

ment adopting systematic methods of boring under Government supervision. This, I think, would be welcomed by a number of leaseholders in the district, because they now have to employ labour when it is not a payable proposition to do so. It is useless to look for anything on the surface, and the companies cannot be expected to go in for expensive boring plants. If the Government came to the rescue of the various syndicates and co-operated with them, it would lead to a systematic boring of the field, which would demonstrate whether the lode was there, and probably the values it contained. This is not a prospecting venture in the sense that prospecting is generally understood. But what would be an expenditure of £25,000 or £50,000 to the Government if any of these prospectors, who have gone into the country, could discover another Golden Mile or a Great Boulder? After 20 years of working the Great Boulder mine has submitted a report in which it is stated that there is £760,000 of gold still in sight in that mine. If inducements were offered for men to locate a mine and even if only one such as the Great Boulder were found, it would materially help the State. Instead of our having to appeal for population, people would flock here as they did in 1895. Just as it is necessary to assist the man with the plough, so it is necessary to assist the man with the pick. We would like substantial assistance to be made available while the gold premium is in existence. The gold premium has been the salvation of many of our mines; in fact, some of the mines are practically living on the gold premium at present. A word in conclusion with reference to the Tributing Commission which was recently appointed. I am sorry the Government appointed the Commission. A better result could have been achieved if the Minister had called a conference between the employers and the tributers. I happen to be conversant with both sides of the question. The matter fines itself down to three points. Upon two of them the parties were prepared to meet one another half way, and this would have left but one point to deal with. Had some of the parties been chosen to adjudicate upon the three clauses of the Bill to which objection has been raised a solution of the trouble might readily have been reached.

Hon. J. Cornell: That would have been more satisfactory.

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: Yes, because the friction which now exists as a result of the inquiry would have been avoided.

Hon. J. Ewing: Was that suggested to the Minister?

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: The Minister knew of it, but not officially. The difficulty was to get the two parties together. Had the Government made a move in that direction I venture to say that success would have attended their efforts. I again urge upon the Government to assist the gold mining industry to the best of their ability, notwithstanding the depleted finances, and endeavour to

restore it to the prosperity of its former days. I support the motion.

On motion by Hon. J. Duffell, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 9.17 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Wednesday, 31st August, 1921.

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

SWEARING-IN OF MEMBER.

Mr. R. S. Sampson (Swan) took and subscribed the oath and signed the roll.

QUESTION—INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE.

Mr. McCALLUM asked the Premier: 1, Has he received any communications relating to the decisions of the International Labour Conference held under the League of Nations at Washington, 1919, and Genoa, 1920? 2, If not, and in view of the fact that all countries who are parties to the Peace Treaty are virtually bound by them, that most of the countries have already submitted the proposals to their Parliaments, and that a number of the decisions such as hours of employment, insurance against unemployment, conditions of employment of women and children, regulations governing the health of all workers,

prohibition of private employment agencies charging fees for securing employment, and the providing of public works in periods of general depression, are primarily matters for the State Parliament to deal with, will he communicate with the Commonwealth Government on the matter? 3, Is he aware that the library of this Parliament does not contain any of the publications issued by the International Labour Office established under the provisions of the Peace Treaty?

The MINISTER FOR MINES (for the Premier) replied: 1, No. 2, A communication has already been addressed to the Agent General instructing him to secure copies of the resolutions and other publications for reference and consideration. 3, I am informed that the Library Committee have the matter in hand.

QUESTION—BUSSELTON JETTY, DREDGING.

Mr. PICKERING asked the Minister for Works: 1, What was the cost of works in connection with dredging, etc., for basin and channel at the Busselton jetty? 2, What extra cost, if any, has arisen in the maintenance of such channel and basin? 3, Can he give an approximate estimate for deepening the basin and channel to 27 feet?

The MINISTER FOR MINES (for the Minister for Works) replied: 1, £14,668. 2, No expenditure has been incurred in maintenance since dredging was completed in 1912, but there is no recent information available as to whether silting has taken place since that date. 3, No reliable estimate can be given unless preliminary investigations are made.

QUESTION—CATTLE STEALING BY ABORIGINES.

Mr. TEESDALE asked the Premier: 1, Is he aware that the Government Resident in Wyndham recently sentenced 10 natives to five years imprisonment for cattle stealing? 2, Is he aware that the expenditure for the maintenance of natives who are imprisoned for cattle stealing alone amounts already to £5,000 yearly? 3, Is this a policy of economy?

The MINISTER FOR MINES (for the Premier) replied: 1, Fifteen natives were recently sentenced as stated. 2 and 3, The matter is receiving the attention of the Minister for Justice and the Colonial Secretary. The Chairman of Quarter Sessions is not concerned with questions of administration or policy, but has to carry out the law.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

On motion by Mr. A. THOMSON, leave of absence for two weeks granted to Mr. Harrison (Avon) on the ground of ill-health.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.

Coal and Oil Prospecting.

The MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. J. Scaddan—Albany) [4.40]: May I crave the indulgence of the House in order to make a short statement?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes; so long as the hon. the Minister confines himself to a statement.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Members are aware there has been some little commotion in public circles regarding the possible location of oil or its indications in some parts of Western Australia, and also with regard to the possibilities of developing a fresh coal field in the Irwin River district. I desire to plainly state the position as I find it at the moment. With regard to the Irwin River coal deposit, the latest analysis I have received from the Government Geologist regarding the 12ft. seam cut at something over 500ft. from the surface of samples taken from the bore showed moisture 24.30 per cent., volatile 25.92 per cent., fixed carbon 81.98 per cent., and ash 17.80 per cent. The calorific value is 6,887 B.T.U., and after five days drying 7,778 B.T.U. I may point out that Collie coal approximates something over 10,000 B.T.U., so that the Irwin River coal falls below that, although perhaps with a further reduction in the moisture content, the calorific value would increase somewhat. In consulting the State mining engineer, he advises that notwithstanding the fact that the calorific value at the point where the bore pierced the seam produced only 7,778 B.T.U., within half a mile of that point the coal might be as good as that of Collie or any other field, but this is a matter for further investigation. The Government have undertaken this boring, and I think we have already produced to the public sufficient information to warrant further investigation so far as this coal bed is concerned. With regard to the Fitzgerald River oil prospecting, so far as the analyses go, there is no trace of mineral oil. Ten samples were collected, but only four samples have been completed. Some time ago Mr. Freney brought down samples from the North-West from which we were able to obtain traces of mineral oil, but as we could not guarantee the locality from which they were obtained and as we were not satisfied with the containers in which they were brought down, we were unable to say that these analyses could be accepted as being genuine or correct. In other words we could not give them official cognizance. The matter, however, was of sufficient importance to warrant the sending of an officer to the North-West. Mr. Blatchford was sent up and he collected samples which were securely sealed and brought down. Some of these have been analysed. In all 50 samples were collected. Six have been completed with the following results:—Two seepages from Brooking Creek, no trace of oil; one seepage Mt. Wynne, no trace of oil; three bore samples, Rough Range, all carry mineral

oil from 0.007 per cent. at 50ft. to 0.026 at 90ft.; three more samples just completed give the following results:—No. 5 skimmings Price's bore 45.90ft., trace of oil in the water, 0.025 in the associated solid matter No. 7, shale rubble and water, Price's bore 50-60ft., trace of oil in the water, and 0.044 per cent. oil in the dry shale. No. 8 clay borings, 60-70ft. Price's bore, oil 0.016 present. We also had check analyses made by Mr. Phillips of the Perth Technical School, and he has submitted the following report:—

1. Price's Creek bore: The material from the bore so far examined has been limited to samples Nos. 6, 10 and 12, which have been taken from depths 60-70ft., 70-85ft., and 88-90ft., respectively. In each case residual mineral oil is present, admixed with the earth particles. The oil which is present is dark in colour and is asphaltic. Light fractions appear to be absent. Its physical properties suggest that later research may show it to be related to the oil from Sumatra and adjoining fields. The oil not used for testing purposes is forwarded as an exhibit.

I propose to lay this exhibit on the Table of the House.

Contents of the test tubes are as follows:

1, Oil recovered from Sample 6, 60-70ft.
2, Oil recovered from Sample 10, 70-85ft.
3, Oil recovered from Sample 12, 88-90ft.
4, Oil recovered from two pounds mixed borings.
5, A sample of the residuum of Sumatra oil after distillation to 320 degrees C. This is a typical asphaltic oil. Samples Nos. 5, 7, 8 and 9 are under examination. No. 5 represents the skimmings of the water from the bore, and is covered with a layer of oil.

2, Seepages: Samples of seepages yielded the following. Sample No. 19 from Brooking Creek, No. 20 from the same locality, and No. 36 from Mount Wynne have yielded negative results. Samples Nos. 1 and 18, the former from Mount Wynne, and the latter from the Leopold Downs, have yielded a small trace of mineral oil. A seepage from the Grant Ranges yielded a very slight trace of oil.

3. Unofficial samples: Four samples collected by Mr. Frenay, locality not given, have been examined, and each has a small quantity of mineral oil present.

(sgd.) L. W. Phillips, B.Sc.

The balance of the samples are now being tested by the Government Geologist, while check samples are being tested at the Technical School. So far as we have proceeded, the check sampling has confirmed the results obtained by the Government Geologist. I do not wish to add anything more than that the fact of the samples, according to the Government Geologist and Mr. Phillips, giving evidence of mineral oil very much on the same basis as the mineral oil of Sumatra, goes to show the possibility,

by further investigation, of oil being discovered in Western Australia. I move—

That the reports and samples be laid upon the Table of the House.

Question put and passed.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Thirteenth Day, Conclusion.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH (North Perth) [4.48]: In common with other members who have already spoken, I wish to extend my hearty congratulations to the member for West Perth (Mrs. Cowan). I think it is a very great honour for that lady to have been returned as the first woman member of Parliament in Australia. Most of us know Mrs. Cowan, and all who know her can honestly say that there is not to-day in Western Australia a lady more deserving of the confidence of the electors than Mrs. Cowan is. She may look upon her election as a sort of a restoration to the position which obtained in the Garden of Eden; and I trust, in fact I am sure, that as long as Mrs. Cowan continues in the way that she has begun, there will be no danger of any second expulsion. The most important question which has occupied the members of this Assembly during the present discussion has been that of the financial position. Apparently it is admitted on all sides that that is the outstanding feature of Western Australian politics to-day. As something like 40 members of this Chamber have already spoken and addressed themselves to that particular subject, and as each and every one of them has given his own views as to how the financial difficulty may be overcome, the Government, I feel sure, will experience no difficulty in finding some way out of their troubles. In the multitude of counsellors there is bound to be some solution. I personally have no intention of dealing with the figures which have been placed before hon. members, but to my mind the economic question of our finances has not been dealt with by the Government in the way we might have expected. I am satisfied that a great deal of economy could yet be introduced into the administration of nearly every Government department. It is quite true that a start has been made, though I must say, a bit late in the day. However, it shows what can be done once Ministers make up their minds to try and effect the necessary economies and retrenchment. Speaking last night the Minister for Mines declared that it is impossible for any State to go bankrupt. I do not agree with the hon. gentleman. We have exhausted our cash, and are now living on our credit; and it is quite possible that, given sufficient time, even our credit will be exhausted.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: We can push on as long as it is good.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: Yes: but there must come a time when even our credit will come to an end. Therefore, before it is too late the Government should determine to do something that will make receipts and expenditure reasonably balance. The position is really not as bad as the figures might lead one to believe, because in those figures there is included what is known as our sinking fund. We have not been able to keep up the contributions to the sinking fund in respect of various loans, and in the general statement that feature has been put forward as a deficiency. I consider it very unfair to the credit of the State to present the figures in that manner.

Hon. P. Collier: We are borrowing the money to pay sinking fund now.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: Quite true; but, notwithstanding that, the position is not really as bad as the figures, taken by themselves, would seem to indicate. In justice to Western Australia's credit, the figures should be presented in a different manner. Then our credit would not be besmirched as it is now being by our critics in the Eastern States and elsewhere.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: But the true position is shown in the "Monthly Statistical Abstract," which states the net increase in the deficit after allowing for sinking fund.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: That is quite true; but when the figures are published it is announced that the deficiency has been so much, and that deficiency includes the amount we should have paid to sinking fund in respect of moneys that we have previously borrowed. Such a presentation of the figures is, I repeat, unfair. The financial position ought to be shown in a different manner. Personally, I consider that the decline in the gold yield has perhaps as much to do with the falling away of revenue in this State as any other individual industrial factor. Last night the Minister for Mines told us that the present Government have done more than any previous Government to foster the mining industry. It is very gratifying indeed to learn that the present Government intend to bring down during this session a Bill to abolish that oppressive taxation whereby our prospectors are robbed of their well-earned interest in any discoveries they may make. The Minister himself has admitted that the taxation is most unjust, and, naturally, he has decided to bring in a measure to remedy the evil. I hope he will also do his best to impress upon the Federal Government the necessity for abolishing their taxation in this respect on our mining industry.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: He will have a big job there, I am afraid.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: Still, it is worth trying.

Hon. P. Collier: We have Federal members, who want special treatment when they come over here.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: It is worth trying, and the position which the Minister for Mines occupies is one that the Federal Government can hardly ignore. Mining, especially gold mining, means more to Western Australia than perhaps to any other State of the Commonwealth; and no stone should be left unturned to see if we cannot relieve our prospectors from the most oppressive taxation in question.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: When our Federal members visit this State occasionally, we may be able to put the position before them.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: Anything at all should be done to bring the matter before the attention of Federal members. Personally, I consider that much good would result if our Minister for Mines would bring the subject before the Federal Government.

The Minister for Mines: I have done so.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: I am very pleased indeed to know it, and I trust the Minister will follow the matter up and not give the Federal Government any rest until he has secured a remission of that oppressive taxation on our mining industry. A good deal might also be done in the way of assisting prospectors, particularly by putting down bores. Boring operations on the goldfields lately have resulted in the disclosure of some highly payable ore bodies; and I think that system ought to be expanded much beyond its present limits. We have the south end of the Golden Mile being opened up by a bore and giving every promise of considerably extending the life of the Kalgoorlie goldfield. Whilst on the subject of assisting prospectors, I wish to express my opinion that the money now spent on the Geological Department could very well be diverted to assisting prospectors. I cannot recall a single case where the Geological Department has been of any actual assistance to the mining industry. There is a most expensive department kept going, and other than the production of very elaborate plans and reports—which mean nothing to the practical prospector—I fail to observe any results from the department. Indeed, in many cases the department have by their reports and forecasts actually misled prospectors. Take the recent case of the Lake View South Gold Mining Company at Kalgoorlie. The company were advised by a very learned geologist that it was no use driving to the west, that the proper direction to drive was the east. A considerable sum of money was spent by that company in driving and prospecting their ground to the eastward, with the result that nothing was discovered; and they abandoned the mine. Two practical miners got hold of the property, and drove to the westward, and within a very few feet struck what proved to be a most excellent and payable ore body. That is where the practical man comes in as against the theorist.

Hon. P. Collier: That might happen to be just a single exception where the geologist was wrong.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: No. There are on record other cases, of which the Leader of the Opposition must have heard when he was Minister for Mines, where theory proved to be wrong as against practical experience. When we are so hard up we should consider whether we can afford to keep a department such as the Geological Department going.

The Minister for Mines: There is no one in the Department at present.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: At any rate, it is costing the country something like £8,000 or £9,000. That sum of money could well be diverted in some other direction, putting down bores for instance. In that way we would be doing a great deal more good.

The Minister for Mines: You would not suggest closing the laboratory?

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: I am speaking of the Department outside the laboratory.

The Minister for Mines: We have not a field geologist operating at present; they have all left us.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: The Minister might also be able to find some way of preventing mining companies wasting a considerable amount of their funds in buying properties outside Western Australia.

Mr. Boyland: Hear, hear!

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: A good deal of Western Australian money has been diverted not only to the Eastern States, but to America and South Africa, and in each instance the money has been absolutely lost. Something might be done to induce the mining companies to spend that money in prospecting in Western Australia. That is a fair proposition to put to them, and I have no doubt that it would be a solution of the existing difficulty. The immigration policy of the Government meets with my approval, but I think it should be considerably extended. There is no doubt that what this country needs as much as anything is increased population, but I warn the Government that it would be fatal if they introduced labour which is not wanted here. We have quite sufficient of our own people to carry on the ordinary industrial work. We require people to go on the land, the right sort of agriculturist. I am afraid that many people have obtained admission to the State by false pretences, that is to say, by putting themselves forward as agriculturists, and on arriving here securing soft billets in the city.

Hon. P. Collier: And they seem to be pretty successful too.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: There seems to be something at fault with the method of selection in the Old Country. I do not know who the officers are who select the immigrants; the Government should have a practical agriculturist in London to do this work.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: There is one there. He was recommended by the Country Party.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: Such an officer would prevent undesirable people from coming to Western Australia.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: It is a difficult job; you cannot get agricultural labourers in England to-day.

Hon. P. Collier: You will have to go outside of England.

Mr. Simons: The population is stationary there just now.

Hon. P. Collier: Make it worth while to get Scotchmen.

Mr. Simons: All the sensible Scotchmen have left Scotland already.

The Minister for Mines: And they never go back.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: I would like to say a few words of praise for the Ugly Men's Association. They are doing admirable work, and in reality doing what the Government should be doing. There is something wrong with our Immigration Department at this end when they have to call in the services of the Ugly Men's Association to find work for immigrants in the country.

Mr. Mann: The Imperial Government desire that an outside body should do this work, and that is the position in each State.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: At any rate I consider the Ugly Men deserve the thanks of the community for the admirable way in which they have assisted the immigrants.

Hon. P. Collier: I think we might let them have the country for 12 months; they would make a pretty good job of it.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: The amalgamation of the Taxation Departments has been put forward as one of the economies effected by the Government, and we are told that this will mean a saving of many thousands of pounds per annum. That sum of money may be saved, but I contend the people will not find that the amalgamation will be to their advantage. We have had ample experience of the Federal authorities, and I have no doubt that their methods will be introduced in dealing with local taxation. I regret that the Government did not consider the advisableness of placing the work of collecting, at any rate the land tax, in the hands of the local road boards and municipalities. Those bodies would have done the work cheaply, much more effectively, and with less irritation to the people who have to pay. After we have had some experience of the Federal collection of our taxes, I feel sure the Government will be glad to cancel the arrangement and hand the task over to the local authorities, who have all the machinery at hand. Whilst on the subject of the amalgamation of these departments I would remind the Government that the Minister for Works promised that the City Council should collect the water rates and save a considerable sum of money in that respect. Nothing, however, has been done.

Hon. P. Collier: He has been harassed by the Country Party so much that he has not had time to attend to it.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: The Country Party has nothing to do with the metropolitan water supply, though they have to do with most things.

Hon. P. Collier: They take up too much of his time.

The Minister for Mines: Will the City Council take over the work?

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: Certainly. Will the Government hand over the water supply to the local authority?

The Minister for Mines: Will they raise their own funds?

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: The credit of the City of Perth is as good as that of the Government.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: But you will not be handing it over to the city of Perth. Fremantle will have something to say about that.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: I merely mentioned that the credit of the city of Perth is almost as good as that of the Government. Surely the metropolitan area, remembering the amalgamation of road boards and councils, can raise money just as easily as the Government. I am quite certain that the local bodies could control the water supply a great deal better than is the case at the present time.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I am doubtful about it.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: In other words, the people who at the present time are paying would have the control in their own hands. The water supply and sewerage in the metropolitan districts is controlled just now by a Government that has no metropolitan representative in the Cabinet. Therefore, the metropolitan district has no representation whatever in the administration of the water supply.

Mr. Pickering: That is not fair.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: It is the truth, anyhow. The administration of the water supply has proved that we have probably the most inferior supply of any city in Australia.

Hon. P. Collier: In the world.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: It is the most expensive water supply, and the quality of water is of the poorest. We have been promised a new supply by successive Governments for many years past. The question has been referred to in policy speeches, but no Government has yet done anything in the way of dealing with the subject.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You must make some allowance for the war.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: Before the war we were told the same thing, that Perth must have a better water supply. But what has been done to provide it? Nothing whatever. The hon. member knows that our water supply is very inferior, and that as soon as the hot weather approaches the Minister for Works issues instructions that the consumption must be restricted. It is absurd to think that in a big city like Perth we should be put on a short allowance. How will industries that require large quantities of water progress if their supplies are to be restricted? In many instances in the higher levels of the city it is almost impossible during certain hours of the day in the summer months to get any water at all.

Mrs. Cowan: Not even for a bath.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: A great many people who establish their homes in the suburbs make gardens and lawns at considerable expense, and for the want of water in the summer months these gardens and lawns are ruined. Year after year we seem to be kept on a string in regard to the water supply and nothing is done.

The Minister for Mines: There is any quantity of water.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: But it is not suitable for domestic purposes. Why should every owner of a garden be compelled to provide a windmill to raise water from a well? I admit that the provision of windmills means something to the implement works, but it is not fair that in addition to having to pay water rates citizens should be compelled to provide windmills. Coming to the extension of the tramway service, I think the Minister put the case very well last night. It is hard to understand the attitude of metropolitan members in objecting to the extension of the tramways. I could understand the Country Party members objecting, for they object to everything, unless it is for the country. But the metropolitan members should be broader minded. There are some foolish and extraordinary objections to the extension of the tramways. It must be patent to everybody that the metropolitan area, close into the city, is being built over very rapidly. There is scarcely a block of land to be had close to the trams. The result is that the price of land amounts to an enormous figure, until the ordinary man can scarcely afford to buy a block. The Government have a monopoly of the trams. At the same time they are under a moral obligation to provide the people of the city with reasonable tramway facilities. As the city grows, so must the tramways extend.

Mr. Angelo: If the country can afford it.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: It is not a question of affording it. The tramways are a very profitable concern.

Mr. Pickering: They are not.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: Generally speaking, they are. If the Government are not prepared to extend the trams, they ought to hand over the system to the local authority, and let them do it.

Mr. Pickering: Hand it over at a price.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: Parliament has no right to close down on the extension of the tramways. The hon. member said the system ought to be handed over to the local authorities at a price. I say the system should be handed over at cost. Why should the Government want to make a profit out of it? Previously the hon. member said the trams were not paying. If that be so, they ought to be handed over at a price much below cost. Some hon. members have contended that the Bill passed last session for the extension of tramways did not mean extending the tramways to South Perth. What does "extension" mean, except the laying of new

rails and the extending of the line in some direction?

Mr. Pickering: Not necessarily that way.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: The Bill did not say in what direction, but "extension" can only mean one thing.

Mr. Money: It meant chiefly rolling stock.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: Nothing of the sort. If so, the Bill would have said so. It said "extension," and extension means putting out a line wherever the Minister or his expert advisers think best.

Mr. Pickering: If you want a railway extended for five miles, a Bill is necessary.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: I cannot understand the members for Leederville (Capt. Carter) and Claremont (Mr. J. Thomson). The electorate of the last named member has a very efficient railway service, which is also much cheaper to users than are the trams. Moreover, every passenger by railway gets a seat. Yet the hon. member objects to the people of South Perth, or any suburb except Claremont, being provided with a reasonable tramway service.

Mr. J. Thomson: No.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: He said he would not agree to extensions being built with loan money. How is he going to build anything without loan money?

Mr. J. Thomson: By the betterment principle.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: How can that be introduced at this stage? It would mean a reversal of the whole of the State's policy. We have to borrow money for everything. Every concern with which the hon. member was ever connected has been built up on borrowed money. When he sold his iron proposition to the Queensland Government, he did not refuse to accept their bonds because they represented borrowed money.

Mr. J. Thomson: They got it all back in taxes.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: If the hon. member's argument were applied all round it would be good-bye to progress. We must borrow money, and it is a sound proposition to do so, provided the money is spent judiciously; and to spend money on the extension of the tramways will be a very profitable proposition. Extensions must be started somewhere. The expert officers have advised starting in South Perth. No doubt they have good reasons for that decision. There are other districts awaiting a similar service. There is a great deal of settlement going on in the Belmont district without any tramway communication. However, I am not going to ask any more for Belmont than that those people shall have their turn served. I would run trams into any district which affords promise of providing cheap land for people wishing to establish homes for themselves.

Mr. A. Thomson: Would it not be possible to open up more land along the railway between Fremantle and Midland Junction?

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: One cannot buy land alongside railways, the price is too high.

Mr. Money: You won't be able to buy land at Como as soon as the trams run through.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: Land at South Perth is ridiculously cheap. South Perth land can be purchased at £5, £7, and £11 per block, so even if it were doubled in price it would still be cheaper than other land along the tram routes.

Mr. A. Thomson: Why cannot the Railway Department put in some extra sidings and open up fresh areas of land in the metropolitan area?

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: There is very fine land in South Perth close to the city. Does the hon. member suggest that that land should be kept vacant?

Mr. A. Thomson: No.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: Well, how shall it be opened up?

Mr. Money: Do not the people in the country want roads?

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: I compliment the Government on their determination to extend the tramway service, because it will serve to enable people to secure cheap land whereon to build homes, and so live away from the dust and grime of the city. But whilst I applaud the Government for extending the tramways, they should pay a little attention to the existing services. For instance, the tram tracks in some suburbs are in a disgraceful condition. That in Beaufort-street is positively dangerous, not only to the riding public but to the pedestrian public also.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Why should the Government keep the road in order? They do not use it.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: Yes, they damage the road. One has only to go up Beaufort-street to see how those heavy trams tear up the roads.

Mr. MacCallum: The tramway people keep a gang constantly employed along that track.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: The rails are far too light for the existing traffic. The Government should give attention to the repairing of that particular line. They have relaid the line to Subiaco, and a very fine line it is now, and no doubt later on they will relay the Beaufort-street line. They also require to increase the rolling stock of the system.

Mr. Pickering: And scrap some of it.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: Yes. It is quite impossible during busy hours to get a seat in a tramcar. The trams are disgracefully overcrowded. Such a condition of affairs was not tolerated when the company was running the service, but now the Government take advantage of their position and allow disgraceful overcrowding. They charge high fares, and do not give any value in return. People who live along the railways can obtain very cheap travelling facilities, but not so the people who live on tram tracks.

Mr. A. Thomson: Travelling by tram is cheaper than travelling by railways.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: Not at all. The hon. member does not know what he is talking about. I have travelled in trams in Adelaide, Sydney, Melbourne and Fremantle, and I say that nowhere else in Australia do the disgraceful conditions of overcrowding obtain as in Perth.

Mr. Money: Will you not increase the overcrowding if you reduce the fares?

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: We require extra cars on the existing lines.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You will get them within the next few months.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: We have been promised them for many years.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The material was unobtainable before, but they have got it now.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: We want many new cars.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You will get 20 within a few weeks.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: And the department will again rest on its oars and, with the population ever increasing, the position will quickly be as bad as ever.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: At present tramcars cost nearly £4,000 apiece.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: They do not cost as much as do railway coaches. Moreover, the people who use the railways can buy season tickets and travel backwards and forwards for a minimum fare.

Mr. Willcock: And people stand in the railway trains.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: If that is so there should be more carriages put on the railways. If they are as bad as the trams they must be in a bad state.

Mr. Willcock: They are worse. You should try to get into the train for Leederville.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: During the busy hours there are more people walking than there are travelling by the trams. The Government are losing good business and are not treating the users of the trams as they ought to. With regard to the wheat pool, the subject will no doubt appeal to the member for Sussex (Mr. Pickering).

Mr. Pickering: I know as much about it as you do.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: I do not favour the establishment of a wheat pool, if it is to be backed up by the credit of the State without the people of the State receiving proper consideration.

Mr. Willcock: And representation.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: If the farmers like to do so they can form a wheat pool of their own. We cannot object to that for it is a free country. No doubt the farmers, in the event of forming their own pool, would demand and obtain the London parity for their wheat. When, however, they ask the State to back them up I say that the people, who must find the money

and the people whose credit is to assist the farmers in the establishment of a wheat pool, are justified in asking that they should receive some consideration.

[The Deputy Speaker took the Chair.]

Mr. Pickering: That is what we propose.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: What consideration is it proposed to extend to the people? I would remind the member for Sussex that several other industries have been feeling the pinch in addition to the farmers, and that is because they have been compelled to pay excessively for their requirements.

Mr. Hickmott: Do you think this is caused by the pooling of the wheat?

Hon. P. Collier: It is caused by the 9s. per bushel.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: It is caused by those industries being compelled to pay the farmers exorbitant prices for their wheat.

Hon. P. Collier: I said all that last session but got no support from your side of the House. They are all reformed now.

Mr. Mann: Do not blame the new members.

Hon. P. Collier: I think the hon. member is the only exception.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: I have not changed my opinion. I am as strongly convinced as ever that these other industries should receive more consideration than they are getting, especially when their credit is to be used to enable the farmers to establish a wheat pool.

Mr. Pickering: Has not the question of flour to do with the question of offal?

The Colonial Secretary: It has never cost the taxpayer a penny.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: That is more by good luck than good management. It is only through our credit that the wheat pool has been established. It is the good name of the State which is behind the pool.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That has cost the taxpayer something.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: Indirectly it has cost the taxpayer a good deal of money.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for North Perth is addressing the Chair. I cannot hear more than one speaker at a time.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: Through the State Government the farmers have been enabled to establish this pool. I now understand it is proposed to establish another.

Mr. Pickering: Yes.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: I do not say it is the unanimous wish of the farmers. There is a considerable difference of opinion as to whether or not the pool should be continued. If it is going to be established and backed up by the State Government with the credit of the State what are the people going to get out of it?

Mr. Pickering: I am surprised at you.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: I am a wheat farmer myself and it would suit me to have a wheat pool on those lines, but there are

other people in the State to be considered, also primary producers, such as the pig farmer, the poultry farmer, and the dairy farmer.

Mr. A. Thomson: You do not suggest that they should get our wheat at less than its value?

Mr. Underwood: What is its value?

Mr. A. Thomson: What the farmers can get for it.

Mr. Underwood: What they can charge us for it.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: I suggest that they should get the same treatment as the wheat farmers get.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: As the farmers got in 1914 when they had no facilities.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: The wheat farmers are having their super carried at a nominal figure, which has meant a great loss to the State. Last year it represented a loss of £66,000.

Hon. P. Collier: It would now be £100,000 on the present figures. It was £60,000 on the old low freight.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: I am quoting from the old freights. This was done to encourage them to grow wheat. The argument put forward in granting this consideration was that if they were given cheap rates for their super they would be enabled to grow more wheat and the railways would have so much more profitable back loading. In actual fact there was a loss of £120,000. Altogether the wheat farmers have cost the country nearly £190,000.

Mr. A. Thomson: Do you suggest cutting out wheat growing for the farmer?

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: I suggest that he should pay for the services rendered to him, and should allow us a reasonable profit instead of our carrying goods for him at a loss. Now that he is getting 8s. or 9s. a bushel he should admit that he is making a handsome profit, and be prepared to pay the full freight upon his super, etc.

Mr. A. Thomson: If you will guarantee 8s. they will pay you the increased freights.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member must allow the member for North Perth to continue his speech without interruption.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: The industry should pay the cost of carrying the wheat and super so that the community should not have to make up the deficiency, more particularly in view of the high price that the farmers are now receiving for their wheat. The member for York (Mr. Latham) urged the gold miners to give a little consideration to a falling industry and accept slightly reduced wages in order to keep it going. I suggest that he apply that principle to his own particular industry. The wheat farmer should accept a little lower price for his wheat for local consumption, so that these other industries might not be hampered.

Mr. A. Thomson: I suppose they will get machinery at a lower rate too.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: The State enterprises have been touched upon by various members. It is very hard to ascertain whether these concerns are really paying or not. We are told by one Minister that they are not making a profit, and by another that the contrary is the case.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Who said they were not paying?

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: I think the Premier said so.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: He said there was a profit.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: There is a considerable doubt as to whether they are paying or not.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: There is not much doubt about it.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: There is not much doubt that they are not paying. On the Implement Works alone there has had to be written off the sum of about £115,000.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Those were the old works. It was a lot of rubbish.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: I believe the works are made to pay because there is a great deal of Government work placed in their hands, and they charge more than double the price that the work could be done at outside.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Do not make any mistake about that.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: There is a considerable amount of work sent there.

Hon. P. Collier: Give us an instance. A general statement like this is not fair.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: I cannot give an instance at this moment.

Hon. P. Collier: These general statements are unfair.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: They are not true.

Hon. P. Collier: They are not fair because they are not true.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: We should have an outside investigation into the State trading enterprises so that the House may be able to decide whether they are paying or not. If they are not paying they should be discontinued.

Hon. P. Collier: The president of the Chamber of Manufactures said at the annual meeting the other day that the Wyndham Meat Works had cost one million pounds. He was only a quarter of a million out.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: They will probably cost a million before we have done with them. He has only anticipated things a little. At all events, they have cost a considerable sum of money.

Hon. P. Collier: Talk about slander!

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: I believe they have cost so far £700,000 and they are not in operation to-day.

Hon. P. Collier: What did they cost?

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: About £700,000.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The Fremantle and Carnarvon Works are not in operation, and the same thing applies to several in Queensland.

Hon. P. Collier: And to Darwin.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: That does not make the matter any better.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: It is because of the state of the market, and not the fault of the works.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: If the State enterprises are not paying they should be got rid of.

Mr. Pickering: We are losing £70,000 a year.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: I am sorry the Government missed the opportunity of getting rid of the State Sawmills when they had the chance of doing so at a profit.

Mr. A. Thomson: I do not know that they had the chance.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: We are told that they did.

Hon. P. Collier: It was stated in the Press that it was your party which stopped it.

Mr. A. Thomson: Everything that appears in the Press is not true.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: Reference has been made to workers' homes. That is a matter which concerns the metropolitan area.

Mr. Pickering: The country districts.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: For some reason the Government decided to postpone the erection of workers' homes.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That order has been cancelled.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: Yes, but they should not have postponed the work because a handsome profit was being made by the board. The Government were hard up and so they took all the profit and put it into consolidated revenue. I draw the attention of members to what the chairman of the Workers' Homes Board said in his last report. He said—

The net profit for the year under review after providing for sinking fund is £71 6s. 8d. The result of the easing off of operations and the investment of repaid capital in treasury investments is a loss of interest aggregating £1,500, equal to an annual loss of about £700. But for the loss the profit for the year would have been increased accordingly. Until such capital is made available by the Treasury and re-invested as provided in the Act this loss must continue. . . . It is well known that there is a shortage of house accommodation for the civilian community in some country towns and metropolitan suburbs.

Notwithstanding this, the Government put aside this very excellent method of providing house accommodation for our increasing population.

Mr. Pickering: It is costing £900 now when it cost £500 before to build a house.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: It was costing the Government nothing at all. The cost was paid by the people for whom the homes were built.

Mr. Pickering: But they had to pay it back.

Mr. Underwood: If they do pay it in the course of 30 years!

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: According to the report they paid up well. Notwithstanding that the operations of the Workers' Homes Board have been postponed they are still showing a profit. In previous years a handsome profit was made.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: A very good trading concern.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: It is not a trading concern. It is a way of enabling many people to build their own homes. I am pleased to note that the Government have decided to re-commence the operations of the board and I trust that they will not be restricted in future.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: It all depends upon the security.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: Accommodation for the people is urgently needed. The Minister for Mines referred last night to that aspect and drew attention to the fact that two or three families are living in one house in some parts of Perth. The time has arrived when we should launch out in the direction I have indicated.

Mr. Money: They would live in the country if there were houses. Instead of that they come to the city and live two or three families in the one house.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: The Workers' Homes Act applies to the country as well.

Mr. A. Thomson: That is so, and the board have been building houses under that Act in the country centres.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: I do not object to the operations being extended to the country by any means.

The Minister for Mines: We are operating under the Act all through the country.

Mr. A. Thomson: As a matter of fact, we can get houses cheaper in the country than in the city.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: It has to be recognised that in the city men have to live in close proximity to their work and hence they erect their houses in places which they otherwise would not select. I would like to see the operations extended not only throughout the metropolitan area, but in the country districts as well.

Mr. A. Thomson: You would have to increase the capital amount beyond the maximum of £550.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: That does not matter so long as the operations of the board pay handsomely as they have done in the past. With reference to the Civil Service, I have mentioned the fact on former occasions that they should be housed under one roof, but very little has been done to secure that end. The Civil Service will always be expensive until we have all the departments under one roof.

The Minister for Mines: If one department was under one roof it would not be as bad as it is at the present time. I have parts of my department scattered all over the place.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: That means greater cost and less efficiency. The Govern-

ment have some very fine land that they could turn to use in the direction I have suggested. It would pay to borrow money to put up a substantial pile of buildings so that every Government Department could be housed under the one roof. If that were done, we could dispense with all the separate accounting departments and different type-writing departments and so on.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: We told you that in 1915, but you turned it down.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: I advocated it in 1914, so I was ahead of the hon. member.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: We had the plans prepared, but you would not look them. Although we had the plans prepared, when the present Minister for Mines introduced them in this Chamber, you would not hear of it, not one of you.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: I hope this matter will be taken up again, because if all Government Departments were placed in one administrative building, it would not only mean the saving of much money but there would be greater efficiency throughout the service.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: We actually started the building, but had to stop.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: I hope the Government will not give up their savings bank business, but that the institution which has proved profitable and a great convenience to the public will be extended. Instead of reducing our banking accommodation, we should extend it and thus encourage people to save more than they are doing at the present time. If we reduce our banking facilities, the opportunity for the people to save will not be so great. The Premier has promised to appoint a Royal Commission on Lunacy.

Hon. P. Collier: It was justified after the last investigation.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: I believe in the appointment of a Royal Commission in view of what the select committee were able to unearth when they investigated matters at the Claremont Hospital for the Insane. There is good reason for a Royal Commission and the more investigation of such a matter that we have, the better it will be. I would like to see the Government set down as one of the aspects to be inquired into, the root causes of insanity. The Commission will inquire into the management of the institution, into the treatment of patients and so on, but to my mind the most important question is what is the cause of lunacy.

Hon. P. Collier: Party politics.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: The cost of the institution increases year after year. Last year it increased to some £90,000. I have my own ideas as to what is the cause of a great deal of lunacy in this State, but this is not the proper time to go into that aspect. If a proper inquiry were made into that aspect we might secure information to enable us to reduce the number of our insane. It is

of no advantage to this country that the number of lunatics should be increased. We want to reduce their number and I am quite certain a good deal can be done in the matter.

Mr. Underwood: Do you think journalism causes lunacy?

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: There are a few lunatics in journalism.

Mr. Pickering: Not very many.

The Minister for Mines: They are not week-end ramblers, are they?

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: If the member for Pilbara's question were included within the scope of the Commission he could give evidence of his experience—

Mr. Underwood: As a journalist.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: There is another matter which might come well within the scope of the Commission and that is the treatment of our mentally deficient children. There are many cases of mental deficiency among the children of this State, and there is no place provided where they can be properly taken care of. Some provision should be made to meet this position, and the Royal Commission on Lunacy could very well deal with that problem. I am pleased to see that a charity tax has been promised, but apparently the Government intend to limit the tax to hospitals. It should be extended to cover all forms of charity.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: It should be general taxation.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: That is so. It is well known that a great number of people who should contribute to the support of our various institutions invariably button up their pockets and never give a penny. These institutions must be maintained, for we recognise that they must exist. That being so, it is the duty of the State and of the Government to provide means to see that they are maintained and the charity tax should be provided.

The Minister for Mines: The trouble is to decide where charity begins, and where it ends.

Mrs. Cowan: Give us the tax and we will decide that afterwards.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: In addition to that aspect, there is considerable waste in connection with charitable appeals at the present time. For instance, someone organises a concert and it perhaps realises £100, but it may cost £75 to raise that amount. Thus, there is a great waste of effort and waste of money. By a general charities tax, everyone who can afford to do so, will be compelled to do his share towards the maintenance of these institutions. In conclusion, may I express the hope that the Leader of the Opposition, who has offered to assist the Government in every way possible, will keep his word. I would warn—

The Minister for Mines: Here is the Scotch caution.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: I would warn the Government, while it is very nice to have

these expressions from the Leader of the Opposition, to "beware of the Greeks when they come with gifts in their hands."

Mr. SAMPSON (Swan) [5.56]: I desire first of all to thank members for the kindly expressions of sympathy extended to me during my recent serious illness and also for the very cordial reception accorded me this evening. As a stranger in the House—this is my first appearance—it is delightful to be met with so many expressions of friendliness. I hesitate to allude to one of the remarks made by the member for North Perth (Mr. MacCallum Smith), but the expressions he has used, embolden me because he said that this Chamber in its altered circumstances resembled a Garden of Eden. That being so, one who has recently recovered from a serious illness may be permitted to throw aside any diffidence which might otherwise be expected of him. As members may know, I have the honour to be a member of the Country Party, an organisation which is destined to become and, in fact, has become, a great power in the land. I cannot help thinking that the famous general of former times, Horatius, had in view perhaps the establishment of the Country Party when he used those words, "Where none was for party but all were for the State." The Country Party, I am sure, is always for the State and has no other objective than the improvement of the conditions of the general community.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That shows your experience.

Mr. SAMPSON: In common with the electorate of Swan, which I have the honour to represent, there are many other electorates which have the same difficulties to face. In Western Australia there are over 22,000 acres of orchard, vineyard, and similarly cultivated country. This area is cultivated by men, and in some cases by women, who are labouring under very great disadvantages. Fruit products imported into Western Australia for the year ended the 30th June last totalled £209,000 in value, while the importations of vegetables, sauces, pickles, etc., represented a total of over £166,000, and poultry and eggs another £10,000, aggregating in all £385,000. In referring to those figures I desire to point out that unfortunately the fruit-grower is always faced with a glutted market during the fruit season. In the early part of this year the Williams Bon Creton or Bartlett pears were being sent to Perth to realise as low a price as from 1s. 6d. to 2s. per case, and in spite of the fact that the cost of each fruit case was approximately to within a fraction of a shilling. On each occasion the fruitgrower has to provide a new case. This is one of the difficulties with which he is faced. It is one of the difficulties which it was hoped might be remedied. Fruitgrowing is a very important industry and members will agree it is only reasonable that special consideration should be extended towards it by the Government.

This could have been done by the State saw-mills supplying fruit cases at a reduced price, but unfortunately this trading concern charges the same price as the other saw-millers.

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

Mr. Pickering: Because it is in the conline.

Mr. SAMPSON: The special difficulties with which the fruitgrowers are confronted justify the expectation that they will receive some relief. The dairying industry is a very important one in many parts of the State. It is particularly important inasmuch as dairy produce to the value of over £800,000 is imported into Western Australia every year. The dairy farmer has a very hard row to hoe and we look to the Government for assistance in the way of money to provide roads. Dairy farmers are usually located in areas where they have either to do without roads or form working bees to make roads for themselves. It might be news to some metropolitan members that, in districts as close as the road board adjoining Belmont and one in which I am particularly interested, ratepayers have formed working bees in order to construct a road for themselves. They have provided the money and the use of horses for this purpose.

Mr. Money: No tramways there.

Mr. SAMPSON: Although I do not desire to quarrel with the South Perth people in regard to the extension of the tramways, I propose to make reference to this question later on. The people of whom I have spoken have done this work in order that they might be able to get their produce to market. I know one man who, after paying rates to the local authority for 16 years, had to assist to make his own road. This is very discouraging. In the country districts, however, a remarkably fine spirit prevails, a spirit of pluck and energy, and it would amaze some of the people who live in the city as it amazed me, to find how bravely these men grapple with the problems with which they are confronted. The fruitgrower is in a bad way. I have already pointed out how he is faced each year with a glutted market. A young man goes out to the country and takes up a block of land. After five to seven years the crop begins to come in. Meanwhile he has to support himself by working for the local road board or for the older settlers. When the crop comes in, however, this unfortunate man and his wife find that the returns which they receive for their produce are disappointingly small. A man needs a stout heart when he views the small returns he gets for his labour. I was connected with an orchard for some 14 years, and on one occasion sent down eight cases of pears. The pears were sold, and in return two penny stamps were received. That was all that was got for the labour. Early this year several soldier settlers waited on the Darling Range road board with a re-

quest that certain road facilities should be provided. The work did not require much money and we were able to put it in hand. One of the settlers told us that, in order to keep the pot boiling, he had planted tomatoes and had sent four cases to market. He had just received the returns and for the four cases of tomatoes he received a net return of 3d. This was at a time when the State was importing fruit products. During the year, we imported fruit products in the form of jams, jellies, tomato sauce and so on to the value of £385,000.

The Minister for Mines: Why?

Mr. SAMPSON: Because the market has never been organised and the grower is constantly confronted with a glutted market and receives no return for his labour.

The Minister for Mines: You want to organise and put the acid on the retailers.

Mr. SAMPSON: It is not my desire that any extra cost should be imposed upon consumers. Consumers always have to pay very heavy prices for these products. In Perth a few weeks ago oranges were selling for 2s., 2s. 6d., and 3s. a dozen, and at the same time the unfortunate grower was receiving down to 3s. 6d. a case for them. This problem however, has a much wider significance because of the money which is being sent out of the State. Growers and their families find that they are quite unable to continue in the industry, and so the present lack of organisation has the effect of increasing the influx to the city concerning which we are all so anxious. Some of us are continually telling the people that we do not desire that Perth should be further glorified at the expense of the country. Even the member for North Perth (Mr. MacCallum Smith), who has shown such solicitude for the consumer of wheat, would admit that the man on the land deserves the utmost consideration, and that if we look after the country Perth will easily be able to look after itself.

Mr. Money: Quite right.

Mr. Richardson: We will look after it.

Mr. SAMPSON: The first need of the growers is organisation, and in connection with that organisation, one necessity is an up to date refrigerator. I understand that some time ago a commission was appointed to consider the question of erecting a modern refrigerator. The question, however, died an unnatural death and nothing further has been heard of it. A modern refrigerator is urgently needed. There are people who contend that in Perth there is ample refrigerator space already. During the last apple season 40,000 cases of apples were turned away, and since it was impossible to place them in cold storage, it is only natural to assume that they were returned to mother earth. Very often fruit is returned to mother earth because the grower knows that it will not pay to send it into Perth.

Mr. Money: It is absolutely wasted.

Mr. SAMPSON: That is so. A man at Kalamunda the other day informed me that a certain grower had had tons of pears and

should have sent them into Perth. I pointed out that while he would get perhaps 1s. 9d. a case in Perth for them, the case would cost him 1s. and in addition he would have the cost of packing, transport, and commission charges to meet. The man admitted that this was so, but he added "It would save him burying the fruit." This, unfortunately, is the position. While we are losing the money which is being sent out of the State, we are practically forcing these men and women from the land. What woman, however brave she might be, would stand to a man year after year when he was unable to provide her with a reasonable amount for food and clothing.

Mr. Pickering: And the women are the ones who suffer most.

Mr. SAMPSON: The children are forced to work long before they should; they have to work before and after school hours. Referring to school matters, some further consideration should be given to the annual amount of £30 allowed for scholarships, which is insufficient to pay for board. Consequently a heavy burden falls upon the parents, because they are prepared to make a sacrifice in order that a specially bright child should be given an opportunity. The little brothers and sisters also have to share in the sacrifice. They do not know it, but they have to go short simply because their parents cannot afford to give them all they should have.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You are too late in the day telling us that people are poverty stricken.

Mr. SAMPSON: I would be pleased to take the hon. member out to my district. He would not find people pleading poverty, but he would find such a remarkable exhibition of thrift as would surprise even him. These people would not admit that they were poverty stricken.

The Minister for Mines: The fruitgrowers at Mt. Barker had the same difficulty. Why not organise as they did?

Mr. SAMPSON: No man minds working hard so long as he gets something for his labour, but it would break the heart of the strongest man to work year after year and to get no return for his labours.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. SAMPSON: Before tea I was referring to the dairying industry and its need of encouragement—encouragement in the way of herd testing and the importation of pure-bred stock. At present, of course, a small dairyman is quite unable to afford the necessary stock to improve his herd; and so a mongrel type of cattle is being bred, with a consequent decrease of the profits which should be forthcoming. The fruit growing industry might be assisted in various ways. It has already been advantaged by the opening of kerbstone markets, for which many of the

growers are extremely grateful. We are now looking to the Primary Producers' Association for a good deal of help in the matter of the distribution of fruit in the wheat growing and other country areas. In those areas there are numbers of co-operative stores, and arrangements are now being made by the Primary Producers' Association for the distribution of fruit through the agency of these stores. That will have a most beneficial effect in relieving congestion. But, coming to the point of the assistance which the Government might give, I would refer to the need for refrigerators in Perth and throughout the fruit growing districts. Last February or March I observed fruit being sent into the market here from at least one centre and being sold for as low as 2s. and even 1s. 6d. per case. The establishment of refrigerators in the various fruit growing centres would prevent such an occurrence in future. A very practical grower—I refer to Mr. Tom Price, of Illawarra orchard, beyond Kalamunda—has his own refrigerator, of a capacity of about 10,000 cases. When I was on his orchard Mr. Price was picking his pears and putting them into his own cold store. Later on, those pears would be released and a reasonable price obtained for them. Of course the small fruit-grower is quite unable to provide his own cold storage, and in this matter assistance is looked for from the Government. There is in existence a refrigerator in Wellington-street, as hon. members may be aware. It is stated to be an obsolete arrangement, and one requiring the maximum of manual effort in order to secure a minimum of result. I mentioned previously that the Government had given their attention to the establishment of a modern refrigerator, but that for some unknown reason the project was dropped. I understand that the departmental reports were favourable to the project; and it is my intention at a later stage, to ask that the papers connected with the matter be laid on the Table. Another remedy for gluts, and also a remedy for the continual outpouring of money from this State, is the establishment of jam factories. We have to-day in Perth one jam factory, and a very good factory, manufacturing the "Reindeer" brand. But that factory, good as it is, is quite insufficient to supply the needs of the Western Australian people in the form of jam. In this matter the fruitgrowers look to the Government for support in the same way as the Queensland fruitgrowers were granted support by the Government of their State. Our growers want to see canning factories and pulping plants established, feeling that when these things have been done it will be possible for them to make some progress. Moreover, the effect would be to prevent money going out of the State. I am sure hon. members realise the great importance of retaining this money in Western Australia, as well as of retaining the growers on their holdings. I

am indeed pleased that many hon. members have spoken in favour of taxing unimproved lands which abut on railways, or are in the vicinity of existing lines. I earnestly hope that something definite will be done in this matter during the present session. Our railway loss could, I think, be turned into a profit if those lands were forced into use. That would also be a means towards the wiping out of the deficit, which desirable end would be further promoted by the adoption of means favouring the use here of our own orchard products. With regard to the South Perth tramways there has been a good deal of controversy. In that connection the position of country members is very difficult. I could quite understand the member for North Perth (Mr. MacCallum Smith), if he were where he should be, namely with the Country Party, giving many sound reasons why the construction of the extension should be deferred. However, I have no intention at present of making any such suggestion. Still I would urge that the Government, before irrevocably committing themselves to the building of the extension, consider the motor bus means of transit, which in other parts of the world has been found to be far more suitable and economical and flexible, and generally of far greater service to the public, than tramways.

Mr. Clydesdale: That would not be the case on these roads.

Mr. SAMPSON: The roads would require to be reconstructed, in any case, when the tramways are laid. I am not posing as an expert on either trams or motor buses; but I think the least that might be done is to give serious attention to the claims of both systems of transport. Personally I am inclined to think that the result would be a consensus of opinion in favour of motor buses, which in the Old Country have proved a far better and far more economical and far more satisfactory means of transit.

Mr. MacCallum Smith: Motor buses had a trial here.

Mr. SAMPSON: No doubt they did; but that was in the early days of the internal combustion engine. To-day one of those motor buses would be valuable only as an exhibit for a museum. The motor bus of to-day is a very reliable machine.

Mr. Clydesdale: On good roads.

Mr. SAMPSON: We must have good roads before we can run trams on them. I believe that the keeping of the highway in sufficiently good repair for the running of motor buses would be the better method. I desire to congratulate the Government on what they have done in regard to the Tourist Bureau. They have removed the institution to Barrack-street, and the general public are now getting to know where it is. I consider that in Mr. Hayward the Government have a very able man, who displays a great deal of enthusiasm. Only the other day a friend of mine, after visiting the Tourist Bureau, said to me, "The time has gone by when Western Australians need go East for a holiday, because at

last we have a department which is alive to the opportunities for holiday-making that exist here; and in place of Western Australians having to go East for a trip, they may now take as their motto, 'See Western Australia first,' and trips are all ready mapped out for them.' We can honestly congratulate ourselves on the coming about of this improvement. Regarding immigration I think we are all of one mind as to the need for a vigorous policy. In this connection I cannot help expressing my feeling that our Agent General's office has for too long been a kind of social rendezvous instead of a place where information regarding Western Australia can be obtained. Having visited the Agent General's office, I have been amazed at the difficulty in obtaining information.

Mr. Teesdale: You must not say that here; it is very unpopular.

Mr. SAMPSON: Only on my second or third visit was I able to get the information I wanted. It was in the form of printed matter. I was bold enough, just shortly before the war, to hold a meeting of Devonshire lads with a view to recommending them to come out here and settle on the land. It took at least two visits to the Agent General's office before I could obtain the printed matter giving the exact details I wished to place before my audience of possible immigrants. At a later stage I intend to move for a return showing the personnel of the Agent General's office. I hope to learn that they are all Western Australians, and that they all know something of Western Australia.

Mr. Teesdale: Only three of them have ever been in Western Australia.

Mr. SAMPSON: Then the staff should be changed. I make no reference to the recent report with regard to furniture, but I do say that the staff of our Agent General's office should undoubtedly be composed of Western Australians, men who are enthusiastic regarding this State and have some knowledge of it, and who, when a possible immigrant comes along for information, will see that he obtains the most reliable and most up-to-date information that it is possible to supply. The need of water is an ever-pressing problem in this State, and nowhere is it more required than in some parts of the Swan district. I hope I will not be considered parochial in referring to the Swan district, but I may tell hon. members that Parkerville has no water service, and that last year several cases of typhoid fever occurred there as the result of the absence of good drinking water. At Darlington also there is no water available and each summer the place is deserted because of that.

Mr. Lambert: Do they not store water in tanks?

Mr. SAMPSON: Yes, but to supply the needs of everyone in those places it would be necessary to have tanks of big storage capacity to carry enough water to last throughout the summer. Glen Forrest and

Swan View are also without water supplies, and I earnestly hope when the Estimates are being framed consideration will be given to the needs of the places I have mentioned because we cannot expect to develop them without an adequate water supply. If water were available at Darlington, I venture to say that within three years there would be resident in that place from five to eight times the number of people who are there to-day, while such unfortunate happenings as an outbreak of typhoid fever in the hills would not be known. We look forward to the time when the main roads of the State will be controlled by the Government, and when we shall have uniform construction. This will be an advantage to everyone concerned. I have made some reference to the manner in which settlers in the different districts work and are prepared to go out and work and thus provide themselves with roads. These settlers in fact are working in some districts to-day, although ratepayers for many years. It is very unfair that that should be so, and I am hopeful that it will be possible for the Minister to revert to the payment of the subsidy which was voted in the pre-war period. If we are to prosper, we must give people roads over which to carry their produce to market. Perishable produce such as soft fruits cannot be carried over bad roads because of their liability to injury. The pre-war subsidy should be again paid at almost any cost if we wish to preserve our industries and particularly that of fruit growing. If it is desired to prove the oft-repeated statement that we are out to help the producers, and that it is not our intention to glorify Perth, the Government should do as I suggest.

Mr. HICKMOTT (Pingelly) [7.50]: I wish to join with other members in extending hearty congratulations to the new members on their election to this House. It is not my intention to labour the question of the adoption of the Address-in-reply. I have read the Governor's Speech, but I have failed to find much of great importance in it. My chief object in addressing a few remarks to the House is to refute statements made by my friends on the Opposition benches with reference to the position of the members of the Country Party, and their association with outside bodies. I have been a member of the Country Party since its inception and I can honestly say without fear of contradiction that during the whole of my experience I have never been spoken to in connection with what I have done or what I have not done.

Hon. P. Collier: They treat you with reverence as the father of the family.

Mr. HICKMOTT: A great deal of attention has been directed to the Country Party by the Leader of the Opposition and the member for North-East Fremantle (Hon. W. C. Angwin), and also the member for Mount Magnet (Mr. Troy). Judging by the articulations and gesticulations of the mem-

ber for Mount Magnet, one would think that the occupants of these benches around me were people to be dreaded, and not tolerated in this House. I take second place to no man in this building for honourable and straightforward dealing. Wherever I have been throughout Australia my reputation will stand looking into for straightforward and honest dealing. I believe in being responsible to the people who sent me here, and I think I have been so far, at all events. The Leader of the Opposition said that there was no member of the Country Party at election time who could define his position. I have no hesitation in stating that I distinctly said that I was in favour of the present Premier occupying the position he is in now. I said that we had had a considerable number of changes since I had occupied a seat in Parliament, and that everybody had threatened to do something wonderful so far as the finances were concerned, but that up to that time nobody had done anything.

Hon. P. Collier: Except the present Premier.

Mr. HICKMOTT: I did not include the present Premier.

Hon. P. Collier: Then you are a poor old supporter.

Mr. HICKMOTT: So far as I am concerned, I am going to give that gentleman a chance to see what he can do. The people who were visited by the present Premier received him with open arms, and said that he was the right man in the right place who would settle people on the land. So far as I was personally concerned and also the party with which I was allied, were in favour of giving him a fair chance to see what he could do.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That was not what you did; you decided afterwards what to do.

Mr. HICKMOTT: The Leader of the Opposition and the hon. member who has just interjected accused the Country Party of squeezing the Government.

Mr. Lambert: And it was not an affectionate squeeze either.

Mr. HICKMOTT: I do not know what we have squeezed out of the Government. I have never approached the Government for anything out of the common, and I do not know that any member of the party has asked the Government to do anything but what was necessary. By the word "squeezing," did the Leader of the Opposition have in mind the wiping off of the demurrage to which he referred? The party who incurred the demurrage and who are afraid to come out, squeezed the Government far more than did the Country Party. A proclamation went out that the farmers, or their sons, or the men they had working for them, were to be compelled to take out union tickets, and to demand union wages for shearing, and that if that was not agreed to, the produce sent to market would be declared black. That was what caused the demurrage. The carters and drivers would not unload the wool because they were afraid the railway men would come

out if they were asked to handle that wool which was not shorn by union labour. We had nothing to do with the unloading of trucks. That was a matter for the Commissioner of Railways. It has been alleged that the President of the Primary Producers' Association was one of those who used his influence in getting that particular demurrage wiped out. I may say that the two biggest firms of auctioneers in this State took an equal interest in the matter. They urged that it was not a fair thing to charge demurrage because it was not the fault of the people who sent the stuff along to be unloaded. Just fancy a farmer being forced to take a union ticket for his son—my son for instance. I am just about on the threshold of the other side, and my son is now the owner of the property which I established. Why should there be compulsion in connection with work which is carried on on our farms? Why should men be forced to join unions and so build up organisations which in no way reciprocate? We have nothing whatever against the working man. I myself am as much a working man as any one in this House, or anyone who represents the workers, but I do not feel inclined to submit to compulsion, and if my men are satisfied to work for me without joining a union, they should not be compelled to throw in their lot with any organisation. We have a union amongst ourselves and I will use all the persuasion I can to get others to join it, but I would not compel anyone against his will to become a member of it any more than I would expect an employee to be forced into joining a union and thus build up an organisation which would fight against me.

Mr. Willcock: Nonsense.

Mr. HICKMOTT: Look at the present shearing difficulty. The men, under last year's rates, would earn big wages. Many men in the railways and in the Civil Service and in the tramway service all say that they are perfectly satisfied with what they are getting. It is not the rank and file that is complaining. It is the man who is agitating and who stirs up strife who is causing all the trouble. I do not wish to refer to this matter any further.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You do not believe in the wheat pool?

Hon. P. Collier: That is compulsion.

Mr. HICKMOTT: No it is not, although it has been said that if it is not a compulsory pool it is no good, that it cannot be worked if one man is allowed to do what he likes. I believe that a man should do what he likes with his own.

Hon. P. Collier: Except it be wheat.

Mr. HICKMOTT: I do not see that it will make any difference to the consumer whether the wheat is put into the pool or whether we revert to the old method of de-control. If the agents purchase the wheat, the consumer will not get it any cheaper than he would get it from the pool. One of the greatest drawbacks to the success of poultry farming and pig raising is that those engaged in the

industry get their wheat, not from the wheatgrowers, but from somebody who has purchased it from the pool. As a result, the poultry farmer, instead of paying 9s. for his wheat, has to pay 10s. or even 12s. for it. I agree with what has been said in regard to the price of 9s. per bushel for wheat for local consumption. It is a mistake to fix the price for 12 months ahead. When the price was fixed at 9s. per bushel, wheat was worth 9s. f.o.b. in the State. But, since then the price has fallen considerably. I believe that only a fair price should be asked of the consumer. I have no wish to make the consumer pay more than the producer is getting for his stuff delivered on the wharf?

Mr. Marshall: You admit that 9s. per bushel is excessive?

Mr. HICKMOTT: Yes, I admit it is too much at the present time.

Hon. P. Collier: Of course they are climbing down now, in anticipation of the next price. We will give you 9s!.

Mr. HICKMOTT: I know very little about the public service. In any dealings I have had with the service I have always been treated with courtesy and consideration. But we frequently hear from ex-public servants that there is room for considerable improvement in the service, and that many members of the service, more particularly heads of departments, are not earning the money they receive. I was told the other day by an ex-public servant that the head of his late department had recently received an increase in salary of £100, bringing him up to £600. That man told me that in many cases the departmental head referred to went away and stopped with his friends, charging up his usual expenses to the department for the term of his absence, and that on one occasion when instructed by his Minister to inspect and report on a certain institution, instead of doing the work himself, he sent one of his understrappers to do it. The credit of that work went to the man who should have done the work but did not. Cases like that lead to considerable dissatisfaction between departmental heads and those under them. We have frequently heard of that sort of thing from ex-Ministers and ex-public servants and, at times, from those still in the service. All agree that there is room for improvement. There are in the State something like 120 local authorities looking after health, roads, vermin, and various other matters. The total cost to the Government of those local authorities is from £35,000 to £40,000 per annum. We are told by the Premier that the wages and salaries of the public service amount to £400,000 per annum. Therefore, it seems to me the salaries and wages of the public service are altogether out of proportion to the work done. I believe there is room for retrenchment in the service. It is not for me to say whether it can be done, but the people generally seem to think it ought to be done. We hear a great deal about economies. It is a time-honoured custom to lengthen out

this debate. We are now into the fifth week. The late Treasurer told us that the House, when sitting, cost £25 per hour. As I say, this debate has now been in progress for five weeks. Surely there is some room for economy here! If the debate were confined to the leaders of the various parties and some of the Ministers, we could save a considerable amount of money. It is not for me to say whether such a scheme would be practicable, but obviously there is room for economy in this direction. Then we are told by the House Committee that the printing of "Hansard" costs 14s. 2d. per page. The reporting of this debate already extends over nearly 500 pages. On my calculation, it represents a cost of between £300 and £400. Here, too, is room for economy in the conducting of the business of the Chamber. Possibly hon. members will not so readily agree that wages must be reduced. We hear a great deal about the high cost of living. All must agree that the cost of various commodities used from day to day is greatly increased by high wages. It is not likely the butcher, the baker, the storekeeper, the merchant, the contractor, or anybody else in similar positions, will lose if they have to pay more wages. Mostly they gain by giving an increase in wages. I am no advocate of low wages. I have never tried to cut down a man below a reasonable thing, but I think members might well reduce their own salaries. They took it upon themselves to raise their own salaries at a most inopportune time. Just then the public servants were agitating for a reclassification of their various positions. As soon as the Parliamentarians raised their own salaries, the public servants marched up here in a body. They said that through the stringency of the finances the Government had been unable to grant them increases, but that since the Government and members of Parliament had been able to grant themselves a 33 per cent. increase in salary, it was up to the Government to pay the service what they had been asking for for a considerable time. Personally I am prepared to fall in with any member of the House who will agree to reduce his salary by 33 per cent.

Mr. Lambert: Apparently you know what you are worth.

Mr. HICKMOTT: I think I am worth as much as the hon. member. We have heard a great deal about the opening up and developing of the South-West. I am in accord with the Government in that regard. The South-West requires to be opened up and developed, just as much as did the eastern wheat belt. The member for Swan (Mr. Sampson) to-night reminded us of how much we were sending out of the State for milk, eggs, butter, bacon, fruit, vegetables and jam. I think the sooner we open up and develop the South-West, which should be the dairying district of the State, the

better. We ought to be exporters, instead of importers, of the products I have mentioned. The development of the South-West would have the approval of every member of the House. It has been said that it will prove a very expensive portion of the State to deal with, that it will cost from £10 to £20 per acre to clear. The South-West is similar to many portions of south-western Victoria. It will cost a great deal of money in the early stages, but it must be remembered that for dairying it is not necessary to clear the whole of the land. The Agricultural Bank has been so liberalised that each farmer in the wheat belt may have 600 acres cleared. In order to give a man a reasonable start either for fruitgrowing or dairying in the South-West, it would not be necessary to clear more than 50 acres. The extra cost in clearing the 50 acres and placing a man in a reasonable way of starting would not be so much more than in the case of a man in the wheat belt. That is a matter which should have the support of members. Dairying can be carried on in many parts of the State. I was out in the eastern portion of my electorate the other day and met a man there who was sending away three cans of cream per week from eight cows. One of my neighbours east of Brookton, who has practically gone out of wheat growing, has taken on dairying. Last year he was milking 17 cows or 20 cows and told me that his monthly cheque for butter fat came to £30. He also does considerable business in pigs. Dairying and pig raising are closely connected, and represent commodities of which the State imports a considerable amount. They should have the attention of the Government almost above anything else. With reference to what has been done with regard to opening up the land along our existing railways, I am perfectly in accord with the remarks of hon. members. We were told a little while ago in the "West Australian" that there are many hundreds of thousands of acres in the South-West adjacent to our existing railways, which have been held for many years and are being put to practically no use. I would instance the case of the Clark family in the Sunbury district in Victoria. This is a fine stretch of country, and was taken up by that family many years ago at £1 an acre. It was cut up into blocks by the Clarks and dwellings were erected upon the land. Prizes were given to the farmers for the best tilled and best kept farms on the area. Scores of farmers are now in occupation there and are satisfied and contented. If people living along the existing railways in the South-West and other portions of the State would only follow that example it would be a paying proposition for them and would largely assist in wiping out the deficit on our railways. Where there is at present one farmer, there would under that system soon be 20 or 30.

Hon. P. Collier: Does not the hon. member know that there are fewer people in the rural districts of Victoria than there were 40 years ago, notwithstanding the land that has been cut up there?

Mr. HICKMOTT: It is exceedingly difficult to get land in Victoria to-day. Land is fetching enormous prices. The land throughout that State is well settled.

Hon. P. Collier: It is very well settled.

Mr. HICKMOTT: It is difficult for a man to get hold of any land there without paying a high price for it. Even in the despised mallee country, which politicians used to drive through and say it was not worth saving, the land to-day is worth between £9 and £10 an acre in many instances.

Mr. Richardson: How do you propose to force people to cut up their land?

Mr. HICKMOTT: It will pay handsomely to clear the land in the South-West and establish the people there. What we need is population and this is one way of getting it. In order to make the dairying industry a success only men with families should undertake it, because of the difficulties of getting labour to do the necessary work. Fifty years ago the people who took up land in Victoria went in for dairying. I cannot recall one instance in which such people have not accumulated large assets, and not been able to leave considerable estates to their offspring. We know what the butter and dairying industries have done for the other States. It was one of the principal things which helped Victoria out of her terrible difficulties. We are in as good a position to establish the dairying industry in Western Australia as people were in Victoria. No doubt if it is established on sound lines, it will be of great help to our finances. The party to which I belong intend to assist the Government in every possible way to balance the ledger. If we can only balance the ledger I think we should be perfectly satisfied. We do not expect the Government to be able to do that in 12 months or two years. It will take time. It has been stated that some of our troubles have been caused through the war. The time we are passing through now, however, is worse in some respects than that through which we were passing during the war. When the war was raging there was a great deal of money in circulation and many people were better off than they are now. Large amounts were coming through from the soldiers, and caused people to believe that everything was all right with the finances. Now we are feeling the pinch and we still have a serious time ahead of us. It behoves us to economise in every possible way, and do our best to help the Government to lift the State out of its present troubles.

Mr. LAMBERT (Coolgardie) [8.22]: The hon. member who has just sat down has referred to the wasteful policy of Parliament, and particularly to a waste involved in the

issue of "Hansard." I am certainly convinced by the speech of the hon. member that it is undoubtedly a waste.

The Minister for Mines: Why add to it?

Mr. LAMBERT: I desire to in some way counteract the speech delivered last night by the Minister. In common with other members I wish to congratulate the member for West Perth (Mrs. Cowan) upon her election to this Chamber. She occupies a unique position. If she had depended upon those gentlemen she is politically allied with to-day, she probably would not have been allowed within the corridors of Parliament House, let alone allowed to occupy a seat in this Chamber.

Mr. Pickering: This is the Government which introduced the Bill.

Mr. LAMBERT: Under compulsion they did so. At all events, the hon. member, be it said to his everlasting disgrace, had not the decency or the manliness to support the Bill.

Mr. Pickering: He had the courage to oppose it, which you had not.

Mr. LAMBERT: Like all fools, he had the courage to do foolish things. It can be taken as a tribute to the great sacrifices made by the women folk throughout the civilised world during the last few years. To a considerable extent the election of the member for West Perth can be taken as reflecting the position of women in the world generally.

Mr. Underwood: Get down to a bit of wood cutting.

Mr. LAMBERT: I do not wish to split the hon. member's head. I have no desire to deal with the commonplace questions which have been raised by many hon. members. Some of them have given more or less valuable contributions to the debates as they will appear in "Hansard" with which my venerable friend, the member for Pingelly, finds so much fault. The wholesale distribution of "Hansard" in his electorate would, I think, probably have been the best portion of his propaganda in that electorate. I wish to deal with some of the more important questions, to which the Assembly should give earnest consideration during the present session. Too much time is wasted in party bickering, which certainly has been in evidence during my occupation of a seat in this House. Some members get up and with a lot of meaningless words add their testimony to what has gone before. The member for Bunbury (Mr. Money) the other night, in dealing with the necessity for opening up unoccupied lands adjacent to our railway system, was not prepared to make any strong point or honest statement as to how it was proposed to remedy the position. There are only two ways of doing so: either of buying the land or levelling upon it an equitable measure of taxation which would force the people to bring the land into cultivation. I was struck with the meaningless phrases which the hon. member made use of, and yet when it came to anything of a specific nature he would not offer any explanation of what he proposed to do. That sort of thing is very regrettable.

Hon. P. Collier: He did not know whether he was acting for the plaintiff or the defendant.

Mr. Money: How would you do it?

Mr. LAMBERT: The hon. member knows what the policy of the Labour Party is.

Mr. Tiesdale: Do you want his advice for nothing? He will give it to you if you pay for it.

Mr. LAMBERT: I would not have the hon. member at any price. The most important question before us is that connected with the finances. Bound up with our present financial position and our financial policy are the railways and the other public utilities of this State. They can be dealt with almost under the one heading. We have first to consider our relationship with the Federal Government. The time is passed when we can further tolerate the iniquitous degree of taxation, both State and Federal, as levied at present. There must be some line of demarcation at which the Federal authority ceases to invade the State sphere. Undoubtedly during the war the Federal authorities were given the fullest scope and they took the fullest advantage of that position.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: They could not help themselves.

Mr. LAMBERT: Probably that is so, but they acted in excess of their constitutional rights. They invaded many avenues of taxation which in other circumstances would not have been tolerated by any of the States.

Mr. Angelo: That started before the war.

Mr. LAMBERT: The position resulted, from the point of view of Hughes and his party, in a re-modelling of the Federal Constitution according to their desires. We have to deal with this problem effectively. We have to deal first with the relationship between the Federal Government and the State. We often hear people speaking of the relations existing with the British Empire. As a matter of fact, our relationship with the Federal authority is extremely indefinite. I think a committee of members of this Chamber should be appointed to go into this question. For that matter, there is a motion on the Notice Paper already dealing with that aspect.

Mr. Angelo: The motion advocates a select committee drawn from both Houses.

Mr. LAMBERT: I will not touch upon that aspect further than to say that the best material from both sides of the House or Houses should be drawn upon, so as to clearly define our financial relationship with the Federal Government, and determine either the extension or curtailment of the Federal Government's efforts. Until that is done, we cannot hope to have that stability in our State finances which is so essential. I believe that the manner, both direct and indirect, in which the Federal Government are invading the taxation avenues of this State is scandalous. We hear members on the cross benches squealing about the way indirect taxation has been foisted upon them by the Federal authorities. We are making too great a contribution to

the Federal revenue without any corresponding advantage.

Mr. Pickering: You admit that.

Mr. LAMBERT: I certainly do. It is not carrying out the spirit of the Federal Constitution. It may be in accordance with the letter, but certainly not the spirit of the Australian Federation. At the present time, they are acting as financial blood suckers fastened on this young, impoverished State and we are not getting any corresponding advantage whatever. If the Federal authority utilised that money to encourage the establishment of industries in Western Australia they would probably be carrying out the spirit of the Federal compact and carrying out the objects for which the Commonwealth Government were first constituted. Consideration should be given by the House to the amalgamation of the Agricultural Bank and the Savings Bank. These are financial institutions which belong to the people, who are dependent upon their services in one form or another. Under a commonsense arrangement it should not be too much to expect that we would get more financial service through the amalgamation of these banks.

Mr. Willecock: And what about the I.A.B.?

Hon. P. Collier: That should be abolished.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Would you make it a bank of general issue.

Mr. LAMBERT: That would be beyond our constitutional powers, but we could make it a bank of utility. These money making and money garnering concerns should be kept in the hands of the people. There is no greater danger than to place the whole control of our finances in the hands of outside people. To give an illustration: About a quarter of a century back, the Republic of Argentine established a State Bank. They started co-relatively with garnering and safe-guarding the people's money upon a policy of development. The money so garnered was lent for developmental purposes at reasonable interest, with the result that the Argentine Republic attracted settlers and population from all parts of the world. It has been computed by the most reliable authority that if that bank had been a private concern, it would be paying 25 per cent. per annum by now. Members can consider for themselves what the people of this State are paying directly or indirectly through the private banking institutions. Mr. Speaker will remember in the light of his long years of advocacy of the cause of Labour and its doctrines, the many arguments he has heard levelled against the establishment of public utilities by the State. Those arguments cannot be urged against the establishment of State banking institutions. Banking at the present time is more or less a mechanical concern. It calls for no particular or special knowledge other than ordinary Scotch caution. Such caution is exercised in commercial houses everywhere and it is exercised to the full in this State. To-day we have figuring, or should I say disfiguring, St. George's-terrace, many private banks which

do nothing else than garner in the people's money. That would not be so bad nor yet the profits they make, but we have to remember that if this State requires money for developmental purposes these banks have the right to say whether they will lend that money which actually belongs to the people, to Western Australia, to Bulgaria or to Germany. They have the say as to what they will do with the money. If they could get one-half per cent. more from Germany or perhaps from our friends the Sinn Feiners, they would let them have it, irrespective of the interests of this State.

Mr. Pickering: Do not the banks always subscribe to our loans?

Hon. P. Collier. They are simply lending the people's money to the people.

Mr. LAMBERT: The member for Gascoyne (Mr. Angelo) must know full well that there is not one of the associated banks who would subscribe one penny more than is absolutely necessary, nor would they subscribe if it paid them better to lend money in other directions. The Treasurer of this State should not be placed in such an invidious position as the Federal Government is to-day. We find the Federal Government advertising through placards on our hoardings and through posters, begging people to subscribe to the Diggers' loan. Such things would not be necessary if the banks were in the hands of the people of Australia. We would not see the advertisements upon which many papers throughout the State are fattening to-day, urging participation in the loans, if the banks were in the people's hands. The money those banks are holding is really kept in trust for the people. If we want money for war or for peace or for development, we have to appeal to them; and very often we appeal in vain. Until the Governments of Australia deal with this question of finance, we cannot hope to stabilise our position, nor can we hope to reach that state of independence that we as a State should occupy.

Mr. Willecock: They are profiteering in money.

Mr. Angelo: Have you any idea what the chartered banks have lent to Australia to encourage industry?

Hon. P. Collier: The chartered banks are simply lending the people the people's money and are charging interest upon it.

Mr. LAMBERT: I do not know that when a chartered bank lent us the services of the member for Gascoyne they gave us very much. I am not so much concerned as to what the chartered banks have lent but I trust the member for Gascoyne (Mr. Angelo) will not take umbrage at my observation. I think this country should have the first call upon the financial institutions of the State if money is required for the proper development of the State.

Mr. Angelo: And you have that.

Mr. LAMBERT: We should be the paramount authority and we are not the paramount authority under the present conditions. In Queensland a year or so ago a Labour Gov-

ernment was in power. For my part I do not care what Government was in power, whether it was Labour or Liberal, or any other Government.

Mr. Angelo: It would make a difference to the banks.

Mr. LAMBERT: I like that admission.

Mr. Angelo: The actions of certain Governments lessen the security of the banks.

Mr. LAMBERT: When the present Minister for Mines was returned to power as Leader of the Labour Government, by an overwhelming majority of the people of Western Australia does the member for Gascoyne mean to suggest that the security of our financial institutions was lessened to any degree?

Mr. Angelo: No, I do not say that.

Mr. LAMBERT: You do not say it, but you believe it. The hon. member is concerned for the safety of the financial institutions which have been established in Western Australia. I intend to deal with the position of the Queensland Government. A shameful delegation went to London on account of certain legislation which, rightly or wrongly, they considered was harmful. It does not matter to me whether the Queensland Government were right or wrong. The spectacle of any such delegation going to the financial institutions of London to voice their objections, real or imaginary, to legislation proposed by the Theodore Government, was derogatory to the best interests of Australia. Yet we had that delegation actually going to the financial centre of the world, which is London, crying stinking fish, against the interests of their State. The result of that delegation was that the Queensland Government were unable to get the money necessary for developmental purposes.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: They could have got it in another way.

Mr. Angelo: Was that not on account of the repudiation of contracts.

Mr. LAMBERT: That sort of talk may be all right off a soap box in the Gascoyne electorate, but it will not go down in a House such as this. I do not think there is any body of decent men elected to any Parliament of Australia who would repudiate by word or action anything done by a previous Government. We have the right to amend legislation in what we conceive to be the interests of the people and to that extent only can it be said that any Government, including the Theodore Government in Queensland, repudiated any contract.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: We do that every session.

Mr. LAMBERT: We did it in amending the same type of Land Act as the Theodore Government did.

Mr. Angelo: Here it did not injure the security.

Mr. LAMBERT: It did not injure the security when we granted an extension of the pastoral leases for a further period of 21 years.

Mr. Angelo: The pastoralists are paying for it, in some instances treble and four times.

Mr. LAMBERT: I can almost imagine the hon. member shedding tears. However, he will not work me up into a state of pathos about the pastoralists. I hope that the provisions of that measure, which I thought were over-generous, are just, and if they are not just and equitable, the sooner the House rectifies the mistake the better. Co-relative with the question of finance is that of insurance and banking in Western Australia. Even old hard-headed business men on the Government side of the House, like the member for Pingelly (Mr. Hickmott) must agree that insurance in Western Australia should be controlled by the State. It is a great pity that the Scaddan Government did not make an effort to nationalise insurance during their term of office. To-day we have the position that in this small community of 300,000 odd people there are 41 insurance companies operating. Our finest business avenue, St. George's Terrace, is disfigured with the offices of the Phoenix and the Lancashire and Colonial Mutual and other offices from one end of the thoroughfare to the other. The people of the State are paying for these 41 insurance offices with all their staffs and agents and ramifications when 40 of them are practically unnecessary. The moment the Federal Government have their constitution enlarged to give them an opportunity of entering into this business, they will not take 24 hours to decide to embark upon it. They will enter upon it quicker than they entered upon the banking business. They have had a taste of the profits and luxuries of banking, and unless the State Governments early enter upon State insurance, the Federal Government will take the first opportunity that presents itself of establishing insurance offices throughout Australia.

Mr. Money: That was the argument regarding the State land tax, that if the State did not tax the land the Federal Government would. Although we had our State Savings Bank, the Commonwealth established theirs.

Mr. LAMBERT: It is doubtful whether it was intended that the Commonwealth should invade the domain in which the Savings Bank operated.

Mr. Money: But they did it.

Mr. LAMBERT: However, it is better that the Commonwealth Government should do it and preserve the interests of the community than that it should be left to private individuals. It returns a profit to the Commonwealth and they are able to handle the people's own money for development and other purposes. To that extent, I am pleased with what the Commonwealth have done.

Mr. Money: If you absorb all taxpayers who will pay the taxes?

Hon. W. C. Angwin: If we ran a number of these financial institutions we would not need taxation.

Mr. LAMBERT: If we had control of all private banking and insurance in this State, we could do away with the whole of the direct taxation in Western Australia. I hope that a move will be made in the direction of appointing a committee from both Houses to draw up proposals for the forthcoming Federal convention. I hope that the matter of taxation will be settled at the convention once and for all. If it is not settled, there is not the slightest doubt that the autonomous States will be settled. All Federal members irrespective of party seem to be imbued with the idea that the Commonwealth should swallow up the States. A member of the Federal Parliament, Dr. Earle Page, recently visited this State and lectured upon the bursting up of big cumbersome States like Western Australia.

Mr. Angelo: He specially referred to New South Wales.

Mr. LAMBERT: I can quite understand that with a Labour Government in power there now.

The Minister for Mines: You mean that if he does not burst up New South Wales they will.

Mr. LAMBERT: The Minister knows the effect of Labour administration better than I do so I shall leave that to him to judge. I also read a speech by a Labour member in the Victorian Legislative Council about the bursting up of all Australia into smaller States. It is all very well for such men to talk generally about the bursting up of these big unwieldy States but it is not such an easy problem as a superficial glance might lead them to believe.

Mr. Pickering: Most of them are advocating unification.

Mr. LAMBERT: It would be a big step towards unification. Probably it would be advantageous to make some alteration in our boundaries and probably to establish another authority over portion of our territory. At the same time this is a question which can only be approached theoretically after most careful thought and consideration, and nothing like a reasonably sane conclusion can be arrived at by Dr. Earle Page, who probably knows nothing about Western Australia or its difficulties.

Mr. Angelo: It is a pity you did not hear his speech.

Mr. LAMBERT: I do not know that I missed much. Regarding the trading concerns and public utilities, first in importance are our railways. We must if possible devise a scheme to make these concerns reasonably balance the ledger. The railways are going to the bad. I hope the Government will try to make this session a practical and business-like one. We have heard many utterances about good will existing among members. Let us get down to solid business. Let us be alive to the fact that the railways are not paying. Instead of levelling a lot of carping criticism at the Minister for Railways or the Commissioner of Railways, let us realise that it is part of the work for which we have been elected and for which we are paid to ascertain in what direction the loss can be lessened and how the earning capacity of our railways can be increased. If a committee from both Houses or from both sides of this House were asked by the Minister for Railways to advise in what direction the earning capacity of our

railways could be increased, I think it would be productive of good results. The Minister for Works, who has had experience in the running of our railways, suggested that the policy of the Commissioner is wrong, and that the idea of increasing freights is lessening the volume of traffic on the railways. Probably there is much in what he says. There is much in the argument advanced by some members that we must endeavour to force into utilisation the vacant lands in close proximity to our railways.

The Minister for Mines: The Minister wanted to sell sleepers to us.

Mr. LAMBERT: Well the Minister for Works is running a trading concern and he is probably qualifying for a more definite control of these particular concerns. If the Minister for Railways seriously entertained my proposal, he would test the reality of the expressions of goodwill. The Minister for the North-West recently called a conference of members representing that part of the State to discuss questions having particular application to the problems of that vast area. Problems affecting our railways could be investigated in the same way, and it would be a test of the sincerity of hon. members when they say they intend to do their best to promote the interests of the State. I would like to see this session made a practical and business-like session. This stupid parade is mere waste of time. We come here day after day and night after night, discussing in a seemingly serious way many problems concerning this State, and we arrive at negative results which are calculated to make anyone impatient. There are problems, the responsibility for which cannot be shouldered by the Government alone. I only hope that every avenue of thought will be invaded to arrive at a basis for the effective control of our railway system in order to make it the business concern it should be. I have in mind an utterance by the Minister for Railways that the railways are not primarily regarded as a business trading concern. It is true that the railways are so greatly linked up with the development policy of this State that they cannot be run on absolutely business lines. Members of the Chamber of Commerce and other such like bodies in their impudent way tell us what they would do if only they were given the opportunity. "What the country needs," they say, "are not theorists elected by all sections of the community but business men like ourselves." As a matter of fact, if they were elected they would make the most abominable, laughing-stock failures that ever God witnessed. Yet these men who can run an ordinary grocer's shop, and run it well, fancy that if they were elected here—half a dozen of them—to take the places of our friends as Ministers controlling the departments, they would rectify everything in 24 hours. They would wreck everything in 24 hours. The conception of a shrewd business man is conveyed in the utterances of the member for Kimberley (Mr. Durack). It is seriously suggested by that hon. member that the present Government could encourage tropical agriculture by setting a few gins and blackfellows to plant cocoanut and cotton trees. Referring now not to Mr. Durack, the member for Kimberley, but to his brothers, the men who went out into the North and pioneered it, and whom every man is prepared to honour for their

pioneering work—when it comes to a matter of big public policy, of peopling our great North-West, a matter of helping by Government assistance to show what we can do there in the way of tropical and sub-tropical agriculture, they suggest the getting of a few black gins and blackfellows. It is absolutely regrettable that men of this stamp, men who ought to have a greater trust and faith in their country, should so degrade and lower themselves, and the status of this House, as to make such suggestions.

The Minister for Mines: You ought to hit them with a lump of manganese.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. LAMBERT: The North is the greatest menace to-day confronting Australia; and yet we find men so cribbed, cabined, and confined in their ideas as to suggest that the possibilities of our great North-West can be demonstrated by employing a few blackfellows and black gins. Men elected from that territory suggest that as a means of peopling the great North-West. But I believe there are as great possibilities in the north of this State as in any other part of the world. Our North-West has its own geographical and industrial problems, which must be grappled with; but that is not going to be done by a few gins and blackfellows. I only hope that, in contradiction to the opinions held by the North-West members, the Government of this State will proceed immediately to recognise that in the North-West we have a valuable territory which to-day is practically valueless. We want some big progressive policy for opening up that country. Only a few weeks ago I received a letter from Mr. Jones, the cotton expert of Queensland, who was once attached to the Western Australian Public Service. He left this State, apparently broken hearted by the callous indifference which successive Governments displayed towards his many suggestions for establishing tropical and sub-tropical agriculture in the North-West. Turning now to the State trading concerns, I think Parliament should establish efficient control over the Wyndham Meat Works, the State Implement Works, and the brickworks and timber mills, and the other more subordinate public utilities. For some considerable time I have felt that these concerns should be placed beyond Ministerial control. It is not fair to-day, nor will it be fair to-morrow, to expect Ministers in their Ministerial capacity to control millions of invested money. Those State trading concerns should be controlled by men who can give their whole time to the work.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: They are now controlled by men who give all their time to them.

Mr. LAMBERT: That can hardly be said of most of the State trading concerns. We want them controlled by Commissioners.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: We want parliamentary control; not control by Commissioners.

Mr. LAMBERT: I do not believe in parliamentary control.

Mr. Money: Parliament was never made to control trading concerns.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. LAMBERT: If these concerns are going to stand as an economic structure in competition with the outside world, they must be

controlled by business men specially trained for that work.

Mr. A. Thomson: I thought you had no time for business men.

Mr. LAMBERT: I have every time for business men. I only hope the hon. member interjecting has not misunderstood my previous statement. Business men are essential now, and I suppose they always will be.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The State trading concerns are now controlled by business men.

Mr. LAMBERT: I do not know that. However, I am not going to argue the question in detail with the member for North-East Fremantle. I say the trading concerns are not controlled satisfactorily to-day.

Mr. Money: And they never will be.

Mr. LAMBERT: They never will be until they are put on the footing which they should occupy, that of ordinary competing concerns. It is shameful to get the Premier saying that he would sell them to-morrow. These are undertakings in which the State has invested millions of money and in which it gives work to thousands of employees. What is the use of embarking on a forward policy with these concerns while the head of the State is saying that he would sell them to-morrow? If the Premier does not believe that they are economically sound and of service to the State, he should test the question of selling them or of closing them up in the ordinary way, which he has the opportunity of doing at any time. Then we get the Minister for Works, in a most spirited or even heated speech upon this subject, defending the State trading concerns.

Mr. Angelo: But he said he would sell them.

Mr. Angwin: He told the truth about them; and that is the first time it has ever been done from the other side of the House.

Mr. LAMBERT: For some considerable time it has been found that these public utilities are prospering, despite the fact that they have not had that sympathetic administration which is so essential in the early years of these undertakings. Whilst the Minister for Works is, I believe, taking a great interest in the State trading concerns, still they are not getting that directing head and that administrative knowledge brought to bear on them which they would receive if placed under independent Commissioners, removed from the influence and control of Parliament.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: My vote will never be given in favour of control by Commissioners, anyhow.

Mr. LAMBERT: I am merely sketching in a broad way what I think is essential to the proper control of these concerns. In our railways we have 17 or 18 millions sterling invested.

The Minister for Mines: What is the difference between a Commissioner and a manager?

Mr. LAMBERT: There is, in fact, no difference at all. If the man in charge is vested with sufficient power and is called a manager, I shall not be greatly concerned about the title of Commissioner. The Minister for Works, I dare say, has found that with his ideas of administering a department it would require the whole of his time to look after the State trading concerns placed under his control. I contend that the Government, if they have any regard for the money of the people invested in these

concerns, should not lose one moment but should immediately consult Parliament, which represents the people of this State, regarding a definite decision, once for all, as to whether these State trading concerns shall remain part and parcel of the political life of this State, or shall be sold for private persons to utilise them in the ordinary business way.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: A Parliament can only speak for three years.

Mr. LAMBERT: That is so.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: But you say Parliament should settle the question "once for all."

Mr. LAMBERT: It is well that the question should be settled for three years. At present many of the employees of the State trading concerns hardly know whether they are likely to remain in the service for three minutes. I hope the Government will consider the seriousness of the position. A huge sum of money has been invested in the State trading concerns, and the public have a right to know whether that money is to be permanently utilised in the manner in which it has been invested by previous Governments carrying out the mandate of the people. It is not right that we should have a Premier threatening at every possible opportunity to sell the State trading concerns. Managers and employees and everybody else affected should be placed in a position to know whether the concerns are to be sold or not.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That would apply with a Commissioner in control, just as it applies with a Minister in control.

Mr. LAMBERT: If the question were once decided, we could take it that the policy of the State had been settled in that respect for at least three years. In such circumstances those opposed to the State trading concerns would have an opportunity of dealing with them, and perhaps there would be an opportunity of dealing with those opponents when members went before the people. Apart from the development of the North-West, there is the problem of the development of our wheat belt, of the development of the South-West, and of the development of our mineral areas. I think the Government should take an opportunity of consulting members from all sides of the House on those subjects. I certainly think that if members were asked, they would meet and make suggestions. These members have a local and intimate knowledge of the areas and they would suggest the best possible means of dealing with the matter. After all, members have the opportunity which is denied to others of travelling and becoming acquainted directly and indirectly with many of the problems associated with districts like the North-West and the South-West. If proper encouragement were given to the mineral wealth of Western Australia, we would find that the railway earnings would increase considerably. The Minister for Mines with the talent he has in the Mines Department would need only to ask his officers to make practical suggestions for the utilisation of the many and known valuable mineral deposits, and these suggestions I am sure would result in the finding of fruitful employment for many, and would add considerably to the revenue of the State. We are particularly interested in this, in so far as to-day we have no back carriage for our railways. I can show to the Minister for Mines that it is

possible in four or five different directions to add to the railways traffic in this way to the extent of £50,000 or £75,000 per annum, and I am not making any extravagant statement when I say that. Even with a little concern such as the one with which I am connected, we shall next year probably add to the earnings of the State railways to the extent of £500 or £1,000 with ordinary luck. If such a thing can be done in a small way it can be done in a bigger way by the utilisation of some of the mineral deposits in our State. It is only a matter of the Minister having before him that necessary knowledge, both of the utility of minerals and their present commercial value, and to what extent they may be utilised in Australia or abroad. It would then be easy for the Minister to arrive at a decision in connection with the encouragement of secondary industries in Western Australia. A great effort is being made by the Council of Industrial Development to focus public attention on many of the things which can be manufactured in this State, and I am pleased to know that the Minister has taken the commendable step of having an exhibition so that those people who are ignorant of what can be manufactured here may see everything for themselves. I only hope that the Government will place a sum of money on the Estimates for the purpose of encouraging the secondary industries. Much of our present financial backwardness to-day is due to the direct and indirect financial strain which is upon this small community. I hope every effort will be made, to try to assist the people to establish industries, and to try to make this a producing community, producing and manufacturing all those things which are now imported for the well-being and comfort of our people.

Question put and passed; the Address-in-reply adopted.

BILL—CONSTITUTION ACT AMENDMENT.

Motion to introduce withdrawn.

The MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. J. Scaddan—Albany) [9-20]: On behalf of the Premier I move—

For leave to introduce a Bill for "an Act to repeal Sections 66 and 67 of the Constitution Act, 1889, and Section 46 of the Constitution Act Amendment Act, 1899, and to substitute other provisions in lieu thereof."

Hon. P. COLLIER (Boulder) [9-21]: I move an amendment—

That the words "repeal Sections 66 and 67 of" be struck out.

I intend to further amend the motion as well. It will be seen that if leave is given in the form set out on the Notice Paper it will not be competent for any member, when the Bill is before the Chamber, to amend any section of the Constitution Act except the section specified in the motion. There are other amendments required to the Constitution Act, and in order to save the time of the House and the cost of printing in connection with the introduction of other Bills which I shall have to do, I want to

widen the order of leave so that it may be open to myself or anyone else to move other amendments. I hope the Minister will agree to my amendment.

The Minister for Mines: I do not know that I am entitled to agree to the amendment. I am not in charge of the Bill.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Then the Minister had better postpone the motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minister may, if he so desires, withdraw the motion, and that will enable him on a later occasion to submit it in an altered form.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: That would be the preferable course to adopt. I am not in the position to say whether the Premier would be prepared to accept the amendment suggested by the Leader of the Opposition. I shall agree to withdraw the motion with the view of its being submitted again.

Motion by leave withdrawn.

BILLS (15) FIRST READING.

1. Stamp.
2. Land Agents.
3. Auctioneers.
4. Grain.
5. Land and Income Tax Assessment Act Amendment.
6. Northam Municipality and Iceworks and Cool Storage.
Introduced by the Minister for Mines (for the Premier).
7. Gold Buyers.
8. Inspection of Machinery.
Introduced by the Minister for Mines.
9. Fisheries Act Amendment.
10. Factories and Shops Act Amendment.
11. Building Societies Act Amendment.
Introduced by the Colonial Secretary.
12. Wheat Marketing.
Introduced by the Minister for Mines (for the Minister for Agriculture).
13. Fremantle Municipal Tramways and Electric Lighting Act Amendment.
Introduced by Hon. W. C. Angwin.
14. Administration Act Amendment.
Introduced by Hon. P. Collier (for Hon. T. Walker).
15. Criminal Code Amendment.
Introduced by Mr. Boyland.

House adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Thursday, 1st September, 1921.

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

QUESTION—MINING EMPLOYMENT AND MEDICAL CERTIFICATES.

Hon. J. CORNELL asked the Minister for Education, 1, Is it a fact that in some cases it is now necessary for any person seeking work, either underground or surface, in or on the mines employing labour on the Golden Mile to procure at his own expense a medical certificate certifying as to fitness to follow such employment? 2, If so, will the Minister give the following particulars:—(a) under what statute is this innovation allowable; (b) by whom was it first introduced; (c) was its introduction sanctioned by the Government; (d) do the Government approve its continuance on present lines? 3, Will the Minister, at the earliest possible date, procure full particulars in respect of such medical examinations and lay a statement there-of upon the Table of the House?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: 1. Yes. 2. As regards engine-drivers, under Regulation 7 under the Mines Regulation Act, 1906, but as regards employees in general, the requirement of a medical certificate is not statutory, but is under the rules of the Mine Workers' Relief Fund. (b) The relief fund was established in 1915, and from the inception the Board of Control insisted on employers not employing anyone who could not produce a certificate of exemption from medical examination or a satisfactory medical certificate. (c) The proceedings of the board have received general approval from the Government. (d) The Government have not yet had any good reason shown to them for disapproval of the action of the board in respect of medical examinations, and are not prepared to interfere until such is proved. 3. The published annual reports of the Mine Workers' Relief Fund give a full schedule of all diseases classified with number of cases, etc.

QUESTIONS (2)—EDUCATION.

Roya' Commission Evidence.

Hon. G. W. MILES, for Hon. Sir Edward Wittenoom, asked the Minister for Education: When will the printed evidence of the