

of capitalisation equal to the amount he has put in.

Hon. Sir Edward Wittenoom: The only difficulty is that you have not said what you intended.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: Then that is the result of drafting amendments on the floor of the House. I wanted the members of a select committee to get around a table and thrash it all out. Dr. Saw and Mr. Stephenson think it can be done here. The amendment I have moved gives an idea of the result of drafting amendments on the floor of the House.

Progress reported.

BILL—FORESTS ACT AMENDMENT.

Assembly's further Message.

Message received from the Assembly notifying that it no longer disagreed to the amendment made by the Council.

House adjourned at 6.8 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 8th November, 1928.

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

ELECTION RETURN—WILLIAMS-NARROGIN DISTRICT.

The SPEAKER announced the return to a writ for the election of a member for the Williams-Narrogin district, showing that Mr. Victor Doney had been elected.

BILL—CREMATION.

Introduced by Mr. North and read a first time.

BILL—QUARRY RAILWAY EXTENSION.

Report of Committee adopted.

BILL—FORESTS ACT AMENDMENT.

Council's Message.

Message from the Council notifying that it insisted upon its amendment to the Bill now considered.

In Committee.

Mr. Lutey in the Chair; the Premier in charge of the Bill.

The PREMIER: I find I am reluctantly compelled to accept the amendment made by another place.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: You could have a conference with their managers.

The PREMIER: That is not quite a safe procedure.

Hon. G. Taylor: It is too risky.

The PREMIER: If the managers could not agree, we would lose the Bill. I prefer to lose £5,000, rather than £45,000.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: I am afraid I ought to quote some of your speeches about the control of finances!

The PREMIER: I admit that this means handing over to some extent the control of the finances to another place. I cannot understand the attitude of mind of members in another place who opposed the Bill. Members sit here and in another place night after night and ask for all kinds of work to be carried out in their electorates. Since the discussion on the Estimates commenced, I am sure requests have been made from both sides of the House for work that would run into the expenditure of £1,000,000.

Mr. Ferguson: And the requests are not finished yet.

The PREMIER: That is true. There is the need for new buildings, increased accommodation, and other facilities in various parts of the State, and here is an instance of £5,000 being unnecessarily held up! During the discussion in the Legislative Council the Minister there pointed out that, tak-

ing the average costs the £5,000 would be sufficient to erect 25 schools in country districts. There is no gainsaying the fact that the money is not required in the fund at all. There is quite sufficient now for the year, but nevertheless this £5,000 extra must go into the fund and remain idle and unused for 12 months, while various requirements all over the State must languish because of want of funds. I cannot appreciate the motive that actuated members who insisted upon this amendment.

Mr. Angelo: Especially after your statement the other day when you said you had altered your attitude towards the Council.

The PREMIER: I may have to alter that attitude again.

Hon. G. Taylor: Let this be the final alteration!

The PREMIER: Yes, it will have to be final this time. However, that is the position. There is no doubt that some of the work that is urgently required in various parts of the State will not be carried out. We shall have to refuse requests that have been made for those works on account of the attitude Legislative Council members have adopted. The erection of the mental reception home at Point Heathcote will cost something over £40,000, and the institution will require a staff of 39 officers.

Mr. Mann: Will such a large staff be necessary?

The PREMIER: The institution will cost £15,000 for upkeep and maintenance.

Mr. Mann: What was the estimate regarding the staff before the building was commenced.

The PREMIER: I cannot say at the moment, but the estimate now is for a staff of 39.

Mr. Mann: To control how many patients?

The PREMIER: I cannot say; it is not known yet. Evidently it is anticipated that there will be a large number of patients when it is estimated that a staff of 39 will be required. That will mean so much extra for maintenance and upkeep. Then there are the additions at the Old Men's Home, where a hospital ward has been erected. That will mean an increased staff there and will probably absorb another £2,000 a year. There are two items alone, and I could go on giving other items to show how the position will be affected throughout the State. Ex-

penditure is mounting up all the time in order to cope with the requirements of our increasing population. Here we are deprived of the use of £5,000 that is not required in the fund and will perforce have to remain idle! I do not say that the course will be adopted, but I must point out that if Parliament insists on placing at the disposal of officials more money than they require, there will be an incentive to spend the additional funds.

Hon. G. Taylor: Exactly.

The PREMIER: If the officials say that they cannot spend more than they have at their disposal, and Parliament pushes more funds on to them, there will be the tendency on the part of officials to say, "If you force money upon us that we do not require, we will find some means of spending it." Of course I am not afraid that that will be the consequence of the Council's action on this occasion. The fact remains that it is a case of accepting what we have, or losing the lot. If the Bill is lost, we shall lose the whole of the sandalwood revenue, which will go into the funds of the Forests Department.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: What about the rights of this House. Are we to have a Parliament Bill before us shortly?

The PREMIER: I am afraid a Bill to assert the rights of this House will have to follow very soon. We have not the control over another place that the House of Commons has over the House of Lords in Great Britain.

Hon. W. J. George: You would not compare the Council with the Lords!

The PREMIER: In England, the Commons can dictate to the Lords after a year or two. It appears to me that only sheer cussedness can be the explanation of the attitude of members of another place. I move—

That the Council's amendment be no longer disagreed to.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: I am afraid the attitude of the Premier is rather an undignified surrender. We should have fought for the rights of this House that have been usurped by another place. The thing is ridiculous because we already have £7,000 in the fund, and that is more than we require for the year.

The Premier: We have not spent more than half that amount in a year.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: Everyone knows that we cannot spend any more money unless we establish a nursery or plantation in some part of the State, and fence it off, and so on.

The Premier: Of course we could squander the money.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: I know that where there is stock, they eat the young sandalwood down. That has been the experience in the older districts, and I suppose it will be the experience in the newer districts. We have more than we can spend in the sandalwood fund already and it is ridiculous to insist upon more money than is required, being paid into that fund. We have already provided the Conservator of Forests with all the money he needs.

The Premier: And we have not sufficient funds for necessary work in other directions.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: The fact is that we are surrendering our control over the expenditure. The money must go into the fund because the Act provides that it must go there. I wonder if the real position was explained to members of another place.

The Premier: It was thoroughly explained to them, and yet they insisted upon the amendment.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: As a result of that, the Premier will have to refuse requests that are made to him for urgent works. It is the Premier's job to do that in the circumstances. We can afford only those things that the people can afford to pay for. They cannot get things they cannot afford to pay for. It is idle to expect the people of the State, scattered as they are throughout the country, to be provided with all that is required. It cannot be done.

The Premier: If requests are made for work to be undertaken, the people will have to do without much that may be necessary.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: That is so.

Hon. W. J. George: They have had to do without it before now.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: We cannot afford to pay any more in taxation. In fact, the taxation that is shouldered now is far more harmful than would be the expenditure of the £5,000 involved in this instance, if it were spent in various directions. Members of the Legislative Council must surely realise that if they insist on control-

ling revenue in the way they are doing and deny the use of money to us, it simply means we must get it from other sources.

The Premier: We must collect money elsewhere.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: Seeing that we collect some £50,000 from sandalwood, it means that if we are deprived of the use of the money involved in this instance, it will have to be made up from taxation or railway freights. That must be obvious to anyone.

The Premier: The £5,000 will have to be taken from the taxpayers in one way or another.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: The members of another place should consider—

The Premier: The effect of this on the taxpayer.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: Yes. We have a considerable sum in the ordinary fund created under the Forests Act. I do not say the money should be paid into ordinary revenue, but it should be paid into a trust account and then transferred to the Forests Department or to revenue as needed. There is no earthly reason why we should build up a fund from an annual collection that is ten times as great as the requirements of the department in any one year. To deny us the money does not protect the forests or the Forests Department, because it cannot be used at the moment by the department. The Premier might risk a conference and see what happens, though if I were in his place, I should hesitate, because another place has altered its Standing Orders to provide that one manager at a conference standing out can wreck the Bill.

The Premier: There is always one stupid creature over there.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: I cannot agree with the Premier there.

The Minister for Works: You said worse than that when you were over here.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: To single out one individual would not be very generous. What the Premier might do is to ask the Minister in another place to secure an alteration of the Standing Orders so that we can meet in conference on even terms. If the Premier is willing to surrender the rights of this House on matters of finance, he will incur the very serious displeasure of at least one member of this Chamber, and I do not know how he will get over that trouble.

It seems pretty sure that if the Bill goes back to another place, it will be lost.

Mr. LATHAM: When the Council's amendment was previously considered I was under the impression that the revenue could be used only for the reforestation of sandalwood, but I understand that the money may be used for planting pine forests.

The Premier: No, it is only for sandalwood.

Mr. LATHAM: If possible I should like to see it used for pine planting. We are sending out of this State yearly a considerable sum of money for investment in companies that are operating elsewhere, and I believe we have just as suitable soil for growing pines as is to be found in New Zealand, Borneo, or anywhere else. Pine planting would provide work when unemployment was rife.

The Premier: Have you any idea of what pine planting has been done here during the last few years?

Mr. LATHAM: I am aware that a considerable amount of work has been done. My point is that when employment is scarce, which is during the winter months—the most suitable time for planting pine trees—surplus labour could be absorbed in that work.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is getting wide of the question under discussion.

The Premier: The question of pine planting is not affected at all.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: That is a matter of loan funds.

Mr. LATHAM: I accept the Premier's assurance.

Hon. G. TAYLOR: I regret that the Premier finds himself in the position of having to accept the amendment. If only £5,000 were at stake, I dare say the Premier would have opposed another place with some confidence, but the amount at stake is £45,000.

The Premier: And another thing at stake is that I might go to the conference and murder the man who stood out.

Hon. G. TAYLOR: This Chamber does not control finance as it should do in accordance with the Constitution. It is time we had some intimation as to what progress has been made with the programme decided upon last year. We then had a difficulty with another place on a question of finance and the difference was supposed to be sub-

mitted to Privy Council for decision. The day is fast approaching when we shall have to fight another place on this question and fight it with a weapon that will do some damage. There is no need for the £5,000 to be given to the Forests Department, because it cannot be spent. It is absurd for another place to adopt such an attitude. I hope the Premier will test the rights of another place on the question of finance. The money is needed more for revenue than for forestry.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment not longer disagreed to.

Resolution reported and the report adopted.

The PREMIER: I do not know that another place deserves a message acquainting it accordingly. Is it necessary to send such a message?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes.

Hon. G. Taylor: Do not say how you accepted it.

The PREMIER: I move—

That a message be returned to the Council acquainting it accordingly.

The Minister for Works: Make it "thank-ing the Council."

Question put and passed.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1928-29.

In Committee of Supply.

Resumed from the previous day; Mr. Lutey in the Chair.

Department of Minister for Agriculture continued (Hon. H. Millington, Minister).

Note—Agriculture £84,251 (partly considered):

MR. FERGUSON (Moore) [4.55]: I listened with great interest to the very brief remarks of the Minister in introducing his Estimates. He and the officials of his department are to be congratulated on the excellent progress that the industry for which they are responsible made last year. That was largely due, I think, to the excellent service the officials have rendered to the State. In the Director of Agriculture (Mr. Sutton) we have an official of whom any country might be proud. Throughout

the length and breadth of Australia he is regarded as one of the foremost authorities on agriculture. He has done a very fine work indeed for this State. A few years ago Western Australia was considered to be a country incapable of producing sufficient wheat for its own people, but last year it reaped a harvest of over 35,000,000 bushels, and we should be exceedingly proud of the achievement. A great deal of the credit for that is due to the energy and enthusiasm that the director has infused into his work. Mr. Sutton has devoted considerable time and attention to the development of experimental farms in different parts of the State. Those farms have proved a great success, and have materially assisted in the development of agriculture generally and in the production of the great volume of wheat that last year reached nearly 36,000,000 bushels. Credit to a lesser degree is due to other officials of the department. I should like to mention the good work the sheep and wool inspector has done for that industry. Last night the Minister told us that the production of wool in this State had increased by nearly 1 lb. per sheep. That is a notable achievement. When we consider that in this huge State we have 8,000,000 sheep, such an increase of production is something to be proud of. Much of the credit is due to the enthusiasm that Mr. McCallum has put into his work. In no way has he spared himself in travelling around the country and in advising and assisting the people engaged in the industry. Particularly has he infused great enthusiasm into settlers who are running stud sheep flocks, and it is largely due to the increase in the stud flocks and the dissemination of good sires among settlers who are running only the ordinary common or garden variety of sheep that we are able to record an increasing poundage of wool cut. We should place on record our appreciation of work so well and faithfully done by the officials for an industry upon which this State depends so greatly for success. Praise should also be meted out to officials such as the chief inspector of the fruit industry, the viticultural expert and the dairy expert, who have rendered yeoman service to the farmers. Last week the Minister for Agriculture visited the Wongan Hills light lands farm on the occasion of the annual field day, when the attendance from the surrounding districts totalled something like 300 farm-

ers. Every farmer for many miles around takes a great interest in the light lands farm at Wongan Hills, believing that it is serving a most useful purpose. The crops on the farm are the best that have ever been grown there, notwithstanding the year being somewhat lean. The rainfall at Wongan Hills has been about 25 per cent. below the average, but nevertheless, by reason of the manner in which the farm has been conducted, it is affording an object lesson of what our light lands are capable of producing. A few years ago the light lands of which the Wongan Hills farms is solely composed, were looked upon as practically worthless. Now, as the result of the experiments carried on at the Wongan Hills farm, not an acre of light land for many miles around is available for selection. By reason of the lighter rainfall this year, and also possibly thanks to better methods of cultivation, the light lands are producing better crops than the heavy lands. For that a large meed of praise is due to the experiments carried out at the Wongan Hills light lands farm. I wish to draw the attention of the Minister for Agriculture, and also that of the Treasurer, to the fact that there is further work which might well be carried out in connection with our light lands. During last week a party of about 25 Parliamentarians and a similar number of business men and representatives of financial institutions paid a visit to the Midland country. While they were there it was pointed out to them that between the Midland railway and the coast there is a huge area of light land which to-day is producing nothing. That light land is entirely different from the light land to be found in the Wongan Hills and eastern districts generally. It is of an entirely different nature from the light land which has been proved by the Wongan Hills farm. So far as can be gathered from experiments carried out by various farmers, it has not yet been proved that this other light land is capable of growing profitable crops of wheat. A good deal of it is being used in connection with some of the heavy land bordering its fringe, but the greater proportion of the huge area of light land is to-day lying idle, a breeding ground for vermin such as dingoes, foxes and rabbits. In my opinion the State might well embark on the establishment of an experimental farm in that district. It is a great pity

such a huge area, comprising 3,000,000 or 4,000,000 acres, and situated immediately alongside a railway, with as good and as assured a rainfall as is to be found in the State, a rainfall of between 20 and 25 inches, should lie unused. Therefore I urge upon the Minister for Agriculture that he should at an early date establish an experimental farm in that district. The experiments should be in the direction of the growth of fodder crops and the running of sheep. It is far better that the State should make the experiment than that a few dozen private individuals should spend their money in an endeavour to prove whether the light land in question is or is not suitable for settlement. Some time ago I mentioned the matter to the present Minister for Lands, and he was of opinion that it would not be advisable just now to establish another experimental farm in the Midland district, because the Wongan Hills experimental farm was not far away from the area to which I allude. However, I repeat that these two kinds of light land are entirely dissimilar from each other. Moreover, the area which I suggest should be tested is situated some 60 miles from the Wongan Hills farm. Thus there is ample reason why the Government should establish an experimental farm in that district. If it should prove that the land is useless, it should be fenced so that the vermin breeding there will not be a menace to settlers on adjoining lands. The time is fast approaching when Western Australia will find it difficult to provide applicants with land that we know can be profitably settled. Therefore, if we can develop another huge area comprising 3,000,000 or 4,000,000 acres of land capable of accommodating several thousand settlers, it will be an excellent thing for the State. The party who went on the Midland tour last week had their attention drawn to this area. They saw some of it, and I heard several remarks to the effect that it was a pity so much apparently decent country should be lying idle. The people who have settled in those localities have gone in largely for the growing of wheat and the production of sheep. However, the country is not suitable for wheat growing, and not many men are game to take it up for the production of sheep alone. During last night's discussion reference was made to expenditure incurred

by the Agricultural Department in the importation of stallions from the Eastern States. I desire to commend the Minister for Agriculture on the assistance he has rendered to the Royal Agricultural Society in their endeavours to improve the breed of draught horses in the State. A suggestion was made that some draught stallions should be imported from England, but the bulk of the draught horses there would be entirely unsuitable for Western Australian conditions. They are nearly all Shire horses, and we do not want those here. They are big, heavy-boned, nairy-legged horses, entirely unsuitable for farm work in this country. If we could get some stallions from Scotland, the home of the Clydesdale, the effect in improving the type of Western Australian draught horse would be most marked. The cost of importation would be heavy—more than most of the individual farmers in Western Australia could bear. I would suggest to the Minister, however, that he might set aside a few hundred pounds to be devoted to the importation of a few stallions from Scotland, and that the whole cost of a stallion should not be charged up to the farmer who takes charge of him. Otherwise the expense will be prohibitive to the farmer. There has been a controversy as to whether the horse or the tractor is cheaper for Western Australian farm work. I am inclined to think—and I am sure most men who have had experience of tractors and horses on the same farm will agree with me—that there is no comparison between the cost of work done by horses and that done by tractors. The horse beats the tractor on the score of economy every time. Although it may not be practicable to put in large areas of crop with horses in drier districts, where there is a shortage of water, still, wherever the farmer has the necessary conveniences for working horses they will beat the tractor out of sight in the matter of cost of production. The Minister might take up the matter of importation of stallions with the Royal Agricultural Society.

MR. STUBBS (Wagin) [5.12]: The importance of this vote warrants agricultural members on both sides of the Chamber in showing a keen interest in it. I congratulate the Minister for Agriculture on the remarkable rapidity with which he has taken

a grip of the duties of the high and honourable position he occupies. It was a pleasure to travel around the country with him and to hear the addresses he delivered to farmers. He showed a keen practical interest in the problems confronting the man on the land, particularly the settler on outback areas, where farming on sound lines has only recently begun. I observe that the Minister has succeeded in getting an extra £10,000 from the Treasurer, and I feel sure that money will be wisely spent. Every agricultural member will agree with me that the Minister's action is in the right direction, because the last bushel of wheat that can be extracted from the soil by scientific methods is going to be the bushel that counts. For years a number of farmers not conversant with the growth of the plant called wheat used bad methods. I say that advisedly. They had not the experience of late and early varieties of wheat, and they depended entirely upon late rains, which sometimes did not come until May, with the result that crops failed. I have in mind a huge area of country in the eastern portion of my electorate which during the years 1914, 1915 and 1916 was under a heavy cloud in the eyes of the officers of the Lands Department, the Agricultural Department and the Agricultural Bank. Year after year the yields there were less and less. Many of the farmers during that period reaped merely sufficient grain to enable them to seed their holdings in the following year. The Government of the day sent Mr. Sutton, the Director of Agriculture, to inquire into the matter. It was thought that the soil in the locality was deficient. Indeed, the Agricultural Bank trustees were so perturbed that they made up their minds to advance no more money in the district until it was proved whether or not the land was suitable. Last week a show was held in that district, and it was demonstrated to the satisfaction of every visitor that the district so roundly condemned by the Agricultural Bank Trustees only a few years ago had put over 50,000 bags of wheat on the railway, together with 5,000 bales of wool. Mixed farming in Western Australia, in my opinion, is going to be the main factor in the success of the State; especially so on light lands, which my friend, the member who has just resumed his seat, brought under the notice of the Committee. I am positive that immense areas of Crown lands, light sandy soil with a clay foundation, are capable of producing much

wealth. It brings me to this point that I want the Committee and the Minister especially to grip, namely, the importance of analysing the soil. It is idle for any man to tell me, after the experience I had for many years in farming an 8,000-acre property in this State, that the whole of the soil requires 100 lbs. of superphosphate per acre. Yet 99 out of every hundred farmers adopt the principle of putting the same quantity of super on to all the land, whether it requires it or not.

Mr. Ferguson interjected.

Mr. STUBBS: I am talking of a subject about which I know something. I have seen such enormous supplies of superphosphates put on the land that the block has been burnt. There are farmers with 15 years' experience in my electorate who could prove what I am saying. I desire the Minister, if it lies in his power—and I am sure he will be very willing to accept the advice if it can be put into operation—to adopt a suggestion I am about to make. The last time I brought up this subject here I was told there was at Muresk a laboratory where soils could be analysed. I should like the Minister to find out whether it is not feasible to do what has been done in the Old Country for the past 20 years or more. In England they have a laboratory fitted up on wheels and travelling round from one end of the agricultural districts to the other, analysing soils for a small fee. I feel sure that if such a plan were put into operation in this State it would be the means of greatly increasing the wealth derived from the soil. I hope the Minister will inquire whether a properly equipped laboratory could not be utilised for travelling around the country. I feel convinced that the farmers would readily bear the cost of that equipment, together with the maintenance. In this I am voicing the opinion of a great number of farmers in the Great Southern district who would be willing to meet the cost of that laboratory and its maintenance. I also desire to pay a tribute to the assistance departmental officers are giving to the farmers in the direction of improving their crops. The sheep industry is a very valuable one. I make bold to say that for every farmer in the Great Southern district who is making good by wheat-growing, there are 99 who are doing better by mixing the wheat-growing with sheep-raising. I do not think there is a storekeeper in Western Australia who has any grounds for anxiety regarding the accounts of farmers who run at

least 100 sheep each. It is the man who is not in a position to fence his holding from the dingoes who is on the bread line, and struggling. Those who started with, say, 50 sheep a few years ago are now well off the storekeepers' book; and well off the Agricultural Bank books, at all events in respect of interest and sinking fund. I desire to support the Vote, and I hope that the 1928 wheat yield will be better than was expected a fortnight or three weeks ago. All the letters now coming to hand from the Great Southern districts are of a very much more encouraging nature than were those I received a few weeks ago. The wheat is filling out considerably better than was expected; this in consequence of a few kindly showers that have fallen. Unfortunately I am afraid that in the eastern portion of the wheat belt the rain came a little too late. I ask the Minister to urge his officers to continue their good work and I am sure they will earn the gratitude of a lot of people connected with agriculture, which, after all, is the backbone of Western Australia's future prosperity.

MR. C. P. WANSBROUGH (Beverley [5.22]): I wish particularly to deal with the subject of the Avondale farm. It is a hardy annual. For some time past the farm has been partly under the control of the Group Settlement Board, and has been used as a cattle holding ground for group settlement purposes. I do not know whether it was due to a change in policy, but quite recently a large number of cattle were shifted, and I understand the Avondale farm is not panning out quite as was expected when it was made a cattle holding ground for group settlement purposes. I hope it is due to a change in the policy of the department, and I sincerely hope the Minister will indicate to us what is to be the policy of the department in respect of that estate in future. I know there is a wide diversity of opinion as to what should be done with it. Recently the Minister had suggestions put up to him by people in authority that it should be disposed of. I do not agree with that. From the point of view of demonstrating what can be achieved in the production of pure seeds and what can be done in regard to improving our pastures, the farm is too valuable for the department to dispose of it, at all events in the near future. If the estate were handed over to the care of Mr. Sutton, the Director of Ag-

riculture, he would make good use of it, and the farm would fulfil what it is eminently adapted for, namely, research work in relation to plant diseases, the production of seed wheat, and demonstrating what can be done to improve our pastures. Quite recently we had an opportunity under the guidance of the Minister to attend the field day demonstration at Avondale and see something of what has been done, more particularly in regard to seed plots. But in my view the best demonstration of all was as to what can be done towards improving pastures in that area by growing subterranean clover. Avondale is in a district that enjoys an 18-inch rainfall. It has been said that subterranean clover requires a very heavy rainfall. On the day previous to the Avondale field day we had an opportunity, in company with the Minister, to inspect Daliak, the property of Mr. A. J. Monger, of York. If there is one demonstration that stands out as an education of what can be done in that area, it is the clover that we saw. There is not the slightest doubt that, by the application of top-dressing and with careful handling, Mr. Monger has brought his estate up to a point in production of fodders that is a revelation. The Avondale farm also has 150 acres of clover, which was put in last year. While not in anything like the same stage of advancement that we saw at Daliak, nevertheless it shows what can be done in the Avondale district. And when we consider that the rainfall increases as one goes south, it is seen how the carrying capacity of the land can be improved by superphosphate and careful handling. Quite a lot of attempts to establish subterranean clover have been made in the Great Southern in the past. In some instances total failure resulted, but in others a partial success was achieved.

The Premier: What is the variety of clover that Mr. Monger has?

MR. C. P. WANSBROUGH: Subterranean clover. In the past the trouble has been that while a lot of capital and energy has been put into the production of clovers, the wrong varieties have been tried. There appears to be in the State no authority to point out which is the proper variety for a given district. I believe it is by mere chance that Mr. Monger has succeeded with his clover. I have had some personal experience of the problem. Six or seven years ago I attempted to establish clover on my place.

I certainly did succeed, but not to anything like the extent achieved by Mr. Monger. Among the original seeds I used, fortunately there were one or two earlier varieties and not only are they outgrowing the other varieties, but they are pushing out the natural grasses and weeds. A mistake has been made in the past by planting the wrong varieties. Success depends on the introduction of the earlier varieties. Therein I hope the Minister and his officers will succeed in the problem of identifying the variety that is proving so successful. If the department can do that, it will be of very great help to those attempting to establish clovers. As I said just now, I hope the Minister will indicate what the department are going to do with Avondale. Naturally we were disappointed when the Government of the day did not use that magnificent estate for the establishment of an agricultural college. Still I believe it can fulfil just as important a part if it be handed over to Mr. Sutton, the Director of Agriculture, for the production of cereals and for use as a depot where plant diseases and other problems can be investigated. That brings me to the so-called Beverley sheep disease. By prominent public men in other districts it is still referred to as the Beverley sheep disease, but I am glad to see that it has been definitely named by the department as the braxy-like disease. I wish to congratulate the departmental officers on the efforts they are putting into the work of determining the cause of that ailment. In the Beverley district to-day there are not one-third the losses that we used to have, but unfortunately the ravages of the disease are spreading to other districts and it seems likely that the disease will become established in those districts. The departmental officers are giving every attention to the solution of the problem, and with the energy that Mr. Bennetts, who is in charge of the investigation, is putting into it, it should not be long before the problem is solved, to the benefit of the State generally. The member for Moore (Mr. Ferguson) referred to the good work that was being done by Mr. McCallum, the wool expert. I echo those sentiments, and more particularly should I also like to pay a tribute to Mr. McCallum for the assistance he is giving to the young people. Whenever he demonstrates, he tries to secure as many young people as possible at his gath-

erings. He even goes further; he invites them to bring along their own sheep, and then gives them practical demonstrations of the value of various classes of wool and the finest types of sheep. Unfortunately, Mr. McCallum is seriously handicapped by the inadequate means of transport provided for him. He is dependent absolutely on the train service and the assistance farmers can give him when he arrives by rail. If he were provided with a car, as other officers are, he would do much better work and at less cost to the department. Moreover, he would save a considerable amount of time. When introducing the Estimates the Minister referred to the good work that was being done at the State farms. He also paid a tribute to the Director of Agriculture, who by the adoption of scientific methods has secured excellent results at the various experimental farms. It is that feature more than anything else that will benefit the State as regards its future production—the adoption of correct methods of farming.

MR. ANGELO (Gascoyne) [5.33]: I regret that these Estimates were introduced at such a late hour last night, because it necessitated the Minister curtailing his remarks considerably. I was hoping, on this important department, that the Minister would, in his usual fluent style, make a speech on the agricultural development of the State which we could have had printed in pamphlet form and distributed throughout various parts of the world. He had a very happy story to tell last night, and I am perfectly certain that if time had permitted, he would have related that story even better than he actually did. True, we have a publicity officer who sends out periodically, good information about our agricultural development, and the progress of the State generally. Unfortunately, however, the issue of his pamphlet is very limited, and the people in the Eastern States as well as in other parts of the world are not able to acquire the knowledge of the progress we are making. Let me give one instance that will point out the necessity for having this information more widely distributed. Three months ago, whilst in Melbourne, I met two sons of pastoralists who told me they had intended coming to Western Australia either to purchase a station or take up land for the purpose of stocking it with sheep, but

that they had had some disquieting information given them. They were told by the sheep expert of one of the big stock firms doing business in Melbourne that though the State was progressing, unfortunately the wool off the sheep in Western Australia averaged only 5 lbs. That information, they said, put them off their original intention.

Hon. G. Taylor: It did not average much more in the Eastern States for many years.

Mr. ANGELO: I know. Fortunately I had with me a copy of the pocket handbook issued by the Government Statistician of Western Australia and I was able to convince them that what they had been told by the so-called expert was wrong. It was a dastardly thing to say; I can use no other expression, though the information may have been given in ignorance. It was gratifying to hear the Minister tell the House last night that the weight of wool per sheep was increasing so satisfactorily. When the annual report of the ramifications of this important department is issued, the principal features of it should be extracted and published in pamphlet form. After all, the Agricultural Department is the key department of the civil service of the State. The Lands Department surveys the land and sells it; the Public Works Department builds railways and roads, and the other departments assist, but it is all due to the good advice or the bad advice as the case may be that is given by the Agricultural Department whether we progress or not. It is my firm conviction that the Agricultural Department has done more than good work. Since the present system has been adopted of having a practical man at the head, there has been assured a continuity of policy. It was in 1919, I think, that the present Director of Agriculture was appointed, and since then he has been able to secure the services of experts to assist him, and the progress made has been most satisfactory. We must not be niggardly in respect of the experts we employ, and we want them to go amongst the farmers and the pastoralists and show them the right way to do their work. A lot of money is lost by individuals who, as laymen, set out to do things about which they know very little. But with the experts to guide them they can always be put on the right path. The employment of experts

in rendering such assistance is of economic advantage to the State. I am very pleased to hear that we are still discovering new land that is capable of settlement. As a matter of fact, we do not know what we possess, and what our land is capable of growing. It is not so very long since we started growing subterranean clover, and lately we have had proved to us the value of blue lupin. Just before I came to this House there was an agitation to declare the blue lupin a noxious weed. Now see what is being done in the Geraldton district! In February Mr. Green showed some friends of mine a little paddock of 65 acres in which he had 500 sheep, which, from September to February, had been kept fat on blue lupin alone. That was an extraordinary thing. Why I mention blue lupin is that I was down in the South-West the other day and I came across self-sown patches of blue lupin fully three feet high. This was growing as far south as Harvey and was doing wonderfully well. At the back of the Old Men's Home, about 200 yards to the north of the road, hon. members may see for themselves a patch of blue lupin growing on land that might be considered to be absolutely useless. The other day I paid a visit to the Yanchep Caves, and a farmer in a small way there showed me about a quarter of an acre of lupins. They were only depending on the rainfall and were doing wonderfully well. We have been accustomed to think that all the land to the south of Fremantle and to the north of Wanneroo is of not much value, but if we can establish on that land the blue lupin and subterranean clover, I would not be surprised to find it carrying three or four sheep to the acre. I am not going to suggest that an experimental farm should be established, but if the Minister happens to be out that way he might make an offer to some of the people there to sow the seed which might be supplied to them, with some fertiliser, and in that way establish their own experimental plots. The value of such an experiment to the State, in the event of its being successful, can be well imagined. I hope the Minister will tell the Director of Agriculture and his officers how pleased members are with the work they are doing. I trust they will continue to do that good work in the interests of the State.

MR. GRIFFITHS (Avon) [5.27]. It is gratifying to know that the Minister for Agriculture had an interesting story to tell last night, and whilst the season has been the worst we have had since 1913, the results that have been achieved in the farming areas are such that should give us great encouragement in regard to the opening up of other areas, and preclude us from taking a pessimistic view such as that held apparently by the leader-writer of the "West Australian." In an article headed "Thousands of Farms," published yesterday morning, the writer makes the common mistake of alluding to the scheme as that of "The 3,500 Farms Scheme." In conversation with the Minister for Lands, he definitely told me that it is a 3,000 farms scheme, not 3,500. The latter figures have been repeated so often that they seem to have been accepted as correct by everybody. The article in question says—

The net debt of 65 millions would seem a tremendously heavy burden to be borne by 400,000 people living in a compact area like Victoria; spread over one million square miles of territory we have the comforting feeling—

Note the sarcasm of the writer.

—that if the debt is high per head, it is at least low per acre.

He goes on to point out that we have, under tremendous difficulties, carried a river uphill to the goldfields; that we have built a harbour at Fremantle out of most unpromising material, that we have opened up the wheat belt, and that most of the settlement in the South-West has been carried out, and then he goes on to indicate that we should endeavour to get men with capital to go on the land because there is a big chance that if we get bad seasons and we have men without capital on the land, we shall face disaster. The first paragraph of the leading article concludes with the sentence—

The spirit of Lord Forrest, which demanded contemptuously of the voice of Caution, "What's a million?" is still with us.

I do not know that that spirit of optimism is altogether to be deplored. The spirit that carried the Premier, the other Ministers and many members to the goldfields in years gone by, still remains with us. If big things have been accomplished in the past, there are big things that will have to be accomplished in the future. Attention is directed to that phase in the "West Australian's"

leading article. It is pointed out that, despite the big public debt, we must settle the country areas, and while it is quite right to sound a note of warning regarding proper caution that should be exercised, it must be remembered that on the recommendation of the Migration Commission a considerable amount of money is being spent in the areas I refer to, and we must make sure that nothing rash shall be done. The object is to see that the scheme is established on such a footing that there will not be any ghastly mistakes made. In view of that, there is no reason why we should be timid regarding the 3,000 farms scheme. Recently the Minister and members travelled with me to attend the Merredin experimental farm field day. Outside the wool shed there was posted up on a notice board the following intimation:—

Useful rain.—Monthly rainfall was above the average in July by 36 points, and August by 19 points, all other months were below the average. Useful rainfall 1st April to 19th October, 1928, was 707 points, being 165 points lower than the average for the past 16 years.

Hon. members will see that the useful rainfall was nearly $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches short. It is small wonder that the visitors from the Eastern States who were present were astonished to see the crops looking so well. Among those present were master bakers from New Zealand and from the Eastern States, and they were surprised at the appearance of the crops. Those of us who have been interested in the opening up of the outer wheat belt were certainly encouraged by the sight of such fine-looking crops on the farm, particularly in view of the meagre rainfall, the worst for 16 years. We saw growing there a wheat that was originally known as Merredin 15, but which is now known as Noongaar. It is a very promising wheat, particularly in the lighter rainfall areas. With such results obtained this season, we have good reason to expect splendid returns from that class of wheat in the portions of the wheat belt with which we are more familiar. In addition to the Noongaar wheat, splendid results were noticed with Mulga oats, Algerian beans and snail clover. Flax was also grown there, and flax growers from the Eastern States expressed their astonishment at finding that we could produce such fine flax with so small a rainfall. In view of what has been accomplished at the Merredin farm, there should be no undue timidity

in opening up that class of country. We have heard certain disquieting reports regarding those areas; and in my opinion such reports should be denounced. I have read such headings as "Bullfinch crops a failure" and "Southern Cross is settled."

Mr. Teesdale: Did that appear in the "Primary Producer"?

Mr. GRIFFITHS: No, in certain country newspapers. There were many disparaging comments in those papers about the Yilgarn districts, and they should certainly be denounced. The statements made were so much moonshine. In view of the rainfall we had during the useful period, it is most encouraging to find so many crops grown successfully in that part of the State. Of course during the previous season, when there was plenty of rain, the farmers could hardly help getting good results. This year, with proper farming methods and the proper types of crops, very fine results have been obtained. In inspecting various crops, and in response to inquiries as to why certain of them were more successful, we received the same old story. The reason for success was attributed to proper farming methods and the correct varieties of wheat. Many of the paddocks had the story of the failure written plainly across them. It was evident that fallowing had not been carried out, and unsuitable varieties of wheat had been used. In some instances the results indicated the need for the issuing of departmental circulars by the Minister. On one farm there was seen a good crop extending for seven or eight chains, whereas the centre of the field was absolutely bare. Success was achieved on the outside of the field, while failure resulted in the centre. The explanation was that the outer ring of the paddock had been well fallowed, whereas in the centre of the field, for various reasons, that had not been done. I had hoped to get the Minister for Agriculture to visit the districts north-east of Westonia and I still hope to persuade him, together with bank inspectors, to consider whether anything can be done with the 4,000 or 5,000-acre blocks, to secure better production. In my opinion the holdings are altogether too large. In view of the developments that have proved that better results can be obtained from the light land with an ordinary or light rainfall, I believe it would be advantageous to cut up those large holdings. It has been shown that big areas of first-

class land are not required. If the holdings were smaller, they would probably develop into good wheat propositions, whereas at present the large dimensions of the holdings make them more semi-pastoral, rather than agricultural. I believe the largest holding comprises 4,900 acres. I hope the Minister for Agriculture will go into the question and see whether steps can be taken to bring those areas into full production. I would like to revert to the 3,000 farms scheme and the "West Australian's" comments.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I think the hon. member should discuss that matter when we deal with the Lands Estimates. I know the two subjects are interwoven, but I think it would be better to deal with that phase on the Lands Estimates.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: I think the climatic conditions I have referred to have everything to do with farming operations.

The CHAIRMAN: But the hon. member is discussing the settlement that is to take place under the 3,000 farms scheme, and that could more properly be dealt with under the Lands Estimates.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: It has to be remembered that there is another influence that will make for successful operations in the settlement of the outer areas. It is a well-known fact that south of Beverley and York, the influences of the coastal rains and what is known as the "Albany doctor" become more pronounced. Once we leave the eastern side of the railway system and go south into new country—settlers do not care much about going in a northerly direction—it is well-known that each mile further south means a better rainfall area. Rather than be dismayed at the prospect of extending farming operations in an easterly direction, I think the influences I have mentioned will render farming there much safer. In advocating such extreme caution, the "West Australian" did not take into consideration that much of the country to be farmed will come within the influences of the south coastal rains.

Mr. Teesdale: The "West Australian" advocates very great caution in connection with the scheme!

Mr. GRIFFITHS: Yes.

Mr. Lindsay: What does the newspaper mean by that?

Mr. Teesdale: A lot will be done if nothing is risked!

Mr. GRIFFITHS: In view of our present operations and what we intend to do, I secured, through the courtesy of the Commonwealth Statistician, records of rainfall from such centres as Wiluna. Somehow people have got it into their heads that in going east of Southern Cross farming operations there will not be safe. While a note of caution may be wise, a perusal of the rainfall records extending over the past 29 years at various places in the goldfields areas, makes one really astonished. The records show what a good rainfall is experienced. These figures are informative:—

	points.
Wiluna, over 27 years ..	9.83
Mt. Sir Samuel, over 24 years ..	8.79
Lawlers, over 29 years ..	8.27
Doyle's Well, over 8 years ..	11.24
Laverton, over 26 years ..	9.69
Morgans, over 26 years ..	8.91
Leonora, over 28 years ..	8.77
Mt. Ida, over 9 years ..	9.39
Kookynie, over 24 years ..	10.19
Menzies, over 29 years ..	9.79
Sandstone, over 21 years ..	9.25

Mr. Maley: At what time of the year does that rain fall?

Mr. GRIFFITHS: The point is that is the rainfall for country marked on the map as desert.

Mr. Maley: You could not grow wheat on it.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: But we could grow sheep on it. The member for Mount Margaret knows that. East of Kalgoorlie, Zanthus, over eight years has had an average rainfall of 10.39. Those records of rainfall in country marked on the map as desert should give us great comfort regarding any eastward extension of settlement now in hand or contemplated. Several members have spoken of the advisableness of importing Clydesdale stallions. I have already brought under the notice of the Minister a suggestion from the Royal Agricultural Society that a Government subsidy should be provided for the importation of Clydesdale stallions. The suggestion was conveyed to me by men who had been members of the society in Scotland before they came to this State. They are shrewd judges of horses, and they are strongly of opinion that the class of stallion in this State is not weighty enough for farm work.

They have recommended importation from Scotland for preference, New Zealand next in order and, failing that, from the Eastern States. I mention this to satisfy the good people who are very keen on our farmers getting the right type of horse that I have brought their request under the notice of the Minister. When I was member for York some years ago I met a well known gentleman there who was at one time the representative for East Perth. I refer to Mr. Titus Lander. He requested me to accompany him to inspect a well-bred bull that had died and for which a certificate was required that it had died from tuberculosis. There was no doubt that tuberculosis had been the cause of death. During that trip I was particularly impressed by Mr. Lander's statement about pleuro, with which he came into contact in the course of his work in the country. He was very insistent that pleuro was far more rife than was generally believed. I brought the matter up for discussion in the House on my return and asked several questions, and I was informed that everything possible was being done. I am informed to-day there is very little, if any, improvement in the conditions that prevailed then. We have recently had a visit from Sir Arnold Thieler and have been congratulated on our freedom from many of the diseases that play such havoc with the flocks and herds of South Africa and other countries—diseases such as rinderpest. I am assured that not only is pleuro more common than is generally believed, but that tick can be found in most corners of the State and that lice on sheep is not being grappled with as it should be. I intend to ask the Minister to lay certain files on the Table in order to ascertain why instructions issued by the inspectors have not been carried out and why certain people have been let off. Reverting to the question of migrants and their disposal after arrival, there is very little cause for the disgruntled opinions that have appeared in the "West Australian." The newcomers are to be placed on the land on a fifty-fifty basis with the colonial-born farmers. The "West Australian" suggests that we get experienced farmers with capital. According to the monthly report issued by the Government, there has been a marked increase of inquiries from the Eastern

States and New Zealand on the subject of land in Western Australia. The number has been about 800 per month or 10,000 per year. Surely amongst such a number there should not be much trouble to get a quota of farmers with capital to leaven up those not so well blessed with this world's goods. Still, we must remember that many of our successful farmers, when they settled on the land had little capital beyond stout arms and a determination to succeed. It is our duty to people this State and we must open up our agricultural lands. Western Australia has the largest area of undeveloped wheat land of any of the States of the Commonwealth. In Australia as a whole, there is 200,000,000 acres of land capable of being used for wheat growing and only 10,000,000 acres of it is in use. The largest area is in Western Australia; the next largest area is the mallee country in the north-west of Victoria, while smaller areas are to be found on Eyre's Peninsula, all of which are being developed and will be brought under production before many years have passed. In Australia 62 per cent. of our population is urban and only 38 per cent. rural. With fully 50 per cent. of the people of the Commonwealth settled in the six capital cities, less than one per cent. of the area is under cultivation, and no less than 47 per cent. of the territory is unoccupied. Fifty per cent. of the people live in the six capital cities, and probably 80 per cent. of the population live on a belt of country 100 miles wide skirting the east, south and south-western sides of the continent. While it may be urged that we should exercise caution in settling our lands, I consider there is every justification for our encouraging people to come here and engage in farming work. During the last three years the natural increase of population in Australia averaged 80,000 per annum, while the net increase by immigration was 40,000, a total of 120,000 per year, representing an increase of roughly two per cent. Contrast that slow rate of progress with the achievement of the United States which in 1913, the year before the war, received 1,197,800 people from abroad. That is more than the entire net immigration to Australia from 1860 to 1913.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is digressing on to Lands Estimates again.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: Very well, I shall switch off. For a whole decade the average wheat yield of Western Australia has been

stagnant, while that of the Eastern States has been steadily increasing. Western Australia's yield from 1909 to 1913, inclusive, averaged 10.86 bushels, while from 1919-20 to 1923-24 the average was 10.41 bushels, a drop of .45 of a bushel per acre. South Australia's wheat yields for the same periods averaged 10.27 and 12.12 bushels, an advance of 1.85 bushels per acre. With our area of 2,000,000 acres, if we could only increase our yield by one bushel per acre, it would mean half a million more money for circulation in the State.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: Before tea I showed how the average of wheat production in Western Australia had gone back, and drew a comparison with South Australia for the same period. The yield there was in the first instance 10.27 bushels, and rose to 12.12, an advance of 1.85 bushels per acre. Even with an area of 2,000,000 acres, this means that if our farmers can increase the yield by one bushel per acre, it will represent, at 5s. per bushel, added wealth to the extent of half a million pounds. I know that the objective of the Director of Agriculture is a yield of 15 bushels per acre. I do not know that that achievement is in the near future, but when brought about it will mean an immense addition to the wealth of this State. The Muresk Agricultural College has an agricultural research fund of £10,000, contributed by our merchants, and the initial aims of the institution will be to spread amongst farmers generally the better methods already in use on the best farms, and to raise the State's average yield to 15 bushels per acre in the immediate future. Endowment of research at the college will secure a continuance of progress, and the rapid dissemination of every fresh success in experiment. To show what a field there is for progress, it is only necessary to refer to the crop results achieved by Longerenong Agricultural College. In 1914 an area of 300 acres, having a rainfall of 4½ inches during the growing season and a total rainfall of 12½ inches, gave an average yield of six bushels per acre. Five years later, in 1919, the same area, with a rainfall of 4¾ inches in the growing season and a total rainfall of 11½ inches, gave an average yield of 27 bushels per acre. In view of the results achieved at Longerenong, we may confidently look forward to obtaining some results from the youths now being

trained at our own agricultural colleges. At a research conference held in Westminster, London, last year some interesting remarks were made by the chairman, the Right Hon. Walter Guinness, M.P. In outlining the object of the conference he stated—

It was to bring together and make available the combined agricultural knowledge and experience of the whole Empire in agricultural science.

He went on to point out what had been achieved by way of agricultural research, how the use of fertilisers had been discovered, and improved methods introduced. He referred to the work of men like Sir Arnold Thieler, whom we had with us recently, and whose researches in husbandry have stayed the ravages of rinderpest in South Africa. Mr. Guinness also spoke of the work of Mendel in the principles of heredity in plant and animal breeding. I consider that mention might well have been made of our own Director of Agriculture, who has introduced, among other varieties of wheat, Nabawa, which is the principal grain used in the wheat belt. Towards the close of his address, Mr. Guinness said—

At present the efficiency of plants as transformers of the sun's energy was for the best field crops only about 1 per cent.—far behind the worst motor car or engine. Research might find a way of raising the return of the soil for human labour. Great results might also come from the control and taming to human purposes of the vast population of micro-organisms in the soil. Already new discoveries in this direction had enabled them to inoculate leguminous plants artificially to convert straw into manure, and to get results of a favourable nature from a partial sterilisation of the soil. We had no need to look to any other "Mecca," if we linked up Aberdeen and its research work with many others in the British Isles, with New Zealand, Australia, Kenya, Canada, India, and so on.

Mr. Guinness considers that by combination of the scientific research authorities of our Empire we shall be able to solve all the problems with which agriculture is faced. I was interested to hear the Leader of the Country Party relate what Mr. Richardson, of Gnowangerup, had sheared from his prize-bred sheep, namely an average of 14 lbs. per fleece; and I could not help recalling a passage I read last week in a book on agriculture—

In the 17th century the soil of Great Britain only yielded about four times the amount of grain sown. Sheep reared under the wretched

conditions prevailing weighed only about 28 lbs., and yielded three to four lbs. of wool. Sheep in the 18th century were increased in weight from 28 lbs. to 80 lbs., the weight of the average cow was increased from 370 lbs. to 800 lbs., and wool fleeces from 3 lbs. to 12 lbs.

I believe the member for Moore has obtained an average of 12½ lbs. from his sheep, and this, he told me last night, has been achieved not by expensive methods but by keeping good stock. Now I should like to ask the Minister for Agriculture whether pleuro is as bad amongst our cattle as it is stated to be. Is it, in short, the menace that is represented? Are ticks and lice common throughout the length and breadth of Western Australia? If so, what steps are being taken to combat the pests? I take it the department are alive to the position, but I should like to be enabled to refute certain arguments advanced regarding the prevalence of these troubles. The member for Beverley said he was satisfied that everything possible was being done to discover the cause of braxy-like disease. The hon. member may be correct, and things may be all right; but many people say that the departmental officers are working on a wrong basis. It is not for me to set up my opinion on the matter, but I wish to bring to the Minister's attention certain theories which have been advanced, even though he may possibly smile at them. I believe it is accepted by scientists that braxy-like disease and rinderpest, which are getting among our stock, are contagious diseases. However, it has been stated to me that braxy-like disease is not a contagious fever, as is also said about rinderpest; that it is a slow, insidious gastric ailment, caused by abnormal quantities of atmospheric gases acting on the soil and rendering certain vegetation hiliary, gaseous, and dangerous to animals of similar gastric action; that, in short, the disease is due to overstimulated vegetation of low structure. As we are looking to sheep to become the big money-spinners of the future, I would urge that all possible steps be taken to ensure that our herds are kept clean, and that the mortality among them is reduced to the lowest point practicable. I understand that Mrs. Eva McNab who has advanced these theories has persuaded the people of Pingelly to place at her disposal sheep and paddocks for the purposes of experiments. She wants to make certain experiments with regard to

rinderpest. The lady in question has so impressed me with her earnestness and singleness of purpose that I think possibly there may be something more in her theories than meets the eye. The Minister who is worried by members of Parliament and other people, some with theories to ventilate, others with bees in their bonnets, may be inclined to consider the lady troublesome; but I am disposed to believe that there is a good deal in what she says. I shall leave the member for Pingelly to tell the Committee what is going on in his district in regard to investigation of stock disease, and shall merely quote a few paragraphs from a statement the lady has placed in my hands—

The carcases of cattle that had died from rinderpest lay in the bush for over two months rotting and festering, the intestines blown out with flies, and crows at their carrion feast. That alone should prove the germ theory in rinderpest well and truly negative. Besides, the experiments on animals were all negative with the exception of heifers that had had free range to the annual vegetation during the season. Scientific minds, like singing voices, are born, not made. Pieces of paper purporting to be qualifications cannot make a true investigator of any man. The world has thousands of paper-qualified persons, but they will never be heard of, so it is absurd to think knowledge cannot be accumulated without certificates. I told the experts on the 31st November, 1923, that I was a scientist without certificates, and had Mr. Robertson harkened to the lay mind (as some perforce have said), his name would have been broadcast to the farthest ends of the earth by this time, because he had the qualifications (on paper) to give it to the world, while I perhaps "may." Truth is stranger than fiction, as these documents will show. The daily Press are well acquainted with the facts, or most of them, herein stated, but it is not for them to oppose official announcements. One and all the newspapers said there were points that wanted clearing up, especially the mysterious sickness in the South-West. I have the official reports which cannot be denied—these the public never heard. Rinderpest is plant poison in different degrees, and treated as such is curable unless the creatures are too badly poison-gassed. Veterinary science is made to appear so called regarding rinderpest, for it could never have discovered that it was without organism except from a knowledge of other sciences.

The official forecast we have had of a crop of 30,000,000 bushels is good. In many quarters it has been feared that the total would be 5,000,000 bushels less. Considering the season, we shall have done remarkably well to produce 30,000,000 bushels, and this despite the fact that so much of the land has been but roughly cultivated. There is a future for

the country between Southern Cross and the southern ocean, a much better future than that imagined by people who write such articles as the leader in yesterday's "West Australian." The results this season have been most reassuring. In my peregrinations throughout the country districts I have seen some very fine crops and some very poor ones. When I sought an explanation of the difference, I was invariably told that the good crops had resulted from proper farming methods and the correct varieties of wheat, while the failures were accounted for by the absence of fallowing and the utilisation of unsuitable varieties of wheat. Taking into consideration the fact that between the eastern districts and the southern ocean there is an ever-increasing rainfall as we proceed towards the coast, I believe the prospects of the 3,000 farms scheme are not so doleful and unfinancial as the "West Australian" would have us believe.

MR. J. H. SMITH (Nelson) [7.46]: Unlike previous speakers, I do not propose to compliment the Government, nor yet the Minister for Agriculture.

Mr. Lindsay: That will be a change.

Hon. G. Taylor: A nice change, too!

Mr. J. H. SMITH: The Minister has fallen into the bad habit of looking through spectacles that enable him to see nothing but wheat in the agricultural districts. He does not appear to realise for one moment that there is such a part of this State as the South-West. People cannot live on wheat, and wheat alone. If Western Australia were to be blockaded, the residents of the South-West could grow 85 per cent. of what they required. We might have to get a little tea and sugar.

Hon. G. Taylor: But you could do without that at a pinch!

Mr. J. H. SMITH: I was rather amused to hear the Minister speak about the various experimental farms. He told us about the farm at Ghooli and said he believed, from the results that had been obtained so far, that it could be worked on a commercial basis. How will the Minister arrive at that basis? We have experimental farms in various parts, but not one in the South-West. In common with previous Governments, the present Administration have spent millions of pounds in the South-West, but had they

spent a few pounds upon the establishment of an experimental farm there to deal with fodder plants, they could have saved many thousands of pounds. Repeated efforts have been made by various members to have experimental farms established in the South-West, and not one attempt has been made to comply with those requests. Officers of various departments have spent thousands of pounds in that part of the State. In fact, I think they have squandered upwards of half a million in experiments with different grasses! If the vision of the Minister were broadened a bit, so that he could get away from his constant concern about wheat, wheat, wheat, he would realise what his duty was. He would then go to the Treasurer and ask for £10,000 for the establishment of an experimental farm at Manjimup, £10,000 for another experimental farm at Busselton, and still another £10,000 for an experimental farm at Denmark. Those farms would experiment so as to determine the proper type of fodder grasses to be grown in the various districts. If that were done it would represent a tremendous saving to the State and would be a boon to the settlers whom we all desire to be successful. If the Minister would look at the question in that light, and take his position seriously so that he could carry out his duties in the interests of all parts of the State, then he would adopt a line of action that none of his predecessors ever attempted. If he did that, he would be acting in the best interests of Western Australia, and I commend my suggestions to him for his consideration. We talk about our wheat production! Does the Minister know that 80 years ago the Giblett family grew wheat in the South-West? Practically in the heart of the present group settlement areas that family grew and gristed their wheat with an old water mill. As a matter of fact, we can grow anything we like in that part of the State. It amused me to listen to the Leader of the Country Party who for some reason or other sought to interest himself in the South-West. He recommended the Minister to consider the establishment of experimental orchards at Bridgetown and Mt. Barker.

Mr. Lindsay: You do not object to that?

Mr. J. H. SMITH: Do the hon. member and his Leader not know that we had an experimental orchard at Brunswick and that the then Leader of the Country Party de-

stroyed it. Despite that, the member for Katanning was good enough to invite the Minister to establish experimental orchards at Mt. Barker and Bridgetown whereas a few years ago his own leader pulled up such an orchard! Not a word was said about it then.

Mr. Lindsay: There was a good deal said about it.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: I did not hear the member for Katanning raise his voice in protest at that time. I do not want the Minister to establish an experimental orchard in either of the districts mentioned. The departmental inspectors are very fine. The Chief Inspector knows his business from A to Z. The orchardists in the South-West are indeed very keen and they can deal with their own problems. They have their fruit-growers' association; and, with the assistance of the departmental inspectors, ran rope with their own problems.

Mr. A. Wansbrough: At any rate the experimental stage is past in those parts.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: Yes.

The Minister for Agriculture: Then the department has done something down there?

Mr. J. H. SMITH: Quite so. Those inspectors were appointed many years ago, but the fact remains that, apart from a few experimental plots, the department has done nothing much in the South-West. We have serious problems before us, and I can now congratulate the Minister and his officers who were sent down to investigate the ravages of the lucerne flea or the red mite. I do not know what it is that is attacking the fodder grasses, and I think the problem has beaten the inspectors too.

Mr. Stubbs: Is the trouble very bad this season?

Mr. J. H. SMITH: Yes. The pastures are seriously affected. Then, again, we have diseases in our sheep. We have the braxy-like disease that originated, I believe, in the Beverley district. I think it is caused through heavy fertilisation in the first instance. It is remarkable that stock that are rolling fat are attacked and they contract a sort of lung worm. It is interesting, too, that when stock of that description are attacked, they are taken off the heavy pastures and let loose in the rough scrub, with the result that they soon get over the trouble. This represents a problem that should be looked into seriously. I know the Minister realises the position because he has sent his

officers to carry out investigations. I trust that the inspectors will be able to do something to assist the growers. Every member realises that agriculture is the backbone of the State and we must not have all our eggs in one basket. Let the Minister get away from the wheat districts for a while and start experimental farms in the South-West. If he were to do that it would result in the saving of many thousands of pounds to the State.

The Minister for Agriculture: We have been conducting a very expensive experiment in the South-West.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: The Minister is referring to the group settlements?

The Minister for Agriculture: Yes.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: That has been caused by bad administration and, if there are failures, that is the only explanation. A great deal of the trouble has been caused because we have not established experimental farms in that part of the State.

The Minister for Agriculture: I agree with you there.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: Over and over again, attempts have been made to grow grasses that are not suitable for a particular district. I know of instances where seeding has been carried out four or five times and not a blade of grass has grown. Nothing has resulted but a crop of Yorkshire fog that is of no value.

Mr. A. Wansbrough: That was due to deep ploughing.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: I do not know whether that was the cause, or whether it was really bad management. I know one man, who is now high up in the group settlement scheme, who mixed his seed with his fertiliser six weeks before it was planted! Of course he did not get a blade of grass, for the fertiliser burnt up all the seed. That happened during the administration of the Mitchell Government, but I believe the man concerned is now an authority in connection with group settlement matters. I commend my suggestions to the Minister. It is not too late now to establish experimental farms to prove what is most suitable to be grown in the respective districts. I am convinced that within the next 20 years this part of the State will depend entirely upon the South-West. It is recognised that the present season has not been very successful. Who knows but what the season will be the forerunner of worse sea-

sons such as we had a few years ago? We hope that it will not be so, but we do know that the present season has been a great disappointment. Next year the position may be worse. Should that be so, we will have to turn to the South-West for our early lambs. In that part of the State we have our grasses from the end of April until January. The South-West will prove to be the salvation of the State, and it has been neglected long enough already. I hope the Minister will consider the points I have raised and that he will induce the Premier to make provision on the Loan Estimates for the establishment of experimental farms in the South-West.

MR. BROWN (Pingelly) [7.57]: To my mind the Agricultural Department is one of the most important that we have to deal with. The State depends upon the prosperity of the agricultural industry and if that industry is not thriving, the State will not be prospering. I wish to say a few words regarding the experimental farms. I consider the establishment of those farms was an excellent idea, particularly as they are located in various parts of the State. The Director of Agriculture, Mr. Sutton, and his officials have introduced new types of wheat that have proved suitable for various districts. Splendid work has been done in that direction but I wish to sound a note of warning. We know that results depend a good deal upon the season. At the Merredin State farm we noticed the results obtained from the wheat known as Noongaar. It has proved particularly suitable for the dry areas. To my mind it closely resembles a wheat that we called "Steinweidle" in the early days. If farmers sow that wheat extensively and next season turns out to be wet, I do not think the wheat will prove very suitable. What we want in Western Australia is the cultivation of a good standard wheat that will prove reliable. I understand that we have about 150 varieties of wheat at present, and that many of them deteriorate. Should a farmer sow some of those wheats continuously, they will deteriorate quickly. What we want is a good standardised wheat that will be most adaptable for our climate. Despite all that, the experimental plots are excellent, because they are proving conclusively that we can grow wheat with a very light rainfall, provided proper methods of cultivation

are adopted. In looking over the Marredin State Farm I saw a variety of wheat that used to give a very heavy yield in a good season, but which would be absolutely no good in a year like the present. Any of that wheat, sown at the end of May, was almost a failure, but any sown on the 1st May would result in good payable crops. The member for Moore (Mr. Ferguson) has suggested that there should be an experimental plot established between Moora and Jurien Bay. It is all very light, sandy soil in that district. In my opinion it is not a cereal-growing district at all. Still, if we had an experimental farm there it would serve to demonstrate what that land could really produce. Possibly it would return a very good crop of oats, or perhaps good varieties of fodders, or root crops, such as turnips or mangels. If that could be done, since we have millions of acres of such land, and since our dairying industry is still in its infancy, experimental plots established in that district and also in the South-West, would prove to be real assets. Private individuals are doing a great deal in the way of experimenting in the South-West. There we have the group settlements, and every settler taking an interest in his land is making experiments. Consequently, they will be able to demonstrate what the land is suitable for. But along that stretch of coast referred to by the member for Moore, it certainly would be advisable to have some experimental plots. That enormous area of country could be utilised to some advantage if only we had experimental plots to demonstrate what it will produce. Now I want to say a word or two about our light lands. I do not know whether this is an opportunity for dealing with the land question, but certainly the lands are affected by agriculture. Our light lands this year have proved that with proper methods of cultivation they can produce some of our very best crops. I regret that the Agricultural Bank considers it is not advisable to make advances upon light lands, unless they be held in conjunction with heavier lands. Personally I think that policy will have to be altered. Because if we go into the wheat-growing areas where there is a rainfall of between 12 inches and 14 inches it is there proved beyond all doubt that with proper cultivation the light land will produce good, payable crops. There is a great difference between sandplain in heavy rainfall and sandplain in dry areas. It is a misnomer to

call the light land in dry areas sandplain, for the quality of the soil there is altogether different from that in sandplain areas in a heavy rainfall. The Government would be quite safe in amending the policy of the Agricultural Bank so that the bank could at least advance certain money on light land. I do not think the bank should advance, say, £1 per acre. But take a man who is holding 1,000 or 1,500 acres of light land: The bank could with safety advance him £400 or £500, which would be a wonderful help to him in developing the land.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The hon. member is carrying this land question a little too far.

Mr. BROWN: Can we expect men to make agriculture pay when they are cultivating land 50 miles away from a railway? We have here a map issued by the Surveyor General. On this map I can point out where there are people cultivating land 50 miles from a railway. Is it possible for those men to make it pay?

The CHAIRMAN: These are the Estimates of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. BROWN: Well, perhaps I will have an opportunity to say a little more about this when we reach the Railway Estimates. Nevertheless, it is costing some of those growers hundreds of pounds to get their produce to market. And what are the Agricultural Department doing in the matter? No doubt they will have a land policy, but the sooner they announce it the better, in order that those people away out there may have some assurance of a railway by which they can market their products. Now I wish to say a few words about the veterinary branch of the department. Undoubtedly the officers of that branch are doing good work. Unfortunately the braxy-like disease in sheep has become established in certain parts of the State. I am pleased to say it is not now so rampant as it was, and that the losses are not quite so great as they were a year or two ago. Just the same, on one farm in my district a man running only 600 or 700 sheep per annum has lost 800 in five years, so there must be something radically wrong on that farm. I am pleased to see the department are doing their utmost to determine through the veterinary pathologist the nature of the disease and, in turn, the remedy. The member for Avon (Mr. Griffiths) has mentioned that an unqualified scientist has started to investigate the disease. I have not much faith in unqualified scientists. We have

already a dozen or more in Western Australia who claim the ability to solve the problem, but nothing definite has yet been announced. Of course it is possible that a layman may have some knowledge of the disease and so may be able to make a valuable suggestion to the scientist as to what the trouble really is, and thus give the scientist something to work upon. But I believe Mr. Bennetts is doing really good work, and that from what he has already discovered by watching the sheep in the fields, and examining animals just on the point of death, he is getting something tangible to work upon, and in the near future will be able to enounce what the trouble really is and to suggest a remedy. Another point is that the department ought to be very careful about noxious weeds. It behoves them to see that there are not introduced into Western Australia weeds that will be a source of great trouble to farmers. A few years ago stinkwort was considered to be a noxious weed. I hold a certificate as an inspector of noxious weeds. I was appointed specially to see that the people were eradicating stinkwort. To-day that is impossible, because no matter in what district one may be travelling, he will find stinkwort all over the place. Still, it is not as bad a noxious weed as it was once thought to be. But we have the star thistle and other thistles, and many other noxious weeds which it is absolutely wrong to allow to grow in Western Australia. During my recent visit to the Midlands I was astonished to find that some of the richest land was growing nothing but noxious weeds and rubbish. A percentage of it may have been good feed for stock, but it is not to the advantage of Western Australia that we should have beautiful land covered with noxious weeds. Now let me say a little about the sheep and wool industry. No doubt the stamina and quality of our wool have increased beyond all knowledge. For that in large measure we have to thank our sheep and wool inspector. He has been very energetic, he spares no pains, he is willing to go wherever he is wanted and to give lectures and point out to the farmers the best variety of sheep for their respective districts. But there is something else to which attention is now being turned; not altogether the quality of the wool, but to the variety of sheep that will produce early lambs. All the growers are turning attention to this. Their object is mutton. Some of the British breeds are coming very much into vogue. The black-

headed sheep, or a cross with the Lincoln and such-like is proving how to produce early lambs. It will be the best paying proposition we can have. The price of fat sheep in our markets to-day is very high. If we can produce early lambs, the farmers will always find them highly profitable. I am sure that Mr. McCallum has the qualifications to advise the farmers what sort of sheep to breed to produce early lambs. Then there is the dipping of sheep. It has been pointed out to me on two or three occasions that the department are very lax in seeing to it that the conditions in respect of dipping sheep are fulfilled. I have been told on good authority that we have thousands of sheep that have never seen the dip. That is not to the best advantage of the sheep-growing industry. Dipping is compulsory, I know, but there is no inspector to find out whether the farmers do dip their sheep. Perhaps in the Midland saleyards the inspectors would be in a position to find out by examination whether or not the sheep had been dipped. But many farmers never send in their sheep to the Midland yards, and so it is quite possible that those growers do not dip their sheep. Dipping is compulsory under the Act, and I think it is advantageous because it means healthier sheep and an improved growth of wool, and so whatever the operation may cost the farmer, it will be returned to him tenfold. Now let me consider the dairying industry. That industry ought to be fostered and encouraged to the utmost, especially when we remember the quantity of butter and cheese that we are still importing into Western Australia. It is scarcely creducible that we should still be importing half a million pounds worth of butter and cheese each year, and that in spite of the group settlements and of all the other settlers in the South-West, a district splendidly adapted to the dairying industry. And in addition to butter and cheese, we are still importing every year nearly £200,000 worth of hams and bacons. That is not desirable. Surely, with a population of only a little over 400,000, and the enormous territory that we have, we ought to be able to produce annually all the butter, cheese, bacon and hams required to meet the local consumption. But we are not doing it. Butter is a product for which we always have a market. We may grow other products for which there is only the local market; and

then there is the difficulty that at certain periods of the year that market will be glutted. But butter, if properly made and preserved, can be sent overseas, where it will fetch the market value. Therefore, dairying is an industry that we should foster to the utmost. When we look round and see the quantity of fodders grown in Western Australia, it seems incredible that we should have to import so much butter. During my travels along the Midlands I saw at Yatheroo some of the finest pastures I have ever seen. I have travelled pretty well all over Australia, yet never have I seen better pastures than those on the Yatheroo estate. It did seem to me a shame that those pastures should be fattening only a few sheep and bullocks. If that estate were properly subdivided it ought to carry any number of families, with hundreds of dairy cows, and thousands of pounds worth of butter ought to be produced on that place. The member for Moore (Mr. Ferguson) tells me that there are large areas of land in that part of the State that will grow quite as good fodder. If that is so, we have a big asset there. I hope that the agricultural industry will continue to prosper. We have a very enthusiastic Minister who is doing his utmost to foster all the industries connected with his department. There is plenty of scope for the exercise of his ability, for undoubtedly agriculture is still in its infancy in Western Australia. To his department we shall have to look for the prosperity of the State.

MR. BARNARD (Sussex) [8.16]: I am sorry indeed that I cannot join with members of the Country Party in extending congratulations to the Minister for Agriculture, because he has really not done anything in my district on which I can congratulate him. Anyhow, I hope that next year I shall have reason to compliment him as the Country Party have done to-night. I have listened patiently to the remarks of various members about the experimental farms in the wheat areas. I have no objection to the establishment of experimental farms in the wheat areas, but after listening to the remarks of the representatives of those parts of the State, it seems hardly necessary to have experimental farms at all. Every member who has spoken on the

subject of wheat has told us what the country can produce and how the different farmers are developing the country. If it is necessary to have experimental farms, I can only hope that the Minister will continue the work on which he has embarked, but I think it is high time an experimental farm was established in the South-West. Much has been said on different occasions about the quantity of butter, cheese and other dairy products imported from the Eastern States. The object of inaugurating group settlement in the South-West was to establish dairy farms so that produce we are importing from the Eastern States could be raised here. It would be of considerable assistance to group settlers if the Department of Agriculture had an experimental farm to demonstrate what can be done and how it should be done. I have always regarded group settlements as experimental farms in themselves, but I am sorry that owing to the administration, they have not proved to be the experimental farms I expected them to be. If the Government established an experimental farm in that part of the State it would be of great assistance. The member for Nelson (Mr. J. H. Smith) said the experimental orchard established at Brunswick for the benefit of the fruitgrowers had been destroyed. I consider it is unnecessary to have an experimental orchard. We all know we can grow in the South-West apples equal to any produced in the world. Consequently an experimental farm is not necessary to show us how to grow apples. Assistance should be rendered to the dairy industry. We do want to produce the butter, cheese and other lines required in this State and we want all the assistance the Government can give us. We realise that the Government cannot pay a bonus on the production of butter fat though if they could it would be of tremendous assistance. The dairy industry in the Eastern States was built up by a bonus and it took many years to build it up to the standard it has reached to-day. Group settlements were inaugurated only five or six years ago, and yet, to hear some members speak, one would think it was reasonable to expect that they should be equal to the dairy farms of the Eastern States. A lot of money has been spent on

the development of the South-West and I am satisfied that quite a lot of it has been wasted. If the money expended in the last four or five years had been distributed over a period of 10 or 12 years, the country would have been a long way better off. It is impossible to establish dairy farms in the course of five or six years, but I feel sure the time is coming when the dairy industry of the South-West will be able to cater for the whole of the requirements of this State. Although at present the South-West cannot be regarded as a sheep-raising district, I look forward to the time when it will be noted for the raising of early lambs and when it will be able to compete with other parts of the world in the lamb export trade. The member for Pingelly (Mr. Brown) spoke of Yatheroo and its wonderful pastures. There are portions of the South-West which, when they have been established as long as Yatheroo has been, will be able to show pastures quite the equal of those at Yatheroo. The country is equally as good; it has a splendid rainfall, and all that is necessary is to get rid of the scrub and undergrowth, and the pastures will grow. Wherever one goes on the group settlements, there may be seen pastures the equal of any in Australia, although they have been established only a few years. I am satisfied that in the next eight or ten years the pastures of the South-West will surprise some of my friends from the wheat belt, and I hope I shall still be in the House to hear them withdraw some of the remarks they have made in the past about the South-West. I trust the Minister will seriously consider the question of providing an experimental farm in the South-West.

MR. LINDSAY (Toodyav [8.22]): I do not intend to detain the House long to-night. It has been my custom on these Estimates to speak at some length, and it is evident that what I have said in the past has borne some fruit. In previous years it was my custom to talk about light land, and judging by the remarks of other members, light land has proved itself. I do not agree with the member for Moore (Mr. Ferguson) who would have us believe that the light lands of this State have been proved by the work of the Wongan Hills experimental farm. They were proved years before the Wongan Hills farm was established. What that farm has done is to make public

the results of the working of light lands. I have preached on numerous occasions the necessity for the proper farming of land. This year we have the finest illustration that any State could have on the Ghooli farm, an experimental farm situated on the extreme limit of the huge area we are to settle under the scheme that we are not permitted to mention on this vote. It has had a $5\frac{1}{2}$ -inch rainfall this year and is expected to give this season a 12-bushel average. From tens of thousands of acres in that district farmers probably will not harvest sufficient grain for seed. I have met some of the farmers from that district and, when they examined the Ghooli experimental farm, it gave them heart to return to their holdings and continue their work. There is no secret about successful farming. Success, as we have been told on many occasions, is to be achieved in dry country only by the adoption of dry-country methods. It has been proved that for every inch of rain that falls during the growing period, it is possible to produce more than three bushels of wheat to the acre. That has been proved this year and it has been proved in many years gone by. Wheatgrowing is not dependent on a heavy rainfall; wheat cannot be grown in heavy rainfall country. What is required is light rain falling at the right time. In the drier areas it is necessary to conserve the moisture from one season for the succeeding season's crop. The "West Australian," in yesterday's issue, published a leading article on this question, and seemed to express some doubt. When I spoke on the subject during the general debate I sounded a note of warning, and some members wrote me down as a pessimist. I am no pessimist as regards the development of the wheat lands of this State, but our lands can and will be developed successfully only if the land is farmed in the right way. The estimates of the department have been increased this year. That of course is only to be expected. As we continue the development of our agricultural lands, so the estimates of the Department of Agriculture must increase. It is the duty of the Government to do their best to assist the men on the land, and even to go so far as to educate them, because 19 out of 20 of the men going on the land to-day have probably never worked on a farm before. Therefore it is the duty of the Government to assist in the education of the

settlers not only in their own interests but in the interests of the State. I regret to see that the vote for vermin destruction has remained stationary. It might be contended that what was sufficient last year will be sufficient for the present year. I do not agree with that. The vote for the eradication of rabbits also covers the maintenance of the vermin-proof fence. The fence is getting older and requires more expenditure for maintenance than in the past. The rabbit nuisance has not been so bad this year as it has been for many years previously but when I travel through the State and find rabbits scattered everywhere, I am satisfied that we shall have to spend more money than we have been spending if we are going to keep the pest in check. I have a block of land somewhere near the beach at Wanneroo. I have not found it yet, but yesterday I received a rate notice containing an item of half-a-crown for vermin destruction. When owners of land bordering on the coast have to pay a vermin rate, such as we in the back country have been paying since 1917, it shows the need for adopting strict measures to keep the pest within bounds. Some owners of land are in the unenviable position of being surrounded by Crown land that has become a breeding ground for vermin. I regret that the vote has not been increased. I hope the Minister will take my remarks seriously because, if Government poison carts are to be taken off the salt lake country and well-known breeding grounds, we shall be breeding up a fresh race of rabbits to scatter over the State and do incalculable destruction to crops.

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE
(Hon. H. Millington—Leederville—in reply [8.29]: My reply will be brief. The Leader of the Opposition referred to the Esperance district. I am well aware that if that district is to be farmed successfully, it will have to be done under a system of mixed farming. The land, however, is only in the early stages of development, and the chief difficulty experienced is that of getting a sufficient water supply.

Hon. G. Taylor: That is a big drawback.

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE:
It is the big drawback of that district.

Hon. G. Taylor: There is no doubt about it.

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE:
For that reason many of the farmers have to confine their efforts to wheat growing. The country water supplies branch under the control of Mr. Cunningham has certainly constructed some very fine dams. Even there the difficulty is in respect of the catchments. I find that the farmers are taking on this work of providing the catchments. In one case, in very loose country which would have been suitable for a catchment, the land has been ploughed eight inches deep, the clay surface turned up and the catchment made in that way. At the same time you cannot advise a man to go in for sheep unless there is an assured water supply. The district is undoubtedly suitable for sheep and some of the records, so far as wool growing is concerned, appear to me to be marvellous. In that district, between Seaddan and Esperance, which is supposed to be useless, I found in a forest plantation that those in charge have also carried on other experiments. They have discovered that lupins will grow, and that subterranean clover will grow. These growths are, of course, only in the experimental stage, but I assure members that the Director of Agriculture was very much impressed with what he saw, because there is a 20-inch rainfall there, and an enormous area that can be utilised if those fodders can be profitably grown. So that to those who are disposed to take a gloomy view of Esperance, I would say that the district has never been properly tried or tested. Many settlers went there before the railway was constructed, and it is impossible to farm properly at such a distance from a railway. I do not know what the future of the district will be, but at the same time there will have to be a revolution in the methods adopted. I shall not go into that question now, but the records of Esperance undoubtedly have been disappointing. At the same time the results obtained at the State farm where proper methods of cultivation have been adopted certainly have been most encouraging and when the results are known they will go a long way towards re-establishing the reputation of the Esperance district. In respect of the experimental farms, there is a tendency on the part of members to ask for the establishment of these institutions here, there and everywhere.

The farms have been established in given districts. For instance, there is no need to have such a farm at Northam. The farms are established not exactly to do pioneering work, but to see what can be done in districts that are considered doubtful. Merredin was regarded as a doubtful district when the experimental farm was established there 20 years ago. Now it is looked upon as the centre of the wheat belt. The farm that was established at Ghooli, right on the edge of cultivation, has justified the Government in authorising the extension of the work there. The farm at Salmon Gums should have been started years before. With regard to the light lands farm at Wongan Hills, we do not claim to have pioneered light lands cultivation, but we do say that on that particular soil we have endeavoured to demonstrate the methods that it is advisable to adopt, and we can definitely say that on similar land to that, cultivation on a commercial scale can be carried on profitably. I base this information on the fact that the whole of the State farms I have visited will certainly average this season more than 12 bushels. When we consider that last year, which was our best year, the average was under 12 bushels, and that this year, which is not a good year, we shall be able to show on the State farms an average of over that of last year, it speaks well for all our wheat lands. Regarding the suggested new farm in the Moora district, I do not know that it is necessary to go to the expense of establishing a State farm there. It must not be forgotten that in addition to the State farms we have also established hundreds of experimental plots. They are under the supervision of our agricultural advisers and the same conditions obtain there as exist on the farms. Their purpose also is to demonstrate what can be done in the event of a farm being established. I do not know exactly what has been done in the district mentioned by the member for Moore, but I am prepared to give consideration to the matter to see what can be done with the lighter lands to which he has referred. Regarding the South-West, a good deal of experimental work has been carried out there, but we have a long way to go and a good deal to learn in connection with the pastures, and particularly clovers. At the Avondale farm we have experimented with clovers and I believe we have success-

fully established a plot of 100 acres. We were fortunate in sowing an early-flowering variety. As you get away from the rainfall, the early-flowering variety seeds before the hot weather sets in. That is the reason for its success at Avondale. When we know more about clovers, we shall then be able to sow the varieties that may be suitable to particular districts. With reference to stock, suggestions have been made that there should be importations from the Old Country. I was under the impression that the Government by agreeing to a pound for pound subsidy had done something worthy of commendation. It must not be forgotten that that is still the business of stock-raisers who import stock and carry on breeding; it is not the business of the State. But in respect of stock imported from overseas, an offer has already been made to the Commonwealth Government by shipping firms that they are prepared to carry stud stock from the Old Country freight free, and negotiations are in progress to deal with the other charges in connection with the importations. Therefore those who desire to take advantage of the concessions will soon have an opportunity to do so. I do not know that the Government can do more than assist the scheme put up by the Royal Agricultural Society, which scheme we subsidise. Respecting diseases, I was asked to state definitely whether pleuro is prevalent in the State. I am not saying anything of the sort. It is true that in certain parts of the Kimberleys pleuro has been discovered, but it is not prevalent, and steps have been taken by the Stock Department to minimise the spread of the disease as much as possible. The stock that are brought down are landed under quarantine conditions, but there is no need to be perturbed in respect thereto. Regarding tick and lice I have not received a report that they are prevalent. As a matter of fact the compulsory dipping regulations under the Stock Diseases Act are for the purpose of controlling tick and lice. If it can be shown where these are prevalent, I assure the House that the departmental officers will take immediate steps to see that they are dealt with in accordance with the regulations.

Mr. Ferguson: No self-respecting farmer would have them.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Certainly not. If members know of these things or if representative farmers know

that they exist, it is their duty to report the fact. Tick and lice are bad not only for the stock-raiser but for the whole district. We cannot have an army of inspectors, but we do our best to see that the regulations are carried out. All the same, I do not believe that tick and lice are as prevalent as has been made out. Reference has been made to braxy-like disease. I think the Government can be given credit for tackling the disease and endeavouring to solve the problem. I am not accepting as an authority the woman quoted by the member for Avon. I do not know that she is entitled to be classified as a veterinary pathologist. She has certain ideas, but from the departmental point of view we must have respect for the opinions of our scientific investigators. The trouble in respect of the disease is that up to date it has not been possible to discover the cause. Sir Arnold Thieler went into the question when he was here. He had the advantage of conferring with Mr. Bennetts. Sir Arnold Thieler, who is recognised as the highest authority in the world on stock diseases, would not express an opinion as to the cause of the disease. He realised that it was a problem that required to be investigated, and was not as cock-sure as the lady referred to by the member for Avon. Sir Arnold Thieler looks upon this as a most interesting problem and one that requires the closest investigation. Therefore I am not taking any notice of others who constitute themselves authorities. We have placed Mr. Bennetts' services at the disposal of the Federal Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, and that officer is devoting the whole of his time to the investigation. Mr. Bennetts has also the advantage of the assistance of the expert officers of the department as well as the Government Analyst. Therefore those who realise the seriousness of the disease can rest assured that we are doing our utmost to solve the problems of its cause and its eradication. As pointed out by Sir Arnold Thieler, when we discover the cause it will be a comparatively simple matter to combat the disease, but until the cause is discovered everybody is guessing as to the manner in which it should be treated. Members can rest assured that we are fully impressed by the seriousness of the disease, and that the best ability of the officers concerned will be devoted to solving the problem. We are hopeful of being able to discover the cause and then we shall be in a position to apply remedial measures. Regarding the South-West, I was under the

impression that that part of the State had been well treated by the Agricultural Department. I believe the horticultural branch of the department is considered to be the most efficient branch of the service. I have travelled throughout the South-West and that is the impression I gained. I believe that the advice tendered by the horticultural branch is invaluable to orchardists in the South-West. The officers of that department are experts in their own particular business. I believe the advice of the officers of the Agricultural Department is sought and followed. In eradicating codlin moth Western Australia has done what no other State has succeeded in doing. Generally speaking, the people of the South-West appreciate what has been done by the horticultural branch and its advisers. As to experiments, many millions have been spent in experiments in the South-West. I wish that they had been confined to a smaller area, and that they had been carried out before such wholesale settlement took place. However, that does not come within my department. I believe the problem is solving itself. The dairying industry is being placed on a reasonably firm basis, and we can see prospects for the future. As for belittling the South-West, I am certainly not to be included among those who do that. I look upon the South-West as offering the best prospects of any part of the State. It is only a question whether we can utilise its natural wealth and possibilities. We have run over the whole State, and are now coming back over our tracks. Undoubtedly the South-West will carry a large population and produce enormous wealth. The Government have not both eyes glued on the wheat belt to the neglect of the rest of the State. An hon. member drew attention to the need for greater activity in vermin destruction. The department realised that this was one of the years when rabbit destruction should be specially active, and during this dry season the rabbit pest has been considerably diminished. It will be the department's policy to keep the vermin boards up to the collar, and the business of the boards is to see that the individual settler complies with the regulations. As to the suggested publicity campaign, the centenary year is approaching, and I am convinced that ways and means will be evolved for giving Western Australia all the publicity desired. As for inducing people to come here to take up

land, I can state that for every block made available there are many applicants. Thus there is no need to advertise to the world generally that land is available in Western Australia.

Item—Officer in Charge Fruit Industries, £708:

Mr. SAMPSON: I agree with the Minister in regard to the work of this officer, who is a most capable man. Because of my absence I have not seen him for some months, but prior to my departure he was travelling about the country on a motor bicycle. In view of the importance of the work, it would be a paying proposition to provide him with a more comfortable conveyance.

The Minister for Agriculture: He can have a motor car if he can drive it.

Mr. SAMPSON: Thank you.

Item—Economic Entomologist, £528:

Mr. SAMPSON: I have read some of the articles written by the Entomologist and I think the State is to be congratulated on the possession of a thoughtful and capable officer.

Hon. G. TAYLOR: What are the functions of the Economic Entomologist?

The Minister for Agriculture: He is one of the most valuable men in the department.

Hon. G. TAYLOR: Where does the "economic" come in?

Mr. Davy: Why is the officer called by that title?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: I know why he holds that title, and do not consider it necessary to state the reason. He is a most capable man, and a self-trained man. Though not possessing a diploma, he is recognised by entomologists throughout the world as a capable man. He gained his knowledge in the school of experience, and it has proved of great economic value to those whom he advises. His opinion is sought not only in this State, but by recognised entomologists in other parts of the world.

Mr. Sampson: I have seen observations of his quoted in California.

Mr. DAVY: We were not questioning the officer's capacity or skill. We were merely wondering at the title of the office.

The Minister for Railways: It is just a matter of the lack of a degree.

Mr. DAVY: Probably the title has been the same ever since the office was created.

Item—Chief Inspector of Rabbits, £678:

Mr. DAVY: The salary of £678 may be quite proper, but it strikes me as extraordinary in comparison with the pay of the Chief Veterinary Surgeon, who gets only £552.

The Minister for Agriculture: He gets more than that. He ranks as Chief Inspector of Stock, with a salary of £756.

Mr. DAVY: That is Mr. Murray-Jones? The Minister for Agriculture: Yes.

Mr. DAVY: Does the position of Chief Inspector of Rabbits require any special scientific qualifications as compared with the office of Chief Inspector of Stock?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: The Chief Inspector of Rabbits administers a fairly important branch. The destruction of vermin is not a small matter; the vote for it is pretty high. The officer also looks after the upkeep of the rabbit-proof fence, and has the responsibility of administering the Vermin Act. He is also in charge of the destruction of dingoes, eagle hawks and so forth under the special tax imposed for that purpose. He administers the whole of the vermin branch.

Item—Poultry Expert, £335:

Mr. SAMPSON: Is one poultry expert sufficient for the State? I have heard complaints that the department do not look after the poultry industry to the necessary extent, and that the poultry expert or inspector is under the Stock Department. In view of the great importance of the poultry industry, it should stand alone.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: I believe the poultry adviser gives general satisfaction.

Mr. Sampson: That is so.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: His activities take him throughout the State, and in the busy season an assistant is supplied to him. We are not looking for suggestions as to how the expenditure of the department is to be increased. The difficulty is to keep it within bounds. This State is well supplied with experts. The system is that inspectors, who really should inspect, are made commercial use of; and I do not know that that is intended. Inspectors are also supposed to act as policemen, especially in the fruit branch: and that should not be the case. The Agricultural Department has 14

branches, which are well supplied with inspectors.

Mr. SAMPSON: I would be sorry to think that the Minister had gained the impression from my remarks that I criticised the efficiency or industry of the poultry expert. I know that his work is highly appreciated, but I have heard it stated that the industry has not received the attention it should in view of the great opportunities there are for development.

Item, Assistance to poultry industry, £200:

Mr. SAMPSON: Assistance could be given to this industry by the staging of exhibits at the various agricultural shows. In England the Ministry for Agriculture makes a practice of staging exhibits at the country or provincial shows, and in Staffordshire I was particularly struck with what was done in furtherance of the poultry and egg-producing industry. The Ministry, besides staging exhibits, provided instructions regarding various phases of the industry with a view to enabling the local producers to successfully compete against the imported article. In addition the department issued a variety of posters that contained advice for those engaged in the industry. The efforts of the Ministry for Agriculture are having a great effect on the industry, and that is disclosed in the statistics. In my opinion the poultry industry in this State is woefully neglected. In the United States the poultry industry is even more important than wheat production. In view of the suitability of the climate of Western Australia for the production of poultry and eggs, it would pay the Government if they recognised the possibilities of the industry, and I hope the Minister will give consideration to my suggestions.

The Minister for Agriculture: Consideration will be given to them.

Mr. SAMPSON: I hope the consideration will be translated into action, for there is much profit to be gained both to the State and to the producers.

The Minister for Agriculture: The industry will be stabilised provided the producers get the right prices.

Mr. SAMPSON: It is an important part of the functions of the departmental officers to do everything possible to develop the industry.

Item, Experimental plots, including assistance tobacco industry, £400:

Hon. G. TAYLOR: Last year £634 was voted and the expenditure amounted to £9. This year the vote is £400, or £308 more than was spent last year. Will the Minister explain who is being assisted and where tobacco is being grown in Western Australia?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: The money represents our subsidy to the Commonwealth scheme for developing the tobacco industry in Australia. That scheme is contributed to by the Imperial Government, the Commonwealth Government and the State Governments, and the two large tobacco companies are also interested in the scheme. Our quota this year is £308. Experiments have been started in this State. The Commonwealth engaged an expert from Canada and he has already established experimental plots. He explained to me that the system previously adopted in Western Australia was useless. Up to a ton to the acre was grown at Manjimup, and there is a sale for that tobacco because it can be mixed with the imported article. If we are to grow tobacco that will be acceptable to the tobacco companies, the product must be grown under the supervision of the expert. He is not sure that tobacco can be grown successfully in Western Australia, but he is hopeful. I think this will be a big thing for Australia, particularly if we can successfully produce tobacco that will give the proper aroma and other qualities necessary to meet the tastes of the public. I do not pose as an expert, but I have been told that it is necessary to grow a light tobacco and to assure that it is properly cured. I may inform hon. members that I have insisted upon a certain number of experiments being carried out in Western Australia in various localities.

Hon. G. TAYLOR: Why is it that tobacco grown here is regarded as somewhat inferior in that it has to be mixed with imported tobacco? Is it because our soil is not suitable, or because we have not the proper type of tobacco plant?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: I can give a good deal of information that is second-hand. I know that tobacco is supposed to be grown on the poorer class of soil and that the necessary fertiliser has to be added to give the quality.

Mr. Davy: Is not most of the tobacco we smoke grown in more tropical parts than at Manjimup?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Not necessarily. Different qualities have to be grown, and a type that can be grown in one part cannot be grown elsewhere. The expert is hopeful that experiments will prove successful. It is obvious that in Australia we have the variety of soil and climate that is essential, and there is no reason why we should not be able to grow sufficient to cope with our own requirements. This is not a Western Australian scheme, but one that applies to the whole of the Commonwealth. I believe that the expert appointed has the necessary knowledge to carry out the various experiments.

Mr. SAMPSON: Is the money used to encourage private growers?

The Minister for Agriculture: No, to conduct experiments.

Mr. SAMPSON: I believe that tobacco has been grown successfully at Swan View.

The Minister for Agriculture: Of course it can be grown.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: I understand that at Manjimup a man named Limmer made a success of tobacco growing, and the department availed themselves of his knowledge. I do not think sufficient assistance was rendered to him in return. A company was formed, and the business was conducted on a commercial scale. The Minister for Lands placed a reserve at their disposal and a kiln was built. I do not know that it has proved very successful. From what I have ascertained, the Minister was right when he said that tobacco seemed to grow better on sandy soil than on rich land. Mr. Michelides, the cigarette manufacturer of Perth, was at the Manjimup Show some time ago and was greatly impressed by the class of tobacco leaf produced in the district. He said it compared favourably with any that he had been treating at his factory. All I am afraid of is that as a result of the work of Mr. Gepp, the tobacco expert, there will be increased activity in Victoria and decreased activity in Western Australia.

The Minister for Agriculture: We are watching that.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: I hope the Minister will keep his eyes open.

The Minister for Agriculture: I have insisted upon experiments being carried out in Western Australia.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: I am satisfied with that assurance because we have proved that our climate is suitable for tobacco growing.

Item—Library, literature and bulletins, £60:

Mr. SAMPSON: I should like to know from the Minister whether bulletins regarding the poultry, fruit and beekeeping industries are available free to those requiring them, and if frequent issues of those bulletins are made.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: To the full extent of the money at our disposal an active campaign is conducted. The "Agricultural Journal" is free, I wish it were more widely read, for the information contained in it is of value to all agriculturists. Also advice is freely given to all who apply for it. I do not think we have had any complaints from poultry raisers that the department have not supplied them with information to the utmost.

Mr. SAMPSON: That does not answer my question. Of the items throughout the department's estimates this is the only one showing a reduction. I wondered whether the amount provided was sufficient to do what is necessary to keep those in the poultry, fruit and beekeeping industries up to date.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—College of Agriculture, £10,328—agreed to.

Department of Police (Hon. H. Millington, Minister).

Vote—Police, £228,712:

MR. SLEEMAN (Fremantle) [9.17]: Of all the Government departments this, I think, is the worst managed.

Hon. G. Taylor: There is quite a new Minister controlling it now.

Mr. SLEEMAN: It is not the Minister. From what I can see and hear, the police force is a seething mass of discontent.

The Minister for Police: You have been consulting Mrs. McNab.

Mr. SLEEMAN: I have not; neither have I consulted Mr. Connell. I did not get

my information from either of them. It is a great pity the appeal board that was sanctioned by this House last session should have been dropped, as it was.

Mr. Marshall: It was sanctioned by Parliament but denied by the Government.

Mr. SLEEMAN: We did our best. If that appeal board had been established, it would have done a lot to remove the existing discontent in the force. The department intended it to cover punishments, but not promotions. In the force the keeping of promotion from men is the commonest means of inflicting punishment on the men. If there is in the force a man disposed to speak for himself, a black mark is placed against his name and he never gets promotion. Since I have been in Parliament I have ventilated one or two cases of men being denied promotion on account of having spoken their minds. We have a recent case, so recent as the last occasion on which the police approached the Arbitration Court. A constable gave evidence before the court regarding a dispute as to overtime on escort duty. The department were beaten on the point, and the court ruled in favour of the men. But not many weeks afterwards that constable was going North on a steamer. Of course they can tell us he has gone up to get the district allowance pertaining to the North. But that is not the reason. He has gone North because he had too much to say about the overtime, and it is desired that he should be well out of the way. Then we have the officials of the union. Can anybody imagine that in a State like Western Australia in 1928 secretaries and presidents of the Police Union being told to go quietly or another job would be found for them; told by the administrative heads of the department to go quietly! Is that to be allowed in Western Australia in 1928? If those men are not to be allowed to carry out the instructions of their union, it is time the union was dissolved.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: But they must obey the Commissioner, surely.

Mr. SLEEMAN: Also an official of the union must obey the instructions given him by his union. He is not disobeying the lawful commands of the Commissioner.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: It sounded like that.

Mr. SLEEMAN: Well, that is not my meaning. It is due to their activities as unionists. It is only carrying on the busi-

ness of the union, as any union secretary should do. Would we stand for the Commissioner of Railways going to the secretary of the Railway Union and telling him that if he were not quieter the department would send him up North? I hope this matter will be investigated. If a select committee were appointed to inquire into the ramifications of the force it might make for the better working of that force. The force should be working peacefully and amicably, with no discontent, but actually there is more discontent in that department than in any other department.

Mr. Kennedy: Did not the union take up that case?

Mr. SLEEMAN: Of course they did, and the secretary of the union was told that if he did not keep quiet he would be put where he would have to keep quiet.

[Mr. Panton took the Chair.]

Mr. Kennedy: Have they not an executive and a general secretary?

Mr. SLEEMAN: Yes, and the general secretary is a very good man. Lately a certain constable accused of a certain offence was brought before a board. The section of the Act governing that board reads—

Any non-commissioned officer or constable accused of an act of insubordination or an act of misconduct against the discipline of the force, or any person preferring the charge, may require that the charge, instead of being heard as hereinbefore provided, shall be heard by a board and thereupon a board appointed by the Governor, consisting of three persons (of whom only one may be a member of the force, not being the Commissioner) may summarily inquire into on oath and determine the charge and sentence such non-commissioned officer or constable, as the case may be, to the fine or imprisonment hereinbefore mentioned.

The constable went before the board and was fined £3 with £16 costs. In the first place the decision of the board was reserved and the constable concerned was not told of that decision. But a few days afterwards: an officer told him the board had fined him £3 with £16 costs, but that the department had decided that instead of being fined he would be dismissed the service.

Mr. Marshall: They had a Lewis gun trained on him.

Mr. Mann: He was not told he would be dismissed from the service.

Mr. SLEEMAN: No. He was told he would be removed from the service under Section 8 of the Act. That section prac-

tically closes the door against his appealing or taking any action against the Government. The department could have dismissed him, and he would then have had a chance to bring a charge of wrongful dismissal. But he was removed under Section 8, which precludes any appeal. There is no redress under that section.

Hon. G. Taylor: A handy section, that!

Mr. SLEEMAN: Under that section a man can be removed without any excuse. That constable was removed, and was not given a fighting chance to sue for wrongful dismissal. If this can be permitted in 1928, I do not know what we are coming to.

Mr. Marshall: Why did they not dismiss him straight out?

Mr. SLEEMAN: They could have done that, but they appointed a board consisting of Mr. Kidson, Mr. Langsford, and Dr. Battye. That board could have recommended that the constable be dismissed, instead of which they recommended that he should be fined. At a union meeting this officer wanted to know whether the money paid for a whisky advertisement on the first page of a police manual drawn up by Chief Inspector O'Halloran had been kept by the chief inspector, or whether it was divided amongst those who authorised the publication of the manual.

Mr. Mann: Including the Minister.

Mr. SLEEMAN: Including the Minister. I do not know whether it was a very grave offence for a man to ask such a question at a union meeting. For if the chief inspector had got the £100 paid or the advertisement, he was entitled to do so. So I say Campbell was quite within his rights in asking whether the chief inspector had kept the money or whether he had distributed it amongst others. Sanctioned by the department, the chief inspector published the book on his own behalf; so if he got £100 for a whisky advertisement he was entitled to keep it. But it was not good policy to encourage by an advertisement in a semi-official publication young recruits to drink Glenoran No. 10 whisky.

Hon. G. Taylor: It is not a bad whisky.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! This is a question of the police, not of any whisky.

Mr. SLEEMAN: What I am discussing now is an advertisement for Glenoran No. 10 whisky, an advertisement published in the police manual produced by the chief inspec-

tor. The board in the first place reserved their decision.

tion. Sir James Mitchell: What, as to the Glenoran No. 10?

Mr. SLEEMAN: No. Campbell made that statement at the union conference. Eventually it appeared in a newspaper report of that conference. I say that of the two parties the newspaper publishing that statement was the worse offender. For when the statement was made in the first instance it was made under certain privilege; it was made by an officer of the force at a police conference. When the paper published the statement either the man responsible for the statement or the paper that published it should have been prosecuted. Constable Campbell was given a board and when the board was not suitable, instead of the fine being imposed, he was dismissed from the service.

Mr. Marshall: Something like Bruce with Sydney Kidman's taxation. Because those who inquired were not unanimous, he is not paying.

Mr. SLEEMAN: When Campbell appeared before the board eight witnesses gave evidence on his behalf. The only thing I am troubling about now that Campbell is out of the force is that he has no right to an appeal because he was removed under Section 8 of the Act. I hope that none of the eight men who gave evidence on his behalf will be removed under Section 8 of the Act. I have made the statement that officials of the union have been threatened that if they did not keep quieter, they would be removed somewhere where they would be quieter, and I am wondering whether Section 8 of the Act will be availed of to deal with them. If it is done, I shall try to get a select committee to find out what is going on behind the scenes.

Mr. Mann: Who did the threatening—a subordinate officer or the Commissioner?

Mr. SLEEMAN: The Commissioner threatened the secretary and president of the branch that if they were not quieter, another place would be found for them.

Hon. G. Taylor: Up north?

Mr. SLEEMAN: It might have been down south.

Mr. J. H. Smith: They could not be sent to a better place.

Mr. SLEEMAN: Evidently the Commissioner had it in mind to move them. I hope that now I have ventilated these grievances,

something will be done. It is only fair in the interests of the department that a select committee should be appointed so that we may find out what is going on.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: Let us turn the Government out first.

HON. G. TAYLOR (Mount Margaret) [9.32]: I wish to make a few remarks regarding the action of the Government on the Bill brought down last year to give greater consideration to the members of the police force. When the Bill was under discussion in Committee, I moved an amendment to the clause that gave power to deal with punishment so that the Bill would deal with promotion as well as punishment. To the utter disgust of the Government, that was passed, and the Premier told me across the floor of the House that that was the end of the Bill and the board. Thereafter the Bill was kept at the bottom of the notice paper until Parliament prorogued. Early this session I asked a question whether the Government intended to bring down the Bill again, and I received a point-blank refusal of any intention to do so. I know full well there are members on the Government side of the House who are so incensed at the action of the Government, that if a motion was tabled and a case put up, it would command sufficient support to defeat the Government on the question.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: Do it.

Hon. G. TAYLOR: I have no desire to put members who belong to the party supporting the Government in that position. It is a party from which there may be no defection by any member on any question of importance, though members would probably exercise their independence if they considered an injustice was being done. I do not wish to make any threats, but unless the Government make some genuine effort next session, which will be the last of the present Parliament, to re-introduce the Bill with the amended clause in it, there will be some trouble during the passage of the Police Estimates and on other occasions. I assure the Government that they will not get through so swimmingly as they have done this session. I am not going to associate myself with any remarks about seething discontent in the police force. If there is seething discontent, I am not aware of it. Last year I had a conversation with members of the executive about getting the Bill al-

tered in the direction in which it was subsequently amended, but since then I have not been in close touch with them. I know they are still of opinion it is absolutely necessary that the Bill be passed and that they should be working under a statute giving them the right of appeal against punishment as well as in the matter of promotion.

Mr. A. Wansbrough: They are not united.

Hon. G. TAYLOR: They are fairly well united, and if there be any truth in the statement made to-night that there is seething discontent in the force, I think that contributes largely to it. I do not say there is seething discontent, but whatever discontent does exist, the fact of that measure as amended not being passed has a lot to do with it.

The Minister for Police: There is seething discontent on the wharf.

Hon. G. TAYLOR: And there will be seething discontent here and in the party opposite if the Government do not act more honourably towards the police force.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Hon. G. TAYLOR: It is up to the Minister even at this late hour of the session to restore that Bill to the notice paper. The measure has practically completed its passage through this Chamber and there is ample time to get it passed this session. The present Minister is new to the department.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: But it is an old Government.

Hon. G. TAYLOR: I hope it will not get much older, anyhow.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: We shall see to that.

Hon. G. TAYLOR: Let the Minister bring down the Bill, and we shall then see whether it will not remove some of the discontent that has been spoken of to-night.

The Minister for Police: The members of the force are a very happy family.

Hon. G. TAYLOR: If I may judge by the official journal there is a lot of discontent. Many things, however, are being remedied. I hope the Minister will inquire into the matter. We must have a contented police force. The police are the most responsible officers of the State. We have a fine force and it is up to Parliament to see that the Government—regardless of what party may be in power—treat the force as it should be treated.

MR. MARSHALL (Murchison) [9.38]: I cannot allow this vote to pass without having a few words to say on it. I do not want entirely to endorse all the utterances of the previous speakers about the seething discontent and the possibility of a revolution or a mutiny in the police force. That there is a great deal of discontent and that the discontent in evidence is due to no other cause than autocratic administration there is very little doubt.

The Minister for Railways interjected.

Mr. MARSHALL: I wish to have my say without being molested by the Minister for Railways.

The **CHAIRMAN**: The hon. member may proceed.

Mr. MARSHALL: When the Railway Estimates come before us we shall hear what he has to say. No matter what party may be in power—Labour, Liberal, Conservative or even a Bruce-Page Government, which is a conglomeration of all—it is the duty of the Government to see that servants who are compelled to take a vow or oath to serve their country are not compelled by bad administration to do what is called mutiny. Those men are in a vile position.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: There has never been any suggestion of mutiny.

Mr. MARSHALL: What happened in Victoria, where men were persecuted for years on end? They sought justice from various Governments, but each Government refused to hear their troubles or to redress the grievances until the fire was so kindled that it burst into flames. As soon as the men said, "We have finished," the Government turned round and said, "You have mutinied." That was the accusation made against the police of Victoria. They were persecuted. Because they revolted against the persecutor, they were accused of mutiny. I hope that sort of thing is not going to happen in this State. The present Minister is new to the department and I hope he will keep his eyes open. Without consulting any member of the force he will be able to see things happening. It is apparent to me, if not to other members, that there are officers in the force who, without any apparent effort, can land themselves into almost any position. Take Chief Inspector O'Halloran. I do not speak disparagingly of his ability as an inspector; I hold him in high esteem and consider him a very efficient and good

officer. But he could step into the position of Chief Inspector and continue to hold the two jobs he had previously. He still holds the position of officer attached to the licensing bench and of officer controlling weights and measures, in addition to which he is Chief Inspector of the police of the State. I want to know whether the Minister has observed that, and whether he thinks it fair. Is it not time the junior officers received some encouragement to study, make themselves efficient and develop their ambition to rise? When they have done that, are not they entitled to promotion? If this sort of thing is allowed to continue, we shall presently have one man constituting the force, apart from sergeants and subordinates.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: If that is so, I think his salary ought to be increased.

Mr. MARSHALL: I am not concerned for the moment about the salary, and I wish to make it clear that I am not speaking disparagingly of the officer. I am contending that the administration of the force is not fair and equitable to all. I am beginning to think that the Commissioner of Police is becoming pannicky. He seems to be trying to get around him a few followers. If there is any truth in the statements of the member for Fremantle (Mr. Sleeman) he is going to do his utmost to ensure that the rank and file are not against him. As soon as they become conspicuous in an effort to secure an adjustment of their grievances he is going to separate them and distribute them far and wide, thus preventing them from organising to get what, in their opinion, is fair play and justice. I want the Minister to have some inquiries made, and I prefer that the inquiries be made by an independent tribunal such as a select committee. It has come to my knowledge that a prominent citizen who happens to have the magic letters "M.L.C." after his name and the manager of a big firm in this city were approached by a constable in the execution of his duty for doing something contrary to the law of the land. The constable was pressing for the name and address of the influential citizen, and he was told, "If you continue to persecute me or press for my name, I shall proceed to see Commissioner Connell." Whether the influential citizen did proceed to see Commissioner Connell is hard to say, but it is a re-

markable fact that the constable was ordered to move, and that he did leave the city. I do not know whether there is truth in the statement I have quoted. I want the Minister to find that out. If the Minister cannot find out, let us have a select committee. Another case concerned an important and influential gentleman of Perth who was driving a motor car and appeared to be inebriated. Possibly he is one of those fanatics who drive with the hood down and their hats off. This gentleman was approached by another constable. The constable, being convinced that the man was under the influence of liquor, took hold of the wheel of the motor car and said, "Come on, manipulate those gears." Then the constable drove him to the police station. There the man was medically examined, and found to be under the influence of liquor. This, too, was a very prominent citizen, or very friendly with the Commissioner of Police. Upon getting his victim to the charge room the constable was told that he was anything but an efficient officer in that he allowed a man under the influence of liquor to drive a car—which, however, the constable had not done. In two days' time he was told that in the routine of transfer he would have to be removed from the city. And he had to go. He was a married man with a home in Perth, and was transferred so expeditiously that he could not secure accommodation for his family either from the Department or by renting privately. It appears to me that the Commissioner of Police is beginning to get frightened. I can quote another case, with respect to which I admit frankly that I have consulted Inspector Hunter, of the Traffic Department. Inspector Hunter's arguments convinced me that he had no case, and I am still doubtful whether it would not be possible by a private inquiry to bring to book the party responsible for one of the worst smashes in this State; I refer to the Breckler case. It is astonishing that this lady could cut the corner of one of the most important intersections of the city—I believe one or two wheels of her car went right over the footway—knock over one gentleman with her car, and then swerved and knock over three or four more persons, partially cutting off a small child's leg, without the law of the land taking toll for such an accident. I wonder what would have happened if a bow-yangs had caused the accident. I am not at all satisfied with what is going on inside the police force. We have an efficient set of men

in the traffic branch, in the C.I.D., in the plain clothes, and in the uniformed section, but trouble will arise before long if despotic interference is allowed to go on without intervention on the part of the Minister to see that fair play is given to every member of the force. The men look to the Minister, for they can obtain no redress from those of superior rank. We have had arguments galore here on that subject, and many of us have done a good deal to secure redress for the police. The Government might have considered the advisability of bringing down a measure similar to that introduced last year, which proposed to give the police an appeal board to deal with dismissals, transfers, and other forms of punishment.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: Transfer is not necessarily a punishment.

Mr. Sleeman: At times it is a punishment.

Mr. MARSHALL: A man is often compelled to take a transfer out of his turn. An appeal board would see that he got fair play in such a case. It is all right for us. We here are our own masters. Within the category of the Standing Orders and subject to the ruling of the Chairman we can do what we like. So we can afford to smile at those not in a similarly fortunate position. With regard to the Campbell case, had the board been in existence, much of the trouble that took place at the conference would not have arisen. I followed the discussion closely, and my opinion is that if the board had existed many of the anomalies apparent in the administration of the police force would have been rendered impossible. Even without the right to review promotions, the board could have obviated a great deal of the trouble. It would also have tended to prevent a great deal of the discussion referred to; and probably Constable Campbell, in that case, would not have found himself in his present position. But the Government have not deemed it desirable to bring down legislation of the character they believe in, legislation for an appeal board, with exclusion of the right to review promotions.

The Minister for Railways: We have tried that three times.

Mr. MARSHALL: I know of another measure which was brought down three times, and went through on the last occasion. That Constable Campbell was placed in a very bad position admits of no denial. Whether he did right or wrong is a matter for the Minister to say. Personally I consider that

Constable Campbell did nothing but what should be done in a free country.

Mr. Mann: The worst thing was printing it.

Mr. MARSHALL: The Chairman of Committees will not permit me to deal with that aspect. I disapprove of the attitude of the Minister for Justice in dealing with the Campbell case. If Campbell had committed a crime or an offence, or anything which brought him under the eye of the Commissioner of Police, one of two things should have happened. Either he should have been told, "You shall be tried under such and such a section of the Police Act"; or else he should have been told, "We shall not give you the opportunity of being tried under the Police Act; the charge against you is of such a character, so criminal, that we shall not give you that chance; we have sufficient grounds for dismissing you from the force." Neither of those things was done. The department said to Constable Campbell, "We will give you the right to go before the board." He was given that privilege, and the board gave their decision in camera—so far as I know, the first instance of the kind.

Mr. Sleeman: Constable Campbell was tried in camera.

Mr. MARSHALL: Ultimately Campbell was informed of his fate and the board's decision. The decision was that notwithstanding what Commissioner Connell might think or say, or what the Government might believe, a sufficient penalty for Campbell was a fine of £3 with 16 guineas costs. I am taking the Minister to task for permitting the Commissioner of Police to say, "The decision of the board has been given, and it is not exactly what I want; therefore I will shelve it." He said to Constable Campbell, "I am taking the matter up now, and you are dismissed from the force under Section 8 of the Police Act." I blame the Minister for not having prevented such an action, or for not having reinstated Constable Campbell. A machine gun should not be used on a man in that way. The Commissioner of Police did not say, "I will deal with you, Campbell, your case is bad enough for me to deal with; I have the authority to deal with a man of your character, and you shall be removed from the force under Section 8." That was not the attitude adopted. Campbell was first put before the board, it being hoped, I suppose, that the board would make the recommenda-

tion desired by the Commissioner. Will the Minister support that as an act of justice? If he will stand to that, I will not stand with him. The Minister, or the Commissioner, or the inspector, or whoever happened to handle the case, had alternative methods of handling it, and should have adopted anyone of those methods to give the man fair play. But no; they had a double-barrelled gun, and they said to him, "You shall accept the decision of the board." He said, "All right." He took the decision of the board when it was given. The department waived that decision aside, saying, "It is no good to us; we do not want that; what we want is your removal and we will give it to you." I will not stand for that. I hope the Minister will have inquiries made. I do not know whether the circumstances have previously come to his knowledge. If not, it is just about time he was informed of them. I do not know what things are coming to if police officers are to be sent before various tribunals in order that decisions palatable to certain individuals may be obtained. When finally a decision is rendered, that decision is not accepted and the department say, "Now we will do it." One does not feel greatly encouraged to elaborate on such circumstances. The members of the police force, with perhaps a few exceptions, are second to none in the Commonwealth from the standpoint of efficiency, discipline and courtesy. I regard them as constituting the finest police force in the Commonwealth. Naturally in such a big organisation, there will be some officious officers, and some who will bring the general membership more or less into disrepute. We have had very few men of that description in our police force, and the force as a whole is deserving of much better treatment, and certainly should not be persecuted in any degree by one who happens to be for the time being in the position of lord and master. I want to know from the Minister if there has been any amendment to the Police Act, 1892. I understand that if the Commissioner of Police desires to alter the position with regard to the administration of the police force, all he has to do is to frame a regulation setting out that he proposes to adopt a certain course. He sends that regulation to the Minister and if it receives

the concurrence of the Minister, that regulation has the force of law in relation to the administration of the force. I want to know whether that is correct.

The Minister for Police: No.

The Minister for Railways: You told us that if it was so, you would not object. You had better get on with the business.

Mr. MARSHALL: I hope it is not correct. I hope some effort will be made by the present Minister to place the Police Act, and the regulations framed under it, before Parliament so that we shall know the real position. We shall then know how many of the provisions of that measure have been handed down for 200 or 300 years from some old Imperial statute, provisions that outlived their usefulness a century ago. I understand that some such provision was made use of to enable specific action to be taken for the benefit of certain individuals. There is not the slightest doubt that there is much discontent among the members of the police force generally. I am given to understand—I will not make any direct charges on this statement—that the Commissioner of Police at all times sets out to become hostile to such members of the force as play a prominent part from an industrial point of view. If he finds that any of his officers, irrespective of what grade they may be in, play an active part from that standpoint, he immediately warns them. He says to them, "I am warning you. You must go quietly." Even on this last occasion—the Minister will know whether this is true—on account of some anomaly that had crept into the log presented by the Police Union to the Arbitration Court, he held up the signing of the agreement for practically three weeks. This was occasioned on account of the case as presented by the union. The anomaly was overcome only by securing an industrial agreement covering the classification of the force. Notwithstanding that the agreement was sanctioned by both the Government advocate and the union advocate, it was held up for some time before it could be registered. Even when it had been registered, the Commissioner took a prominent part in splitting the union by demanding that certain of the officers should not be covered by it. I hope the Minister will go into these matters. Personally I think he would be wise if he permitted a select committee

to investigate the whole of the ramifications of our police force. If he agreed to that course, it would help him considerably and might result in more harmonious and peaceful working of the force as a whole. It would help to maintain efficiency, discipline and courtesy throughout the force generally. I hope the Minister will give serious consideration to these matters.

THE MINISTER FOR POLICE (Hon. H. Millington — Leederville — in reply) [10.7]: There are two matters in particular to which I shall refer. There are some points mentioned by the member for Fremantle (Mr. Sleeman) that I will not labour, but I will merely state what occurred. Constable Campbell was suspended and charged with disgraceful conduct towards a Minister of the Crown and towards his superior officer. At about that time I was placed in Ministerial control of the Police Department. Constable Campbell appealed against his suspension on that charge. I have not the particulars of all the charges against him, but I know that was one of them. Representatives of the Police Union waited upon me and asked that a board should be appointed, and that the union should be directly represented. Up to that time, all such boards had been appointed by the department. After discussing the matter, I agreed to the new departure. I agreed that the department should have a representative, the union a representative and that the chairman should be a police magistrate. The deputation expressed satisfaction with that arrangement, and considered they had been given a fair deal. I may inform hon. members that the deputation was particularly anxious about the personnel of the board and made one stipulation. They considered that as the charge I refer to had to do with an officer in control of the licensing branch, no one associated with the liquor trade should be appointed to the board. While the union representatives were anxious about the matter and adopted that attitude, I do not consider they were as scrupulous as the department was in regard to its nominee.

Mr. Sleeman: Whom did they nominate?

The MINISTER FOR POLICE: They nominated Mr. Langsford. I do not think it can be said that he is associated with the liquor trade. If we had been as suspicious as the union delegates, we might have been

disposed to say that Mr. Langsford was perhaps somewhat partisan! However, they nominated Mr. Langsford and his nomination was accepted. They were given a fair deal. The chairman was to be a police magistrate. Hon. members should consider the position of the department. All the officers in the force, with the exception of the Commissioner of Police, are entitled to be, and I think are, members of the police Union. In view of that fact, it was deemed advisable that someone outside the service should be nominated to represent the department. Otherwise the man who represented the Commissioner and the department would be a member of the union and he would have been in a very invidious position. The result was that Dr. Battye was appointed a member of the board. I think it will be agreed that Dr. Battye is a fair and capable man. However, the Police Union appeared to be satisfied with the constitution of the board, and I did not receive any complaint on that score. It was the first time a board had been constituted in that way. We thought that if there was a representative of each side with an independent chairman that would be sufficient. We agreed to what was asked. There was nothing wrong with that. Mr. Sleeman was not quite up to date in his facts, because he suggested that Inspector O'Halloran had received an amount for an advertisement that appeared in the "Police Manual," that he issued.

Mr. Sleeman: I want to correct the Minister. I did not say the chief inspector got any sum. I said that Campbell queried the amount paid for the whisky advertisement, and asked whether the inspector had kept the lot. What I said was that if he had got any money for it, he was entitled to keep it because he had published the book.

The MINISTER FOR POLICE: He did not publish the book. It was published by a publishing firm.

Mr. Sleeman: Why split straws? He produced the book.

The MINISTER FOR POLICE: The publisher published the manual, and he it was who was responsible for getting the advertisement.

Mr. Sleeman: Who got the money for the advertisement?

The MINISTER FOR POLICE: The publisher.

Mr. Sleeman: And did O'Halloran get nothing?

The MINISTER FOR POLICE: No.

Mr. Marshall: Did O'Halloran get any premium whatever for putting the book together?

The MINISTER FOR POLICE: He got nothing in respect to the advertisement. That is the whole point, because it was contended that he got some benefit from the whisky advertisement. He got no benefit whatever from it. It was also suggested that Mr. Drew received something. There is a lot of concern displayed about certain people's reputations, but it appears that Ministers of the Crown and Inspector O'Halloran are to be subject to innuendo and scandalous statements published about them in a newspaper circulating throughout the world, and they are to have no redress.

Mr. Sleeman: Who published the report?

The MINISTER FOR POLICE: The Police Union were responsible for publishing the statement. It was in a published report of their conference. I am not concerned about what is said at any union meeting. The offence was in publishing it to the world. The department took action against the man who made that libellous statement. Had he been proceeded against for libel, I think he would have fared far worse than he did. A charge was laid against him, and was heard by a board on which Campbell had a direct representative. The charge was one of disgraceful conduct to a Minister of the Crown and to a superior officer. Campbell had laid himself out to say all the libellous things he could about both of them. The board had to consider whether or not the charge was proven. The finding of the board was that he was guilty of the charge against him. Then the board did all they could, by fining him the maximum amount.

Mr. Sleeman: Why did the court fine him at all; and since they fined him, why was that not sufficient?

The MINISTER FOR POLICE: You are not trying the case; you have shown that you are incapable of trying anybody.

Mr. Sleeman: On a point of order. I want that withdrawn. I am just as capable as is the Minister.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The hon. member will resume his seat. If the Min-

ister has said anything offensive, he will withdraw it.

The MINISTER FOR POLICE: I withdraw it, but I will leave it to the opinion of the Committee.

Mr. Sleeman: On a point of order. I want that withdrawn.

The CHAIRMAN: The Minister must unreservedly withdraw.

The MINISTER FOR POLICE: I withdraw anything I have said that is offensive to the hon. member. The board found the charge proven. It was a pretty serious charge, for if a member of the force is to be permitted to use such language in respect of the Minister and his superior officer, any sort of discipline in the force would be impossible. The board fined him the maximum of £3 and costs. It then became a question for the Commissioner to deal with. The man had been found guilty, and under Section 8 of the Act the Commissioner had the right to vary the decision of the board and remove the offender from the service. That action was taken. If a police constable were to be permitted to use language such as Campbell did and publish it, and then be mulcted in a tuppenny-half-penny fine, it would be impossible to run the police force.

Hon. G. Taylor: Could the board have recommended dismissal?

The MINISTER FOR POLICE: I understand that in the circumstances the penalty they imposed was the maximum. That was the board's business. All they had to do was to decide whether he was guilty of the offence. They found him guilty by a unanimous decision. I do not know whether Campbell has any very great grievance, for if ever I saw a man looking for trouble. Campbell was that man. It has been suggested that there is nervousness on the part of the police constables, and that they are afraid to say a word for fear of being victimised. I could see no evidence of nervousness in the report of their conference. Some of them made the most outlandish statements regarding the administration of the force. I have seen no nervousness on the part of the police constables as to the statements they may make. Campbell was dealt with in accordance with the usual practice, and for my part, as Ministerial head of the department, I am prepared to take my share of respon-

sibility for the action in removing him from the force.

Hon. G. Taylor: It was an exceptional court.

The MINISTER FOR POLICE: Not exceptional, but it was certainly a fairly constituted court.

Mr. Sleeman: And the verdict was fair, too.

The MINISTER FOR POLICE: The verdict showed that the charge was proven. The court were not responsible for the conduct of the man charged. They were not responsible for his statements. His statements were not denied. Therefore the court had no option, and they found the charge proven.

Mr. Marshall: It was a peculiar decision for the board to give.

The MINISTER FOR POLICE: No, the board were free to say whether or not Campbell was guilty.

Mr. Marshall: Why did they inflict a penalty on him at all?

Mr. Sleeman: Was it fair for the department to come along and mete out heavier punishment?

Mr. Marshall: Why did the board impose a penalty on him if you only wanted to know from them whether he was guilty?

The MINISTER FOR POLICE: The board if they found him guilty had the option of fining him, and they fined him the maximum penalty.

Mr. Marshall: But you say it was not their job to punish him.

The MINISTER FOR POLICE: Campbell got a considerably fairer deal than he had meted out to others in the case.

Mr. Mann: You had the power to remove him without a trial if you had so desired.

The MINISTER FOR POLICE: The member for Murchison (Mr. Marshall) dealt with many cases. I do not say it is unfair to give the names, but it is a matter of innuendo and I am not going to express an opinion that certain constables were victimised. In the police force it matters not who is promoted, there is always a certain amount of dissatisfaction. That is easily understood. If there was a promotional board, do members think the police generally would be satisfied with its decisions?

Hon. G. Taylor: They would not have such grounds for complaint.

The MINISTER FOR POLICE: If the decision does not suit a particular man and if he thinks he has a grievance, he will naturally be dissatisfied. No one has suggested to me that there has been undue favouritism. I am prepared to believe that when any man is promoted someone will be dissatisfied. That applies not only to the police force, but to the public service. Everyone wants to remain in the city. Boys coming out of college do not want to go to the country; they want to remain in Perth and the whole service wants to remain in Perth. Is it not necessary for someone to go to the Kimberleys? Someone might even have to be shanghaied to the South-West.

Hon. G. Taylor: Why shanghaied?

Mr. J. H. Smith: It is a pity you were not shanghaied down there.

The MINISTER FOR POLICE: The men have to police the whole of Western Australia and some have to do the jobs in the outposts. Under any system the men sent to those places would be able to show pretty good reasons why they should remain in Perth. They could put up an unanswerable case. If a promotional board were responsible for the decisions, where would it be? I suppose it would be in Perth, and it would have to deal with cases hundreds of miles away. I do not know whether the hon. member would suggest special boards, or whether he would set up an expensive board to travel all over the State, or whether aggrieved men would have to come to Perth to put up their cases. Every decision would be tested; there would be an appeal against every one. Therefore it seems that a promotional board would be about the busiest tribunal in Western Australia.

Hon. G. Taylor: The Government brought down a Bill for a punishment board and a promotional board was added to it. The same board could have done both duties.

The MINISTER FOR POLICE: The force could have had a punishment board. The Minister for Railways, who previously administered this department, knows what occurred. The understanding between the union and the Minister was that the Bill as introduced was satisfactory, but as a result of the promotional board being included, they lost the punishment board. Anyhow, the board constituted in Campbell's case was on those lines. We have no objection to the principle of the department and the men being represented with an independent

chairman, and I endeavoured to adhere to that principle in appointing the board in Campbell's case. That is a matter which will be considered, but at present I am not going to give the member for Mt. Margaret an assurance that a Bill to his liking will be introduced.

The CHAIRMAN: The Minister is not in order in discussing under the Estimates proposed or necessary legislation.

The MINISTER FOR POLICE: But I was threatened.

The CHAIRMAN: That does not affect my ruling.

The MINISTER FOR POLICE: I cannot make any promise of what will be done. As to the seething discontent in the force, I have not observed it. Almost immediately after I was appointed to control the Police Department the union asked to meet me to discuss various matters. I met its representatives and found them a fine, capable, reasonable body of men. They discussed with me in a manly way matters that they considered of importance to them and grievances that they desired to have rectified. We had a good heart to heart talk, and I gave them to understand that if they had any genuine grievance they desired to bring before me, I would be prepared at all times to listen to them. I made it plain, however, that I would not listen to trifles or tittle-tattle. If they wanted to get some advantage for their men, they were to make sure that the case was genuine before it was referred to me and then there would be no difficulty in approaching me on any matter. Consequently they did not have to go to the member for Fremantle, the member for Murchison, or the member for Mt. Margaret.

Hon. G. Taylor: They have never been to me.

The MINISTER FOR POLICE: If discontent exists, they can come to me and discuss it. There is no need for any innuendo. I met them in a straightforward way and they can take my word—in this, I am sure the Government are behind me—that the men who make representations to me on behalf of their fellows will not be victimised. I shall see that they are not victimised and I have no reason to think that the Commissioner will victimise them. If the member for Murchison mentions a specific case, I am prepared to investigate it. Those men can have the backing of their

union. The representatives of the union were most free in their discussion and, instead of hiding what had been said at their union meetings, they have shown a disposition to publish everything to the world. There is no body of men that can be called unskilled who are on the same footing as are the police of this State.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: But they are not unskilled; they are skilful.

The MINISTER FOR POLICE: They become very skilful and capable as they gain experience, but at the outset they are placed on a far better footing than are men engaged on similar work outside.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: There is no work of a similar nature outside the force.

The Premier: Six pounds a week for a start and unskilled at the time! A tradesman has to spend five years learning his trade and then he gets only £5 10s. a week.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: Not on the railways.

The Premier: The railway men do not get £6 a week.

The MINISTER FOR POLICE: I have perused the lists, and I find that there has recently been an addition of 1s. a day to the pay of the rank and file and 2s. per day to the non-commissioned officers, a total increase per year of £17,500 granted by the Arbitration Court. I do not know where the seething discontent comes in.

The Premier: And £25,000 two years ago, making £42,000 increase in wages in two years.

Hon. G. Taylor: But you have increased the staff.

The Premier: They are best off of all the men in the Government service, and they know it too, except a few malcontents.

The MINISTER FOR POLICE: I am prepared to admit that sufficient has been said to convey the impression that discontent exists, but the discontent is confined to certain aggrieved persons. If 500 men can be found anywhere without a few malcontents and aggrieved persons, I shall be astonished. I am convinced that in the main the police force is a contented body. If it is not, I want to know what the specific grievances are. I am always there to listen to genuine grievances. As for victimisation, I can guarantee that that will not occur. No man will be victimised or pre-

judiced on account of having acted as an advocate of his fellows either in the Arbitration Court, or before the Commissioner, or before me. As for the condition of seething discontent, the allegation is too ridiculous for words. Anyone can go through the list and see what remuneration these constables and officers are receiving. There is no cause for seething discontent, and discontent does not exist. Whatever may have been the position formerly—and in the past the remuneration of constables has not been good—the members of the police force are now well in line with other workers. Their conditions of employment, too, have been considerably bettered in recent years. They now have the advantages of a union, and rightly so. As a result they can treat with the department, can approach the Arbitration Court, and in every respect have the advantages usually accruing to an organised body of men. But if anyone suggests that the union should run the police force, he can disabuse his mind of that idea. The police force must be controlled by the Commissioner of Police. The union is not in control of the department. The union has a legitimate function to perform, and performs that function. I do not bother to go to street corners for information, but I am there in my office and prepared to listen to grievances at any time. I shall take the trouble to find out what the grievances are. Here is an open invitation to men to come and state their grievances. Irrespective of the innuendo and scandal which have been retailed this evening, there is very little to complain of so far as the pay and conditions of the police are concerned.

Item—Commissioner, £1,000:

Mr. SLEEMAN: After the able manner in which the Minister has replied with regard to the Commissioner of Police, I am sure that nothing—

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member cannot deal with that aspect.

Mr. SLEEMAN: I want to know whether the Government are going to stand the Commissioner threatening men and—

The CHAIRMAN: We can only deal with the salary.

Mr. SLEEMAN: In that case, by way of drawing attention to this matter, I move—

That the item be reduced by £1.

I take that course owing to the manner in which the Commissioner has threatened certain members of the force by telling them—

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

The Minister for Police: Whom has he threatened?

Mr. SLEEMAN: I will tell the Minister that if he will tell me what he will do with the Commissioner if the threats are proved.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must not pursue that argument.

Mr. SLEEMAN: The Commissioner has threatened officials of the Police Union by telling them that if they will not be quieter he will put them in a place where they will remain quiet. Will the Minister stand up to that?

Amendment put and negatived.

Item—Chief Inspector, £550:

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: The Chief Inspector, who ought to have nothing to do beyond the duties of that position, also administers liquor legislation and the Weights and Measures Act. In any case, a salary of £550 does not seem adequate to the duties of the position of Chief Inspector. I believe this is an excellent officer, as is every other officer of the force whom I know. Discipline must be maintained in a semi-military force. The discussion which has taken place can do very little good.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is not in order in discussing that phase.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: I hope the Minister will make the position worth more than £550. The Commissioner of Police receives £1,000, which is not as much as many other departmental heads are paid, and the next salary is £450 below that.

Mr. MARSHALL: I agree with the Leader of the Opposition. The Chief Inspector of Police should not occupy practically three positions, and his remuneration is none too great. The positions concerned with liquor and weights and measures should be held by other inspectors. No Chief Inspector can remain in office for ever, and when the present occupant of the office retires there will be no officers experienced in administering liquor legislation and the Weights and Measures Act.

The MINISTER FOR POLICE: The Chief Inspector still controls weights and measures and licensing laws. The weights and measures branch was formerly particularly busy, and the Chief Inspector was

given charge of it for the purpose of organising it. He is now the nominal head of it. The work is not what it was.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: One man cannot do all those jobs.

The MINISTER FOR POLICE: A great deal of detail work was needed to organise the weights and measures section. Originally it was a full-time job. I am assured by the Commissioner that the Chief Inspector can carry on the work he now has. I do not know that there should be fancy jobs or sinecures in the Police Department.

Mr. LAMOND: I hope the Minister will give consideration to extending the present limited powers of constables in the outer stations, particularly in the North-West. I refer especially to the power to hire motor transport in cases of emergency. Last summer a prospector was lost 80 or 90 miles from Port Hedland. It was reported to the constable in charge of the station, with the request that he should proceed to the man's assistance. The post office was closed when the report was received, and the constable had to wait until 9 o'clock the next morning before he could send a telegram to the police inspector at Broome. He did not get the necessary authorisation until about mid-day and so 12 hours were lost before he could leave to search for the man. At that period of the year a delay of 12 hours might mean all the difference between life and death. The Minister could well extend the power of constables in the northern stations.

[Mr. Lutey took the Chair.]

The MINISTER FOR POLICE: I realise the difficulties that arise in circumstances such as those outlined by the hon. member. I have had experience in the Police Department, as well as in other departments, with regard to travelling allowances. If great care is not exercised, the travelling allowances often amount to more than the salary of an officer, particularly when motor cars are hired on the mileage basis. In those circumstances it is almost impossible to control the expenditure. I shall go into the question to see whether discretionary power can be vested in constables in charge of stations in the outback centres. At the same time, I must stress the point that this is one of the most difficult problems that have to be dealt with.

Vote put and passed.

Department of Child Welfare and Outdoor Relief (Hon. H. Millington, Minister).

Vote—Child Welfare and Outdoor Relief.
£109,628:

Hon. G. TAYLOR: Will the Minister give the Committee some details regarding the improvements that have taken place during the year.

The Premier: What is there new?

Hon. G. TAYLOR: Last session we passed a Bill that altered the whole position. I have no complaint to make, but I would like to know if the position has been more satisfactory.

Mr. MARSHALL: I am certainly not entirely satisfied with the housing of the Children's Court, or of the department generally.

The Minister for Agriculture: Neither are we.

Mr. MARSHALL: There are other departments that do not play any more important part in the welfare of the State than that now under discussion. It is objectionable to have women hanging round an alley-way such as exists in connection with the Children's Court. Further than that, the housing of the court itself is abominable. It is said that in wet weather the water rushes in from the rear of the premises, and invades the various rooms. If that is so, the Minister should make every endeavour to secure preference in the expenditure of money that is available. Apart from that, three years ago the Premier promised, by way of interjection, that he would increase the amount of 9s. per week payable to those in charge of State children. I am sorry to say that that promise has not been carried out. The rate of 9s. per week still continues. In view of increased expenditure in various directions, I think the Government could well increase that payment. Those who have children know how difficult it is to feed and clothe them on much more than 9s. per week. Foster parents who attend to their charges properly, cannot bring their expenses down within measurable distance of 9s. per week. I wish to remind the Premier of his promise and I hope that he will see that something is done in the near future.

Item. Maintenance of children boarded out, £8,806:

Hon. G. TAYLOR: I am concerned about the number of illegitimate children that have

to be cared for by the State. I understand that it costs practically £400 from the time the child is taken over after birth until it is released from the control of the State. Can the Minister give us any idea as to how many of these children are being looked after by the State, and what that assistance is costing us? From the reports of the proceedings in the Children's Court, I understand that the number of illegitimate children is increasing fairly rapidly.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: It has to be remembered that although the State accepts the responsibility, at the same time we endeavour to place that responsibility upon the proper shoulders wherever possible. In addition to that, we arrange for the adoption of many of the children. Last year we arranged for over 100 adoptions and during the life of the department over 1,000 adoptions have been arranged. There is an impression, owing to figures produced by one of the justices of the court, that all illegitimates cost so much per annum until they become 14 or 15 years of age. Of course, that is not so. In all instances the court makes every effort to secure payment from the people responsible for the upkeep of those in the institutions. Although the population of the State is increasing, and although this year the outdoor relief has increased owing to the unemployed—representing £5,716—the expenditure is kept within reasonable bounds. If it were not closely watched, the expenditure would increase considerably each year because of the increasing population.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: The Minister says this covers outdoor relief to the unemployed. Are there any other charity votes beside this one. Does this cover the whole of the charges?

The Minister for Agriculture: There are others.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: But this item is the one from which people are fed?

The Minister for Agriculture: This is only outdoor relief; this is not the item for widows and their children.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: The other day I went with the member for Swan (Mr. Sampson) and saw the meals these unemployed men are getting. It is certainly a very good meal, consisting of soup, meat, vegetables and sweets. But two meals a day are not enough to sustain a man. He ought

to get more. If people cannot find work, they have to be fed, and we ought to feed them decently if we feed them at all. Two meals a day are not enough. I am surprised that this item should be so small and I suggest to the Minister that those men be given three meals a day.

Mr Lindsay: Give them breakfast in bed.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: In every British community it is the accepted responsibility of the Government to feed those who cannot get work. I am convinced that two meals a day are not sufficient.

Mr. A. Wansbrough: They will never go to work if you provide them with three meals a day.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: They will work if they can get it, but they cannot get work. They looked to me miserable men, miserable because they have been a long time out of work. There are not many men unwilling to work.

The PREMIER: A lot of them are not physically fit to do the work that is offering, heavy work.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: There are sure to be some physical weaklings amongst them, and some of them probably are sick. But they ought to be reasonably well fed.

Mr. SAMPSON: I am sure the great bulk of the men do want work. Unfortunately orchard work and in many instances farm work will not return sufficient to pay the basic wage. It was a good thing that when unemployment was at its worst money was furnished to the road boards to enable work to be done. That work is now finished and no further funds are available at present. Although that work was in the nature of relief, the men who desired to take it were required to have a union ticket, a very unreasonable attitude on the part of the Government. Thus I can understand that there was a good deal of bitterness felt. It is unfair that men should be compelled to buy a union ticket at all, regardless of whether they pay for it on terms or not.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must deal with the item.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: The men are impoverished by having to buy those tickets.

Mr. SAMPSON: The meals are wonderful value for sixpence. I regret that it is necessary to provide meals for men, especially in view of the large area of un-

utilised land and the opportunities that exist for work in this State.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: I should like to hear from the Minister that at least he will look into this matter.

The PREMIER: A greater measure of relief is being given now than ever before.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: There is greater need for it.

The PREMIER: Not individually. The men are getting two sixpenny meals and that is something never given before to single men. It is the first time anything has ever been given to single men. In the past they were not even given a penny bun.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: Perhaps they did not need it.

The PREMIER: They were here and they did need it.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: They were not.

The PREMIER: I know the facts.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: What did Underwood say? "Get out and get work."

The PREMIER: If the hon. member wants to go back 15 years to the soup kitchen, I do not intend to do so. I am not reflecting on the general body of unemployed, but if we make things too comfortable by giving three meals and a bed, we shall never get some of them out of the city.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: But if there is work for them to go to?

The PREMIER: A lot of the men cannot do the work. They cannot do pick and shovel work on the roads. There are no light jobs in the country. All the work is pretty heavy, except perhaps that on the farms.

Mr. Sampson: Many of them are hard-working men.

The PREMIER: Many of them are willing, but they cannot do laborious work.

Hon. G. Taylor: They are not accustomed to it.

The PREMIER: Some of them, not a great number, think of nothing else but the sixpenny meals.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: Some may do so, but that does not refer to many of them.

The PREMIER: I think they are treated pretty generously.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: If they cannot get work they must be fed.

The PREMIER: Well, the hon. member did not feed them when he was in office.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: They were in work.

The PREMIER: They were not. The hon. member religiously refused to give any relief to single men, but now single men are getting two meals a day. There may be a greater number now than in the hon. member's time, but there were some then.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: I shall tell you what we did.

The PREMIER: I know all about it.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: Not better than I do.

The PREMIER: I have made inquiries and I know the hon. member did not give meals to single men, that is unless I have been wrongly informed by all the officers of the department.

Mr. Kenneally: Those who were on deputations know it to be a fact because he refused to do it.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: I shall have something to say about demonstrations as well as deputations.

The PREMIER: There is nothing to complain about regarding the sustenance the single men are getting. It could be better; they could get three meals a day and three good meals, but it is the taxpayers' money, and too much generosity towards single men is only an encouragement for them to hang around the city. Many of the men now getting meals have been sent to work in the country, have been out a few weeks and have them returned. Is it contended that we should give them three meals a day out of the taxpayers' money? That certainly would be an incentive for them not to remain in the country. I assure the hon. member that many who could not find work but for whom work was found in the country are back in the city. They say, perhaps rightly, that they were sent to do clearing, that they were not accustomed to the work and could not earn wages. If an inferior man undertakes contract clearing at a price that will give an average workman a fair wage, the inferior man will have to be content with what he can earn.

Mr. Sampson: That is a new principle.

The PREMIER: It is not a new principle.

Mr. Sampson: It has never been recognised by the courts.

The PREMIER: Would the hon. member retain in his employ a man who could not earn the wages?

Mr. Lindsay: It is the only principle on which we can build up the agricultural industry.

The PREMIER: It is not a new principle. Assume that clearing is offered at 30s. per acre and that it represents a good price. Some men could make good wages out of it, while some could not make £2 a week.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: You cannot pay a man more than he can earn.

The PREMIER: But when they cannot make wages they say they are entitled to throw up the job and get relief from the Government. Should we encourage that kind of thing? That has happened in recent months. Some men cannot do any kind of heavy work—it is not their fault—but there are no light jobs offering. If a man takes contract work and cannot earn the full wage, although the rate is a fair one, he will have to be content with what he is able to earn. If he throws up the job because he cannot earn as much as a qualified workman, in the hope of getting three meals a day out of the taxpayers' money, well, I cannot throw away the taxpayers' money like that.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: When I was in office we did not feed single men so long as there was work for them in the country. The Government are not going to feed men when there is work for them to do.

The Premier: There were many times when there was no work for them to do.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: There were many times when they raked up what they called 700 unemployed. I asked them to register with the department and we got perhaps 150 men, who were sent straight away to work.

The Minister for Agricultural Water Supplies: You got 1,400 registrations in July, 1922.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: I was away then. The hon. member helped to register them, but when I came back there were not 1,400. The very first day I was back Senator Needham came to me and I said, "Give me the names and I will send them straight out to work." There may have

been 1,400 registrations, but there were not 1,400 men needing work.

The Minister for Agricultural Water Supplies: They captured a train and came straight back to Perth.

The Minister for Mines: Some of them did not know where they had to go.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: The union took a considerable interest in the matter by advertising for unemployed and was very active in causing trouble.

The Minister for Agricultural Water Supplies: The people you refer to as the union did a considerable amount of good work in collecting money from private people to feed the unemployed.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: Just lately.

The Minister for Agricultural Water Supplies: No, at the time.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: I am not aware of that. I know that at the time men were encouraged to come from the country to the city to take bread out of the mouths of the married men in Perth.

The Minister for Agricultural Water Supplies: We endeavoured to push them out into the country.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: The less said by the Minister about that time, the better. Senator Needham said, "We will have a demonstration." I replied, "If you have that, I shall walk out;" and there was no demonstration.

The Premier: There has never been a time when the Trades Hall helped the unemployed more.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: There are not many demonstrations now.

The Premier: The Trades Hall have collected large sums of money, and the unions have contributed heavily.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: I refer to the way in which they were acting in those days. They always had about four times as many men out of work as we found when we wanted to send them to the country.

The Premier: A lot of them come to my office every day to complain, and they complain only about the meals; they want more meals.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: I have seen very fine men around Northam, and they go from farm to farm looking for work and get fed by the farmers. But they have

no chance of getting work, because there is no work for them to do.

The Premier: The position was bad a little while ago, but the men are out harvesting now.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: But a few weeks ago they were not. A great many of them were coming round asking for food, which is pitiable to see.

The Premier: It is still more pitiable that three or four thousand foreigners should be employed while our own people are walking about looking for work. During the last three years 6,000 foreigners have been employed.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: But many of them have been for years on the goldfields. Some of the mines, it was said, were manned entirely by foreigners.

The Premier: Many of them are on the goldfields yet.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: Many of them are good men, and naturalised.

The Premier: Not many of them are naturalised. Of course some of the old mining hands are.

Mr. Chesson: The percentage naturalised is very small.

The Minister for Mines: I have drawn attention to the number of foreigners employed at Gwalia, and I have received an assurance that any Britisher who comes along shall get preference. I have been informed by the mine employees that that is being carried out.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: Foreigners must have the right to work, having been employed on the goldfields for many years.

The Premier: But we should give preference to our own people.

The CHAIRMAN: I think hon. members had better adhere to the item.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: The Premier said that much of the unemployment was due to foreigners having come in during the last two years.

The Premier: The last three years.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: No doubt that has made a difference. If there is no work for men and if we are feeding them, there is no reason why we should not give them enough food.

The Premier: The men getting meal tickets are unmarried men. The married men are receiving sustenance.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: Many of those men are quite unfit for work. No one

would employ a man for long paying him more than he can earn.

The Premier: The 400 odd men sent to L'orrestania to clear roads are all doing well, but of course they were picked more or less.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: We do want to see everybody at work, but if men are not at work they ought to have enough to eat.

The Premier: If some men could get enough to eat without working, they would never work.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: That is a common complaint. I think we are none of us too keen on work. We are all born with a perfect willingness to take things easy.

The Premier: A sense of manhood protects most people. They would rather have work than charity.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: In many of these men ambition is dead, and they are willing to take things easy, especially where life is pleasanter than it is in the country.

Mr. SAMPSON: Reference has been made to the treatment of single men in 1923. The men who were then out of work did receive a limited amount of help.

Mr. Chesson: Very limited.

Mr. SAMPSON: The men were carefully checked as to whether they were prepared to accept work if offered. In many cases they were given railway tickets to enable them to go to the country. If a man failed to do what his physique enabled him to do, he was given no meals whatever. I do not think any member of this Chamber would support the provision of meal tickets for those who can work and will not. I am sure, however, that the great majority of the men are keen on obtaining work.

The CHAIRMAN: I do not want a general discussion.

Mr. SAMPSON: I wish to reply to a statement made by the Minister for Mines. It was that a man in my office would not be paid any more than he was worth. If a man is employed in a trade, he must be paid what the award prescribes. The Premier says men have to be content with what they can earn. Even that statement is not correct, because if a man cannot earn the basic wage he is not employed.

The CHAIRMAN: I do not wish this discussion to continue.

Mr. SAMPSON: The position is always difficult in winter, and I am sure sympathy is with the unemployed. At the same time

I will not stand for the provision of meals for those who can work and will not.

Item, Outdoor Relief, including services incidental thereto, etc., £10,230:

Hon. G. TAYLOR: Why have we the unemployed? The Premier gave one good reason. However, wages are set at a certain figure, and all men looking for work must get those wages. A great proportion of the unemployed are not able to earn the wages, and consequently are not offered work. If they are offered work and cannot give the necessary return for the money available, they are dismissed, or they leave. Under the existing system of demanding a high basic wage to be paid irrespective of a man's capacity to undertake the work required of him, there must be increased unemployment. Men can expect to get only what they can earn. On the other hand if a man were able to work sufficiently well to earn £3 a week, he cannot have that opportunity because of the ruling basic wage.

Miss Holman: Many of the timber workers cannot earn as much as the basic wage at the present time.

Hon. G. TAYLOR: I do not object to the basic wage for men who can earn it, but there are many men who cannot do so. Men of that type, should they take on work, find that they cannot do it, and they come back on to the labour market in Perth and expect to get three meals a day. There are many who are willing to work, but their physique is against them. It was appalling to see some of the men who were put on the tramway relaying work in the suburb where I live. They had been ill fed and were really not capable of doing the work, but they struggled on and were soon able to make a good showing.

The Minister for Agriculture: That applies to all navvying in such circumstances.

Hon. G. TAYLOR: The point I want to make is that no country can carry people who cannot earn their wages. I advocate high wages for men who can earn them, but all men are not in a position to do so. Many are willing, but as they cannot earn the basic wage, they are deprived of the right to earn a less amount. I think the Premier was quite right when he said that he would not provide a man with three meals a day, when there was work offering that was suitable for that individual.

Vote put and passed.

Votes—Public Utilities: Aborigines' Cattle Station (Moola Bulla), £5,317; Aborigines' Cattle Station (Avon Valley), £1,341; Albany Cold Stores, £1,060; Goldfields Water Supply Undertaking, £112,032; Kalgoorlie Abattoirs, £2,393; Metropolitan Abattoirs and Saleyards, £1,564—agreed to.

Vote—Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Department, £146,188:

Mr. SAMPSON: On previous occasions references have been made to the policy of the Government in regard to the resumption of land for catchment purposes. When I was in England recently, I inspected the water filtration beds used in connection with the water supply for York. The water is taken from the River Ouse and passes through the filtration beds into the reservoir. Thoroughly good water is obtained in that way. I would like to ask the Minister whether consideration has been given to the adoption of a similar policy in Western Australia so that instead of resuming, as at present, some of the best type of land for catchment purposes, it would be possible, by providing filtration beds, to obviate the withholding of vast areas of country from cultivation. I believe the policy is wrong and the longer it is continued, the greater will be the area required for water catchment purposes.

Item—Engineer Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage, Metropolitan Area, £960:

Mr. SAMPSON: I want to draw the attention of the Minister to the unfair treatment of a settler in the Armadale district, whose holding is on the southern branch of the Wongong Brook. The departmental scheme has been responsible for a material diminution of the flow in the brook to this settler's property, and in consequence he has had to put down a well and erect a windmill. This settler, a Mr. Marsh, has lived in the district for over 30 years; indeed, I think he was born there. Mr. Marsh makes his living by the depasturing of stock on his holding, and the diminution of the water in the brook has seriously interfered with his operations. Unless he has sufficient water, his stock cannot be depastured, and so to make good the supply of water, reduced by the departmental scheme, he has had to sink a well

and erect a mill and troughs. When a man has suffered a loss such as that, he should be compensated.

The Premier: We will look into it.

Mr. SAMPSON: The department has looked into it already and ruled that compensation cannot be paid. If Mr. Marsh has to fight a case in court before he can secure compensation, it will be a grave reflection on the Government. I should be grateful if the Minister for Works would put aside the legal aspect of this thing and treat it from the standpoint of what is reasonable compensation.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: At no time has the department taken all the water from the Wongong Brook, although we have the legal right to take the whole of it if we like.

Mr. Davy: And pay nothing?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Yes. Out of consideration for the settlers lower down we have always allowed water to run down the brook. All we have done at Wongong is put in pipe-head dams with walls about 3ft. 6 inches high to train the stream, and water is taken for only a portion of the year. In each of the schemes investigated by the Engineer-in-Chief—Churchman's Brook, Wongong and Canning—he has allowed to go down the streams quantities of water equal to the supplies that went down before the department erected its dams.

Mr. Sampson: There could not be the same flow as previously.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Nearly the same flow. Only during part of the year do we take any water.

Mr. Davy: If you take a pipe-full it must diminish the supply seriously.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: We do not take half a pipe.

Mr. Davy: Well, half a pipe would make a difference.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The wall backs up a certain quantity of water, but some has always been allowed to go down to meet the requirements of settlers lower down the river. As the metropolitan area grows and the demand for water increases, we shall require not only all the water from Canning, Churchman's Brook and Wongong Brook, but shall have to take the water of the Serpentine, and within a decade or two we shall probably have to draw on the water of the Murray.

Mr. Sampson: As an act of grace you should pay this man.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: If we once started to pay on that basis there is no telling where it would end. The department has done well in its efforts to meet the requirements of the settlers. I do not think any part of Australia, much less of West Australia, has reached the stage when it can adopt the filtration process. We have so many millions of broad acres and the cost of the filtration process would be prohibitive.

The CHAIRMAN: The Minister is opening up a wide discussion.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I did not want to deal with it; I am merely replying to a question. There is no possibility of the department's undertaking filtration, I should say, for the next 50 years, as against the policy of big catchment areas. The Engineer for Water Supplies is on long service leave in England and is acquainting himself with the practice there.

Mr. SAMPSON: I am endeavouring to obtain from the Water Supply Board of York, England, particulars of the practice there. In view of the small staff engaged at its waterworks, the question might well be considered here. The complaint of Mr. Marsh is no reflection on the Minister, but it is a grave reflection on the immorality of governmental activity that such a thing can happen, and that the Government can disclaim responsibility and refuse to pay compensation.

The Minister for Agricultural Water Supplies: How would you remedy it?

Mr. SAMPSON: By assessing the damage and paying compensation. Because the man does not want to go to court, the Government should not adopt a bullying and inequitable attitude. The people of Perth must have water, but in such circumstances they should compensate the owners of land. Mr. Marsh's letter dated the 29th October, 1928, reads—

I am writing this letter to inform you how the Government have treated me since they started taking the water from the Wongong Brook to Perth early in February, 1926. I had no water for my stock during the rest of that summer. I saw the Water Supply Department and was informed that there would be no shortage of water again. I am enclosing a list to let you know when it ran and when it stopped. Owing to its being so irregular, I was compelled to sink a well and erect a windmill tank and troughs. I put in a claim for £150 to the Water Supply Department and

the answer I got was that they accept no responsibility.

I need not cite justice and liberty and all that, but such is the treatment a citizen can get and the department accept no responsibility. Mr. Marsh states that the water stopped on the 1st December, 1926, and ran again on 23rd. It stopped on the 7th February, 1927, and ran again on the 10th. It stopped on the 14th April, and ran again on the 22nd. It stopped on the 19th December, and ran again on the 24th. It stopped again on the 25th December, and ran again on the 10th January. How would the stock get on in the meantime? Then the water stopped once more on the 10th January, and did not run again till the 1st February. It stopped on the 4th February, and ran on the 10th. It stopped on the 21st February, and ran on the 2nd March. It stopped on the 4th March, and ran on the 8th April. It stopped on the 13th April, and ran again on the 18th.

The Minister for Works: Does he state on which days it rained during that period? The department do not control the weather.

Mr. SAMPSON: In the summer the water is desired by the department. This is a statement that has been carefully compiled by my constituent.

The Minister for Works: It was a dry summer, and the streams did not run as well as usual.

Mr. SAMPSON: Fairness should be shown to this man.

The Minister for Agricultural Water Supplies: It shall be shown.

Mr. SAMPSON: That means compensation.

Hon. G. TAYLOR: Is the engineer for water supply, sewerage and drainage in the metropolitan area, the man who draws the plans and specifications, and under whose supervision surveys are made, for the sewerage of Perth?

The Minister for Works: I understand your place is connected.

Hon. G. TAYLOR: No. The Minister's men were there months ago taking surveys and levels, but nothing has been done. I see here a recoup for services rendered by engineers.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I do not know whether the area referred to by the hon. member has been authorised. I think that area was authorised the other day. However, the matter is applicable to

Loan Estimates. The law requires that there should be advertisements for a certain period. I was told that the district the hon. member has in mind had been finished, but my information must be incorrect. I will look into the matter.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—Other Hydraulic Undertakings chargeable to revenue, £30,300:

Mr. GRIFFITHS: I have a small complaint to make regarding this vote. In the Totadjin area, which is supplied from the Belka extension, the people are rated at so much per acre. They complain that while the first rate includes overhead charges, they are charged 6s. 8d. per thousand for excess water, while at Hine's Hill South the charge for excess water is only 2s. 6d. They contend that the excess water should be charged at the first rate. The Minister for Agriculture heard complaints regarding this on the field day at Merredin, and said he would go into the matter upon his return to Perth.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—Perth City Markets £788—agreed to.

Department of Railways, Tramways, and Electricity Supply (Hon. J. C. Willcock, Minister).

Vote—Railways, Tramways, and Electricity Supply, £3,594,000:

MR. SAMPSON (Swan) [11.58]: I do not wish to speak before the Minister.

The Minister for Railways: Proceed.

Mr. SAMPSON: I desire to pay a tribute to the gentleman who has acted as Commissioner of Railways for the past seven years. In Colonel Pope we had not only an efficient man, but one who was very popular, and regarded very highly both in and out of the service. It is a matter for extreme regret that his health has broken down to such an extent as to make him unable to continue his work. The splendid manner in which he discharged his duties will not be forgotten. His administration of the railways was such as to cause flattering comment. I venture to hope that it will be possible to secure a successor from within the service. We are too prone to look abroad for officers, failing to note the good men at hand, men who have been educated and developed in the service. There are peculiarities and difficul-

ties connected with every railway system which are best mastered by those who have had a long experience in it. I do not desire to refer to any particular railway officer who has been appointed to take charge of any one of the railway systems in the Eastern States. My mere reference to that subject will remind members that men who have been brought from overseas are not invariably the best qualified to carry out such work in Australia. I have little doubt that the Minister for Railways will give consideration to the officers already in the service of this State, when considering the appointment of Colonel Pope's successor. My experience prompts me to believe that in every industry the best men are those who have grown up in those industries, and I think I am safe in assuming that the same principle will apply in connection with our railways. Men of repute in railway working may be brought from Canada, England, or the United States and may be very good men at their work, but it must be remembered that the methods employed in other countries are not similar to those operating in Australia, and consequently much of their knowledge is not applicable to conditions throughout the Commonwealth. On the other hand, men acquainted with railway work here will know the weaknesses, difficulties and peculiarities of our system. It seems to me that if men who are in the running for the highest post in connection with our railways are energetic and ambitious, as we would expect such men to be, they would be keen on securing all the latest railway literature and thus keep in touch with the most recent developments throughout the world. Men of that description would, I am sure, prove to be better than the majority of those who could be brought from overseas. I understand the Minister does intend to select a man from within the service if it is at all possible. I would like to hear a definite pronouncement from him on that subject. It will be conceded that our railway service is a very good one, and the fact that there is contentment throughout is a striking commendation of the good work of Colonel Pope and also of the manner in which the Minister himself has carried out his part of the task.

MR. J. H. SMITH (Nelson) [12.4]: The number of derailments that have occurred within recent times is rather alarming. Has the Minister been able to arrive at a solution

of the difficulty? Has he satisfied himself as to the causes of the derailments? I notice that on each occasion railway officials have proceeded to the scene of the accidents, but I have not noticed any report as to their findings. In my opinion the explanation is to be found in the fact that the railway system is being starved.

The Minister for Railways: That is not so.

MR. J. H. SMITH: At Kirup and Noonans the sleepers are not in a good condition. In fact, I think the Government should proceed more expeditiously with the re-laying and re-sleeping of the railway tracks throughout the State.

The Minister for Railways: We have already spent a lot of money in that direction.

MR. J. H. SMITH: And there is room for the expenditure of much more money. At present the timber industry is in a bad way, and a lot of men are out of work. It would pay the Government to thoroughly investigate the condition of the tracks. At Noonans the sleepers are in a very bad state. I do not know what the position is at other centres where the accidents took place. When people have asked me what, in my opinion, was the reason for such a succession of derailments, I have pointed to the condition of the sleepers. In my opinion the position is rather alarming. I presume that the Minister has had reports dealing with these matters and I trust he will give us some information. On previous occasions I have spoken about the condition of stations and railway buildings generally. The Minister would be well advised to give the buildings a coat of paint occasionally and help to preserve them. That applies to the railway buildings throughout the State. Another matter I would refer to is the position at Manjimup, which is a busy centre. No adequate platform is provided. I understand there is some difficulty in determining on which side of the line the platform should be constructed. It is a wonder that serious accidents have not occurred there, because people have to descend from the carriages while shunting is going on alongside. I hope the Minister will have this matter looked into and that he will erect a platform and station buildings at Manjimup. We realise that the railways represent a large concern and it is the duty of the Commissioner to make the service pay. That has been done by Colonel Pope. The service provided is a good one, and we have nothing to complain about on that score.

Colonel Pope has done his best to meet all requests made to him and to provide the best service possible. There is a lot to be done in connection with buildings, yards and additional accommodation throughout the South-West. The Commissioner has a hard task before him because the Minister desires the railways to meet the interest and sinking fund charges. I hope that will not be done at the expense of the safety of the general public or to the disadvantage of the producers.

MR. LINDSAY (Toodyay) [12.8]: I have a few requests to make to the Minister. At the outset I would like to acknowledge that the Railway Department has extended to me more consideration than has any other department. If I write to the Commissioner of Railways or his officers, I always receive an acknowledgment and later on a reply to my communication. That is of great assistance to a member of Parliament, because it enables him to forward the acknowledgment to the people on whose behalf he has acted, and later on he can furnish them with the departmental reply to his inquiries. Although it may not always be possible to get all we desire, the Commissioner does his best to meet us. One of the requests I have to make is for more trucking yards. I know that the department can provide a certain number only each year, but in some of the agricultural districts where the farmers are going in for stock, great difficulty is experienced in travelling the stock for miles in order to truck them to market. Another difficulty experienced at many centres arises from the fact that the railway stations have been constructed on the wrong side of the line. In my electorate there is only one station or siding, perhaps two, where the station and buildings are on the same side of the line as the town. Consequently, people are forced to make their way through lines of trucks to get to the station. I am not going to ask for the construction of any ramp, because in my opinion ramps are unnecessary.

MR. J. H. SMITH: That is to say, in your electorate.

MR. LINDSAY: In other parts of the world the provision of ramps has been dispensed with. There should be some re-organisation of the railway yard at Wyalcatchem, and the railway buildings should

be put on the proper side of the line. I hope the difficulties we have encountered up to date will not be perpetuated in the construction of future stations and sidings. For two years past I have been trying to get a trucking yard put in at Mandiga, but without success. I compliment the Minister upon controlling the best department in the State for the handling of correspondence.

Mr. Griffiths: What about the Premier's department?

Mr. LINDSAY: That is the worst of the lot. Whenever I have occasion to write to the Railway Department, the department always acknowledge the letter promptly, and within a reasonable time reply to it.

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS (Hon. J. C. Willecock—Geraldton) [12.13]: I should not like the Railway Estimates to go through without reference being made to the Commissioner, Colonel Pope, who unfortunately through ill-health has resigned. Colonel Pope has placed Western Australia under a debit of obligation to him for the capable manner in which he has carried on the Railways.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: I hope it will be recognised in the pension granted to him.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS: Yes, in that respect he has been treated in a manner that he and his family regard as liberal. When Colonel Pope became Commissioner, the railway system was not paying. Primary production was below normal because of the war taking our manhood away from us, but a vigorous policy calculated to increase primary production was embarked upon by the then Government and, naturally, that favourably affected the Railway finances. But with the slightest laxity in the administration of the Railways, not only would the position have failed to improve, but it might even have retrogressed. However, with careful supervision and the knowledge he had gained during 30 years' service in the Railways, Colonel Pope was able to exercise a tight grip over outgoings, and with the increased business brought about by the Government policy of increased production, he was able to build up the financial position of the Railways and that, of course was reflected in the improved position of the State finances; because the deficits with which

the State was regularly faced in those days consisted largely of Railway deficits. It would not be right or just if in dealing with the Railway Estimates the occasion were allowed to pass without a tribute being paid to the man primarily and chiefly responsible for the successful manner in which the Railway finances have been brought up to their present satisfactory condition. Whoever may follow Colonel Pope as Commissioner of Railways, if he continues the line of organisation that Colonel Pope so successfully laid down, no great harm can come to the system. Following on what the member for Swan said, I hardly think any Government would be justified in making an alteration in the settled policy of appointing men from within the Government service to important positions in the various departments. That system has proved very successful and, as I say, an amendment of it would scarcely be justified. Therefore the Government will give every consideration to officers in the service before they think of looking to other parts of the world for Colonel Pope's successor.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: The Government would have a rough time if they followed any other course.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS: Yes, no doubt the Government would. The appointment has to be confirmed by Parliament, and I should not care to have the duty of reporting to this House that we had appointed to fill the vacancy somebody from America or elsewhere. In the personnel of the railway service I am sure we have more than one man who would be able to take over the position vacated by Colonel Pope.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: It is a well organised staff and is doing excellent work.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS: Yes, it is doing excellent work. One of the outstanding features of Colonel Pope's administration was that he searched the whole service when he was looking for a man for a particular job. He always picked his man for a responsible position, and in his hands the system proved perfectly successful, showing that Colonel Pope was a good judge of men. I do not think there need be any fear of our having to go outside the State for the Colonel's successor. It is one of the most important positions in the life of the community, and it will not be filled

without full and complete consideration. As I say, I feel confident that we shall be able to get within the service an officer who can fill the position to the satisfaction of everybody concerned.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: Whoever he may be, his ability to keep down expenditure will be a recommendation.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS: Yes. Taking the whole of the officials, I may say I have not had occasion to criticise them for putting up unwarranted expenditure. It is unfortunate that we have only a certain amount for expenditure from loan each year, and it is difficult to select out of the good things put up by the officers, those warranting final approval. There are many methods of spending loan money, but in the railway service it is recognised that only something that will help the Railways to increase the production of wealth or will give facilities to enable people the better to handle their produce is worthy of adoption. For instance, it is the desire of the administrative staff to provide trucking yards rather than an elaborate station building or anything of that kind. The member for Toodyay knows that we desire to give reasonable facilities in the way of a station building to the people of Wyalkatchem. They considered it was necessary to have something much more elaborate than the department was prepared to supply, and consequently they will have to wait for station buildings until better times come. It is generally recognised by railway officers that facilities such as siding accommodation to avert long-distance carting, trucking yards, and conveniences for handling wheat, etc., should have prior consideration, and requests for such facilities are received with much more enthusiasm than are requests for conveniences that are not an absolute necessity. I assure the member for Nelson that a thorough inquiry has been made into the recent derailments. It is rather unfortunate and coincidental that four derailments should have occurred within a comparatively short space of time, but I am assured that the certificate given in the Railway report that the lines are maintained in a proper state is absolutely correct.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: I think we are trying to run our trains too fast on some of the light lines, particularly in the South-West during the wet weather.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS: We do not attempt to run fast trains, and we are gradually bringing the lines up to standard. Lines are being ballasted and a lot of relaying is going on, while heavy rails are being put in at various points. One derailment, between Wyalkatchem and Merredin, was due to the fact that relaying was in hand at the time. The ballast was removed and it was expected that the relaying could be proceeded with in a few days, but heavy rains fell and softened the ground and that contributed to the accident. I have had reports from the district engineers, as well as from the Chief Engineer for Existing Lines, Mr. Cresswell, who is always moving about and who takes a close personal interest in the matter, and I am advised that there is no cause for misgiving. We have been told that some of the station buildings are in need of a coat of paint. Greater attention is being devoted to the permanent way than to work of that kind. While we desire to preserve the asset by keeping the station buildings in good order, we shall not do it at the expense of the permanent way or at the expense of the public.

Mr. J. H. Smith: I would not ask you to do that.

[Mr. Panton took the Chair.]

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS: Throughout the administration there is a general desire to do the necessary things rather than go in for ornamentation.

Mr. Griffiths: The splashing on of a bit of paint would preserve the woodwork on many stations.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS: That is done, and though renovation work at some places may fall a little behind, maintenance generally has received attention. Reference has been made to the need for trucking yards. The activity of the Minister for Agricultural Water Supplies in providing water in the agricultural areas must be followed by the provision of more trucking yards. It would be idle to advise the farmers to carry sheep in order to increase the production of wealth if we were not prepared to supply the necessary facilities to enable the stock to be handled. This year I hope to divert some expenditure in that direction. Considerably more money is being provided for improvements and the work of constructing sidings and trucking yards,

which are so necessary and which there is so much encouragement for us to construct, will find an important place in the programme. When we increase the number of sheep in the State by a million in the course of one year, we cannot expect to deal with the increased number with the same trucking facilities. Wherever it is proved that such facilities are required, I am anxious that the money shall be found to provide them, thus encouraging the settlers to run sheep and increase the production of wealth.

Mr. Griffiths: I want a couple of them.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS: The member for Toodyay is crying out for such facilities.

Mr. Griffiths: Bodalling needs them.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS: And Wongan Hills needs them. A considerable area is under crop there and a pipe from the goldfields main stretchers out to the north tapping ideal country for sheep, and so trucking yards must be provided. There has been no adverse criticism of the department. The railways of this State have a big job. I suppose we could spend millions of pounds to increase the facilities and conveniences, but we prefer to do those things that are absolutely essential for the production of wealth, and leave the less necessary items to await their turn.

Mr. Sampson: Are you providing any refrigerator cars for the carriage of fruit?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS: We are providing 50 louvred vans.

Mr. J. H. Smith: I hope they will be reserved for fruit this year.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS: I agree with the hon. member in that. I think we shall be able to give much greater satisfaction than was given last year, when we had to scratch for trucks in order to handle other necessary trade. The louvred vans will be reserved particularly for export fruit, and by having ventilated trucks available, it should be possible to get the fruit on board ship in the best possible condition.

Mr. J. H. Smith: It seems as if we shall have an enormous crop this year.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS: That is so. We shall have this year about 60 wagons more than were available in the immediately preceding years.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: On the item "Commissioner of Railways"—

The CHAIRMAN: There is no item for the Commissioner of Railways. He comes under a special Act.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: Then I shall speak on the next item.

Item—Secretary of Railways: £900.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: I felt sorry that the Minister did not make a speech to introduce the Estimates, but he has repaired the omission by his reply.

The CHAIRMAN: That has nothing to do with the salary of the secretary.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: I am glad the Minister took an opportunity to express the feelings of members generally towards the ex-Commissioner and to commend the secretary and management.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member can deal with the secretary's salary, but he cannot get around my ruling in that way.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: That is all I have to say.

Item—Contingencies, including stores and materials, etc., contribution towards upkeep of Mundaring Weir Grounds, and maintenance of tarpaulins, £68,000:

Mr. J. H. SMITH: What is the significance of "Upkeep of Mundaring Weir grounds and maintenance of tarpaulins" in this item?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS: The upkeep of Mundaring Weir grounds represents a very small proportion indeed of that amount, only £40 or £50 a year.

Item—Timber Mills, £45,714:

Miss HOLMAN: I take this opportunity to thank the Minister for Railways for improvements made at No. 2 mill. During my first speech in this Chamber I criticised severely the conditions at one of the bush landings. The Minister has made many improvements in the housing there, and at present is building—

The CHAIRMAN: I am afraid the hon. member is out of order. That matter should have been referred to on general discussion.

Item—General Charges, £63,000:

Miss HOLMAN: The stretchers used by the Railway Department do not fit the St. John ambulance, and if an accident case is brought down on the railway a change

has to be made at the Perth station from the railway stretcher to the ambulance stretcher, a good deal of suffering being caused by the transfer. I would like the Minister to cause attention to be given to that matter.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS: The department are going into the question. The railway ambulance is made to fit in with railway conditions. The St. John Ambulance Association could not afford a motor car with a body large enough to take a railway stretcher. It is not the fault of the department that a car with so small a body was bought by the association. Endeavours are being made to arrange that railway stretchers may be fitted into the ambulance without necessity for transfer.

Item—Electrical Engineer, etc., £4,534:

Mr. SAMPSON: Can extensions of electric current be made to additional outer suburbs? The extension has brought prosperity to many districts, and other districts hope to receive similar benefits.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS: That matter will be dealt with on the Loan Estimates. Further extensions are dependent on the amount of current the plant can generate. A proposal for extension of the plant is now under consideration, and the matter will be decided in the course of a few days.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—State Batteries, £27,105:

Hon. G. TAYLOR: Does this vote include an item for new batteries?

The Premier: No. This is for salaries.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—Cave House, £14,825:

Mr. J. H. SMITH: The member for Sussex not being present, I wish to say a few words on this vote. The Government are adopting a dog-in-the-manger attitude. Hundreds of people are desirous of staying at the Cave House for holidays during the period beginning now and extending to March or April, but the Cave House is continually filled. Do the Government propose to expend another £10,000 or £15,000 or £20,000 in enlarging the accommodation?

The Minister for Agricultural Water Supplies: No.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: Will the Government allow private enterprise to provide accommodation?

The Minister for Agricultural Water Supplies: We are not preventing private enterprise from doing so.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: Yes.

The Minister for Agricultural Water Supplies: There is plenty of land available.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: If Jack Brown applies for part of the reserve to be granted him for the building of premises, will his application be successful?

The Minister for Agricultural Water Supplies: No. The whole of the reserve is required for the purposes of the Cave House.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: Owing to the attitude of the Government, thousands of people are deprived of pleasure and recreation.

The Minister for Agricultural Water Supplies: It is a matter for future consideration.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: Representations on the subject have been made for a number of years, and some action should be taken. It is impossible to secure accommodation of any kind unless one books up months in advance. There is, as the Minister says, plenty of land available, but not less than a mile from the Cave House. I suggest that funds be made available for increasing the accommodation there.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—Sale of Government Property Trust Account, £186,447—agreed to.

Progress reported.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

THE PREMIER (Hon. P. Collier—Boulder) [12.39]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, the 20th November.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 12.40 a.m. (Friday).