of the subject. There is, however, one feature that strikes me as peculiarly unfair and outstanding—the difference between the value of milk to its producer and the price the consumer has to pay. As a result of the operation of the Milk Board, dairymen are receiving 11d. per gallon, which with extra charges amounting to 4d. represents a total of 1s. 3d. Nevertheless consumers have to pay exactly the same figure plus the amount received by the producer. In the street where I live there are five residences at which five different milkmen call every day. As a result of that state of affairs, there is duplication in the retailing of milk, which necessarily increases the cost to consumers. It may be argued that legislation for the zoning of milk deliveries may penalise employees in the industry. I have ascertained that the organisation representing those employees would probably be 100 per cent. behind the Government as regards introduction of zoning of milk. Obviously, it is no fun for a milkman to call at a house in one street, running in and out of the premises as if to win a Stawell Gift, and then dodge off a mile further to deliver another half-pint. The thing is ridiculous in the extreme. I believe that the Government will bring in legislation to correct the evil, thereby assisting not only consumers but also the industry itself, through the effect on milk sales.

The member for Subiaco (Mrs. Cardell-Oliver), I have observed, is keen on the milk question, so much so that she wishes to give a lot of milk away. We should realise that milk is essential not only to adults, but even more so to the kiddies. If milk were cheapened by the zoning system, more milk could be bought, to the benefit of both consumers and producers. Another point with respect

to the working of the Milk Board is the policing of quotas, and the effect it has on producers. It is a well-known fact, one with which all the producers are acquainted, that some factories are getting behind the board in the wrong sense, are not playing the game by the board. Again, we find that milk is being sold outside the quota system by means of pirating in the milk business. The board should take careful note of that phase and assist the people whom the board is designed to represent.

Another matter I wish to touch on is the improvement of the Bunbury Harbour. The member for Bunbury (Mr. Withers) for about 15 years has been endeavouring to secure attention to the matter. We are now hopeful of securing in a very short time what is desired. If the hon. member has not put up a sufficient case, nevertheless the case is there, for from my electorate quite sufficient cases of fruit are being sent to Fremantle for shipment whereas they should be shipped from Bunbury, which is the natural outlet for the Forrest electorate, especially Donnybrook and the surrounding areas. Although the Railway Department's finances may benefit by existing conditions of shipment, the industry is harmed through having its production costs increased. I hope that speedy action will be taken to deepen the Bunbury Harbour so that it may accommodate vessels large enough to take away the exports of the South-West.

As member for Forrest I naturally must touch upon the timber industry. Like the member for Perth (Mr. Needham) I regret exceedingly that world conditions have affected our industry and the economics of the State. In periods of depression the timber industry is one of the first to suffer. This year especially the production of timber has lapsed seriously. Members speak about the wheat position as affecting Western Australia's finances, but the lack of timber orders also has seriously affected the State's revenue. Comparative figures show that in the Railway Department alone the drop in earnings from wheat haulage for last year was £16,000, whereas the corresponding loss in the case of timber amounted to £61,000, an immensely greater sum. I might also suggest that if there is talk of assisting the wheat industry, why not assist the timber industry? The best way to assist the timber industry is for Opposition members to forget their tactics of pre-

vious years and assist the Government to provide cheaper homes for workers. By so doing, they will aid an industry well worth assisting and will also help the State.

Mr. Boyle: But we have always supported that.

Mr. HOLMAN: I agree that some members of the Opposition have, but there has always been a tag to the support. The last tag, if I remember rightly—I was not in Parliament, but I read about it—was that the Legislative Council did not want to make the State a landlord.

Hon. C. G. Latham: That is so; very logical, too.

Mr. HOLMAN: Members of the Opposition should be consistent in their arguments. We find the member for West Perth (Mr. McDonald) rising in his seat and saying it is high time that the State should control all the land. Why should not the State also control property and assist the workers to obtain cheaper houses?

Several members interjected.

The Premier: The State ought to be landlord, Father Christmas and everything else!

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. HOLMAN: The South-West has a habit of assisting itself. Because of the productivity of its orchards, it is assisting the timber industry and so making up for at least some of the shortage in overseas orders. That is simply demonstrated by the fact that last year the number of fruit cases manufactured in the State has more than doubled. If we could get the assistance I spoke of from members in another place, we might make up the rest of the shortage of orders caused by low world prices. The member for Katanning (Mr. Watts) said that he was in favour of improved homes for workers. During the recent elections, similar remarks were made by quite a number of Opposition members. I shall ask those members to subscribe to their remarks by assisting the Government to help the timber industry. This can be done by building better and cheaper homes out of Western Australian timber for our workers. Some criticism has been levelled at wooden houses; but I would advise the critics to visit the forestry areas and see for themselves the homes provided for workers of the Forests Department. Members could compare those homes with the homes of the mill workers and of the people on the land. By comparison, the Forests Department workers

are living in palatial residences. That shows what can be done with Western Australian timber.

Hon. C. G. Latham: Does that apply to the State Sawmills, too?

Mr. HOLMAN: The homes of the workers of the State Sawmills are much in advance of those at the other mills.

Hon. C. G. Latham: Very little. I have seen them all.

Mr. HOLMAN: The Leader of the Opposition has not seen Argyle.

Hon. C. G. Latham: Yes, I have.

Mr. HOLMAN: Then the Leader of the Opposition will be on my side.

The Premier: God bless the Duke of Argyle!

Mr. HOLMAN: I am in agreement with the member for Pilbara (Mr. W. Hegney) in his statement that the operations of the Workers' Homes Board should be extended. Workers' homes should be erected in country districts. A case in point is that of a mill worker who recently was enthusiastic enough to acquire a block of land upon which he is desirous of having a worker's home built. Nor is he singular in that respect. The Government could well extend the activities of the Workers' Homes Board by erecting houses in the country; the Government would have value for its outlay.

Member interjected.

Mr. HOLMAN: The hon. member mentioned Mills and Ware. They will come the other way soon, I hope. I shall not miss mentioning Whittakers' mill. I desire to voice a protest against the inactivity of the Forests Department in applying the regulations, passed by this House, to firms that do not fulfil the obligations of the permit under which they operate. Whittakers' Mill is not far from North Dandalup. We find that on the 13th June last, Whittakers closed their mill, ostensibly for boiler repairs. That was the first excuse given. Now, consider the unfair treatment meted out to their men; first, in the short notice given to them of the closure of the mill, and secondly, in stringing them on to keep them in the district. The men were told the mill would be closed for a month. To-day is the 16th August, and since the 13th June the mill has remained closed. The Conservator of Forests has power, under the regulations, not to grant any extension of time to Whittakers; he could enforce the regulations and so pre-

vent Whittakers from delaying the re-opening of the mill. If they will not fulfil their obligations, then I say—and probably the Leader of the Opposition will agree with me—that the State should take over the mill.

Mr. Withers: The Leader of the Opposition would never agree to that, surely.

Mr. HOLMAN: He might. If private companies cannot see their way clear to fulfil the obligations they enter into under their permits, then the State should take over the mills. In my opinion, if such action had been taken in the past, the State sawmills would probably now be in possession of nearly all the mills and timber reservations in Western Australia. The financial result of the activities of the State Sawmills is an argument favouring the taking over by the Conservator of Forests of mills which have been closed down by their proprietors to the detriment of their workers.

I desire to refer, in passing, to the trouble at Mills and Ware's factory. We have read many criticisms of the actions of the Government, especially by one of the members for the East Province. He said the Government was condoning the offences of organised Labour, and I have heard the word "strike" used occasionally. To my way of thinking, there is little difference between a strike and a lock-out. If the employee is to be brought to book, why not the employer? If the closure of Whittakers' mill is not a lock-out, then I do not know what a lock-out is. It is a lock-out as far as the workers in that district are concerned. I sincerely hope that the Conservator of Forests will discharge his duty. If he does not see fit to do so, then the State should take the power out of his hands and resume it.

Mr. Sampson: There is no industrial trouble at Whittakers' mill, I understand.

Mr. HOLMAN: No; but an easy way to start industrial trouble is to close a mill.

Mr. Sampson: If Whittakers cannot get orders, they cannot employ men.

Mr. HOLMAN: But if the employees closed the mill, there would be industrial trouble.

Mr. Sampson: But if Whittakers cannot get orders, how can they carry on the mill?

Mr. HOLMAN: That is not the reason given to the Conservator of Forests. Anyhow, I wish to get away from that grouch.

Many things are ahead of us and I respectfully suggest to the Minister for Industrial Development that he should devote a considerable part of his time and energy to the utilisation of the valuable by-products of our hardwoods. The State is sadly lacking in initiative in endeavouring to exploit that avenue of production. I notice that only a short time ago the South Australian Government—and it is not very often I have anything good to say of that Government—

Mr. Thorn: You do not know it.

Mr. HOLMAN: I know the conditions of the workers in South Australia.

Mr. Thorn: Ask the Minister for Employment.

Mr. HOLMAN: Because I know of their conditions, I have not much sympathy for the South Australian Government. I will say this for the South Australian Government, however, that during the last few months it has seen fit to pass an Act under which it will be able to underwrite some thousands of pounds worth of shares in a new paper pulp mill it is proposed to establish in that State. The Act is known as "The Surplus Revenue Act" and authorises the Government to underwrite £100,000 in the Cellulose Company. That company is being formed for the purpose of manufacturing building boards, or fibre boards, as we call them, and leather and manilla boards, as by-products of timber. The interest taken by the South Australian Government in this venture will result in the employment of at least 150 men in the industry.

We find that Tasmania is more ambitious, because the Government of that State legislated to allow the advance of £250,000 to assist the paper mills at Burnie. I believe that at present a large number of men is engaged in that industry. Looking right through the Commonwealth we find that, with the exception of Western Australia and Queensland, every State is exploiting the possibilities of the paper pulp industry.

Hon. C. G. Latham: Your Government had an opportunity to develop the industry, too, and would not take it.

Mr. HOLMAN: I am giving the Government another opportunity. There are new mills at Maryvale, in Gippsland, Victoria, and at Boyer, near Hobart. Mills have been established at Fairfield, Queensbridge, and

for the manufacture of strawboards at Bradford, Victoria. There is also a mill at Botany in New South Wales. Western Australia is not yet on the list as regards the establishment of mills, though it was in Western Australia that the first experiments were made into the possibilities of manufacturing paper pulp from Australian hardwoods. When Mr. Boas was head of the department of the Commonwealth bureau, he in company with another gentleman conducted experiments at the Perth Technical College. The experiments were crude, but they proved that the Western Australian hardwoods, karri and jarrah, were quite suitable for the production of paper pulp. That was about 1920. Mr. Boas, however, like many other Western Australians, migrated to the East, after having paid a visit, I believe, to the United States of America. During the last 15 years no further work has evidently been done in the direction of exploiting Western Australian hardwoods for the manufacture of paper pulp.

The reports of the C.S.I.R. show that during the past six years the greatest advance has been made in the manufacture of paper pulp. Fifteen years ago we could produce paper pulp by means of crude experiments, but though at that time the price was prohibitive, I suggest that, in consequence of the activities of the C.S.I.R., it may not now be that paper pulp cannot be produced at a reasonable figure. This matter is of considerable interest to me, because of my association not only with the timber industry, but also with the printing industry in which I learnt my trade. Members might contend that it would not be reasonable for the Government to expend a considerable sum of money in getting a paper mill started in Western Australia, but I wish to point out that during the nine months ended March, 1939, Western Australia imported paper to the value of £265,000. When our importations are so large, it should be only natural to inquire whether we cannot supply some of our own requirements. Therefore I impress upon the new body created by the Minister for Labour the advisableness of concentrating on the problem of bringing to fruition the paper pulp industry in this State, an industry that would materially assist our great timber industry.

Some time ago a statement was made that the by-products of Western Australian timbers could not be exploited. I point out,

however, the commercial value of the tannin extracts from Western Australian hardwoods. The worth of our timber has also been proved for the manufacture of wood pipes, and we might consider the possibility of establishing a fibre boards industry. In the United States an industry of this kind is exploited to its fullest extent, and if given sufficient push, it could probably be exploited in the Commonwealth, and I cannot see why its headquarters should not be Western Australia, which grows the finest timber of all the States.

Speaking further of the timber industry, I must indulge in another grouch, this time in respect to the practice of the Government in letting contracts. I regard the State Sawmills as a valuable asset to the State, but at Pemberton the work entailed in the haulage of logs is let by contract instead of being carried out by the State. This departure should be remedied, and the Government should carry out to the full the policy of State industry.

Hon. C. G. Latham: Unity Hall was built by contract labour.

Mr. HOLMAN: At Worsley, I consider the State could take over the whole of its own business from my worthy friend Mr. Harnett and might well undertake the exploitation of its own timber in that district and enable the employees to enjoy the conditions of other State mill employees. Another matter is associated with that of contracts for sleepers for the Railway Department. I should like the department to ensure that in all future contracts the men engaged in sleeper cutting are covered by workers' compensation. I suggest this for two reasons. It is to the credit of Labour that thought has been given to the protection of the worker by providing for compensation in the event of accident or death. Because that benefit is not extended to the workers under these contracts, another department is penalised, namely, the Department of Health, for, when an uninsured worker is injured and needs hospital attention, he is often unable to pay the cost of treatment and maintenance while in hospital. Hospitals in the timber districts are financed to a great extent by the workers through their medical and hospital funds, and are subsidised by the Medical Department. The woodcutters, also, are not enjoying the benefit of workers' compensation. When

these contract workers enter a hospital such as the one at Jarrahdale, they are penalising the workers of the district, who really pay for the services that the others receive.

I congratulate the Minister for Labour upon the formation of the Department of Industrial Development. He has established a commendable precedent in that, instead of creating a board and giving the board the whole say as to the activities in which it shall engage, he has associated himself with it by becoming the chairman. He will not only attend the board meetings as Minister but will also preside, and naturally will see that the business of the board is conducted to the best advantage. While extending my congratulations to the Minister, I suggest that one way to assist local industry would be to arouse in local producers an interest in other local production, namely, by having their printing done in Western Australia. Western Australia imports stationery and manufactured paper to a value of £258,634 a year, of which £194,000 worth comes from the Eastern States. The £63,000 worth imported from overseas would include novels, etc., which, of course, could not be printed in Australia on account of the royalties that have to be paid.

The Minister for Labour: A pity that some of them were printed at all.

Mr. HOLMAN: There is something that the new body could undertake; it could investigate the possibility of securing for this State much of the printing work that is now being done elsewhere. Under our system of primary education, and even in the secondary schools, one of the main objects should be to instil into the minds of boys the value of local products. Yet one of the principal colleges, namely, Hale School, has its diaries printed by Brown, Prior, Anderson, Pty., Ltd., 430 Little Bourke-street, Melbourne. There we have a local school getting its printing done outside the State. It is high time that practice was stopped. Some of our local products people who are exploiting us by the pushing of their products should do a little pushing themselves. The manufacturers of weet-bix and weeties, local products we are told—one manufactured at Carmel and the other by Purina Grain Foods, W.A., Ltd., at Harvest-road,

North Fremantle—get their printing and cartons from the Eastern States. So we get the local product wrapped up in a foreign cover! Then we come to the question of honey.

Mr. Marshall: Where is the member for Swan?

Mr. Sampson: I am listening attentively.

Mr. HOLMAN: Fortunately the member for Swan (Mr. Sampson) is not interested in this particular brand of honey. McNamara Bros. of York evidently produce their honey in that centre, but their containers are made in Melbourne and Sydney. These people have received assistance from the State for many years.

Hon. C. G. Latham: You know why? Prices for printing here are too high, and then again, they cannot export their commodity.

Mr. HOLMAN: If the hon. member knew anything about printing, he would not make such a rash statement. Actually we are exporting printed matter to South Australia, which is the State in which the printers are paid the lowest rates in the Commonwealth.

Hon. C. G. Latham: It is not a matter of printing, but of the containers; the latter cause the trouble.

Mr. HOLMAN: Why should not notice be taken of my previous suggestion, and the Government exploit wood-pulp?

Hon. C. G. Latham: Ask the Minister why he did not accept an offer made two years ago.

The Premier: The offer made involved the guaranteeing of interest at 5 per cent.

Hon. C. G. Latham: No, not 5 per cent.

Mr. HOLMAN: I am not concerned about bickerings such as we are listening to, but with the welfare of the State, and if the Leader of the Opposition, in his desire to criticise, is worrying about the price of containers for honey, it is about time he started worrying about the money that has been spent so lavishly on the wheatgrowers.

The Minister for Mines: Attempts have been made to put honey in every Bill that has come along.

Mr. HOLMAN: Now that the Minister for Industrial Development has set up a new department to deal with local products, I suggest that he take steps to investigate the question of printing that is done outside Western Australia. For instance, the insurance companies, of all people, indulge

in the practice. Those companies have made a lot of money in Western Australia and have certainly erected a number of fine buildings. Those structures represent valuable assets, and in themselves afford proof of my suggestion that the companies have made money in this State.

Mr. Lambert: There are 44 insurance companies operating here.

Hon. C. G. Latham: There are 62 of them.

Mr. HOLMAN: Those companies get their printing done in the Eastern States because, presumably, they are of the same opinion as the Leader of the Opposition who thinks the work can be done cheaper elsewhere.

Hon. C. G. Latham: I did not refer to printing but to the manufacture of containers. You must not commence misrepresentation at this stage of your career, or you will find that it will react.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. HOLMAN: The insurance companies have probably the most watertight containers of the lot in the forms that they have printed, and once an individual signs up with an insurance company, he cannot get out of his agreement—except sometimes. Then again, the printing for the Post Office is done outside Western Australia. I am aware that the electoral rolls and the telephone books are printed locally, but the great bulk of the work is done outside this State. The Commonwealth Government has drawn sufficient blood from the people of Western Australia already, and should take into consideration the fact that those who use their telegraph and money order forms every day of the week should be afforded an opportunity to print them here. I hope that the Minister for Industrial Development and his newly-created department will be wholly behind the printing industry in its endeavour to convert the agent for the Postmaster General to our way of thinking that Western Australia should have its fair share of departmental printing.

Mr. Cross: There are others also who get their printing done in the Eastern States.

Mr. HOLMAN: To deal now with a matter that is far-removed from the timber industry and printing, I shall make a few references to the police force. Because of the passing of the Superannuation and Family Benefits Act, an anomaly may arise

affecting the police. I wish to advance this position merely as a suggestion to the Government. Under Section 4, the definition section of the Workers' Compensation Act, a "worker" does not include a member of the police force.

Mr. Withers: He may not be a worker.

Mr. HOLMAN: At any rate, the policemen in my electorate are certainly hard-workers. Unless the point is cleared up, it may be found that because of the incidence of the Superannuation and Family Benefits Act and the abrogation of the Police Benefit Fund Act the dependants of a police officer who has been killed in the execution of his duty will not be entitled to a lump-sum settlement but merely to the pension provided by the Superannuation and Family Benefits Act. On the other hand, the railway men, who will also receive the benefits of the Superannuation and Family Benefits Act, will also be provided with compensation. I merely refer to the point because it is something that the Minister concerned might well look into.

The Premier: Of course, the police have the benefit of free medical attention, and no other workers enjoy that privilege.

Mr. HOLMAN: Naturally, free medical attention would not be of much benefit in the event of a fatal accident. Attention should be given to the quarters of police officers in the South-West, and more suitable accommodation provided, together with better lock-ups. Many alterations could also be effected at police headquarters in Perth. Fortunately I have not had any experience myself, but I have been told that if a suspect is taken to the Criminal Investigation Branch, he is detained in a room where two or three officers usually have their lunch. Such procedure is neither good for those individuals' digestion, nor is it beneficial for the suspect, and both should be treated with respect.

I also desire to raise the question of the facilities provided for country boys to secure employment in the Government service. Recently there were vacancies for apprentices at the Midland Junction railway workshops. The vacancies were very few in comparison with the number of applications received. I would like to see a very different procedure adopted in the treatment of country boys who submit applications for such positions. I am led to be-

lieve, and my information was derived from a reliable source, that an educational standard was fixed for the applicants. For the town boys the VIIIth Standard was required and for the country boys the VIIth Standard. Unfortunately a number of country boys fell short of the educational standard specified. I claim that the treatment of country boys is hardly fair when they are debarred from securing employment in the railway workshops or a Government department merely because of their unfortunate educational position. I could draw a parallel between their position and that of the entry of members into this legislative Chamber. The point to be borne in mind may be emphasised when I refer to construction works that are in progress. Delays extending over months have occurred before schools could be built in the country districts concerned, and the children of sustenance and relief workers are penalised through the lack of educational facilities. If they are deprived of schooling for eight months, the result is that they are eight months behind in achieving the educational standard they seek to attain. That position should be watched. If it is the fault of the State that no proper educational facilities are provided, the detrimental effect of that should not be borne by country boys affected when they apply for a position in a Government department. One improvement that the Government has effected has relation to the provision of educational facilities.

Mr. J. H. Smith: In the cities.

Mr. HOLMAN: And also in the country districts.

Mr. J. H. Smith: Not so much in country areas.

Mr. HOLMAN: One direction in which better facilities can be provided for country children is by way of correspondence courses for apprentices. Various awards provide that apprentices in country districts shall receive technical training, but how is it possible for them to take advantage of that provision when technical training, or correspondence classes with that object in view, are not provided? In fairness to those who are learning their trades in rural areas, correspondence classes of the type I refer to are urgently needed.

Mr. Sampson: Hear, hear! You are quite right.

Mr. HOLMAN: The hon. member should certainly agree with my contention, because some of the boys in his own country offices are being penalised owing to the absence of technical education in their centres.

Mr. Sampson: Your suggestion would assist.

Mr. HOLMAN: In other States country correspondence classes have been provided. I trust the Government will give serious consideration to the urgent necessity for carrying out this form of education. There is another point with regard to the education of country children, to which I wish to refer. Country children are penalised because of the lack of educational facilities, particularly relating to correspondence courses in the primary stage. Correspondence courses, I admit, are not neglected, but I venture to say they are not sufficiently exploited, nor are they widely enough advertised, and because they are not sufficiently known in the country, or perhaps not sufficiently brought under the notice of the parents, the facilities offered by the department are not taken advantage of. This question could well be gone into to assist the country children in their education.

I also ask that serious consideration be given to the question of appointing a permanent industrial magistrate. This is a matter that could well be specialised. At the present time we have specialised in respect of the Children's Court, and industrial work has grown to such an extent that added facilities should be given for the prompt hearing of industrial cases. I have had experience of taking cases to the Industrial Court, and on one occasion I had the experience of being shifted from the Industrial Court to another building—we never knew where the cases were to be heard—and that building was the Children's Court.

Mr. Thorn: What was your offence?

Mr. HOLMAN: Possibly if I subscribed to the ideas of some of my friends opposite I might have appeared there for a different reason.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. HOLMAN: At that particular time I was taking an industrial case, and it was not reasonable to expect one to conduct what might have been described as a quasi criminal case in the environment of the Children's Court. Newspapers have criticised the manner in which various employers have been taken to the industrial court for the slightest

offence. That is not correct. The fact of the matter is that in conducting cases against employers the experience has been that we have had to wait such a long time before being able to take the employers to the court that by the time we got them there we had almost forgotten what the charges were about.

Mr. Thorn: The charges then could not have been very important.

Mr. HOLMAN: We do not find the employers to-day going to every Tom, Dick and Harry of the legal fraternity; we find them going to a man who specialises in industrial law. In 99 cases out of a hundred the employers are defended by a person versed in industrial law. This, too, is the procedure that is followed by industrial unions. They are represented by someone who has specialised in industrial law. Since both sides are represented by specialists in industrial law it is reasonable to ask that a permanent industrial magistrate should be appointed, also that a suitable building should be provided in which the hearing of the cases could be conducted, and further, there should be a library which has been found to be a necessity.

I wish to touch upon another industry that is slowly going out of existence, an industry that not only affords a great deal of pleasure but is also educational—I refer to that relating to music. Because of the introduction of “canned” or, as some term it “tinned” music, the real art is fast declining in the State. It is a fact that since the introduction of the American “canned” music no less a sum than £345,000 has been lost to the musicians in the State. There is something to be said in favour of subsidising a State orchestra, or a State body of musicians, to enable them to carry on their art. I hope that at some future day, a not too far distant day, it may be possible for us to give consideration to the cultural side of our industrial sphere as well as to the material side. Music is one of the main factors of that cultural side.

I wish to add my meed of thanks to the Minister for Health for the manner in which he has rendered assistance to country hospitals. It is well known that throughout the district I represent constant attention has been paid to the hospitals there, and the health of the community has materially benefited because of the activities of the department controlled by the Minister for

Health. It is true, however, that we are not completely satisfied; indeed we should never be satisfied with what we are able to do to secure the health of the community. When good health is with us we can be assured that we shall not go far wrong. There are other points on which I could touch, but I do not think the time is opportune. It is because of the activities of the Government that we are in the position to congratulate ourselves in spite of the criticism I have offered. It cannot be gainsaid that we have made steady progress amongst all sections of the community. In this progress I can refer to the activity of the Public Works Department in regard to road construction. I trust that that activity will continue and that additional roads will be built in the South-West. I earnestly believe that arising out of the legislation it is proposed to introduce, the next three years will see a continuance of the improvement that has followed the carrying out of the Government's policy over the last three years.

MR. THORN (Toodyay) [5.58]: I thank members for their applause and I hope it will be renewed when I have finished what I have to say. I offer you, Mr. Speaker, my sincere congratulations on your elevation to the office you hold. I am convinced that you will fill the post with dignity and fairness.

Mr. Cross: Don't you wish he would stay there for life?

Mr. THORN: I congratulate also the Chairman of Committees on his appointment, and I trust, in his case, that most of the work of the session will be taken in Committee. I also offer congratulations to the new members. Those of them who have spoken have dealt with the various questions very fairly. We trust that before long the Premier will be able to give us some information regarding the position of the wheat industry. I know that he has been working at full pressure during the last few weeks, trying to bring about some settlement and to establish a future for this industry. The matter is causing members on this side of the House a good deal of thought and I hope the final outcome of the conferences that are being held will be that we shall be able to place the wheatgrower on such a footing that he will have some hope for the future, and will know what prospects he has in the coming years. It is important for any man on the land to have an idea of

the reason why he is growing produce. Of course other industries are suffering as well but not to the same extent as is the wheat industry. The dried fruit industry has been experiencing a gradual depression of prices.

Mr. Marshall: It suffers from weevils up my way.

Mr. THORN: That is an uncalled for remark. I do not think it will be long before the hon. member will be suffering from them also. This season we expect the dried fruit industry to receive very low prices. Together with other primary producers we expect that this year prices on the London market will be the lowest ruling for a great number of years. The situation overseas has had the effect of depressing most markets.

Several speakers on the other side of the House have mentioned the position of the sustenance workers. Special reference to this matter has been made by the member for Perth (Mr. Needham) and the member for Pilbara (Mr. W. Hegney). The member for Pilbara appealed to the Government to make better provision in the way of accommodation for men who go to country jobs. I do not think any man could drive through the country, particularly this winter, at night time, as I myself have done in coming home from the country; no one, I say, could pass those rows of tents in the forest when rain is falling heavily and the wind is blowing violently without appreciating what it means to be able to go home and have a comfortable roof over his head and a comfortable bed in which to sleep. Sometimes I wonder whether members in this Chamber are sincere in their appeals on behalf of these unfortunate men.

The Minister for Mines: You have no right to say that.

Mr. THORN: I am going to say it and I am also going to say that in my opinion the sustenance worker to-day is being used as a political pawn. One hears quite a lot about him at election time and a good deal is said in this Chamber concerning the hardships from which he is suffering and the great disabilities under which he is working. Members of this House have appealed for better conditions for him. They have appealed for an increase in the rate of remuneration per unit.

The Minister for Mines: It is not equal to the political propaganda that the wheat-growers have put up in the last few months.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. THORN: I maintain that the position of the sustenance workers to-day is the same as it was six years ago when the present Government came into power.

Mr. Cross: Do not be ridiculous.

Mr. THORN: The Government has done nothing for them.

The Minister for the North-West: Do not talk rot.

Mr. THORN: They still receive 7s. per unit. But what about the man on the basic wage? He has received a substantial increase over the past six years. The cost of living has risen, but apparently the belief is that the man on sustenance has to pay no more to live than he did six years ago.

The Minister for Mines: You took care that the profiteering measure was not passed to prevent the cost of living going up.

The Premier: There are not so many sustenance workers are there?

Mr. THORN: I suggest to members opposite that, if they are really sincere in their desire to help the poor unfortunate worker, as they so often describe him, they get to work at once. Members opposite are keeping the present Government in office. The power is in their hands. Why then do they continue coming to this Chamber and talking about the disabilities of the sustenance worker when they have every opportunity to act in the matter?

Mr. Cross: What did you do when you were in power?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. THORN: Consider the Financial Emergency Act that was placed on the statute-book by the previous Government. Consider the amount of revenue the financial emergency tax produced in those years. Roughly it was about £360,000.

Mr. Cross: They made even washerwomen pay.

Mr. THORN: To-day that tax is producing 1¼ million pounds. The idea of inflicting this tax on the taxpayer was to assist to remove the disabilities under which the working men of this country were labouring. What has been the result of the raising of all this revenue? The money has been used for other purposes.

Mr. Marshall: To help the farmer.

Hon. C. G. Latham: To help the pussy-cats.

Mr. THORN: I do not know so much about that.

Mr. Tonkin: And the dried fruit industry.

Mr. THORN: The dried fruit industry looks after itself. Concluding my remarks on that question, I do hope—

Mr. J. Hegney: That does not finish with the question.

Mr. THORN: I hope that members opposite will take this matter seriously and will force the Government to increase the 7s. per unit and to improve the living conditions of the poor unfortunate men members are always talking about. Another matter about which I wish to speak is the allotting of the portfolios of agriculture and lands. I suggest to the Government that they are two very important portfolios indeed and that they should be separated. I maintain that the Minister handling the Department of Lands must have his hands full. I am wondering why the Minister for the North-West was not given the portfolio of agriculture. I hope it is not due to lack of confidence in him because I feel sure he could perform the duties satisfactorily.

The Premier: Do not you think the present Minister is doing a good job?

Mr. THORN: Yes, but it is too much for him to handle two such important portfolios. A man has quite sufficient to do to handle either one of those departments.

The Minister for Works: I remember that Mr. Seaddan used to handle quite a number of portfolios.

Mr. THORN: I hope the Minister in charge of the Agricultural Department will bring down a general marketing Act this session.

The Minister for Mines: A general marketing Act?

Mr. THORN: Yes, an Act to deal with marketing in general.

The Minister for Mines: I was wondering whether you would be changing the title to orderly marketing.

Mr. THORN: That is exactly what I desire. I thank the Minister for his assistance. I wish to see orderly marketing.

The Premier: Do not prompt him.

Mr. THORN: He is not prompting me. If I told him what I thought he would keep quiet for a while. The fruitgrowing and vegetable industries are in an awful

mess to-day so far as marketing is concerned and they require the assistance of a general marketing Act.

Mr. Cross: What about onions?

Mr. THORN: Last year I was one of a deputation that waited on the Minister for Agriculture in relation to this matter. I do not know whether he thought at the time that there would be a change of Government, but he told the deputation he had given this matter serious thought for a long time. I believe the Minister has real experience regarding marketing, experience that he gained in Queensland before he came to this State.

Mr. Marshall: Under a good old Labour Government.

Mr. THORN: He said, "I have been preparing the skeleton of a marketing Act for some time."

Mr. Warner: The skeleton is apparently still in the cupboard.

Mr. THORN: He said he would be prepared to hand over the skeleton of that Act to his successor if necessary. There is no doubt that the Minister was quite sincere on this question and I hope he will bring that skeleton to light. I hope he will bring it to light fully developed because we are looking forward to his doing something for the fruitgrowers this session.

Mr. Cross: What is wrong with your doing something yourself?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. THORN: The member for Canning is fertilising, as usual.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member must address the Chair.

Mr. THORN: The growers have been so agitated recently that they are forming a new organisation and a very strong one, too.

Mr. J. Hegney: In the Swan electorate.

Mr. THORN: It is a market gardeners' association and has members from the Swan electorate, from Mt. Hawthorn, from my own electorate, and from that of the member for South Fremantle (Mr. Fox). These men intend to bring all the pressure to bear that they possibly can in urging upon the Minister the necessity for giving them some form of orderly marketing.

The Minister for Mines: I am glad to hear the name is changed.

Mr. THORN: The vegetable growers in the electorate of the Minister for Works and in my own electorate have this year suf-

fered serious setbacks. Their position in many instances is appalling. As a matter of fact, it has resulted in the breaking up of families. Fathers have had to part from their sons and send them to seek employment elsewhere. One grower in particular who brought the matter under my notice had 18,000 cauliflowers wiped out by black frost. As the Minister knows, at the beginning of this season other growers also suffered severe losses. Much is heard at the present time about the prices of vegetables, but there are hardly any vegetables to market.

Mr. Cross: There will not be unless we get a new Kent street weir this year.

Mr. THORN: The only growers who appear to be in a fortunate position are those at the weir the hon. member talks about and out of whom he seems to be doing some good. An Act such as I have suggested will not entirely remedy the misfortune suffered by growers, but it will be the means of obtaining for them better prices for their products and a fair living standard such as members opposite are always appealing for.

Mr. Marshall: Will you give a definition of orderly marketing?

Mr. SPEAKER: I must ask the member for Murchison not to interject.

Mr. Marshall: But I want to know—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. THORN: The member for Murchison would not know if I told him.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. THORN: Another matter that I wish to bring under the notice of the Minister for Agriculture is the different appointments of representatives of growers at conferences in the Eastern States. For a great number of years I have associated with organisations of producers and I have always noticed how the growers are defeated in their effort to secure some improvement in their industry by the men appointed to represent them.

Sitting Suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. THORN: Before tea I intended to refer to different appointments of representatives of the growers to various bodies. A few months ago a conference was held in the Eastern States. Western Australia was supposed to be represented by a shipper's delegate and two other persons acting on behalf of the growers. There is nothing personal in the remarks I am about to

make. It is my experience of the fruit-growing industry that very often the objects of the growers are defeated because of the particular representatives who have been appointed. I have the highest respect for Mr. Soothill, the manager of the Producers' Markets, as a business man, but I object to his appointment as a representative of the growers attending the conference in the Eastern States.

Mr. Hill: He was secretary to the Fruit-growers' Association before then.

Mr. THORN: We have to consider where his interests lie at present.

Mr. Hill: His name was first submitted by the Fruitgrowers' Association.

Mr. THORN: I am attacking the principle. In this particular instance, of the three representatives appointed, two had votes against the grower, because one man represented shipping interests and the other is manager of the Producers' Markets. I have had experience of this sort of thing in the past. We called a conference in Perth with a view to improving the conditions of the fruitgrowers, but the meeting was white-anted by the representatives of the selling side.

The Minister for Lands: Do you think there is an abler man in the State for this purpose?

Mr. THORN: No, nor is there an abler man from the business point of view, but the system reduces the number of votes available on behalf of the growers.

Mr. Hill: If the growers have confidence in them, why worry?

Mr. J. Hegney: Would that not also apply to the Dried Fruits Board?

Mr. THORN: No.

Mr. J. Hegney: Objection was raised to the appointment of Mr Dickson as an independent chairman.

Mr. THORN: Four growers have seats on that board. The move to appoint an independent chairman was a wise one.

Mr. J. Hegney: The growers do not agree. They have written to me about it.

Mr THORN: Last session I asked the Minister for Agriculture to consider a reduction in the price of blood and bone fertiliser. He said he would look into the matter. I have had some correspondence from him and would like to read it. In his first letter the Minister said—

I have made an inquiry regarding your request for a reduction in the price of animal fertiliser, but I cannot locate any analysis

for comparison which would give me a figure suggesting that a reduction could be made in our local price. You advised me that one of the organisations with which you were associated had some such information, and to enable me to check my figures, I should be pleased if you could supply me with this additional information.

I supplied the information. It was obtainable from the "Government Gazette" of New South Wales and Victoria. The Minister then wrote a second letter to me as follows:—

I desire to thank you for your interest in the matter of fertiliser prices, and for the documents you have submitted. A very close investigation has been made by departmental officers in this connection, and because of the nature of our production in this State, together with the comparative unit values, I am unable to agree to the request for a reduction in price. I find that there are about 40 tons sold from Midland to the growers in the Swan district, and the distributors claim that they can obtain a considerable increase in price, but I am not prepared to agree to this.

I was pleased to read the last remark in the Minister's letter. Anyone with a monopoly can claim an increase in the price of this fertiliser. I join issue with the Minister in regard to unit values. I have here the price list of the distributors. The unit values for the best blood and bone fertiliser manufactured in the State—namely, the Wyndham fertiliser—are as follows:—6¼ per cent. nitrogen, 12 per cent. phosphoric acid, and the price is £10 10s. a ton. I have here the price from a firm in Melbourne, for the same fertiliser, of £7 5s. 1d., and the unit values are 6 per cent. nitrogen and 12 per cent. phosphoric acid, or ¼ per cent. less nitrogen than is found in the Wyndham fertiliser. I could make other comparisons, but will not weary the House. Members can look at the papers and see that I have taken a fair comparison of the unit values. The local fertiliser could be compared with others of exactly the same unit value. I appeal to the Government to give this matter consideration for the sake of the producers. They are being charged too much for this special manure. We do not want them to go to the Eastern States for their requirements, as they will have to do if the high price is persisted in. Even if 30s. per ton were added for freight from the Eastern States, the price of the imported fertiliser would still be only about £9 a ton. The producers

would be prepared to buy at that figure, but £10 10s. is altogether too much. The State Government is practically in control of the manufacture of the local article, seeing that it also controls the Wyndham Meat Works, where it is made. I hope, therefore, it will consider the representations that have been put forward.

Mr. Doney: To do otherwise would not help the Minister for Industries.

Mr. THORN: The producers will have to get their requirements from the other States.

The Premier: Perhaps you could tell us where we could get more money.

Hon. C. G. Latham: You are not going to get any more.

Mr. THORN: I feel somewhat embarrassed because nearly all the matters with which I am dealing affect the Minister for Agriculture. I have the highest regard for him and assure him there is nothing personal in my remarks.

My next topic deals with educational facilities in the country. I feel very keenly on this subject and about the raw deal that has been meted out to country districts. I do not wish to go back to the unsavoury period of the recent elections, but must congratulate the Minister upon the political sop he gave the member for Canning (Mr. Cross).

Mr. Cross: I like that.

Mr. THORN: The Minister said in the Press that because of the urgent and persistent representations of the member for Canning, he was going to build a school in that electorate at a cost of about £15,000. He saved this up until just prior to the election. I am afraid the Canning seat has been a costly one for the taxpayers of that district.

Mr. Cross: We are still awaiting the two rooms at the Kensington-street school.

Hon. C. G. Latham: You will wait until the next elections for them.

Mr. Cross: No.

Mr. THORN: My electorate is crying out for educational facilities. I have brought different matters under the notice of the Minister on behalf of various districts in my electorate, but up to date have had very little satisfaction.

Hon. P. Collier: You have not put up a good case.

The Minister for Mines: Not a convincing one, at any rate.

Mr. THORN: Last session I cited the instance of children at a siding called Beechina. They had to catch the 7.12 a.m. train from Perth as it passed through the siding, and had to wait around at Wooroloo until between 5 and 5.30 p.m. before they could go home. The parents had to travel through the bush with hurricane lanterns to meet their children at the siding and take them home, very often in the rain.

Mr. Cross: How many children are involved?

Mr. THORN: Sufficient to warrant the establishment of a school. I think on the last occasion when I made a request on their behalf 17 or 18 children were involved. The parents are poor. No one is struggling harder than they are. The men are burning charcoal, cutting firewood, and occasionally turning out sleepers. After a hard day's work they have to tramp through the bush to escort their children home. The usual shelving has been done in this case. The Minister said he would go into the matter. It was then referred to the Commissioner of Railways, who said he would do his best to improve the travelling facilities. The conditions are no better to-day than they were last year. I hope something will be done for these children. The £15,000 that is being spent in the South Swan and the £1,500 that was spent on the Bayswater school ground, which is still unsatisfactory, would build several schools in the country, where they are badly needed.

The Minister for Lands: Expenditure has been asked for at Corrigin, at Mandurah, and other places.

Mr. THORN: During the past three years there has been no improvement in the educational facilities in the Toodyay electorate. The Chittering school house is leaking like a sieve. It appears on the urgent list of works, and repeatedly I have asked that repairs be effected, so far without result. The Waterning hall, about eight miles on this side of Bolgart, where the school is held, is propped up with sticks, because of the ravages of white ants. When the wind blows the building sways about and the safety of the children is endangered. The local people have asked permission of the Public Works Department to pull down the building and have offered to build another by voluntary labour.

The Premier: Who owns the hall?

Mr. THORN: I think it is one of the assisted agricultural halls erected by the Public Works Department. Bolgart has no schoolhouse. I have been asking for some time that one should be provided there. Owing to the lack of a schoolhouse, there have been nine changes of teachers at Bolgart during the last 15 months. The local parents and citizens' association is appealing for accommodation for a teacher, so that the children may have a fair chance of becoming educated. As it is, teachers will not stop at Bolgart; and all these changes of teacher are bad for the children. I trust consideration will be given to that matter. Last, but not least, I wish to deal with electric lighting. I appeal to the Government to make certain extensions. Just recently I was in South Australia, and—

The Premier: How much will it cost to fix up your electorate with everything, schools, electric lighting and so forth?

Mr. THORN: Not nearly as much as it cost the Government to fix up the Canning electorate. I think it could be done for half. While in South Australia I travelled through the hills to Echunga and other outlying districts, say 25 or 30 miles from Adelaide, and was greatly surprised at the facilities they enjoyed in the way of electric light and power carried right through the hills from Adelaide. The residents are only scattered dairymen and poultry-farmers. They all have electric lighting in their homes. That fact helps and facilitates production. Accordingly I make my appeal to the Government. The district I represent is almost closely settled, and only eight miles from Midland Junction. During the last two or three years there have been presented, through me, petitions crying out for electric light. What a wonderful facility it is! We people living in Perth know that. With electricity one can have light and wireless, and electric irons. No lighting of oil lamps every night! These extensions ought to be made. In conclusion, I suggest to Ministers that one method by which they can make some money is by extending electric light and power from which revenue will be derived. I hope the various points I have raised this evening will not be taken too much as criticism. All members have their difficulties. They all have causes to fight on behalf of the people they represent. I have endeavoured this evening to place before different Ministers matters concerning my

electorate. I hope hon. gentlemen opposite will not consider my contribution to the discussion as having been rendered from the aspect of criticism. That is not the case.

The Minister for Labour: We forgive you.

Mr. THORN: That is quite all right. I trust that at all events some of the things I have asked for will be authorised by the Treasurer, and that improvements urgently needed in my electorate will be carried out.

MR. SAMPSON (Swan) [7.50]: The applause from hon. members reminds me of the old saying "Beware of the Greeks, even when they bring gifts." I hope that saying has no special application at this moment. May I preface my remarks on the Governor's Speech by congratulating you, Mr. Speaker, on having been called upon to fill your very high and dignified position. I am quite sure you will discharge your duties faithfully. If I may be permitted to say so, I do regret that you have decided to wear neither wig nor gown. That seems to savour of the sentiment concerning which Tennyson wrote—

The unworthy—

That is not the word Tennyson used, but I am going to use it.

The unworthy fear of being great.

It would be better if the traditions of the office were upheld. Certainly there is no affront to democracy or to the common status of mankind in some men wearing a distinguishing garb. My eye just happens to rest on the Clerk of the House. However well that officer may appear without wig or gown, he is certainly much improved when wearing that apparel. I wish also to congratulate the member for Murchison (Mr. Marshall) on having been appointed Chairman of Committees. He also, I am sure, will do his work well. The same remarks apply to the two Ministers who have recently been advanced to Cabinet rank.

It is the Governor's Speech, of course, that we are supposed to consider. I listened to it with an attentive ear, and have also read it. I am indeed pleased to note that members will be asked to give consideration to, among other things, a measure dealing with apprenticeship. I trust that following this statement an effective and useful measure will be brought

down. If the proposal is to make it easier for boys to learn trades, then I for one will give the Government all the assistance in my power towards passing such a measure. The most difficult problem, next in difficulty to the wheat problem at all events, is the matter of employment. In this respect our Government, in common with many other Governments, faces a highly difficult position. I do realise what difficulties are to be faced and how easy it is to criticise. I fear, however, that no effective action has yet been taken regarding our young men. During the depression years many young men lost any opportunity they might otherwise have had to learn a trade. It is an old story, but a very unpleasant story, and one which severely affects our young men and thereby the State. The present procedure regarding relief work for single men is that they receive two days' work weekly. For the balance of the week, five days, the single man has no special work to do. In my opinion that is one of the worst features of the single-man problem. It is inevitable that there shall be deterioration in such circumstances, because no man could go out and live under outside working conditions, removed from all social and family life, and for five days have nothing to occupy his mind or his hands, without suffering because of those empty days. Unfortunately the position in connection with these single men is, as I have so often pointed out, really the result of the fact that they have no trade. While it may happen that on occasion their number includes qualified artisans who are able to carry out trade work in certain industries, that is exceptional. To-day the effect of the restrictions which have applied for so many years preventing lads from learning a trade are to be seen in the increasing number of young men who, through force of economic circumstances, are compelled to seek relief work.

In my opinion there is a remedy, and it is because I desire to suggest that remedy that I am speaking on this subject. I want those single men who receive the two days' work weekly to be given an opportunity to learn any phase of farming—it may be dairying, orchard work, gardening work, or—

Mr. Cross: You do not suggest wheat-growing, do you?

Mr. SAMPSON: If I may suggest something and the hon. member interjecting will accept the suggestion, let me say that I am prepared to pay a portion of the expense of giving him an opportunity to acquire some knowledge. If the men who are given the two days' work weekly had an opportunity to learn some vocation—work on an orchard, or in a garden, or on a dairy farm or otherwise—or to learn a trade, the difficulties in respect of those men would gradually disappear. It may be said that the suggestion is impracticable, but I do not think it is. I suggest that in those cases where two days' work per week is being carried out, those men, subject to their requesting an opportunity to acquire vocational knowledge, should, if approved, be given, say, three months' work $5\frac{1}{2}$ days a week straight off. This would mean that in the three months the man would work 13 weeks, and thus have a credit of say 70 working days. It would allow, after providing the two days' payment for each of the 13 weeks worked, 22 weeks at a technical school or other teaching opportunity. When he had worked out the period which otherwise he would have spent in idleness, he should be given opportunity for a further extension of three months' work, subject to his efforts being considered sincere and to his having done everything that he should do. The payment for the two days per week is £1 12s. 6d.: and I suggest that this money be paid not in a lump sum but from week to week, thus enabling the single man to have sufficient to live on whilst his work in acquiring a vocation was being carried out. I feel sure that the proposition is practicable. As things are, a single man or a lad who goes away on the two days' work per week stunt is no better at the finish than he was at the commencement; and so the trouble facing the Government goes on interminably, and the lot of these young men and lads cannot be improved. I realise that in order that my suggestion may be carried out where a young man desires to acquire vocational training at a technical school, the restriction limiting students in certain classes to apprentices only would require to be lifted. It is futile to expect Western Australia to make any progress if those permitted to take advantage of vocational training classes are limited to apprentices.

Mr. Holman: Would you cut out apprentices altogether?

Mr. SAMPSON: There is no need to do that; it is the last thing we desire to do. We have so many men who have not served an apprenticeship to a trade that successive Governments have been at their wit's end to deal with the problem. The plan which I have suggested would enable a young man to help himself, and we could ascertain whether there was a likelihood of success following the effort. At present those single men are dissatisfied and discontented. How can they be satisfied when they have only two days' work and thereafter must spend their time in monotonous, demoralising idleness, as they do now? The suggested training in what would otherwise be their idle hours is a solution of the problem.

Mr. Cross: Would you class them as tradesmen?

Mr. SAMPSON: Yes, they would acquire a trade. The young man who has attained the age of 18 to 22 years learns quicker than does a lad; and, as I have said, if he was sincere, he would realise that his future was bound up in the progress he might make. I hope it might be possible for the Government to give this scheme a trial, because, as we all know, the unemployment problem is very bad and nerve-racking, as well for the State as for the unfortunate victim. If we gave these young men the opportunity to learn a trade, their troubles would be at an end, and, so far as they were concerned, no further relief work need be provided. If they showed no desire to learn, that would be a matter for further consideration.

Mr. Cross: In what trades is there a shortage of skilled men?

Mr. Warner: Rabbit-catching.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. SAMPSON: The State lacks skilled workmen.

Mr. Cross: There are many skilled men out of work.

The Minister for Agriculture: Painters, plumbers, and others.

Mr. SAMPSON: Does the hon. member desire these men to work for only two days and then wander about for five days? Think of the dreadful monotony of it! Give the men opportunity. I think the Government will do so, and we shall then find a fair percentage of them anxious and ready

to do their utmost to make good. There is a demand for skilled workmen. The member for Canning (Mr. Cross) is full of doubt and misgiving. This State is short of mechanical engineers, the demand for them is far in excess of the supply. Yet this matter drifts on. To-day, as always, there is no scope for the unskilled worker. Previously, he received such work as he could perform when it was available. To-day he can only apply for relief work. My suggestion, if adopted, will do something towards ameliorating the present position. I hope it will not be allowed to continue, but that a determined effort will be made along the lines I have suggested.

Medical inspection of children at schools has been performed in a very limited way for many years past. Unfortunately, the growth of the staff that does the work has not kept pace with the steadily increasing numbers of children on the rolls of the schools. If it is possible for the Government to find the necessary money, I hope further staff will be provided and that more frequent inspections of children will be made. This is most essential, in view of reports concerning malnutrition which have been submitted from time to time: A well-known doctor—Dr. Stang—has from time to time drawn attention to the disabilities suffered by many children in this State through malnutrition.

The Premier: Did Dr. Stang find one place where the children were getting sufficient nutriment, according to her standard?

Mr. SAMPSON: I daresay there are some such places.

The Premier: There must be some.

Mr. SAMPSON: For instance, the Premier and I get enough to eat. But it is evident that malnutrition of others is one of the State's problems. We have heard the member for Subiaco (Mrs. Cardell-Oliver) point out again and again the need for the provision of additional food and milk for certain children. The matter is one that should receive the earnest attention of the Government. No doubt the Government is giving it attention, but it should receive greater consideration. The Government, I am sure, is concerned about its social obligations. This is one of them.

The matter of dental inspection is a phase of public health work that should be extended. Many country school children have

not at present the privilege of this service. The dentists engaged upon the work are certainly giving excellent service, but there are not enough of them to cope with the work. Money spent on medical and dental inspections would pay heavy dividends which would be apparent in the years to come in the improved health and longevity of our people.

While in Geraldton recently, I was pleased to observe that a high school had been erected in that town. The erection of that school is well justified. There are, however, phases in connection with the curriculum to which I think attention might be directed. The full secretary course, which I understand includes a business course, book-keeping, shorthand, typewriting, and kindred subjects, is provided so as to give students taking up that course a sound foundation of business practice and methods. The standard goes up to matriculation. This has been provided in Geraldton for many years past, but with a higher top in the primary schools. The high school is a thing apart. Country high schools, however, should be on a more practical basis. Consideration should be given to subjects that will be most helpful to the students in the districts where the schools are situated. It should be realised that only a small percentage of scholars in the country will ever enter the portals of our University. We must not overlook the fact, however, that as soon as students step into a high school, their education is directed towards that end. If we could give country students an education with an agricultural bias, so much the better for them, otherwise their study is lost. More practical and vocation work should be done. While on this subject, I would suggest that in a district like Armadale attention should be given in the upper grades to fruit-growing and poultry raising, from a scientific point of view, because many of the children will apply themselves to those industries when they leave school. We heard to-night that boys in the country could not secure technical education. That was pointed out by a previous speaker. We might, at all events, ensure that the local student is enabled to acquire knowledge of the particular industry in which he is likely to engage after leaving school. I have no desire to encroach upon the electorate of any other member, but a technical high school, with a

distinct bias towards dairying, is long overdue in the South-West. I hope this matter will receive the attention of the Government.

No speech on the Address-in-reply, so far as this side of the House is concerned, would be complete without some reference to orderly marketing. The question has been asked, what is orderly marketing? Orderly marketing is control-marketing.

The Minister for Labour: What is control-marketing?

Mr. SAMPSON: Control-marketing is compulsory co-operation.

The Minister for Labour: What is compulsory co-operation?

Mr. SAMPSON: Control by the growers, who would elect their representatives; those controlling would therefore be the representatives of the growers.

The Minister for Agriculture: What limitation as regards price-fixing would you place on your proposal?

Mr. SAMPSON: A board would be elected by the growers, who would be practical men. The board would proceed cautiously, particularly at the outset. When it came to price-fixing, the board would keep the prices as low as possible. Later on, if opportunity offered, it would gradually bring the prices up to what might be termed a living rate.

Mr. Cross: Would the growers elect an independent board to fix prices?

Mr. SAMPSON: In effect we have had independent boards all along. The sale of fruit and vegetables is not in the hands of the growers. Every member knows that produce is sent to the market. If a reasonable or a high price is obtained for it, the grower is happy. But there is no certainty about the price. The grower may find—as, indeed, he often does—that in place of a return for his produce he receives a debit note. Fortunately, we have as Minister for Agriculture a gentleman who has had much experience. If he does not understand the details of orderly marketing, then he is deserving of a great deal of censure.

I have a report of a deputation that waited on the Minister for Agriculture in December last. He received the deputation with great courtesy and much sympathy. I do not propose to criticise the Minister, because I have no doubt that what he said then will be translated into fact in the near future. Still, it is a matter of great regret to me that no reference appears in the

Lieut.-Governor's Speech to any Bill to provide for a general marketing Act or an Act relating to orderly marketing. The omission might easily have been an oversight; I do not think the Minister would have made a statement to the deputation that was not strictly correct. I quote from the paper, "The Farmer and Dairyman"—

The Minister was attentive and most sympathetic, displaying a close acquaintance with the eddies, undercurrents, doubts, difficulties and perplexities of marketing laws.

Nobody could complain of that.

Incidentally Mr. Wise revealed that he was a member of the Committee of Direction in Queensland, from which State he hails.

That affords a full answer to any doubt that might have been entertained about the Minister's knowledge of how to proceed in the matter of instituting orderly marketing, because the Committee of Direction in Queensland has become classical for the success it has achieved as an organisation whereby an improved status for farmers has been brought about. In 1924 I stood in this House and advocated the Queensland method of marketing, and I hope we are now on the threshold of a new era when those engaged on the land, equally with other members of the community, will be given some say in what they are to receive for their work.

Mr. J. Hegney: I am afraid you will not be here when that day comes.

Mr. SAMPSON: Provided the job is done, it will not matter whether the hon. member is here, either. I want the hon. member to assist in this matter. The report continued—

In his reply the Minister said that he had a skeleton Bill drafted in connection with other bodies and would consider the points involved and submit the matter to Cabinet. Then, if approved, he would draft a Bill to meet the situation, and leave it on record for his successor should the Government meet with a political accident at the next election.

Mr. Stubbs: Has he done that?

Mr. SAMPSON: From one standpoint, unfortunately the Government did not meet with an accident of that kind; from another standpoint it might be fortunate.

Mr. Thorn: In that you will get the Bill?

Mr. SAMPSON: The Minister has definitely nailed his colours to the mast. He understands the difficulties confronting the producers, and though there is no reference

to such a measure in the Speech, I feel certain its omission was an oversight. Any busy man is apt to overlook something, but doubtless the Minister will carry into effect the promise he made.

Mr. Doney: No doubt about that.

Mr. SAMPSON: I will leave that subject, once more expressing the hope that the Bill will be introduced sufficiently early to receive careful consideration. In saying that I have no desire to cast any aspersions on the Minister, except to recall the unfortunate fate last session of the Marketing of Eggs Bill, which certainly met with some maltreatment at his hands. However, that measure might be amended and I hope it will, because the poultry farmers of this State require legislation to enable them to introduce the orderly marketing of their product.

Before leaving the subject of fruit and vegetables, let me say that while I am not generally over-keen regarding the appointment of inspectors and the extension of bureaucracy, I realise that the time has come when all fruit leaving this State should be subject to inspection. I say that following an experience on my recent trip to Malaya. On the boat in which I travelled, I saw fruit such as I never expected to see marketed, and certainly I was surprised and disappointed to find it made available to passengers on the boat.

Mr. Cross: Did it come from Western Australia?

Mr. SAMPSON: The whole of it came from Western Australia. On that point I made no mistake; I visited the refrigerated chambers and noted the name on the cases containing pears and the name on the cases containing oranges. I shall not mention those names, because no law had been broken by sending such fruit away. It was competent to send any class of fruit, but I am sure members will appreciate what a grave and lasting injury is done to Western Australia when, as in the case to which I refer—it is by no means the only one, because I have had fruit from other boats brought to me since—produce of inferior quality is sent away.

The Premier: Why did not the company buy first grade instead of third grade fruit?

Mr. SAMPSON: Exactly. The trouble is that unless some degree of compulsion is imposed—

The Premier interjected.

Mr. SAMPSON: No fruit should leave these shores until it has been inspected. I am not saying anything about the fruit sold for local consumption; such fruit has to face examination by the consumer and there need be no fear in that instance. On my return trip I got off the boat at Geraldton and noted the high quality of citrus fruits displayed in the shop windows there, and I felt how shocking and disgraceful it was when first grade fruit was available that we should have had the disease-afflicted oranges and pears that were supplied to us on the boat.

Mr. Cross: Did not you say that Kelmescott orange growers had supplied that fruit? It came from your area.

Mr. SAMPSON: If the hon. member will say that outside, he will find something coming to him from Kelmescott, but any damn silly thing can be said in this House.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member must not reflect upon another hon. member.

Mr. SAMPSON: I did not know but that I was offering the hon. member a compliment.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. SAMPSON: I assure the hon. member in all politeness that none of that fruit came from Kelmescott, and I can prove my statement because I have the names of the growers. But I do not intend to injure somebody who, perhaps through stress of circumstances, accepted what he could get for his fruit, which was afterwards placed on a boat and supplied to passengers. I was about to observe that on the first part of the journey the passengers were supplied with "Sunkist" oranges, the Californian orange, each branded with a rubber stamp.

Mr. Needham: Have not you given the State a bad advertisement by bringing that matter forward?

Mr. SAMPSON: I do not consider that I have. Steps may now be taken to prevent such wrongdoing. To allow the present condition of affairs to continue is the most injurious thing that could happen.

Mr. J. Hegney: I am afraid the growers will not appreciate your attitude.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. SAMPSON: I do not suppose any grower would take exception to my remarks.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! This is not a cross-examination.

Mr. SAMPSON: As I was saying, "Sunkist" oranges were supplied. I do not wish to boost the American oranges. To import oranges from America is ridiculous, but the quality of the imported fruit was excellent.

Mr. Needham: Tell us something about apples.

Mr. SAMPSON: I can do that.

Mr. Seward: Finish with the oranges first.

Mr. SAMPSON: I have spoken of the Californian oranges which were of excellent quality. Our oranges were afflicted with exanthema and scale and were of very poor quality.

The Minister for Labour: Why do not you blame the shipping company for having bought cheap fruit?

Mr. SAMPSON: An obligation rests upon us to see that the fruit is inspected and approved before it is placed on a boat. I have no wish to condemn all and sundry. It is not pleasant to have to speak in this strain. We must condemn ourselves for not doing what we ought to do.

The Minister for Labour: Why not condemn the shipping company for buying cheap fruit?

Mr. SAMPSON: In so doing the company committed no offence against the law because it is competent at present to send away fruit of any quality. I hope that soon we shall be able to prevent the sending away of any fruit other than that which has been inspected and approved.

The Minister for Mines: Perhaps that fruit was intended for the black crew.

Mr. SAMPSON: Even the black crew, I imagine, would not have been too keen on it. I noticed that the crew's food was good.

The Minister for Labour: That shows how miserable the shipping company was in buying cheap fruit.

Mr. SAMPSON: I hope the Minister for Agriculture will make this one of his jobs. I feel that I am justified in directing attention to the matter.

The Minister for Labour: What is the name of the shipping company?

Mr. SAMPSON: When one has travelled on the various boats—

The Minister for Mines: What is the name of the shipping company?

Mr. SAMPSON: That is another story.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member will address the Chair.

Mr. SAMPSON: The Minister for Mines is endeavouring to draw a red herring across the trail. He is a member of a Government that allows this sort of thing to continue and he wants me to open up a tirade of abuse against someone else. I will deal with the matter in all courtesy and in terms of restraint.

Mr. SPEAKER: Then address the Chair and you will get along nicely.

The Minister for Labour: You are afraid to mention the name of the company.

The Minister for North-West: That company buys nothing in Western Australia. It gets its supplies from overseas.

Mr. SAMPSON: That statement is wrong; a fair quantity of Western Australian goods was placed on that boat.

The Minister for Labour: Were there any Western Australian workers amongst the crew?

Mr. SAMPSON: I suppose so; I was one of them. I noticed supplies of Mills & Ware's biscuits on board.

The Minister for Lands: Do any of the employees of the shipping firm pay taxation in Western Australia?

Mr. SAMPSON: Yes, but perhaps I had better not enter into that.

The Minister for Lands: I wish you would.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member must address the Chair.

Mr. SAMPSON: Some of the employees pay taxation here and are very keen about Western Australia. When the time arrives to vacate the positions they hold on the boat, some of them, at any rate, propose to settle here. I admit that the number is limited. We met some Dutch people who have been living in Java for years. In that country men do not remain at work so long as we do, and they usually retire when they are 40 or 45 years of age. Two Dutchmen, and very fine men they were, told us that they proposed to settle in Western Australia. Those men who were on the boat had been to Western Australia and they remarked upon the poor quality of the ship's fruit compared with what they had seen when in Western Australia.

The Minister for Labour: What was the name of the boat?

Mr. SAMPSON: Yes, what was the name? There is one other subject I shall deal with before concluding my remarks. Last session I referred to the quarrying in progress at Boya and Darlington and the difficulties that were experienced in consequence. I pointed out that buildings in the district were being affected and the health of the people threatened because of the severe detonations and concussions from the blasting in the quarries. The Minister promised that an officer would be sent to make an inspection and that was done, although it certainly took some time before it was carried out.

The Minister for Mines: We were waiting for the shots to go off!

Mr. SAMPSON: They were going off for a long time. Early in the week I received a letter from the Minister stating that the position had been investigated and action taken to minimise the effect of the concussion. I was responsible for a brief report in the "West Australian" concerning the Minister's decision. I felt pleased indeed that the difficulty had been overcome, and I feel sure the Minister was gratified as well. However, it seems that the difficulty has not been terminated, because when I reached the House this afternoon I received two letters, the contents of which I propose to place before the House. The first is as follows:—

I read an article in Monday's "West Australian" covering a letter which you had received from the Minister. It was stated that the explosions were reduced to a minimum at Boya Quarries. The time is now 5 p.m. You would imagine a fierce bombardment was going on. At 5 p.m. exactly one explosion was of an exceptionally severe nature, just as loud as at any time in the past. I appreciate your action in the matter, but a mere Ministerial assertion is not warranted to be above suspicion. He may be deceived by his subordinates.

Of course, that is the explanation.

At any rate, the residents here cannot be deceived by the evidence of their own ears.

That letter was dated the 15th August, and so also was the second letter, which reads—

I noticed an article in the "West Australian" of the 14th August re the Boya Quarry.

The Minister for Mines: That is where you made the mistake. You put the article in the paper.

Mr. SAMPSON: The letter continues—

The article stated that a new method of firing explosives had been introduced and detonations should be considerably lessened in future. If the quarry explosions were not such a serious menace, the article might be considered rather amusing as yesterday and to-day the blasting has been so terrific as to shake articles off shelves, etc.

That is amazing, and discloses a dreadful state of affairs.

If this house was not so well built, I am afraid that the last two days would have done some serious damage, and I think that the fact of the windows being of the sash type and not casements, has probably saved all the glass from being smashed. My husband is away at present so I feel that I cannot let this article pass without making another appeal to you to do something more in this matter. The quarries must move from here eventually as Darlington spreads, and the time seems to me to be very ripe at present. Hoping something can still be done in this very serious matter.

There is a gem of appositeness in the suggestion that the time is ripe for the quarries to be closed. I suggest to the Minister that he again take action to assist in controlling this nuisance. In other words, he should close down the quarries and so save the money that is lost each year. By so doing he will help the people of Darlington to maintain their good health and protect house property from the fracturing that otherwise occurs as the result of the explosions.

MR. MANN (Beverley) [8.35]: I desire to offer my congratulations to you, Mr. Speaker, on your elevation to the Chair, to the Chairman of Committees, the new Ministers and those members who have taken their seats in this Chamber for the first time. I feel, however, that I must express my regret that you, Sir, have not seen fit to appear in wig and gown. The wearing of those symbols of office would carry on a very old tradition handed down to us from the Mother of Parliaments and in these modern times such traditions can well be observed. Perhaps it is that to-day parliamentary institutions are undergoing a change, and we find many people all too apt to criticise members of the Legislature. There was a time when members of Parliament were treated with the highest respect, but to-day the position is very different. I am rather afraid that the situation is of our own creation. As members of Parliament, we do many things, and I

do not know whether it is because we are afraid of losing our seats or whether it is merely in consonance with the trend of the times. I regret the ridicule that is heaped upon the parliamentary institution. I regard it as wrong. There is one alternative only and that is a dictatorship. I feel sure that no one inside or outside Parliament desires this Commonwealth of ours to be ruled by one man.

Mr. Fox: The wearing of the wig will not prevent that.

Mr. MANN: The wearing of the wig and gown signifies our observance of a centuries-old tradition, but I can quite understand the attitude of members who sit on the cross-benches, for they constitute the extreme element. I am surprised that they do not come here wearing their red ties.

The Minister for Mines: And addressing the Speaker as "Comrade."

Mr. Fox: What is wrong with wearing a red tie? One of your party used to wear such a tie.

Mr. MANN: At any rate, my view is that the wearing of the wig and gown adds dignity to the person holding the position of Speaker for the time being. Certainly I am pleased to see that in the mace at least one symbol remains, and I hope that next session, having reconsidered the matter, Mr. Speaker will appear in the Chair adorned in the wig and gown. I do not suggest, Sir, that you require adornment, but if you adopted that course it would be in conformity with a tradition that has been handed down through the centuries.

Dealing with the Lieut.-Governor's Speech, the member for Perth (Mr. Needham) referred to defence matters. Not only in Australia, but throughout the whole world, stressful times are being experienced. One of the most regrettable features associated with the defence position is that while large sums of money are being spent in preparations to deal with potential enemies, we are missing the opportunity to have our men trained from a military point of view. It is little less than a disgrace to the Commonwealth Government that a system of compulsory military training has not been instituted.

The Minister for Mines: The Commonwealth cannot train the men that they have.

Mr. MANN: The Minister is an old digger, just as I am, and he appreciates how

long it took to knock us into shape in 1914.

The Minister for the North-West: Were you in the awkward squad?

Mr. MANN: No, I travelled along the same lines as the Minister, and although I was in the Light Horse we had to train just the same as the ordinary foot soldier. It took a long time. Now, despite all the money we are spending on defence, we shall not have many men ready to defend Australia. Most definitely we should have a system of compulsory military service. I know that many people are opposed to that idea, but why should the Commonwealth Government consider that, in view of the importance of having a large body of men trained to defend Australia. Certainly, the youth of Australia would benefit if they were subject to some discipline and a little military training. If they had some experience in camp, it would do them all the good in the world and knock a good deal of sense into them.

I wish to deal briefly with a very important matter to the State. I refer to the position of the farmers. We regret exceedingly the failure of the stabilisation scheme that the Premier and the Minister for Agriculture went to the Eastern States to discuss. Prospects are not bright with the price of wheat below 1s. a bushel. The farmers are experiencing the same conditions that the workers did before the trade union movement was launched. Members sitting on the Government side of the House should make no mistake on that point. Some of them have asked, as the member for Canning (Mr. Cross) did by interjection, whether it was worth while carrying on the farmers. Let the farmers be forced off their holdings, which is inevitable unless the present situation alters, and we will flood the State with unemployed. If the farmers are forced into that position, they will not accept their lot in a spirit of quiet moderation. The men on the land to-day are definitely in a disturbed state. They have faced starvation in their efforts to make a living in the bush. They have gone on to virgin blocks and toiled hard to develop their holdings. Let members opposite make no mistake about it, for if no assistance is rendered to the wheatgrowing industry, Western Australia in particular and the Commonwealth generally will have to face a very critical situation.

The Minister for Mines: Something will have to be done to avert that.

Mr. MANN: I certainly hope so. Despite all that has been said about the farmers, we must realise that they have pioneered the agricultural areas of this State.

Mr. Warner: They are the backbone of the country.

Mr. MANN: Their lives have been spent on their holdings where their children have grown up. Despite all their privations and hard work, they are now in no better position than are the sustenance workers. Compare the wage earner with the farmer. The man in receipt of daily wages is able to budget in accordance with the amount he receives, although it may be limited. Where does the farmer stand? He is in a condition of distress the whole time. He goes in fear of eviction or of being penalised by his creditors. He is expected to work his property at a loss. The position is intolerable.

The Minister for Lands: We have this satisfaction, that no Government of any State has tried to do more than we have.

Mr. MANN: We appreciate the fact that the Premier and the Minister went to the Eastern States in an endeavour to assist the farmers, and we know that anything they can do to assist will be done. On the other hand, we have the position that arose as the result of the conference and we have one State, Victoria, taking a stand contrary to that adopted by the others. I admire the Premier and the Minister for Lands for their attitude. It remains to be seen whether one State can justify its stand in opposition to the policy outlined. If the present situation is not the forerunner of unification or secession, or even the collapse of the Federal Constitution, it will be a matter of wonderment to me. This I know, that the two States that are the greatest sufferers to-day are Western Australia and South Australia, and our position in this State is exceedingly difficult.

Mr. Cross: You do not think you can grow wheat in the Westonia district?

Mr. MANN: If a Government throws open land and puts men there, that Government is responsible for the position of the farmers concerned.

Mr. Cross: They should be moved.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. MANN: What does the member for Canning (Mr. Cross) know about such a

matter? He is steeped in an industrial outlook and even had the cheek the other day to introduce a deputation to the Minister for Works asking him to authorise the expenditure of £20,000 or more on the construction of a scenic drive around the river. What does he know about the farming industry, and what does he care?

Mr. Cross: I was outback 30 years ago.

Mr. MANN: That is all the thought he has for the unfortunate farmer. He is steeped in his narrow parochial views and cannot rise superior to them. I would like to dump the member for Canning down on a way-back block with rabbits and kangaroos for company.

Mr. Cross: I would not be stupid enough to ask men to grow wheat at Westonia.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. MANN: The hon. member said he was outback 30 years ago. Does he consider that he pioneered the wheat belt?

Mr. Thorn: He left there in a hurry, anyway.

Mr. MANN: The hon. member has no idea whatever of pioneering, and knows nothing about the farmers' position, which is really pathetic.

Mr. Cross: I will tell you to-morrow what I think about their position.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. MANN: We all know what the position of the farmers is, and we wonder whether it will be possible for them to export any wheat. Certainly our position from that point of view is difficult, and all I hope is that it will be possible to do something in the direction of stabilising the industry. Unless something is done in that direction, we will have considerable unemployment and the railways will sustain greater losses. Some members have made the assertion that the railways carry wheat and super at a loss. Really, the greatest revenue the railways receive is derived from the carriage of wheat and super.

Mr. Styant: Super is carried by the railways at .54d. per mile.

Mr. MANN: Unless the railways have wheat and super to carry, the loss shown would be much greater. Speaking of super reminds me that the companies are in a quandary regarding further supplies, and the chances are that unless some decision is arrived at, there will not be any importa-

tions of phosphatic rock from Nauru. If supplies of super are not available for the forthcoming season, the position will indeed be very serious. Regarding wool, we know that the price at present is far below the cost of production, and all we can hope for is an improvement of the position. The industry has been one of the greatest and most valuable in Australia, but this year particularly it is experiencing a very hard knock. One cannot but express sympathy for the pastoralists in the difficult times they are going through. The Leader of the Opposition the other evening referred to the need for conserving ewes in the southern part of the State for the purpose of re-stocking the North. That should be possible. This year we will export something like half a million lambs, which is a very good thing for the State, but the re-stocking of the northern areas is of equal importance, and will be a big undertaking. The northern part of the State to-day is certainly in an unfortunate position. Really the best part of Western Australia at the present time is the South-West; that is, if margarine is not permitted to displace butter.

Mr. Holman: We will see to that.

Mr. MANN: On the subject of education, I have been asked to pass on a vote of thanks to the Minister for having agreed to the erection of a new primary school at Corrigin. The building is a credit to the Government. A few words might not be out of place on the subject of the conveyance of children to school. When tenders are called for a bus service, the Education Department, I suppose, like all other departments, decides upon accepting the lowest tender.

The Minister for Lands: Not always.

Mr. MANN: Perhaps not in all instances, but the difficulty is that where the price is low and the tender is consequently accepted, the risk is incurred of an unsuitable vehicle being used on the run. I know of an instance of a broken-down Emu bus being sent to a country town to convey children over a distance of 28 miles. The comfort of the children should be studied. We know the effect of travelling a distance in a rattletrap vehicle, and what continual vibration may do to the system. On the subject of unemployment, there are men around Beverley of the C3 class. A man

with a wife and one child, we know, draws 21s. a week sustenance. That man could be employed on a job at £3 10s. a week, but because the award rate may be greater and the man is not able to earn it, he has to be put off. Would it not be possible to appoint a board to consider the position of the C3 men in the hope of being able to find work for them, even at rates that might be below the award. Their position is really pitiable, and they have my sympathy. I also sympathise with the men who are working on the roads, and who have to leave their wives and children behind.

For a considerable time past the native question has been a burning subject throughout the State, and it is satisfactory to find that the Minister for the North-West, who will have control of native affairs, is thoroughly conversant with the question. I am hoping that he will be able to solve existing problems. Around Brookton and Quairading there are very many natives who are living on a sand-patch. These people are multiplying at a very rapid rate; there is nothing in the way of birth-control amongst them. Something ought to be done for them. In the past, the Department of Native Affairs has been in charge of a Minister who has had a seat in another place. I have always contended that that Minister should have a seat in this House, and I am glad to find that control of the native question has been given to the new Minister for the North-West. Another question to which I wish to refer briefly is that relating to Jewish refugees. I am aware that Dr. Steinberg met officials of the Trades Hall and discussed this subject with them. He also had interviews with the executive of the Returned Soldiers' League, and pointed out that it was desired to establish a settlement of refugees in the Kimberleys at no cost to the State. We should ask ourselves how long Australia can hold this territory with only a sparse population, remembering also that we have millions of coloured people around us, races that are increasing year by year. We should do everything to encourage the settlement of the northern part of the State, and I am hopeful that the Premier will be able to make a statement on the subject, a statement that will be of encouragement to those people whose desire it is to come here. We are aware that our white people will not agree to settle in the northern part of Australia, and

so we should encourage those that are prepared to do so. The opportunity exists to-day, and the Government should grasp it. Unless there is some form of settlement in the far North, in fifty years' time, if Australia is not taken by some other nation, we will not be any farther advanced than we are to-day.

The Minister for Mines: You say that white people will not settle the North. The refugees are white people.

Mr. MANN: The people it is proposed to send out have had experience in Palestine, where the conditions are not very different from those in the Kimberleys, and their sponsors believe that they can be as successful out here as they were in their own country.

The Minister for Labour: What is your second Christian name?

Mr. MANN: My father named me Isaac. I repeat that this large State of ours, portions of which are lying idle, will provide a haven of refuge and rest for the unfortunate Jewish people. The question is not one of finance. They themselves will find the money. They merely want permission to settle here, but we in Australia in our glorious ignorance say, "You must not come here." But the day will come when our children will realise that we cannot hold this State against aggression from some yellow race.

Before I resume my seat I wish to touch upon another matter, namely, starting-price betting. The same old conditions exist as obtained before the House adjourned last year. Certainly fines have been increased from £50 to £100, and the magistrate at Fremantle recently sent one man to gaol and committed two other offenders for trial at the Criminal Court sessions. But there has not been much improvement in the general situation. If the farmers in Western Australia to-day had the same opportunity to make money as have the starting-price bookmakers, this would be a paradise for them. These men have the strongest union in Australia. If the Minister for Mines or I were to begin starting-price betting—

The Minister for Mines: We have not enough brains to commence starting-price betting.

Mr. MANN: If we did that we would probably be arrested and committed for trial

at the Criminal Court, but if the member for Canning had been betting for years and were arrested, he would probably be fined £7 or £8 and released. It is a strange state of affairs and the time has come for the Government to wake up to the position and stamp out this cursed evil; otherwise the police force will be corrupted. I am not going to refer to the matter at length, as I did last year when a Bill on the subject was before the House, but I am satisfied that corruption is being created in our own police force. Who controls this business?

Mr. Needham: Would you abolish it or control it?

Mr. MANN: I would wipe it out altogether. I would never license it.

The Premier: What evidence have you of corruption in the police force?

Mr. MANN: I assume there is corruption under present conditions. Otherwise why are some men picked up and certain other men allowed to go free?

The Premier: Give us the evidence you have of corruption and we will go ahead with the matter.

Mr. MANN: The Premier is not going to catch me like that.

The Premier: You have no right to libel the police force.

Mr. MANN: Why should one man be picked up to-day and another to-morrow? Will the Premier tell us why a man who at Fremantle commits his first offence is sent on for trial? The magistrate told him that no fresh man can begin starting-price betting.

The Premier: Do you think the police interfere with the court?

Mr. MANN: No, I do not think so at all, but the Commissioner of Police is responsible, and the Commissioner of Police must know where he stands.

The Premier: Does Mr. Craig take his instructions from the Commissioner of Police?

Mr. MANN: The Premier must not put those words into my mouth.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. MANN: I do not make insinuations of that kind at all. I say definitely—

The Premier: You did make insinuations.

Mr. MANN: I did not. Am I making this speech, Mr. Speaker, or is the Premier?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member will proceed.

Mr. MANN: I assert that the present condition of affairs cannot continue. These men are being brought up for trial to-day, but it is the unfortunate dummy who must suffer. If the case goes against the men committed for trial it will be the dummies who will go to gaol; it will not be the owner of the business. The mugs will go in for six months.

The Premier: I do not think you are in order in discussing a case that has not yet been tried.

Mr. MANN: I presume that Parliament has a right to discuss anything.

The Premier: No.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is not in order in discussing a matter that is sub judice.

Mr. MANN: Then I apologise. But the point I wish to make is that starting-price betting should be stopped.

Member: Why not change the subject?

Mr. MANN: Why should I not make a speech on starting-price betting? I am not afraid to talk about it in my electorate. I do not mind if I lose my seat over it. Members should not curb their tongues for fear of losing their seats.

The Premier: You were making unfair charges.

Mr. MANN: I did not. I said there was room for corruption. I did not say there was corruption.

The Premier: Now you are twisting.

Mr. MANN: I should like to see a Royal Commission appointed to consider the position of the police force in relation to starting-price betting.

The Premier: Would you give evidence?

Mr. MANN: I could not give evidence; I do not know anything about it, but these things are understood. It is deplorable that a man cannot open his mouth about the matter here. There is no greater curse in this State.

The Minister for Works: Would you stop betting on the racecourse?

Mr. MANN: I am not discussing betting on the racecourse, but starting-price betting.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I hope the hon. member will address the Chair and take no notice of interjections.

Mr. MANN: I am not used to interjections and they embarrass me. There is another matter about which I wish to speak and that is the establishment of a farm for delinquent youths. When the Minister for

Labour appointed a magistrate for the Children's Court he made a wise decision. The member for Forrest (Mr. Holman) said an industrial magistrate should be appointed to handle industrial matters. I go further and say it would be wise if we had a judge sitting on the Criminal Bench who had a knowledge of psychology. Reverting to the present magistrate of the Children's Court, I consider he has done a lot of good, and I congratulate the Government on having appointed him. But he is faced with the difficulty of being unable to send offenders to a suitable place of detention. If a farm settlement were established for the youths who appear before him it would be the best thing that could happen. Pardelup has been a success and I hope the Government will consider establishing a similar farm for the people I have in mind. Some of the orphanages are doing excellent work in this direction. I believe Clontarf is accomplishing much good; boys are taken into the home and changed from potential criminals into good citizens. If we were able to introduce schools or farms of that kind and put in charge the right class of man who could mould the mind of the younger generation and transform criminals into good citizens, what a blessing it would be. It would be far better than putting these young men into gaols where they are able to associate with more mature criminals.

The Premier: You are talking some good stuff now. Keep on with that.

Mr. MANN: I have spoken for longer than I should have done, but I thank members for their patient hearing. I expect we shall in due course hear the views of the Premier on the position of the wheat industry. At any rate we hope to hear from him of any movement that is on foot. We on this side of the House join with the Leader of the Opposition in saying that we will give whatever help that lies in our power; not because we represent the farmers, but because we realise the importance of the industry to the welfare of the State. I take a broad view of this matter, and I think most members are equally broad-minded. That is why we are appealing for help for the industry. Conditions will become terrible indeed if the present state of affairs continues to exist.

On motion by Mrs. Cardell-Oliver, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 9.10 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Thursday, 17th August, 1939.

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

QUESTION—LOTTERIES COMMISSION.

Amounts Distributed to Hospitals.

Hon. H. SEDDON asked the Chief Secretary: What was the total amount distributed or allocated to hospitals by the Lotteries Commission during the year ended June, 1939?

The HONORARY MINISTER (for the Chief Secretary) replied: £46,093 14s. 6d.

QUESTION—RURAL RELIEF.

Contribution by Federal Government.

Hon. H. SEDDON asked the Chief Secretary: What was the total amount received from the Federal Government for rural relief during the year ended June, 1939?

The HONORARY MINISTER (for the Chief Secretary) replied: The total amount received from the Federal Government for rural relief for the year ended June, 1939, was £300,000.

QUESTION—ROADS.

Contribution by Federal Government.

Hon. H. SEDDON asked the Chief Secretary: What was the total amount received from the Federal Government for road work during the year ended June, 1939?

The HONORARY MINISTER (for the Chief Secretary) replied: The total amount received from the Federal Government for road work for the year ended June, 1939, was £805,520.