

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: Cows are being killed in the country to-day that should be kept for dairy purposes, and I assure the Minister that he can get cows the owners of which are not supplying cream to established factories.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 3 to 5—agreed to.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

House adjourned at 10.19 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Wednesday, 26th August, 1925.

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

BILL—WEST AUSTRALIAN TRUSTEE, EXECUTOR, AND AGENCY CO., LTD., ACT AMENDMENT.

Select Committee's Report.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON (Metropolitan) brought up the report of the select committee appointed to inquire into the Bill.

Report read.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON moved—

That the consideration of the report be made an Order of the Day when the Bill is in Committee.

Question put and passed.

BILLS (2)—FIRST READING.

1. Group Settlers Advances.
2. Land Tax and Income Tax Act Amendment.

Received from the Assembly.

ASSENT TO BILL.

Message from the Lieutenant-Governor received and read notifying assent to the Supply Bill (No. 1), £1,913,500.

MINING INDUSTRY—GOLD BONUS.

Message received from the Assembly notifying that it had concurred in the Council's resolution.

QUESTION—ADDRESS-IN-REPLY DEBATE.

Hon. J. W. KIRWAN (without notice) asked the Colonial Secretary: When does the Minister desire that the Address-in-reply debate should be closed?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: As I have mentioned to several members, it is my desire that the debate should close to-night. We have some important legislation awaiting consideration, and the debate has already extended over several weeks. It is not my desire to curb discussion in any way, but I think we should be able to close the debate to-night, and I ask the co-operation of the House in that object. Of course, the closing of the debate to-night could be obviated if we were to sit to-morrow night but, having in view the convenience of country members, I do not wish to sit to-morrow night.

QUESTION—LIGHT LANDS, REPORTS.

Hon. W. T. GLASHEEN asked the Colonial Secretary: Will he lay on the Table the progress reports of Mr. L. A. Bostock on light lands?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: The file containing the reports by Mr. L. A. Bostock on light lands is available for perusal by members at the Lands Department. It is necessary that the reports should remain in the department, as they are required for investigations by a committee when completed.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.*Twelfth Day.*

Debate resumed from previous day.

HON. W. H. KITSON (West) [4.40]: Before speaking to the motion I desire to associate myself sincerely with the many feeling references made by previous speakers to the untimely death of the Hon. J. A. Greig. At all times I found the late hon. member willing to render every assistance to me as a new member, and I feel sure that my experience in that respect has been the experience of all members who entered the House after Mr. Greig's election. I should also like to add my quota to what has been said in regard to our new member, Mr. Glasheen. After having heard him make his maiden speech in the House, I am confident he will add to the prestige of the Chamber and will bring to bear on the many subjects that come before us a keen deliberation that will be of the utmost use to other members. I feel sure that he also will receive the same kindly consideration from other members that I received on first entering the House. Coming to the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-reply, it is widely recognised that we in this State are faced with many huge problems arising chiefly from the fact that our territory is so large and our population so small. In the final analysis, however, those problems resolve themselves into one of finance. That being so, it is gratifying to know that the Premier, on his visit to the Old Country, made good in every way. Also it was pleasing to learn from him on his return that this State can hold its own with any State in the Commonwealth in respect of its credit in the Old Country, and that our development policy meets with the approval of those in a position to assist us with our finances. I was pleased to read in a statement by the Premier a few days ago that, as the result of our new migration agreement, money would be available at the rate of 1 per cent. for the first five years, and at one-third of the ordinary rate of interest for the next succeeding five years. I agree with an hon. member who, speaking as a business man, said it would be good policy on the part of the Government to obtain as much money as possible at so low a rate of interest. If it is true that our problems are primarily of a financial nature, and if the country is to make the same progress in the future as it has done in the im-

mediate past, it will be of untold advantage to us to have as much of that money as possible. One further advantage I see in the new agreement is that money obtained under it is not necessarily limited to land settlement. If we can use that money in other directions such as the building of railways, etc., it will be of great advantage to the State if the Government can avail themselves of such a magnificent opportunity. During the last few years we have made wonderful all-round progress in the agricultural districts. The State has increased in general prosperity with regard to almost all sections of the community. I cannot say, however, that this applies to the workers as a whole. Notwithstanding our prosperity, we have a great majority of our workers still on the bread line. It is remarkable that, whilst our primary industries have been so successful of recent years, for many months of this year we have had an acute unemployment problem. I agree with Mr. Dodd when he said there is no more sad sight than to see able-bodied men who are willing to do any work that is offering, without the opportunity of getting it. It is a pity we cannot arrange things a little better in order that in this season of the year, when work is ordinarily slack, there may be still left certain work to which these men may be put. During the last month or so the problem has been particularly acute in Fremantle. One reason for the position is that we have had a rather large influx during the past 12 months of men drawn from southern European countries, who have drifted into the different centres and have had no difficulty in obtaining employment. A few days ago I read the report of the secretary of the New Settlers' League, furnished after a tour of the country districts. He reported the remarkable position that whilst there were large numbers of these southern Europeans in the country, they were all in employment. Although there is a fair amount of unemployment in the country districts, it is confined to Britishers. It is strange that we should find such a position in Western Australia, which is crying out for development in so many different ways. I trust that some means will be found whereby the great majority of unemployed may be absorbed in productive work. If the policy of the Government is allowed full sway, I am sure that within the next few months there will be great improvement. We find it necessary in order to develop our country properly, to

build new railways and provide better facilities at our ports for the purpose of dealing with the increased production. If that policy of development is continued, the question of unemployment will to a large extent be remedied. I know there are many unemployed in Perth. Quite a large percentage of them are men who in years gone by have followed seasonal occupations, but who today find it almost impossible to secure such employment. They have drifted into the city, which is the only place where they can get information as to work being available. One cannot blame them for doing this. It has been asked why they do not go back to the country where there is plenty of work. It is no use merely saying that to a man who may be married and have children, unless he can also be told in what part of the country he can get work and be assured that, when he goes there, it will be available for him. Many men have told me that if I could inform them where they could get work, they would be prepared to go and ask for it. If the southern Europeans have no difficulty in obtaining work in the country centres, while the Britishers find every difficulty in doing so, it is not surprising that the men should demand of the Government that if they cannot give them work they should find sustenance for them. The problem of unemployment is world-wide, and perhaps in no country has it assumed such serious proportions as in England. There they have initiated the dole system and we know that it is having a demoralising effect on the people. Large numbers of young men in the Old Country have had no employment since they left school. Many of them are quite unsuitable for the class of work we would expect them to do if they came to assist us in developing this State. We have very few secondary industries, and there is no chance of absorbing any number of these men in that way. It is up to the Government to devise means whereby the unemployed in our own State may be provided with work, rather than they should be allowed to remain in the city, where they have the right to demand either work or the wherewithal to live. I am pleased that, notwithstanding the report of the Royal Commission on group settlement the Government have decided to go on with the scheme. I have visited many of the groups. While I appreciate the fact that a large percentage of those who are under the group system will never make successful farmers, I think if

we retain only 50 or 60 per cent. as successful farmers in the South-West, the scheme will have justified itself. Having read a fair amount of the evidence taken by the Commission, I think, on the facts presented to them, they were justified in putting forward such a report. I am sure that with the experience of the last two or three years, and the knowledge that has been gained of the possibilities of the South-West lands, there is no course open to the Government other than to continue the policy. I believe that within the next few years the State and the Commonwealth will reap a great benefit as a result of the scheme.

Hon. E. H. Harris: Do you agree with the findings of the Commission?

Hon. W. H. KITSON: I agree with most of them. It is not likely in view of past experience that the mistakes that have occurred will be repeated. I have spent a number of years in the South-West doing the kind of work that most of the group settlers are expected to do. I know many of the difficulties confronting the individual, who has no capital, in his effort to carve out a home in heavily timbered country. The only satisfactory way of settling the country with men who have no capital is through the group settlement scheme. A large percentage of the men who are not likely to make good under the scheme should never have been sent to the State to take part in its development. There are men who have had no practical experience in farming or the class of work they have to undertake. They cannot adapt themselves to the life. Unless we can secure men who can do this, it is not likely they will make a success. I was specially interested in the statement made by the Premier in regard to certain men who have come to the State, and are in two groups in the South-West. I refer to those who spent a few months at the Catterick training farm in England. They are ex-service men and put in six months' training. They were taught a number of things that will be useful to them in this State, and given instruction in almost everything, with the exception of the use of the axe in clearing heavy timber. These particular men have made bigger progress than any other type of settlers who have been brought to this State. They have shown that although they had no farming experience prior to their training at the farm, they have been able to adapt themselves to local conditions, and have given absolute

proof that it will not be long before they reach the productive stage and will become successful farmers. If as much care had been exercised in the selection of migrants as has been exercised in the case of these men, we should never have had the same percentage of those who are not likely to make good, such as are indicated by the Royal Commission's report. I believe that at Catterick the men are given two or three weeks in which to show whether they are likely to be suitable to the life and, if they do not come up to the test, their places are taken by others. That is as it should be.

Hon. J. Duffell: What becomes of them then?

Hon. W. H. KITSON: They go back to some other form of employment in the Old Country. We are prepared to give to every man who comes here, with the desire to carve out a home for himself in the South-West, every opportunity to make good. But it is absolutely useless, and it is false economy to say that because a man thinks that if he is given the opportunity, he will make good. We allow him to come to this country without any restrictions whatever, and we are prepared to spend money on him in the vain endeavour of making a suitable settler of him, when he may not have any bent in that direction. Naturally, that man drifts into the city and he adds to the unemployment problem. Therefore, one of the secrets of the success of the scheme of settlement lies in the proper selection of men in the Old Country, men who have shown by a period of training such as that given to them at Catterick that they are fitted for the particular occupation it is intended they shall follow. I have already stated that we have very few secondary industries. It is to be regretted that that is so, and I trust that in the near future we shall see efforts made to establish those industries here. If we have more secondary industries we shall not have the problem we are faced with at the present time of being compelled to find suitable occupations for our youths. It has been stated in this Chamber that many of our youths, and perhaps the brightest of them, when the time comes for them to find suitable employment, are compelled to leave the State in order to become something more than unskilled workers. While that position obtains we shall have a repetition of the trouble we have at the present time, namely, a big number of young fellows to whom we can only say, "There is but one

opportunity for you in this State, and that is to go into the country."

Hon. V. Hamersley: Is that not due to the Arbitration Act?

Hon. W. H. KITSON: I do not think so.

Hon. A. J. H. Saw: Or that the unions will not allow piece work.

Hon. W. H. KITSON: Nor that either. Mr. Hamersley alluded to the Arbitration Act, I suppose in regard to the limitation of the employment of apprentices, and so on. He must know that most of the Arbitration Court awards provide certain conditions under which apprentices shall work at the different trades. I am safe in saying that there is nothing like the number of apprentices in Western Australia that we should have.

Hon. H. Stewart: The Government are the biggest defaulters.

Hon. W. H. KITSON: I do not know whether that is so, but I know that in some of the Government establishments, such as the Midland Junction Workshops and the Implement Works, there is room for a larger number of apprentices than are to be found there employed at the present time.

Hon. V. Hamersley: There must be a very good reason for not employing a bigger number, and that reason is not difficult to seek.

Hon. W. H. KITSON: If we are to successfully establish secondary industries in the State, and if we are to assist progress and development generally as we should do, it is necessary that we pay attention to two or three outstanding matters. First of all, I would refer to the question of cheap power. We find that in most countries where it is possible for manufacturing concerns to obtain cheap power, that those countries are receiving the attention of men and institutions with capital who are prepared to take advantage of that particular fact. Those countries where it is possible to obtain cheap electrical power are going ahead by leaps and bounds. One could instance quite a number at the present time where every effort is being made to provide cheap power, and where large industrial concerns are either established or about to be established. This refers not only to Europe and America but to Australia as well. People are looking out for suitable sites whereon to establish themselves so that they may be able to compete against whoever may be af-

ready established there. In Western Australia we have such a large territory that the problem is one that will have to be faced in the near future. I have every sympathy with our South-West members in their efforts to secure some recognition from the Government with regard to what is commonly known as the Collie power scheme. If that scheme could be brought to fruition, it would be responsible for rapid development in that part of the State: it would probably be responsible for opening up a large area of country, and production there would be increased many times, in addition to which, there would be an incentive to manufacturers to begin operations there. We have the coal and the water, and everything that is necessary to permit of the production of cheap power. Experience has shown that wherever you are in a position to produce cheap power, it is not very long before the particular locality forges ahead. In addition to cheap power it is necessary that we pay attention to quick and effective transit. We have a big railway service and our lines cover great distances. Unfortunately, however, many of those lines were laid down for a different purpose from that for which they are utilised to-day, and the consequence is that in many cases produce and livestock are carried over a much greater distance than is actually necessary. If we are to compete in respect of primary products with other countries it is necessary to pay attention to this fact and endeavour to see that our produce which comes from inland is taken to the ports by the shortest possible routes.

Hon. A. Burvill: And to the natural ports.

Hon. W. H. KITSON: I am not going to find fault with the hon. member's desire to feed the natural ports of the State. I agree with him, however, when I say there is plenty of room for development at all the ports, not only Albany and Fremantle but Bunbury and Geraldton as well.

Hon. E. H. Harris: Did you forget Esperance?

Hon. W. H. KITSON: And Esperance also. I am pleased that the Commonwealth Government have seen fit to make available to the State the services of that distinguished engineer, Sir George Buchanan. I had the pleasure of meeting him a few days ago after his arrival here, and I listened to the views he had to express. Occupying so prominent a posi-

tion in the engineering world, as he does, after having made a thorough survey of the harbours of the State, I feel sure the advice he may have to offer will prove of advantage to the Government. I am convinced that if it is at all possible to suggest any improvement in our methods, Sir George Buchanan is the man capable of offering these suggestions. I also feel sure that he will be only too pleased to make recommendations that will be in the best interests of the State for, not only the present time, but for many years ahead. It is necessary that we should look at those problems, not from the point of view of what is required to-day, but from what will be required in, say, 15 or 20 years' time. I think it was Mr. Glasheen who suggested that we should have a broad vision and not look at anything from the parochial point of view. That is very good sentiment and I feel sure members will endeavour to look at the problems that are now facing us from the State point of view, and no other. The developmental policy of the present Government, and also that of the previous Government, proves to us that we have men at the head of affairs who are possessed of broad vision, men who are endeavouring to place this country in the position that in 10 or 20 years' time, those who follow will be able to say that a good foundation was laid. The Government have before them a rather big problem in respect of education. In one or two districts that I have visited during recent months, I have been told, and I know it to be a fact, that it is hardly possible for children to receive that education that is given to the child in the metropolitan area. In small scattered communities, in many cases miles from railways, it is necessary that the Government should do their best to provide facilities so that the children there may have the opportunity of receiving that education which I claim every child is entitled to receive. It may not be possible to give them exactly the same education that is imparted to the children in the metropolitan area, but it is possible to at least give them the opportunity to learn, and I feel sure that the Government and the Minister for Education are doing all that can be done in that direction. I trust that the policy that has been adopted in the past will be continued, that wherever it is shown there are children, efforts will be made to provide educational facilities. Whilst on that question

may I mention the fact that high schools have been established in several centres of the State and that Fremantle is without one. At the present time if parents desire their children to obtain technical education or that they should attend a secondary school, it is necessary in practically all cases to send them to Perth. In view of the fact that high schools have been established in many centres and also remembering that the population of the metropolitan area has increased considerably in recent years, it is only right that some provision should be made for the establishment of a high school at Fremantle. I trust the Government will give consideration to this request.

Hon. H. Stewart: Is there a high school at Geraldton?

Hon. W. H. KITSON: I do not think so. I admit that every effort has been made to improve the accommodation for children in the Fremantle primary schools, but there is still room for further improvement where the accommodation is hardly sufficient for the number of scholars. However, there is a pressing need for a high school, and it would be a boon to the people of Fremantle if the Government established one there, as they have done at Albany. For many years there has been a shortage in the metropolitan area of houses suitable for the average worker. The big increase in the cost of building has made it almost impossible for the general run of workers to secure homes of their own. Under the workers' homes scheme every worker has an opportunity to secure a home of his own provided the Government have sufficient money to meet the demands. I do not know what the intentions of the Government are, but I hope they will provide additional money for workers' homes. Seeing that the scheme pays for itself, the Government would be well advised to extend it as early as possible. Another need of Fremantle is a dock.

Hon. V. Hamersley: An effort was made to construct one some years ago.

Hon. W. H. KITSON: If we are going to compete with other countries in primary production, the port facilities must be complete and up to date.

Hon. A. J. H. Saw: Did not we read that the shipping people did not want a dock?

Hon. W. H. KITSON: Yes; that is one reason why I wish to stress this matter.

We have been reminded that years ago an attempt was made to construct a dry dock at Fremantle—

Hon. C. F. Baxter: It turned out to be a wet one, did it not?

Hon. W. H. KITSON: And that a quarter of a million of money was lost in the attempt. That is not the first effort which has been made by a community to meet some great need and which has proved impracticable. I am not putting forward a plea for a dry dock, but I am pleading for docking facilities for the chief seaport of the State. No harbour can be considered up to date unless it has facilities to deal with any shipping that may enter it. Dr. Saw inquired whether the shipping people were not against the proposed dock. When a deputation waited upon the Premier recently, a deputation representative of practically every section of the Fremantle community with the exception of the Overseas Shipping Association, that body had sent a letter to the Premier stating that there was no necessity for a dock at Fremantle. The real reason for the letter was not that there was no necessity for a dock, but that those ship-owners were afraid that once a dock was provided, some of the port charges would be increased. They at present are getting their ships docked in other parts of the world where labour charges are lower than they are here. Sir George Buchanan, speaking at the Fremantle civic reception, said there were three aspects to consider when dealing with engineering problems. The first was the engineering aspect, and he said there were no engineering difficulties as a rule. There was the financial aspect, and though that might present some difficulty, it could usually be overcome. Then there was the question of vested interests, which he said he found constituted the hardest nut of all to crack. I am satisfied Sir George Buchanan was correct. Vested interests were behind the letter sent to the Premier. They know full well that if a dock is provided at Fremantle, the ships that are now sent to the Eastern States, to Singapore or to Sourabaya for docking purposes will, if docked at Fremantle, involve them in heavier expense. They do not like to think that work being done in the Eastern States might be done in Western Australia. They know that a ship could be docked more cheaply at Sourabaya than here. We should ignore their opposition, and insist upon our fine harbour at Fremantle being equipped

with the best facilities for dealing with any shipping that might utilise the port.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: Do not you think the money could be used to better advantage in other directions, seeing that money is so tight?

Hon. W. H. KITSON: According to the Premier, we shall be able to secure at a low rate of interest all the money we need for development purposes. There is a good deal of truth in the Premier's statement in another place that our borrowing on loan account is limited only by the ability of the people to pay the interest and sinking fund. If it is possible to secure money at 1 per cent. for five years, and at one-third of the ordinary interest rate for a further period of five years, we should take advantage of it. There is no better way in which we can utilise loan money than by providing facilities to enable the chief seaport to handle the increased production that will result from the land policy now operating in this State. We can look forward to the time when Fremantle will occupy an important position relatively to the Commonwealth. A friend of mine stated the other day that there was no reason why Fremantle should not become the Marseilles of the Commonwealth. I agree with him. The day will come when we shall have through trains from the Eastern States to Fremantle, and Fremantle will be the terminus for most of the overseas boats, transport between Fremantle and the Eastern States being done by interstate vessels. It is as well for us to look ahead and prepare for those eventualities. In the course of years, and as the State progresses, the present facilities at Fremantle will be inadequate to cope with the increased production of the country.

Hon. J. W. Kirwan: Do you believe in centralisation?

Hon. W. H. KITSON: I cannot say that I do, but it is necessary to adopt a policy of centralisation in some things if we are going to provide the cheapest and best methods for handling the produce of the State.

Hon. A. Burvill: Are you aware that a dock could be built at Albany for one quarter of the price of a dock at Fremantle?

Hon. E. H. Gray: No.

Hon. W. H. KITSON: I think the hon. member is incorrect; the dock I speak of could be supplied at the same cost anywhere on the coast where there was a harbour to accommodate it. I look forward to the time when Western Australia will carry a much

larger population than it has at present, when we shall be able to compete not only with the Eastern States, but with other countries of the world, and when we shall be producing of commodities that we now import more than sufficient to supply our own needs. At present we are sending a tremendous amount of money out of the State every year for commodities that could be raised within the State. I trust that the points I have mentioned will receive the close attention of the Government. The Government should receive the full support of this House in any legislative proposals to assist the development of the country, and more kindly consideration should be extended to legislation designed to improve the industrial conditions of the workers.

Hon. J. R. Brown: You cannot expect that.

Hon. F. E. S. Willmott: What a terrible pessimist!

Hon. W. H. KITSON: I am sufficiently optimistic to think that in matters vitally affecting the workers, such as the industrial laws, this House, after having heard the arguments in favour of the suggested changes, will conclude that the workers are entitled to consideration. Country members have frequently stated that farmers are entitled to all sorts of consideration because of their distance from the metropolitan area and the life they lead. If that applies to the farmer, it applies equally to the worker. If we expect the worker to go into the country to do the development work required there, while all the time the farmer is building up his capital value, it is necessary that the worker should be given the best possible conditions. This can be ensured only by passing industrial laws to compel every employer in the country to give to workers similar conditions to those obtaining in the towns. If agricultural workers were treated better than they are treated in many cases, we would not have the number of complaints that we receive at present.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: You do not get complaints from the good worker; they come only from the shirker.

Hon. W. H. KITSON: I have had complaints this week from a man who is as good a worker as there is in the State. He went to a job in the country that was supposed to last for three months, but he said that after the first week the conditions were such that he would not keep a pig under them. When he asked for an alteration, he was told

by his employer that if he was not satisfied, he knew what to do.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: There may be isolated cases like that. You find them in every industry.

Hon. W. H. KITSON: If necessary, hundreds of other cases could be adduced.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: No.

Hon. F. E. S. Willmott: Very well; we will take Tom Walsh as a fit and proper person to be the mouthpiece of the Labour Party.

Hon. W. H. KITSON: In too many cases no provision is made for anything like decent accommodation for the men who are expected to do the development work of which the farmer is to reap the full benefit. If farmers would give a little more attention to that kind of thing, they would get far better work done than they now get in many cases. Moreover, it would lead to a considerable difference in the relationship existing between the farmers and men quite capable of doing farm work.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: The farm worker has the easiest billet of all; he sits down to all his work.

Hon. W. H. KITSON: That may be, but from what I have learnt and have seen, there is room for considerable improvement. In conclusion I desire to congratulate the Government on the position in which the State finds itself after their first year of office. I am not going to suggest for one moment that they are responsible for the whole of the improvement. However, the Government as a whole and Ministers individually are deserving of the best thanks of this Chamber for the way in which they have attended to their duties. They have endeavoured to do their utmost on behalf of the State, and I trust that this Chamber during the present session will assist them as far as possible in the developmental policy which is now in force.

HON. A. J. H. SAW (Metropolitan-Suburban) [5.37]: It had not been my intention to intervene in this debate, but my attention has been drawn by a friend outside to certain remarks which fell from Mr. Gray on the occasion of his speech a few days ago. Unfortunately I was not in the House at the time, having been called away to the country on an urgent matter; but I have taken the opportunity to read the newspapers. I gather that Mr. Gray took me rather severely to task on account of an in-

terjection I made whilst Mr. Potter was speaking. Mr. Potter had been alluding to the recent tearoom strike, and there was an interjection—from Mr. Brown or Mr. Hickey—to the effect that it had been a bloodless affair. Then there was a further interjection from me that the affair was bloodless enough owing to the anaemic action of the Government. I must admit at once that I might have expressed myself more clearly than I did. However, I do not think any member of the House except Mr. Gray thought that by that interjection I meant that I would be glad to see the streets of Perth reeking with the blood of the strikers. I can assure Mr. Gray that, like Mr. Potter, I have seen far too much blood shed during the last ten years to wish to see any more. There is nothing I desire more ardently than that we shall have peace both abroad and at home. I intended to convey by my interjection exactly what Mr. Kirwan stated he had understood me to infer. I thank Mr. Kirwan for putting before the House at that time, whilst Mr. Gray was speaking, exactly what he thought had been my intention. I had intended to convey by my interjection that the bloodlessness was on the part of the Government, that it was the Government that were both bloodless and anaemic; and I will go still further and say that not only were the Government bloodless, but they were perfectly spineless, belonging to the order of invertebrates. As I have been challenged on this subject, I am going to take up the time of the House for a few minutes by telling members some thoughts that occurred to me during that unfortunate strike. I quite agree with the remark of the Premier that it was a storm in a teacup. Being a storm in a teacup, it reminded me, and the attitude of the Government reminded me, of what we very often see on a summer's day in Melville Water: a small craft with some very inexperienced yachtsmen on board, mostly accompanied by their flappers, sailing out. Up comes a puff of wind over Mt. Eliza, no more than a little summer squall, and we see the boat rolling, shipping water, and nearly capsizing. That is exactly what occurred in Perth owing to this storm in a teacup. The Government, to my mind, absolutely fell down on their job. They did not carry out the first duty of Governments—to keep order and protect property. Had the Government done what I maintain was their duty, I do not think for a moment that there would have been any blood spilt at all. There

would have been nothing more than perhaps a cup of tea upset, or possibly a glass of milk. But the Government chose to do nothing, and they encouraged the police to do nothing. Mr. Gray the other day said the duty of the police in this case was to be neutral. That reminds me of something I saw during the first year of the war—a picture in "Punch." It illustrated the attitude of some village yokels who were being summoned by the recruiting officers to go and do their duty by their country. One village yokel said, "This village is remaining neutral during the war." That, apparently, is what the police are to do.

Hon. E. H. Gray: You want the police to take the part of the employers.

Hon. A. J. H. SAW: I maintain it is the duty of the police to keep order and prevent disorder. If they took any other attitude than that, it was entirely owing to the passive encouragement of the Government, and owing to the fact that on previous occasions the police had learnt that if they did anything to offend this Government, there was a bitter time in store for them. They have learnt that lesson. They have not forgotten the example which was set by this Government in the case of Mr. Walter, P.M., and in the case of an unfortunate police sergeant, when they first assumed office. We have seen many systems of government set up during the course of the world's history. There has been the government of the divine right of kings, the government of autocracy, such as we saw in Russia, and at one time in England. There has been government by oligarchy, government by aristocracy. There has been theocracy, or government by priests, such as obtains in Thibet. There has been, and there is to-day, the government of democracy. But it has remained for the present Government of this State to introduce another variety of government—mobocracy. Should the time ever come when that form of government is allowed full sway, and should it become necessary for the police or for the military to intervene in order to repress disorder such as is rearing its ugly head in Australia, should the Government find themselves compelled to take a forceful stand, and even should blood be spilt, I can assure hon. members that they need have no doubt whatever as to which side I shall stand on.

Hon. E. H. Gray: We are sure of that from your remarks.

Hon. A. J. H. SAW: If these people are encouraged to believe that the Government will not enforce order and will not take steps to maintain order, then we know perfectly well that in the long run dire results must ensue, and that unfortunately a great deal more blood must be spilt than would have been necessary had sterner measures been taken at first.

Hon. E. H. Gray: You want to do the same as was done in Shanghai the other day.

HON. H. SEDDON (North-East) [5.44]: In supporting the Address-in-reply I wish to add my voice to those that have already expressed regret at the loss of Mr. Greig. I can speak the more feelingly because during the time Mr. Greig was a member of this House I had the pleasure of being associated with him on a select committee regarding a railway in his own electorate. On that occasion Mr. Greig by fearless expression of his own opinions, opinions which jeopardised the sympathies of some of his electors, showed that he was prepared to do his duty honestly as a member of this House. Consequently I feel that we have lost a man of calibre we can ill afford to lose. In times when it is so necessary for men to stand by their convictions this is the more appreciable. I would like to extend my personal welcome to Mr. Glasheen as a member of this Chamber. If we may judge by his remarks during his maiden speech in this Chamber I am sure he will be an acquisition and will be of considerable assistance to us in the work there is to be done. A perusal of the Speech of His Excellency the Governor will demonstrate that the first outstanding question raised is that of land settlement. Anyone who has followed the trend of affairs in Western Australia will realise how this is necessarily the most important question we have had before us for a long time past. The Premier is in a better position to speak on this question as the result of his visit to England. Many of us are not acquainted with the condition of affairs there and can only form an impression based upon what we have read. We can appreciate, however, that the position is serious and that it is becoming more acute is evident to everyone. There is a condition of affairs there that is reflected in the incidence of taxation in Britain. When we remember that the progress of Western Australia is

practically determined by the amount of loan money we can raise from time to time, it is desirable to have an appreciation of the conditions obtaining in any country from which we obtain those loan funds. We must realise, too, what a help it would be to such a country if it were able to place its surplus population in suitable employment in this State. In the "Manchester Guardian" of the 23rd July last, there is an interesting article on the incidence of taxation. It shows that during 1924 not less than £603,000,000 was raised in the form of taxation directly imposed upon trade and industry. When we remember that the amount raised under a similar heading in 1913-14 was about £163,000,000, it will be seen that trade and industry are paying nearly $3\frac{3}{4}$ times as much as the whole of the tax revenue before the war and probably $4\frac{1}{2}$ times as great a corresponding burden on trade and industry. A considerable portion of that money is spent on account of the conditions obtaining in the Old Country owing to unemployment. We can realise therefore how eager the statesmen of the Old Country are to relieve the pressure on the finances and to help us by finding loan money to enable the State to provide for the British surplus population in Western Australia. From time to time references have been made to the unemployment difficulty in England. It may be of interest to hon. members to know that the conditions of unemployment in England to-day are different from what they may have considered them to be. There is an impression abroad that there is a standing army of unemployed in the Old Country. Although that is true regarding numbers, it is not true regarding the actual personnel of the unemployed. An investigation was carried out in November of last year regarding the personnel of the unemployed and it was found that of those people who were out of work, the greater number were in and out of employment. The examination was drafted under four headings. The first dealt with people who in normal times would usually be in steady employment. The second referred to persons who, though not usually in steady employment, would, in normal times, obtain a fair amount of employment. The third referred to persons who would not, in normal times, obtain a fair amount of employment, but who were not considered to be "verging on the un-

employable." The fourth heading referred to persons who were considered to be "verging on the unemployable." As the result of that investigation it was found that 62 per cent. of all the males and 77 per cent. of the females came under the first heading, while less than four per cent. of males and only 1.4 per cent. of females came under the last mentioned heading. I quote these statistics because the House should realise that the greater proportion of persons in the Old Country who are unemployed to-day are those who, under normal conditions, should be in steady work. These references should contradict the statement that has been made to the effect that those who are being sent out by Great Britain to Western Australia are not fitted to meet our conditions and to take part in the life on the land. The statistics I have referred to provide an effective reply to that assertion. The experience gained in settling people here has been that where young fellows have been given the opportunity to secure employment and have been able to hearten themselves in consequence, they have generally made good. In view of the statements that have been made it is fair that I should make use of these statistics. We should endeavour to spread the impression that these migrants are capable of doing the work that is ahead of them if they are given a fair chance. We have heard criticism regarding our system of migration and land settlement. There is one method that has been demonstrated to be more really successful than any other form of migration. I refer to the migration of young people. A scheme has been devised for bringing to Western Australia youths and young men, and it appears to offer fine scope for success. It will give those concerned a better opportunity to adapt themselves to the conditions obtaining here in order that they may become useful citizens than any other scheme that has been advanced. Any scheme of that description should receive the whole-hearted support of the Government. I am pleased to see that an endeavour is being made to start a scheme along these lines and I think it is called the "Big Brother Movement." The idea is that young boys and youths shall come out here and someone in Western Australia is to become personally responsible for each lad. He is to maintain a surveillance over the young migrant and do everything

possible to help him along. There is no doubt that much of the objection in the Old Country to the migration of youths and boys to Western Australia arises from the fact that the parents naturally feel anxious about the young people leaving home and coming to a strange country. They are anxious about the future of their boys here and wish to know that they are placed in a suitable position in reasonably moral surroundings. That is a natural feeling on the part of any parent. The movement I refer to meets that desire, because if someone is responsible for the oversight of a lad, an element of comradeship and interest enters into the life of the young migrant and he is assisted in his life out here. I commend that scheme because it appears to me to hold out immense possibilities regarding future migration. As a result of the analysis to which I have referred, quite a number of boys and youths were found to have no opportunity to learn any useful occupation in Great Britain. If those youths were brought out to Western Australia, and put through a course of training, they would have ample opportunities and unlimited scope in connection with the agricultural industry. There is any amount of opportunity for such work on our farms and thus the young migrants will have opportunities of becoming useful members of the community. In order to encourage the youths to progress, we could provide scholarships whereby youths showing distinct promise and giving indications of keen interest in the science of agriculture, could receive higher education at the agricultural college. That would be an incentive to the youths to seriously study farming methods with the prospect before them of becoming leaders of scientific agriculture which is making such strides in Western Australia. There is another phase of migration that I have not heard mentioned. According to the "Manchester Guardian," there are 150,000 miners out of employment in the Old Country. At present it is almost impossible to get machine workers for our mines here. In view of the position in the Old Country we see there a source from which labour could be drawn for our mines. We could secure skilled workers for underground operations. There is a distinct field for migration there if we could get men to come out and engage upon machine work in our mines. There is an opportunity to relieve the pressure in

the Mother Land and at the same time place those people in suitable employment here. The publication of the report of the Group Settlement Commission has aroused much interest and I believe that every hon. member should give expression to his views on the report. In common with other Royal Commissions and select committees, the Group Settlement Commission undertook a great deal of investigation work and the value of the report lies in the information brought to light. Personally I am not inclined to agree that the report will have an adverse effect regarding Western Australia.

Hon. J. Ewing: What about the advertisement in the "London Times" of the 14th June? That was a terrible thing.

Hon. H. SEDDON: We must recognise that difficulties and mistakes will always arise in any such big scheme. After all the men concerned are only human and we must expect mistakes to be made. The great point is that if, as the result of the report, we are able to remedy defects and arrive at a more economic basis for the work, good will have been achieved, and the Royal Commission will have done good work. It is too early to estimate the value of the group settlement scheme. It has been pointed out that very few men on the groups have been supplied with cows. The whole basis of the group settlement scheme rested upon the idea that the dairy-farming industry would be developed. That being so we must recognise that until cows are provided and the groups are producing, it is too early to judge of the success of the scheme. I am inclined to think that in the course of a few years when we see the results coming in, after the re-modelling of our system of development as the result of information we have gained, we will find ourselves in a much better position. There is one point about it that has not been previously mentioned. It is said that work has been undertaken on the groups by men who have not been trained in the work and are not, therefore, successful from that standpoint. The fact remains that their sons are to be brought up under group conditions and are being trained on the job. In the settlement of Gippsland in Victoria it took three generations to make farming successful, but in our case we are training the first generation so that they may make a success of their operations. I advance that suggestion for the consideration of hon. members. I would like to refer

to a paragraph in the speech dealing with the pastoral industry. It may not be known that a new pastoral province has been opened up in the eastern goldfields district. That new province extends from Menzies and north to Wiluna and Laverton; it extends for 200 miles to the east and down to the Great Western Railway. Throughout that whole vast area, holdings have been taken up and transformed into sheep stations. A large amount of capital has been spent in connection with the industry and before long we shall see coming to this country much revenue that will be raised as the result of the disposal of wool. It is an area of good stock country with water at shallow depths. Its carrying capacity will be limited only by the amount of feed available. The development during the last two or three years there will be reflected in splendid returns from wool, and I believe that Western Australia will soon go ahead by leaps and bounds. We shall then demonstrate to the world what a great country Western Australia is and what wonderful resources we have in our outlying districts. The representatives of the goldfields speaking on the Address-in-reply should have something to say in regard to Mr. Kingsley Thomas's report. Mr. Thomas has expressed himself optimistically in respect of the potentialities of gold mining in Western Australia. He was justified in that, providing the conditions are restored to approximately normal. Outside of Kalgoorlie there are scarcely a dozen mines down to 1,000 feet. To realise this is to realise the possibilities of even mines that have been abandoned. Then there are big ore bodies known, but not opened up at all. In view of all this, we cannot believe that the gold mining industry in Western Australia has yet begun to demonstrate itself. When the existing conditions improve, no doubt we shall see gold mining fully restored.

Hon. J. M. Macfarlane: With the aid of the gold bonus?

Hon. H. SEDDON: The gold bonus would make a tremendous difference. When we heard that the Government had decided to bring in an expert to report on the gold mining industry we felt that they had done a most important piece of work. For a long time past we have all recognised the necessity for a technical audit of the gold mining industry. But I think it is the first instance on record of an industry being studied from a national standpoint, and judged on the

question of efficiency. One would scarcely have expected it to come from the present Government. However, they are to be congratulated on the step they took. In respect to the Commissioner's report, in order that we might realise the conditions, I say the personnel of the Commission was under certain disadvantages. Mr. Thomas had demonstrated in South African mining practice that he was a thoroughly competent expert in every branch of mining; but when we compare the South African gold ore bodies and the Western Australian gold ore bodies, we find two very different sets of conditions.

Hon. H. Stewart: Twenty years ago this State led South Africa and the rest of the world in its treatment methods; to-day it does not.

Hon. H. SEDDON: The hon. member has referred to the point I was approaching. Whereas in South Africa they have a free-milling ore, which occurs in ore bodies comparatively easy to mine, we have in Kalgoorlie a highly refractory ore requiring to be very carefully roasted, and in that roasting we have chemical difficulties that do not occur in the treatment of South African ore.

Hon. H. Stewart: Do you think the Commissioner could not take that into account?

Hon. H. SEDDON: I said he had been trained in a country dealing with free milling ores.

Hon. H. Stewart: Nonsense! He was trained in the world.

Hon. H. SEDDON: In my opinion, had the Government taken a man trained in a country that dealt with refractory ore, possibly we should have had more confidence in that man's report. Examine Mr. Thomas's report and it will be found that, although he has made certain recommendations, he has been comparatively silent on two most important points. First there is the effect of the tariff, not so much direct as indirect, and in the second place there is the thermal practice in regard to the treatment of Kalgoorlie ores and their chemical efficiency. By that I mean, first of all, the question of the treatment of ore by new processes. It appears to all who are investigating that question that there is considerable room for improvement in employing the waste heat that comes from the furnaces. At present no attempt is made to use that heat, and so the cost of roasting the ore is very much higher than it should be. Certain German

chemical works made their profits out of furnace heat previously wasted. This is just one illustration of the effect of the application of science to the utilisation of waste heat. So far as I know, not a single mine in Kalgoorlie is making use of the waste heat from its roaster. Again, in regard to the utilisation of chemical by-products, a certain amount goes to waste that could be utilised, for instance, in the production of sulphuric acid.

Hon. H. Stewart: That is one of the most difficult propositions before the chemist.

Hon. H. SEDDON: It is being done in South Australia at the works treating sulphide ores. These two points are things one would have expected the Commissioner to refer to. So it appears to me there is a considerable weakness in his report dealing with the gold-mining industry. With two of the recommendations made by Mr. Thomas, most of us agree. The first is the provision of a central treatment plant, and the second the provision of a central power plant. Very considerable economies could be introduced into the treatment of our gold ores by the provision of those two central agencies. But such are the difficulties in the way that it appears to me, unless we can see further ahead than we can at present, those recommendations are to a large extent stultified. Some mines have certain ore reserves opened up, yet owing to their position in relation to the calc-schist the life of those mines is considerably limited. So, while it is all very well to say that the Kalgoorlie mines, by introducing up-to-date plants could reduce their working costs, yet the answer to that is, "Quite true, but seeing that the life of the mine is so strictly limited, we are not justified in incurring the expenditure." On the other hand, there are mines whose potential development is limited by the efficiency of mining engineering. Those mines have their large ore reserves. This helps the argument for a central treatment plant. But you have again to consider the amalgamation of those various companies; and a scheme of amalgamation to meet all their requirements appears to offer very considerable difficulties. Unless we can influence the directors of those mines resident in the Old Country I cannot see how the amalgamation is going to be brought within the bounds of practical mining. On that question certain statements have been made, first by Mr. Hamilton and

then by certain London representatives of mining companies. Mr. Hamilton, in giving his evidence before the Board of Trade, made the following remarks:—

Some of the Western Australian mines have erected plants which the Commissioner has commended, but the commercial result of running these plants on 7dwt. ore without a bonus offers, in present conditions, little inducement for the investment of capital, especially when that grade cannot be guaranteed. Moreover, we are advised that in the near future the mines will have to pay compensation for industrial diseases, including phthisis, and that would mean an addition of 4 to 4½ per cent. to the cost of labour.

A paragraph in the "West Australian" published early this month referred to certain remarks in London. It reads as follows:—

Recommendations made by Mr. Kingsley Thomas with a view to possible improvements in the Western Australian gold mining industry have aroused interest in London, where the big companies are controlled. One shareholder there draws from the report the inference that it is doubtful whether under existing conditions gold mining in Western Australia can be made to pay. He takes the view that if expenses can be cut down by the suggested amalgamation and the field put once more on a profitable basis, well and good, but should this prove to be impracticable he suggests that the directors of some of the "little Westerns" should consider the advisability of following the example of Ivanhoe and Associated Gold Mines and put their companies into voluntary liquidation. Such a course, he says, would doubtless prove profitable to a great number of shareholders who acquired their holdings at anything like present market prices, for it is well known that most of the companies possess liquid assets considerably in excess of their market capitalisation.

I have read those two extracts by way of pointing to the difficulties of getting the gold mining directorates to consider the question of amalgamation. There is also an injustice in Mr. Thomas's report, in the severity with which he comments on mine managers and mining methods, for he makes those remarks generally. There are practical men on the Golden Mile who have devoted a considerable amount of time and effort to research work and who have, as a result of that research work, made recommendations to their directors, only to have those recommendations turned down. Consequently, for Mr. Kingsley Thomas to class the whole of the mine managers as out-of-date and incompetent is most unjust, when some managers have been actively trying to get the very best results. Mr. Brown yesterday made a remark regarding the assistance given to the

mining industry by the reduction of water charges. This is the second time the hon. member has made his assertion, and for the second time I have to contradict it. It is entirely opposed to the facts. The hon. member said that the result of the reduction of water charges had been to reduce the number of men employed in the mines. He also said that Mr. Hamilton had declared that if the water prices reduction were given to the mines it would bring millions of tons of ore into profitable treatment. Mr. Hamilton, when speaking at that deputation, was most particular to correct that false statement. He pointed to the fact that if a considerable reduction could be effected in operating costs, there were millions of low-grade ore which could be treated if the cost were brought below 30s. That is a very different statement from the statement credited to him by Mr. Brown. As a matter of fact, that water reduction was given on the condition that any relief afforded was to be expended by the various companies in development work. That promise appears to have been carried out, as is shown in Mr. Thomas's report regarding the amount of money expended last year in development work. While the assistance given to the Kalgoorlie mines by way of water charges reduction represented £50,000, the mines on the Golden Mile alone spent £60,000 in development work, and so more than fulfilled the obligation imposed on them by the granting of the reduction of water charges.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Hon. H. SEDDON: Prior to the tea adjournment I was referring to the remarks of Mr. Brown in connection with the reduction of water charges to the mines in Kalgoorlie, and the remarks of Mr. Hamilton with regard to the Great Boulder Mine. Another reference made by Mr. Brown with regard to the reduction in water charges was that when the water was reduced to 2s. 6d., the companies put off men instead of putting them on.

Hon. J. R. Brown: And so they did.

Hon. H. SEDDON: The point is that there has been a considerable reduction of employment on the Golden Mile. The statement that this was due to the reduction in water charges is absurd.

Hon. J. R. Brown: Did not Mr. Hamilton say that if the water was reduced to

2s. 6d. they would put on a large number of men?

Hon. H. SEDDON: No, he did not.

Hon. J. R. Brown: He did.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon. H. SEDDON: That remark is not in accordance with the facts. I would refer the hon. member to the report of the deputation published in the Kalgoorlie "Miner" in which Mr. Hamilton was careful to explain the position. He pointed out that while the reduction of water charges would considerably benefit the mines, there were millions of tons of ore which were worth only 30s. a ton, and which would be treated if the costs were brought below 30s. a ton.

Hon. J. R. Brown: That is what I said.

Hon. H. SEDDON: The first statement I would refer to is the cause of unemployment in many mines on the Golden Mile. If members will read Mr. Kingsley Thomas's report they will see the statement of costs of various mines. The tonnage of reserve ore at present which is above the cost of treatment is only 45 per cent. of the tonnage opened up. The reduction of employment is due to the fact that the mining companies, in order to treat the ore at a profit, had to pull in their stopes and reduce the quantity of ore taken out. That is the reason for the reduction of employment on the Golden Mile. Another question that has been occupying the attention of goldfields people for a considerable time, is that upon which the present Government laid stress when fighting the last election. I refer to the proclamation of the Miners' Phthisis Act and the passing of the Workers' Compensation Act. When the Workers' Compensation Act was being discussed in this House, references were made to the fact that the Bill had been introduced before the Government had seriously faced the position that would accrue when the Bill was proclaimed an Act. Mr. Cornell, when speaking to the Bill in Committee, moved an amendment to the effect that the Bill so far as it applied to the Miners' Phthisis section should come into operation within the Eastern goldfields district on the 1st day of July, 1925. The Minister replied to the suggested amendment of Mr. Cornell in the following terms:—

That it was not desirable to fix the date in that way; that the Government had under consideration a number of schemes before the Bill could be proclaimed on the Eastern Cool-

gardie goldfields, and that some means must be provided whereby the men who could not work in the mines might be absorbed. He could not at the moment give members details of the scheme that was under consideration, but he must certainly oppose the amendment.

That was on the 11th December, 1924. Later on, while the Bill was still in Committee, the question of the application of the Miners' Phthisis section was again under consideration. When Mr. Holmes was speaking of the schedule which refers to miners' phthisis, he said that one Government had failed in its duty so far as the proclamation of the Miners' Phthisis Act was concerned. In the course of his remarks Mr. Holmes went on to say—

If there is some scheme to absorb him when he goes out. But there is no scheme, and the hon. member knows that there is no scheme, and that it will take 12 months to evolve one. The effect of such legislation in other States was to throw miners out of employment, and the Governments had to suspend the operation of the measure.

On the same date attention was drawn to the fact that if the Bill was passed it would be up to the Government to bring this provision into operation. Mr. Harris also referred to the remarks of the Minister for Works at Boulder on the 6th October, 1924. When that gentleman was discussing the matter with the industrial unions he said:—

The great difficulty was the insurance of the men who had already contracted the disease, but who were still engaged in the industry because neither the insurance companies nor the mining companies would accept the responsibility for such men.

The Minister added that he was going into that aspect of the question, and hoped soon to have a scheme prepared. The Government he remarked, should say—

"We will accept the liability for the men engaged in the industry up to this date." Two years ago we passed the Miners' Phthisis Act. The present Ministers castigated their predecessors in office for not putting that Act into operation.

I wish to draw attention to this matter, which was then being so much stressed. The Government realised when they brought the Bill in that with the placing of it on the statute-book there would be serious difficulties in the way of their proclaiming it. Since then the Commonwealth laboratory has been completed, and there is no reason why it should not now be brought into operation. Speaking on the subject the Minister for

Works said at the Labour Conference held in Perth—

They had not been able to proclaim the Miners' Phthisis Act passed by the previous Government because the mine owners had threatened to close down if it were done. The Government have brought from London a man with a world-wide reputation in order to ascertain what the industry can carry in that respect. They do not wish to rely merely on the word of the Chamber of Mines. The Government had been waiting until the Commonwealth laboratory was established at Kalgoorlie. Even now it would take the staff from 18 months to two years to conduct the examination of the men on the mines at present. When in Melbourne recently he had told the Commonwealth that if the staff were increased so that the work of examining the miners could be completed in six months the State Government would accept their responsibility and proclaim the Act, and bring the men who were suffering from the diseases out of the mines.

Up to the present nothing has been done. It is a case on which we should lay stress. Time is an element that is working against the men. They are in the mines to-day, and they should be taken out of it and be given other suitable employment. The longer these men are allowed to remain at that work the worse it will be for them. I am not referring to those who are suffering from T.B. so much as those who have been injured by dust. Seeing that the matter was stressed so strongly in the House on the occasion of the Workers' Compensation Bill, one would think that the Government would have taken steps to see that the Miners' Phthisis Act was proclaimed before this, and that they did their duty to the men who are waiting so anxiously for relief from the position they are in. With regard to our railways, there are three matters that affect their efficiency. The first is a question of hauling power, the second is the question of truck mileage, and the third is the question of grades. I congratulate the Commissioner upon having shown such satisfactory results during the last two years. There are certain figures connected with the working of the railways which indicate the efficiency of their operation, and these should be brought under the notice of members. The first that indicates efficient operation is the ton mileage figure. If we examine that figure for the past five years as given in the extract of comparative results of working, we find the ton mileage has varied as follows: In 1921 it was 1.96; in 1922, it was 1.95; in 1923 it was 2.02; in 1924 it was 1.95; and in 1925 it was 1.90. These

are the earnings on goods and livestock per ton mile. The earning power has decreased by a fraction since 1923. When we come to the figures dealing with the truck mileage we find again a similar state of affairs. In answer to questions I asked yesterday, I was given the following information: In 1921 the average truck mileage for both loaded and empty trucks per day was 20.56 miles; in 1922, 20.04; in 1923, 20.20; in 1924, 21.51; and in 1925, 22.63 miles. There has been considerable improvement in the truck mileage so far as the last two years are concerned. The really important figure is the proportion of truck mileage that is run by our trucks loaded. That indicates the earning power of our rolling stock. We can imagine a state of affairs in which every truck was fully loaded both ways, and we thus had the trucks working at 100 per cent. efficiency, but that is of course absolutely impossible. Members can see how necessary it is to be able to compare year by year the average earnings of our rolling stock in order to determine the efficiency under which that stock is handled. It appears to be a statistic that could be kept. It was kept eight or 10 years ago, but of recent years it has been dropped. Such information would be a most valuable indication of the way in which our railways are being worked. The conditions of our railways are such that there must of necessity be a considerable amount of dead running. Our traffic is mostly one way, and we have to expect that the figure will be a high one. It is desirable for purposes of comparison that we should have given to us from year to year the statistics with regard to the loaded mileage of each class of our trucks. Some reference has been made to the legislation forecasted for the present session. One point struck me in connection with the work of last session, that appeared to indicate a considerable weakness in our system of dealing with and creating legislation. Hon. members may remember that during last session a considerable amount of time was spent in this House dealing with Bills that came from another place. Two of the most important were the Arbitration Act Amendment Bill and the Workers' Compensation Act Amendment Bill. I contend that when the Arbitration Bill left this House it was a great improvement upon the Act at present in force.

Hon. H. Stewart: You are getting the Bill again in its amended form.

Hon. H. SEDDON: Considerable improvements were made by this House, improvements which met with the approval of another place, but because conference could not agree upon other clauses of the Bill, that legislation was lost and we are still operating under the old Act. If the work of the two Houses is to be lost entirely when it is possible to effect a compromise on those parts which meet with mutual approval, that will not tend to increase the efficiency of our work. If we could have brought into operation those clauses of the Bill on which both Houses agreed, there would have been a considerable improvement effected, and the work the court has to perform would have been reduced. The general all-round result, therefore, would have been better. I hope something may be possible in that direction because there is no doubt there will be a considerable amount of discussion in this House when the Bill comes forward again. In conclusion, I should like to say with other members that we are in a fortunate position with regard to our increased production. The result of that has been increased railway revenue and also an increase in the State's revenue generally. Members will agree that the amount of money expended in opening up the agricultural industry has had this most important result. The outlook is brighter to-day than it has been for many years, and there is not the slightest doubt that that improved outlook is due to increased production from the agricultural and pastoral areas than from any other cause. One must look forward with considerable confidence to the future and realise that this State is coming more and more into its proper place as a producer in the Commonwealth, and that the country is becoming recognised as possessing infinite resources, and having to offer to people opportunities that do not occur in any other State of the Commonwealth. One has to travel in the Eastern States to realise how people are handicapped in opening out on new work as compared with the position of the people in Western Australia. I maintain that Western Australia offers to the migrant a better future and brighter possibilities than any other part of the Commonwealth. I support the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-reply.

THE HONORARY MINISTER (Hon. J. W. Hickey) [7.50]: I wish to join with other hon. members in the welcome extended

to Mr. Glasheen and to offer him my congratulations on his maiden speech in this Chamber. Many of his remarks were informative, particularly those in connection with his practical experiences. He made reference to many propositions and the information that he supplied will prove useful to members. At the same time I am not unmindful of the fact, as was mentioned by Mr. Brown last night, that he sounded, unconsciously I think, a jarring note when he referred to my old friend, Joe McCarthy, who was spoken of by Mr. Kirwan as one of the best liked men on the Golden Mile. I feel sure that Mr. Glasheen made those references in a more or less humorous way, and that before the week is out he will take the opportunity of making a personal explanation.

Hon. J. W. Kirwan: He said he was speaking to the House in confidence.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I feel certain, however, that a personal explanation will put the matter right.

Hon. W. T. Glasheen: I shall make the explanation.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I appreciate the remarks of the hon. member in connection with the Labour Party. At the same time I cannot altogether associate myself with those remarks when he attributes the high cost of living and the high tariff to the Labour movement. We stand for a protective policy, but, as stated in another place, the protection of to-day is protection run mad. The hon. member also referred to the fact that the Labour movement and the Country Party should have a lot in common. I join issue with him there, but I cannot agree with him when he says there is a certain amount of antipathy between the two parties in this House. It must be with the party to which he belongs or, perhaps, it exists in the imagination of the hon. member. It certainly does not exist so far as the Labour movement is concerned. No better proof could be given of the sympathy of Labour towards the agricultural industry than the assistance that has always been rendered by that party to the men on the land. Most of the reforms that have benefited the agriculturists and that have assisted in the development of the industry have had their foundation in the periods of the Labour Party's administration. What was done by the Labour Party has had support ever since from successive Governments. Whilst wel-

coming Mr. Glasheen to this Chamber I join in the expressions of regret at the loss the House sustained by the death of Mr. Greig. I support the words of sympathy that have been expressed for the widow and the bereaved ones. At the same time may I be permitted to add that I also condole with the relatives of the late Mr. J. B. Holman, a man with whom I was associated for the better part of a quarter of a century. I trust that the unique circumstances that made it possible for his daughter to occupy the seat he held in Parliament may have a good result, and that she may prove the worthy successor of a worthy public man. A review of the remarks that have been made by members in the course of the debate incline me to think that the Leader of the House on this occasion is in the unique position—that it was not the lot of any of his predecessors to experience—of having nothing to reply to. Most of the criticism of hon. members has been on the generous side and, in some cases, eulogistic. But one should not lull himself into a sense of security because, as one of your predecessors, Mr. President, said, you never know the temper of this House and where they are going to break out next. In that connection I am reminded of the remarks of Mr. Holmes, who said he was always prepared to give credit where it was due. I believe the hon. member was quite serious when he said that. He has always been most generous in handing out praise and just as free in his criticism. This day twelve months we may find him criticising freely when debating the next Address-in-reply in the event of things not going in that period in the manner in which he would wish them to go.

Hon. J. Ewing: He may do so during the present session.

The HONORARY MINISTER: Quite so. The hon. member has good reason to appreciate the action of the Government, because the policy enunciated by the present Premier was that if the Labour Party were returned to power they would see that justice was done to all sections and to every part of the State. In connection with agricultural development the Government have completed the construction of the Piawaning railway extension, which has been the subject of public agitation for many years. The line has been opened and handed to the working railways. The Dwarda-Narrowm railway, about which there has been considerable

agitation for many years, has also been put in hand. A commencement has also been made with the work of linking up the Norseman-Esperance railway, and that will bring about the consummation of a long-standing desire not only on the part of goldfields people, but of every portion of the State. The Government have proved their bona fides in many directions and they have not been unmindful of the necessities of the North-West. They have negotiated for the purchase of an up-to-date steamer for the North-West trade, and I am hoping that, with the enthusiasm and business acumen displayed by the Minister for the North-West, sooner or later that service will be duplicated. I just make these remarks in passing because Mr. Holmes in the course of his speech alluded to that part of the State which few members get the opportunity to visit. The Leader of the House, who is in charge of the North-West Department, had his hands so full with other matters, that he was unable to visit the North-West and arranged that I should make the trip and get first-hand knowledge of the people's requirements there and report to him. Effect has been given to many of the proposals. Last year we passed a Bill to amend the Pearling Act. I found that the new measure was operating satisfactorily. It will be information to members to learn that the vexed question of amending the Workers' Compensation Act, which vitally affects the industry, has been taken in hand by the Minister for Labour. It is proposed to introduce an amendment which, while not going perhaps so far as the pearlers would wish, will yet relieve the position, which I admit rather militates against the successful carrying on of the industry. The pearling industry has been somewhat under a cloud, but the latest information from the North is that the price of shell is higher and that pearls of good value have been discovered. During my trip I went inland, and learned that the efforts of the Government to assist the mining districts were appreciated. Mining in the North played an important part in years gone by, and we are endeavouring by assisting mining in the Marble Bar district, at Braeside and on the asbestos fields, to bring about an improvement. Many reforms that have been advocated for years have been sanctioned by the Minister for Mines. The cost of mining in the North is much greater than

in other parts of the State, but we are hopeful that our efforts will result in considerable relief to the industry there. Mr. Kitson referred to the unemployed problem. At this season of the year, it is always acute. Criticism has been levelled against the administration of the Government Labour Bureau, but members should bear in mind that in abnormal times measures have to be adopted that would not be resorted to under ordinary conditions. I have no apology to offer regarding the administration of the Labour Bureau. I may fairly claim, without risk of being accused of egotism, that the bureau has never been conducted better than it is being conducted to-day. Even yet there is room for considerable reform, but this involves finance. A Bill will be introduced this session having for its object the abolition of private labour exchanges in the city. If that measure be passed, we shall have a chance to make the Government bureau worthy of its name. I hope it will be possible to enlarge the establishment and put it on a proper footing. From time to time complaints have been made that men cannot be obtained at the bureau to engage in clearing contracts in the country. The bureau, however, has been working in a hand to mouth fashion. Under the scheme of reorganisation proposed, we shall have a staff of men who know their job and will see that the right men are supplied for the work offering. At present an employer engaging labour has to take what is offering, and he might get a good man or he might not. The question of wages also enters into consideration.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: Do not the present staff try to send out suitable men?

The HONORARY MINISTER: The present staff are doing their best and are deserving of the best thanks of the community, but the bureau needs to be reorganised. We require an officer whose special job it shall be to deal with this phase of the work. I have submitted a scheme of reorganisation, but we shall want to know where we stand as regards the private exchanges before effect can be given to the scheme. I am satisfied that the sooner the private exchanges are abolished, the better it will be for employers and employees. I think members will find that the legislation contemplated will meet the requirements of both employer and employee. That is the object with which the Bill has been de-

signed. We want both parties to be satisfied, and we want to obtain the best results with the least possible expense. If there is a good man available, we want to place him, and the employer wants to get him. The question of preference to unionists at the bureau has received some prominence, but a misconception prevails regarding the policy of the Government. The Government were elected on a policy of preference to unionists, and they stand by that policy. I do not think it makes a scrap of difference to men applying at the bureau for work what the policy of the Government is. If a man has been engaged in any particular occupation, surely he has been a member of some organisation formed to protect the interests of such workers. It has been stated that a man cannot obtain employment through the bureau unless he is a member of the A.W.U.

Hon. J. Ewing: I do not think that statement is correct.

The HONORARY MINISTER: It is not correct. Still, the statement was made to me by several deputations. The organisation that protects men going out on construction and such like jobs is generally the A.W.U., but so long as a man can show that he has belonged to a union at some time or other, he obtains preference. The good solid toilers should not be compelled to stand aside while others who have not thrown in their lot with a union obtain the benefit. Preference to unionists is observed, but it applies irrespective of the union to which an applicant for employment belongs. The applicant, however, is expected to join the union associated with the industry in which he is engaging when he gets on to the job. No one can cavil at that. This explanation was necessary because of the erroneous statements that have been made from time to time. Some doubt has been cast upon the sincerity of the Government's policy of mining development, particularly by Mr. Harris. The speeches of Mr. Kirwan and Mr. Harris were not very hopeful. I am more optimistic regarding the future of the mining industry. The goldfields heralded the dawn of the era of prosperity in this State and made possible the successful agricultural development that has put Western Australia on the map. We know what agriculture did for Victoria, but years ago we never expected that the same thing

would happen in Western Australia. To mining, however, is due the prosperity that the State is enjoying to-day, and this being so, no misgivings need be entertained as to the sincerity of the Government towards the mining industry, particularly as several members of the Government not only represent mining constituencies, but are practical miners who have been associated with the industry all their lives. Apart from the public point of view, their interests and enthusiasm are with mining. It has been pointed out that over 150 million pounds worth of gold has been mined in Western Australia, that we have the largest auriferous belt existing in the world and that almost every known mineral, to say nothing of precious stones, is found here. Surely then we should be enthusiastic about the industry. Mr. Ewing was rather pessimistic when he referred to the report of the Royal Commissioner on mining, which he characterised as being damaging to the State, just as the report of the Group Settlement Commission was damaging to the State. The only difference between the reports of the two Commissions is that while the group settlement report was right up-to-date, we should have had Mr. Kingsley Thomas's report 10 or 12 years ago. If this had been so, we would have been in a better position to-day. I do not pose as an authority on mining, but I have had practical experience.

Hon. E. H. Harris: Do you think that what Mr. Kingsley Thomas said would have been applicable 10 years ago?

The HONORARY MINISTER: If he had reported on mining on the Golden Mile 12 or 15 years ago, there would have been no occasion for the report he recently presented. I say that, moreover, as one who has been in the mines. As Mr. Stewart very pertinently interjected to-night, Mr. Kingsley Thomas has had a worldwide experience of mining, and is an independent man. Had we had such a report on our mining 10 years ago, the history of our Eastern Goldfields in particular would have been very different.

Hon. E. H. Harris: What will the Government do with the report now they have got it?

The HONORARY MINISTER: It all depends on whether those who will be called upon to handle the recommendations will have sufficient commonsense and business acumen to make use of them.

Hon. A. J. H. Saw: I hope Mr. Kingsley Thomas is not responsible for the gold bonus.

Hon. J. W. Kirwan: We have not got the gold bonus yet.

The HONORARY MINISTER: Some little differences of opinion may exist as to the gold bonus.

The PRESIDENT: I do not think the hon. member is in order in referring to the gold bonus now. The House has settled that question.

The HONORARY MINISTER: Nevertheless, Dr. Saw takes exception to it. Mr. Kirwan, in his speech on the Address-in-reply, rather criticised the Government for lack of enthusiasm in behalf of the gold bonus, and he was ably supported by Mr. Harris. The Government did everything possible to support the proposal for a bonus, irrespective of the remarks of members representing goldfields constituencies.

The PRESIDENT: The hon. member is quite out of order in discussing the gold bonus.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I am replying to the remarks of Mr. Kirwan, made on the Address-in-reply.

Hon. J. W. Kirwan: I merely said that a reference to the gold bonus might have been made in the Governor's Speech.

The HONORARY MINISTER: Mr. Harris criticised the Government severely and rather ungenerously.

The PRESIDENT: I remember now.

The HONORARY MINISTER: Mr. Harris claimed that the Government should have come out earlier in support of the gold bonus, and also said that we might have been a little more active in bringing evidence before the Federal Disabilities Commission.

Hon. E. H. Harris: The Government were not inactive, they were asleep.

The HONORARY MINISTER: The Under Secretary for Mines, Mr. Calanchini, gave evidence before that Commission; and a report of his evidence was published.

Hon. E. H. Harris: But he is not a member of the Government.

The HONORARY MINISTER: He was the mouthpiece of the Government, instructed by the Minister for Mines. Did the hon. member want the Minister for Mines to go before the Commission?

Hon. E. H. Harris: Some member of the Government should have done so.

The HONORARY MINISTER: On this question only the Minister for Mines could

have gone, and he was not in the State at the time. However, the Government gave evidence before the Commission through their responsible officer, Mr. Calanchini, who is to be congratulated by all interested in the mining industry for the testimony he adduced.

Hon. E. H. Harris: No one has criticised him.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I may quote a few remarks from a letter addressed to me by the Gold Bonus Campaign Committee, through Mr. C. de Bernales—

On behalf of the gold-mining industry as represented by my committee, I am instructed to write in order to thank you for the support your Government through you have expressed to our appeal for assistance to the Federal Government. We would like to congratulate you on the statesmanlike utterance in which the Government's attitude was presented to the Press. We feel that all sections of the community will support the remarks expressed, as they aim at achieving a result which must either directly or indirectly benefit every citizen of the Commonwealth. My committee hope shortly to open their campaign in Melbourne, Sydney, and Brisbane, and trust we may be permitted in due course to seek the Government's advice and support in this direction. Again expressing our great appreciation of the assistance you have extended to our effort, yours faithfully, for the Gold Bonus Campaign, C. de Bernales.

Mr. Harris, on the other hand, deprecated the efforts of the Government; and it would be only what is due to the Government if I were to deal exhaustively with the hon. member's rather sneering remarks. However, I think it will be more appreciated if I briefly inform the hon. member that he would be much better taking his part as a goldfields representative by getting into the Government's corner and telling them clearly what they have done or not done, and thus endeavour to be of some assistance. That is the keynote of the position. No matter what our political feelings may be, we are anxious that every portion of the State should get a fair deal, and that we should give to industries all the assistance it is in our power to render. I could go through lists of proposals in connection with which the Government have been most active. They have spent £83,000 out of the £100,000 set aside for mining development, the largest amount ever spent by any Government in Western Australia for the benefit of the mining industry.

Hon. E. H. Harris: Does that include the £50,000 for the water concession granted by the Mitchell Government?

The HONORARY MINISTER: No. I say that £100,000 in all has been devoted by this Government to mining development and £83,000 actually spent apart from commitments. However, these criticisms get us nowhere. In my opinion one of the chief causes of the decline of the gold industry has been the hardship inflicted on the prospector by way of income tax. Certain legislation was brought down by this Government relieving the prospector of all taxation on his income from a mine discovered by him, whether the remuneration be in cash or in shares. Another feature is the pressure of income tax on mining companies. Last session we had a long discussion on that phase of the subject. Certain arrangements have now been made by the Government to meet the position and alleviate that taxation.

Hon. E. H. Harris: We gave you credit for that, but we said you did not extend the relief as far as the Commonwealth did.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I have the hon. member's remarks here, and I cannot discover that he gave the Government credit for anything. Like Mr. Holmes, if I was opposed to a Government, I would take advantage of every opportunity to give them a little credit. More money has been spent out of the Mining Development Vote by this Government than was ever spent before. I mention this by way of proving to Mr. Harris that the Government are doing something in the interests of mining. We are as keenly interested in the development of the Golden Mile as he is. Several members of the Ministry, including myself, represent mining constituencies. I would draw the attention of Mr. Harris to what the present Government have done in reference to abandoned leases, cartage, and tailings. Mr. Harris must recognise that the Golden Mile is not the only proposition to be taken into consideration, that other fields have to be developed, and that the prospector must receive a little assistance. That assistance has been given by the present Government wholeheartedly. Any mining man who places a proposition before the Government or the officials to-day is assisted to the fullest extent if it is anything like good business. No reasonable proposition put before the Government up to date has been turned down. The Government realise that, after all, it

is the mining industry that is responsible for the success attained by the State generally. I realise it is the wish of the House that the debate should terminate to-night, and in order that an opportunity may be given in that direction, I shall now conclude, merely repeating that, outside a few small criticisms in connection with mining, there has been practically no criticism of the Government. The Government are most grateful for the generous attitude of the House, as I may say briefly now, and as will be more adequately stated by the Leader of the House when relying on the debate generally.

Personal Explanation.

Hon. W. T. Glasheen: I ask leave to make a personal explanation. I feel indebted to Mr. Hickey and Mr. Brown for drawing my attention to the remarks I made concerning Mr. M. J. McCarthy. I would be indeed sorry to make any remarks about my old friend that could be regarded as a reflection upon his ability to earn his living. I think what I said was merely that Mr. McCarthy did not work very hard, but in making that statement I emphasised that in those days none of us worked very hard. I meant the remark merely by way of a lead up to a compliment to Mr. McCarthy. I went on to say that I gave Mr. McCarthy credit for having sown in my mind a desire for economic study, and that I attributed to him everything I had attained in that direction. I think that is a very high compliment to pay to a man. What I said in relation to his earning his living was certainly not intended to be in the nature of a slur. I propose to write to Mr. McCarthy personally a letter of explanation. I especially regret having said what I did because in the last couple of days I have heard of a very sad accident to Mr. McCarthy's son, who was killed in a mine recently. I was deeply grieved to hear of that accident, and would be still more sorry to think that any observations I made had added to the great grief which must be felt by my old friend. I make this explanation to the House by way of an apology to Mr. McCarthy for what I said.

HON. H. J. YELLAND (East) [8.30]: I do not propose at this late stage of the Address-in-reply debate to speak at any great length, but intend to deal with a few matters that have not been dwelt upon by

previous speakers. First of all, in company with others who have preceded me, I desire to express my high appreciation of the work of the late Mr. Greig. When I entered this Chamber last session Mr. Greig was one of those who extended to me great courtesy, and I shall never forget his kindness and the assistance he rendered to me. I also join with others in extending a hearty welcome to Mr. Glasheen. If he has the same experience that I had when I came here first 12 months ago, he will be at home among members at the present time. One might congratulate the Government on the very informative speech they supplied to His Excellency the Governor for presentation to Parliament. It followed the year's achievements, but it seemed to be very obscure regarding legislation to be brought forward. I am certain members will agree with me that a little more information in that respect would be very welcome. I do not intend to speak on matters of a parochial description. Within my province we have such old and well-established towns as Toodyav, York, and Northam, but I do not consider that they represent the hub of the universe. I will not contend for anything those centres are not entitled to receive as a result of the increased development of the State. When I hear hon. members advocating local needs, as Mr. Burvill did, regarding Albany, and Mr. Potter regarding Fremantle, it seems to me that there is only one town that is of importance in Western Australia so far as each of them is concerned. I wish to impress upon members that as the State develops so will the necessity arise for the development of, or increasing, the requirements of those ports.

Hon. G. Potter: And the necessity is here now.

Hon. H. J. YELLAND: It has not arrived.

Hon. A. Burvill: What, after 100 years!

Hon. H. J. YELLAND: If the development of the State reaches the stage when production becomes greater than our ports can successfully handle, then is the time for that development of the ports to take place.

Hon. G. Potter: We are running late now.

Hon. H. J. YELLAND: If our ports can in any way handle the whole of the produce passing through them at the present time, how can we justify increased expenditure in

extending those ports before the time arrives when we shall reap the benefit of any such expenditure?

Hon. G. Potter: Harbour works take a long time to complete.

Hon. H. J. YELLAND: Perhaps they do.

Hon. G. Potter: There is no "perhaps" about it.

Hon. J. Ewing: You have to provide the harbours before you can get the trade.

Hon. H. J. YELLAND: The time for extending our harbour facilities is when the production of the State makes those extensions necessary to handle the increased trade.

Hon. G. Potter: It is not.

Hon. H. J. YELLAND: I do not agree with the hon. member, neither do some of those who are at the present time using the harbour at Fremantle.

Hon. A. Burvill: You cannot develop a harbour unless you have a railway running to it.

Hon. H. J. YELLAND: Can the hon. member tell me any harbour that has not a railway running to it now? However, the whole position, looking at it from the wider standpoint of the State as a whole, is that so long as we can go ahead with the development of the State the other things will follow regarding the coastal trade. As to our financial position we are all highly delighted to know that the finances have improved so appreciably. The deficits have dwindled annually during the last few years. In 1922 it was £730,135; in 1923, £405,364; in 1924, £229,158; and in 1925, £59,057. The present Government have taken a considerable amount of credit for that result.

Hon. F. H. Gray: And they deserve to.

Hon. H. J. YELLAND: Perhaps so; yet while at the end of the financial year 1923-24 the deficit was £229,158, the deficit for July of this year was £218,935, as against £59,000 for the whole of last year. If we are to continue as we have started during the present financial year, I do not know what will be the result. The reduction of the deficit to £59,000 was a creditable performance. I venture the opinion, however, that had it not been for the developmental policy of Sir James Mitchell it would not have been achieved. Moreover, had Sir James remained in power to continue his policy, the deficit of £59,000 would have been converted into a very substantial surplus. It has to be admitted that during the

past year augmented taxation increased the revenue by at least £42,000. In view of the state of the finances to-day I hope the Government will not offset that fortunate position by embarking upon any of those schemes that were so disastrous 10 or 15 years ago. At present there has been a considerable offset against that amount by the introduction of the 44-hour week in connection with some of the State trading concerns. It would perhaps be a mistake on my part to pursue this line further. It has been dealt with by other members, and it is my desire more to stress points that have not been dealt with during the debate. There is no doubt, however, that the improved financial position is due to the development of the agricultural areas, principally in the wheat belt. Last year alone there was an increase of 5,000,000 bushels of wheat compared with the previous season. If we consider what that means to the railways we will realise what this extra haulage of freight amounts to. The increased yield has extended well back in the wheat areas, but the average haulage would be at least 4d. per bushel. Working on that basis it will be seen that the extra wheat yield represented an additional sum of £80,000 to the railways for the haulage of that freight.

Hon. V. Hamersley: And yet they say wheat haulage does not pay?

Hon. H. J. YELLAND: At any rate that was the return last year. While dealing with wheat, I suggest to the Government that they give serious consideration to the necessity for getting into touch with the Federal authorities with a view to securing unanimity in favour of the abolition of the f.a.q. sampling of wheat. For years past wheat has been sold on the world's market on the basis of f.a.q. wheat produced throughout the whole of Western Australia. It may not be well known to hon. members just how the f.a.q. sample is arrived at. Samples of wheat are taken from various parts of the State, the prime being mixed with the poor. All the samples are thoroughly mixed together and placed in a bushel receptacle which is then weighed. In order to get at what the f.a.q. sample is, it is necessary to have a collection of the various classes of wheat from all parts of the State. That is done and that forms the basis on which our wheat is sold on the world's markets. And that is the basis of the value of wheat as delivered at

the siding. It must appeal to everyone, therefore, that as the f.a.q. sample has been decided by the Chamber of Commerce for years past, the producer of the wheat has no say whatever in fixing the standard for the season. That standard is fixed by those who are the buyers and sellers of the wheat. This is the result that follows: Let us assume that the f.a.q. sample of wheat weighs 62 lbs. That works out at 5s. 2d. per bushel or 1d. per lb. Any wheat that comes in at 62 lbs. is an f.a.q. sample. If the wheat comes in weighing 65 lbs. it should be worth 5s. 5d., but as it is well within the standard required it is paid for as f.a.q. wheat at 5s. 2d. If wheat should be brought along that weighs 56 or 58 lbs. to the bushel the grower is docked. That docked wheat, when it reaches England, is mixed with superior quality wheat to be made up to f.a.q. sample and the whole is then sold in the world's markets as f.a.q. wheat. Consequently nearly the whole dockage that the farmers are compelled to submit to, are made up with good wheat and the merchants reap the advantage. The time has arrived when the Government should introduce a system providing for various grades of wheat, whereby the grower would be able to receive fair value for his products. Governments of the past have seen fit to establish experimental farms where extra special wheats have been bred suitable for growing in various parts of the State, and this has been brought up to such a pitch of perfection that to-day we are producing a better wheat than ever before. Yet neither the farmers nor the State is getting the benefit of that improvement. The whole of the benefits are being reaped by those dealing in the wheat. Consequently there is no encouragement to the farmer to improve the quality of his wheat, and so to-day we are crying out for a better sample. It is to the advantage of the State, as well as of the individual, that he should receive the benefits derived from growing a superior wheat. There should be co-operation with the Commonwealth, and in this respect I believe great good could be done. I have been in communication with the Director of Agriculture, and he is quite sanguine that it is possible to do this. I hope the Government will follow it up with the idea of putting it to practical use. A little while ago I had opportunity to look into the fruit drying industry in the Eastern States and compare the conditions with those under which our growers are

labouring. You, Sir, might remember that when the returned soldiers at Upper Swan started to produce lexiass, sultanas and currants, very high prices were being reached in the Home Land, and the soldiers were induced to start planting with a view to meeting the demand. They have done that. But the land was sold to them at a very high figure, based on the average production and the value then being received for the exported article in London. To-day the market price is very much below the price then obtainable, and moreover the land on which these soldiers were placed has been very much over-capitalised, with the result that those men are in a very precarious position and something will have to be done if they are to remain on their farms. I do not want to see a repetition of what occurred some years ago on the wheat areas when, if a man failed he walked off his holding and the Agricultural Bank accepted the first applicant for the block, with the result that the second holder reaped the benefit of the labours of his predecessor. I hope these soldiers are not going to be turned off their blocks without first being given every opportunity to make good. After having gone through the Mildura settlements and seen what is being produced there, I venture to say that Western Australia can grow infinitely better grapes than those produced in the Eastern States. Yet we have not been able to come up to the Eastern States' dried product, for the conditions over there help the grower to turn out a fruit superior to ours. However, I believe our conditions can be overcome but our growers will have to be instructed and assisted by the Government.

Hon. J. Ewing: In what does this State fail?

Hon. H. J. YELLAND: In this respect: Being so near the coast, it takes much longer to dry the fruit, and the longer it takes, the darker the fruit becomes in colour, and the darker it is in colour the lower the grade. In food values our fruit is equal to theirs, but we cannot produce the same good colour. Then again, the dried fruit must come up to the Federal standard to be exported. When our returned soldiers were placed at the Upper Swan, Western Australia was importing her dried fruits. To-day we have to export 60 per cent. of our production, and the whole of the fruit exported must be up to the standard set under the Commonwealth regulations. That

exported fruit is of very high quality. Anything of second grade is rejected. Therefore 60 per cent. of our fruit has to be graded for the Home market, while the other 40 per cent., which may be of second grade, is sold locally. Yet the man selling the inferior article locally is getting a higher price than he who is selling the standard article on the world's market. The Government should consider these things if they want to keep those soldiers on their farms. The Prime Minister, addressing the Commercial Travellers' Association in Melbourne recently, said, "The market we must have is the British market. It is worth all the other markets together." Australia sent 12,000 tons of dried fruits to the London market last year, and that was simply a drop in the bucket. The whole solution of our dried fruit problem in Western Australia is that which was suggested by Mr. Willmott when speaking on group settlement, namely, to increase production to such an extent as to make our exports felt in the Home market. If we could increase our exports tenfold and send 200,000 tons to London every year, instead of our having to look for markets we should have the consumers looking to us for our products. Here again is one of the difficulties we are up against in the markets of Great Britain: I saw a sample of sultanas produced in South Europe, close to the Mediterranean. Mildura managed to produce a sample of equal quality, but it was found that in that sample there was a certain number of spotted fruit that had to be taken out. It was impossible to take them out by mechanical means, so one of the Greeks at Mildura was asked how they were able to get such a beautiful sample in Greece. He said it was done by taking out the whole of the blacker berries and retaining the others. When asked the cost of that operation, he said that in his country boys were employed to do it at half a crown a day. It will be seen, therefore, that it is impossible for Australia to put such a sample on the world's markets and compete with the product thus specially prepared in Greece. I was talking over this matter with Mr. Chaffey, the founder of the Mildura settlement. He suggested that we should form an Australian standard that could be maintained by mechanical means. We should then have a standard for our dried fruits, the same as for our wheats, and we could put the fruit on the world's market at a

cheaper rate and would then have the world looking to us and accepting our standard. I have compared samples of Californian and Grecian and Spanish fruits, and I can say that Australia is capable of producing fruit quite equal to those. The future of our dried fruit industry is bright, provided we can increase production to such an extent that we shall be able to demand the attention of the world, instead of having to push our way as at present. I do not propose to say much on group settlement. I am pleased to know that the Government intend to carry on the work started by Sir James Mitchell. The system of group settlement is being copied in other States as well as in other parts of the world, and the advantage of the system is being widely acknowledged. Western Australia is to be complimented upon having inaugurated such a scheme. Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, and I believe that ere long we shall be able to look back upon the initiation of our group settlements with the same feelings of satisfaction as we now look back to the initiation of our wheat belt settlement, and say that it was one of the finest things that ever happened Western Australia. I would point out for the benefit of those who have said we should introduce the contract system, that it was tried for many years. Mr. McLarty, Manager of the Agricultural Bank, said some little time ago that the contract system under the Agricultural Bank had proved a failure for the last 25 years, and that something else had to be done if the South-West was to be developed. In Question 1895 he says that group settlement is the only solution of the difficulty of developing that part of the State. His opinion is a very valuable one. It has been said that the groupies are moneyless people, and that we have settled the South-West with people of that type. That is the bright feature of the whole thing. How many men with money would try to develop the South-West? If a man had money he would not go there, but go somewhere else. Sir James Mitchell conceived the idea of developing it with cheap money that he was able to obtain, and this has been the only way in which he could develop it.

Hon. W. T. Glasheen: If they had capital, had they anywhere else to go?

Hon. H. J. YELLAND: Men with capital would buy a ready-made farm, or invest their money in other directions. They would

not develop the South-West under the contract system, as they would have to do if they came under the Agricultural Bank.

Hon. W. T. Glasheen: If they had capital they would not need the Agricultural Bank.

Hon. H. J. YELLAND: Neither would they have the inclination to develop the South-West.

Hon. W. T. Glasheen: That is a reflection on the South-West.

Hon. H. J. YELLAND: No, because the land could have been developed in no other way. The system has been a failure for 25 years.

Hon. H. Stewart: The Agricultural Bank never advanced any appreciable sum of money for that part of the State.

Hon. A. Burvill: The principal cause of the lack of development was the absence of sufficient railways.

Hon. H. J. YELLAND: The Agricultural Bank has advanced money for the South-West. It has advanced money to the full value of the improvements done.

Hon. A. Burvill: Not in the Denmark area.

Hon. H. J. YELLAND: Mr. McLarty says it was not possible to develop the South-West under the conditions permitted by the bank.

Hon. H. Stewart: He would not give it a trial under the group settlement scheme.

The PRESIDENT: The hon. member should allow Mr. Yelland to make his speech in his own way.

Hon. H. J. YELLAND: The interjections are helpful in many ways. I am only quoting the remarks of Mr. McLarty. The only way to start to develop the South-West was under the day labour group system, as initiated by Sir James Mitchell. If, as the Commission suggests, it is possible to do the work under the contract or piecework system, I welcome the change, for I believe it will be less expensive. I cannot think that the members of the Commission are sanguine of success. The Commission was comprised of men who had previously expressed views opposed to piecework and in favour of day labour, and how they are going to reconcile the two things, I do not know. In 1913 there was a desire to call a halt in the development of our wheat areas. In that year I heard a Labour leader say in public that we had no more wheat land to sell. If that was the case in 1913, how is it we have sold so many thousands of acres of wheat lands since the Lab-

our Government went out of office, and how is it we have increased the production of our wheat areas to the extent we have? To-day people are saying, "Do not let us develop the South-West, or develop the State." If we refuse to develop the State we are not carrying out the functions that devolve upon us as loyal members of the great Empire. Sir James Mitchell has always aimed at the development of the State, for if the State is developed everything else expands with it. In 1919, when he took over the Government, there were about 3,000 men out of employment. Despite that, he began a progressive immigration scheme. There were also 11,000 men returning from the war. In 1924 he had found work for all, and there were still jobs available in excess of the number of men who could take them. To-day everywhere men are crying out for work, because during the last 12 months the development of the State has been retarded.

Hon. E. H. Gray: That is not so.

Hon. W. H. Kitson: There was more unemployment last year.

Hon. H. J. YELLAND: At the end of Sir James Mitchell's regime there was no unemployment. No previous speaker has referred to the Muresk agricultural college. A good deal has been said in the Press about the appointment of the principal. He must be a man of high integrity and scientific attainments. Those are the two essential points. The agricultural colleges of any State are a reflex of the agricultural industry of those States. The college reputation depends upon the principal. If we get a second-grade man we shall have a second-grade college, and that will mean we shall have a second-grade agricultural reputation as compared with the other States. South Australian wheat farmers owed a great deal to the work of Professor Lowrie while he was principal of the agricultural college there. He fought for the various principles in which he believed, and maintained that the only way to increase the yield and improve the general production of South Australia was to follow those principles. To-day he is beloved and acknowledged as one of the great benefactors of South Australia. If we start our college with a man who is not up to the standard, we shall place it in a position that will be below the standard adopted in the other States. It will also mean that our agricultural industry will suffer in reputation. If it is possible

to secure the services of one of the leading men in the Eastern States we should immediately do so. I do not care what the salary is. The best salary paid to the principal of Roseworthy, Hawkesbury or Dookie colleges, is not too great to pay to the principal of Muresk college. If a man is of value to any of the other States, he must surely be of equal value to Western Australia. Why not offer him a higher salary to take charge of Muresk college, with the object of creating a standard that will be creditable to Western Australia and assist us in our agricultural development? If we start low we shall have a low reputation throughout our agricultural career. If we offered any one of those principals an extra £250 a year over and above his present salary, and an appointment for 10 years, it would mean only £2,500 in that time, but would place the college in the position of being second to none in Australia. If, however, we take from one of those colleges the second in command, the Muresk college would immediately become second to the college from which we had taken the second professor. I cannot express myself too strongly on the matter. When we read in the paper that the Minister for Agriculture is practically wedded to the appointment of a State school teacher to the position of principal, I must say it is nothing short of a damnable disgrace to Western Australia. Words almost fail me when I think that our college is likely to be placed in such a degraded position as to be situated so far below those of the other States, when, with our great agricultural possibilities it should be foremost on the list of such colleges. After we have obtained the best possible man, we should have the college affiliated with the University, so as to enable our young men to take agricultural degrees and obviate the necessity for their going to the other States. I did want to say something about the railways and the apathy of the Government in connection with the Caterers' Union strike.

Hon. E. H. Gray: That has been thrashed to death.

Hon. H. J. YELLAND: There is one point in connection with the strike I cannot overlook, and it is this: While that strike was in progress, the justices, through their association, forwarded a letter to the Acting Premier suggesting that he should take certain action. Those gentlemen

acted in accordance with their oath of allegiance to His Majesty the King and they did the right thing in protesting. The acting Premier (Mr. Angwin) is reported to have said that if he could have found out who those particular justices were, he would have called upon them to resign.

Hon. E. H. Gray: And they would have deserved it, too.

Hon. H. J. YELLAND: I think the hon. member is speaking in ignorance of the requirements of a justice of the peace. He would not have made such an observation were he cognisant of the duties of a justice.

Hon. E. H. Gray: His duties are to dispense justice and not to take sides.

Hon. H. J. YELLAND: The justices would have been wanting in their duty to the State and would have been violating the obligation of their oath to preserve peace and good order. Had they not adopted that attitude. I shall show for the hon. member's information just how they carried out their obligation. Section 237 of the Criminal Code reads—

It is lawful for any person who witnesses a breach of the peace to interfere to prevent the continuance or renewal of it, and to use such force as is reasonably necessary for such prevention and is reasonably proportioned to the danger to be apprehended from such continuance or renewal, and to detain any person who is committing or who is about to join in or to renew the breach of the peace for such time as may be reasonably necessary in order to give him into the custody of a police officer. Section 566 reads—

It is lawful for a justice or police officer to arrest without warrant any person whom he finds committing any indictable offence or committing any simple offence with respect to which it is provided that a person found committing it may be arrested by a police officer without warrant.

I also have an opinion as to the competency of a justice to order an arrest. This opinion was given in 1922 by Sir Walter James, K.C., as follows:—

1. The duty of conserving the peace lay in ancient times primarily with the holders of certain offices (one of which was the office of justice of the peace) filled by appointment or by election, and the right of appointment was assumed by Edward III. in 1327. By an Act of that year, it was enacted: "The King wills that in every country good men and lawful which be no maintainers of evil or barretors in the county shall be assigned to keep the peace." These are very wide and general words which must now be read in the light of improved administration and of fuller legislation. And to-day it may be taken broadly

speaking that a justice of the peace discharges his duties in court, or as a preliminary to a hearing in court or for the purpose of enforcing an order made in court. The modern policeman—and we are apt to overlook how modern he is—with the consequent series of Acts defining his duties has created a regulated system by which peace is conserved and under which offenders are brought before courts of justice by machinery in which judges and justices take no personal initiative, but in which they discharge judicial functions. They have ceased to be "keepers of the peace" in that active and personal sense which prevailed in past centuries.

2. The Justices Act, 1902-1920, Section 15, says, "Justices of the peace shall have and may exercise within and for their jurisdiction the several powers and authorities conferred upon them by this Act or by a general commission of the peace." And Sections 26 and 28 of the same Act state what a justice can do out of sessions, that is when not in court. These three sections cover the usual activities of a justice before and after sessions.

3. At common law a justice might apprehend, or by a verbal order cause to be apprehended any person committing a felony or breach of the peace in his presence. But the relevant provision on this head is now embodied in the Code, Sections 237 and 566.

Those are the sections I have quoted.

Hon. E. H. Gray: But there was no breach of the peace.

Hon. H. J. YELLAND: Sir Walter James's opinion continued—

4. The Criminal Code forms a general guide, but if special Acts give justices express power to direct or verbally order an arrest, then the provisions of such an Act should be relied upon. Whenever a justice has power to arrest without a warrant, he has the power to direct a constable to arrest. See Section 37 of the Justices Act.

5. Applying the above principles to the case submitted to me, it was the duty of the constable to arrest Smith when so directed by the justice.

It is quite within the jurisdiction of the justices and indeed it is their duty to see that peace is maintained, and if necessary to direct the attention of a constable to any breach, or even to order the arrest.

Hon. E. H. Gray: You had better send them around to election meetings in the city.

Hon. H. J. YELLAND: Let me direct attention to Section 12 of the Justices Act, which reads:—

Every member of the Executive Council, every judge of the Supreme Court, and every chairman of a court of general or quarter sessions of the peace, police or resident magistrate or coroner shall, by virtue of his office and without any further commission or authority than this Act, be a justice of the peace for the State.

According to that, the members of the Executive are ex officio justices of the peace, and we found ourselves in the peculiar position of one body of justices declaring that another body of justices were only fit to be erased from the roll. Yet those justices, as I have shown, carried out their duties with all due respect to the obligations of their oath of allegiance, while the others, instead of supporting them, did their level best to dissuade them and even to intimidate them. That is the position in which the justices were placed on that occasion, and being a justice myself and knowing the difficulties with which they are sometimes confronted, I feel justified in explaining to members the actual position in which they stood at that time.

Hon. W. H. Kitson: Do you suggest that they were acting on behalf of the whole of the justices?

Hon. H. J. YELLAND: They were acting in accordance with their oath of allegiance to the Crown, and in the best interests of the peace which they have sworn to maintain.

Hon. E. H. Gray: Based upon faked Press reports.

Hon. H. J. YELLAND: Based upon nothing but what they saw for themselves. I know that the Executive have a right to call upon them to put in their resignations, if they think fit, but a justice has never yet been called upon to resign, unless on account of removal from the district, or he himself has been guilty of a breach of the peace or lack of allegiance to His Majesty. In the circumstances it was only an act of intimidation on the part of the Government, who have not had the courage to call upon those justices to resign. I am pleased to know that the justices had the courage to forward that letter to the Government. They acted in the best interests of the State and are to be commended for the action they took.

Hon. E. H. Gray: They acted at the instigation of the Employers' Federation.

Hon. H. J. YELLAND: Nothing of the sort: the hon. member is speaking without any knowledge of the facts. The justices acted without bias, and they knew perfectly well that the Government, every member of which was ex officio a justice of the peace, should have carried out the duty that they themselves would have instructed the police to do had the necessity arisen. I hope the

Government will give due consideration to the four points I have mentioned.

HON. E. ROSE (South-West) [9.26]: I congratulate the Government upon the state of the finances. They, following in the footsteps of the Mitchell administration and by keeping down expenditure, have achieved very creditable results. Sir James Mitchell must be a proud man to-day in having showered upon him the congratulations he has received at seeing his prophecy of three years ago fulfilled, a prophecy that the State had turned the corner and in three or four years would show a credit balance instead of a deficit. On the 30th June last the deficit for the year stood at less than £100,000, which was a very creditable achievement. The improved financial position of the State is largely due to the land settlement policy of the previous Government, and it shows that that policy was the right one for the State. The greatest problem confronting us to-day is that of settling this huge State. The development of a territory like Western Australia requires broad-minded men who are not afraid of launching out on a policy of development north, south and east. We have millions of acres of land that are well worthy of attention, and I hope the present Government will continue to open up the country as the previous Government were doing. More attention should be paid to the North-West. Having lived there for years, I know what settlement the country is capable of carrying. The Government will have to tackle the North-West in no parochial spirit. There are in Western Australia to-day valuable mines that are not being developed simply because of the cost of development—and I now refer especially to the North. Western Australia has millions of acres of agricultural land awaiting development. The wheat belt is advancing every year, though not so fast as it might be. Neither are our railways being extended as rapidly as they should be. The present Government, having the opportunity of cheap money, might proceed with a scheme of railway extension. Not having had the time, I have not as yet gone through the report of the Royal Commission on Group Settlement. Therefore I shall not comment on it. However, it behoves the Government to see that the rich agricultural lands of the South-West are developed by closer settlement. I would advise Ministers to re-introduce the Closer

Settlement Bill of a couple of sessions ago. If that measure were passed, the Government could embark on a large drainage scheme in the South-West, and settle thousands of farmers there. We have land as good as is to be found in any part of the world, undeveloped. During the last 12 months I have travelled in various countries, and I return more satisfied than ever with the prospects of Western Australia. We have swamp and flat lands equal to country selling in the Eastern States at £100 per acre. With a careful continuance of the migration policy we shall before long overtake the whole of the local demand for farm produce. We are now importing about £500,000 worth of butter per annum. That, certainly, is not as it should be. We have the land, but there are three things we want badly for the development of the land: men and women who are willing to work, money for development, and markets for our produce when the country has been developed. Great Britain can supply us with all three requirements. I think the Premier's visit to England will do Western Australia much good. The hon. gentleman's trip has broadened his mind. He has rubbed shoulders with the statesmen and financiers of Great Britain, and now he will be able to carry the burden of the Premiership far more easily. As regards the cheap money arranged for by the Bruce Government, it represents one of the best schemes ever offered to any part of the world. The money is being obtained at 1 per cent. for the first five years, and at 2 per cent. for the next five years; which means an allowance of about 40 per cent. to cover losses. Those terms are much better than the terms of the agreement negotiated by Sir James Mitchell in England, though that agreement was considered a most advantageous one when he made it. One reason why I have risen this evening is that Mr. Baxter has made certain remarks. Sneaking on Tuesday of last week, Mr. Baxter said—

What did the Government officials know of the South-West? Very little.

Hon. J. Ewing: What about Mr. McLarty?

Hon. C. F. Baxter: Mr. McLarty is an office man. If you take him out of the office and tell him that he is capable of advising as to what should be done in the South-West, I cannot subscribe to the statement.

Hon. T. Moore: What experience of development has he had, and where?

Hon. C. F. Baxter: Mr. McLarty has had no experience whatever in that direction.

Hon. T. Moore: Mr. McLarty did not do much with his own land at Pinjarra.

Hon. J. Ewing: He has done wonderful work for the country.

Hon. T. Moore: He has asked others to do it.

Hon. E. ROSE: Mr. McLarty was born on a farm at Pinjarra. His father, an old and much respected member of this House for many years, was one of the most practical farmers in the South-West. He started with nothing, and worked his way up to an assured position by his own practical experience. His sons who followed him—one of them is the Controller of Group Settlement—had as good a training as anyone could possibly have. I have no axe to grind in this matter, and hold no brief for anybody; but I consider that Mr. Baxter, before making that statement, should have ascertained what Mr. McLarty's experience has been. Mr. McLarty worked very hard on that farm. When the late Mr. Paterson went down to Pinjarra for the purpose of asking Mr. McLarty to assist him in the Agricultural Bank, he found him grubbing a tree on the farm. Mr. McLarty has had experience from the bottom upwards. His people's farm in the South-West is as up to date as anybody's farm. They had a dairy farm on which 60 or 70 cows were milked every day. He helped to milk the cows, to rear pigs, and to do fencing, and when he left the farm he knew perfectly well what advice to give to farmers. Mr. McLarty is perfectly qualified to advise regarding what is to be done in the South-West. A public servant should not be unfairly criticised here, since he has not the opportunity of replying.

Hon. T. Moore: He has been criticised in the Press.

Hon. J. R. Brown: This overtime makes hon. members venomous.

Hon. E. ROSE: Mr. McLarty still has an interest in a big farm in the South-West, and is up to date in all farming methods. I believe he has been in the Agricultural Bank now for about 25 years. During that period he has advanced some millions of pounds to farmers, chiefly in the wheat belt; and a good part of that money has been repaid. I think the Leader of the House will bear me out in stating that in Mr. McLarty we have at the head of the group settlement scheme a man who can be thoroughly relied upon, a man knowing his work from A to

Z. Mr. McLarty was next to the general manager of the Agricultural Bank for about 20 years, and in 1920 became the general manager, and if he does not know how to advise on farming, very few can do so. He has had a hand in settling more farmers on the land than any man in Australia. After all, who, except Mr. McLarty, has had the directing of the group settlement scheme? Even apart from his experience, Mr. McLarty is an extremely able man; and he is assisted by capable officers. The group settlement scheme is one of the best schemes ever started, and I hope the present Government will continue on much the same lines. Mistakes have been made in the scheme, as mistakes are made in all large concerns, in business, in mining, and in agriculture alike. If 50 per cent. of the settlers are successful, the groups are going to be a great thing for Western Australia. Some people say, "Look at the waste of money, and how are we going to meet our obligations?" Anyone who has travelled through the South-West must recognise that the groups with their families are one of the best assets any country can have. I have visited the groups, and I believe they are going to be a great success. Only a few years ago when the wheat belt was in process of being settled, when men were being placed at Yarding and Bruce Rock, the same complaints were made. It was asserted that money was being wasted and that the settlers were starving. I well remember the late general secretary of the Primary Producers' Association speaking at various centres in this strain, declaring that the settlers were living in hessian huts, that the women were clothed in hessian, and that the people had nothing to eat except boiled wheat and treacle. He said Sir James Mitchell ought to be ashamed of himself for putting people out there in such conditions. The same cry is being raised now about the group settlements in the South-West, but in a few years that will all be over. Only by group settlements can the South be settled, because newcomers cannot be expected to isolate themselves as we did when we were young. They are a different class of people, and the only way to settle them is to put them in groups. Moreover, that is a much cheaper process, since in connection with groups there are schools, railway communication and so forth. I have no fear whatever of the future of land settlement in the South-West. Refer-

ence is made in the Governor's Speech to the harbours of Western Australia. Sir George Buchanan, the eminent British harbour expert, is at present in Western Australia inspecting three of the principal ports of the State. I am sorry that his sojourn will not permit of him inspecting other ports as well. When land settlement is still further extended and the production and population of the State increased, we shall have to provide improved facilities at the outer ports in order that we may ship our produce away without, as is necessary in some ports in the North, lightering it to the ships. At Geraldton a considerable amount of money is being spent, and the wheat country in the hinterland warrants that expenditure. The same applies to Albany and Bunbury. We also have such ports as Busselton and Esperance, which will have to be provided with accommodation to enable boats to load our produce without difficulty. As a member representing the South-Western Province I was pleased to note the cordial reception given by the Premier to a deputation that waited upon him regarding the provision of a power house at Collie. We hear complaints about failures on the land, but those men are not failures; they are merely misfits. If the power station is erected, the cheap current available will result in the establishment of secondary industries throughout the South-West, and that will provide employment for a great many men who may not have proved suitable for work on the land. Put some of us in offices and we would prove rank failures. The same applies to some men who have been put on the land. With the inauguration of the Collie scheme, however, the creation of secondary industries should prove of great advantage to the South-West and to the State generally. There are a number of other points with which I could deal, but I have no intention of delaying the House any longer. I would not have spoken at all had I not read the report of Mr. Baxter's comments on Mr. McLarty. It would not have been fair had I, as a representative of the South-West, allowed his remarks to go unchallenged. It was very pleasing to hear the remarks of the last speaker regarding group settlement. It came to us as representatives of the South-Western province as a great surprise because, as a rule, representatives coming from the wheat belt have spoken unfavourably regarding the South-West and group settlement. Therefore his remarks

were all the more pleasing. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [9.49]: I have much pleasure in joining with other members in extending congratulations to Mr. Glasheen on his election as a representative of the South-East Province. The fact that he has been chosen by such an important province to represent it in this House is testimony to his ability and character. I feel sure from the reputation he has earned that he will prove to be a worthy successor to one who has enjoyed the respect and esteem of us all. It would take a considerable time to deal, even briefly, with all the questions raised during the course of this debate. I am sure it is not expected that I shall do so. It will be enough if I touch upon matters of particular interest from the standpoint of the State, and of particular interest to the provinces represented by members in this Chamber. I thank Mr. Ewing for his generous speech. He is not a member of the party to which the Government belong. He is a political opponent and was a Cabinet Minister in the Government who were defeated by the party to which I am attached. In his speech he displayed a magnanimity which I appreciate, but I cannot follow his line of reasoning in all matters. He paid a tribute to his late chief, Sir James Mitchell, and it is only natural that he should do so. I have no fault to find with him in that respect. I do not wish to say one word in depreciation of Sir James Mitchell. I have admired his zeal for land settlement, his keen sense of honour, and the fairness that characterised his administration. He exercised justice to every section of the community, even to those who are strongly opposed to him in political matters. My objection is not that Mr. Ewing sounded the praises of Sir James Mitchell, but to some of the arguments he used in support of his eulogy. He told us that when Sir James Mitchell came into power, plenty of people, including members of Parliament, advocated the imposition of heavy taxation but that Sir James Mitchell declined to adopt such a course.

Hon. J. Ewing: Quite true.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: It is most unusual for members of Parliament to advocate heavy taxation.

Hon. J. Ewing: Mr. Pilkington did.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I have known members of Parliament to oppose bitterly any imposition of heavy taxation. In this instance the exception proves the rule. What are the facts? Sir James Mitchell entered office as Premier of the State on 17th May, 1919. He did not immediately introduce a taxation measure because there was no necessity to do so. The Lefroy Government during the previous session had raised the income tax to 2s. 6d. in the £ on all incomes in excess of £4,766. Sir James Mitchell got the full benefit of that taxation. But he was not satisfied. In the following year, 1920-21, he increased the tax to 4s. in the £ and imposed a super tax of 15 per cent. That super tax applied not only to incomes but to land as well. For the year 1922-23 there was a further increase, but the exemption to married men was increased from £156 to £200. In 1923-24 that flat rate of 4s. in the £ was made to apply to incomes of £8,672 instead of to those of £7,766 to which figure it had been raised in the interim. The super tax of 15 per cent. was also extended to apply to dividend duties after Sir James Mitchell's first year in office. Therefore, it is quite incorrect for Mr. Ewing to say that Sir James did not increase taxation. Then again, he said that Sir James Mitchell had claimed that he would carry out a land policy that would relieve the financial position. Later Mr. Ewing said that Sir James started the group settlement, and that it was the inauguration of that scheme that had saved Western Australia. Mr. Ewing had been speaking of the deficit and the inference was that the establishment and carrying on of the group settlement scheme had had the effect of reducing the deficit for the year to £59,000.

Hon. J. Ewing: I think so too.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: You do? I am unable to grasp that argument. I am aware that the expenditure of loan money is reflected in revenue, but we have been spending enormous sums of loan money during the last 15 years. When the deficit reached its peak of about £700,000, there was probably a larger expenditure of loan money than there was last year. The fact is that the group settlement scheme had nothing whatever to do with the reduction of the deficit or the improvement in the finances. We all hope, and many of us believe, that the scheme will be a success, but so far it has not contributed a single cent towards

interest and sinking fund in connection with the loan expenditure on that work.

Hon. J. Ewing: What about the effect upon the railways?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The scheme has not helped, up to the present, to save the State financially, whatever it may do in the future. All will agree that the prosperity of the State is due to increased production. That increased production has been brought about mainly by two means. The first represents the results of the policy of agricultural railways for which the Wilson and Scaddan Governments were largely responsible. During the first few weeks the Scaddan Government were in office we realised that the Wilson Government had placed on the statute-book during the preceding session Bills providing for 12 agricultural railways and that we had to find money for the construction of those lines. Among them was the Mullewa-Wongan Hills railway of nearly 300 miles. The Wilson and Scaddan Governments did a great deal towards starting the construction of agricultural railways. Those railways, however, created the deficit for many years during which they did not pay interest or sinking fund nor yet working expenses. It was then that the deficit commenced to mount up. During recent years they have commenced to pay and many of the railways have not only paid interest and sinking fund but have also contributed to Consolidated Revenue in a fairly substantial way. Sir James Mitchell can claim great credit in connection with that policy of railway construction adopted by the Wilson Government. Sir James was Minister for Lands in that Government and exercised his influence with the Premier of the State in those days to have the construction of agricultural railways made a prominent plank in their political platform. The second way by which the improvement has been achieved is on account of Agricultural Bank advances. That policy helped in a marked manner to stimulate production. The Scaddan Government introduced an amendment to the Agricultural Bank Act which extended the limit of the amount to be advanced from £750 to £2,000, in addition to which they were liberal regarding loans as well. In justice to Sir James Mitchell it has to be said that he made a special feature of assistance to settlers through the Agricultural Bank.

He had the Act further amended and the trustees of the bank were enabled to advance pound for pound on improvements carried out on holdings. In this respect Sir James did splendid work in the direction of increasing production and I wish to give him every credit for it. The present Minister for Lands (Hon. W. C. Angwin) is pursuing a similar policy, and during the first year he was in office, up to the 30th April, 1925, he advanced £361,382 on loan to settlers through the Agricultural Bank. For a similar period Sir James Mitchell advanced £353,825, or practically the same amount as Mr. Angwin. Mr. Angwin was just a little over the amount loaned by Sir James, but that is neither here nor there. It may perhaps be just a little less during the next year, but that is not likely.

Hon. W. T. Glasheen: Good seasons and high prices for our products have accounted for the reduced deficit.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: We have heard that before. During the last 15 years there have been about 12 good seasons, yet there has been no appreciable reduction in the deficit. Others have said that the increased income tax resulting from the good season has been responsible for the reduction of the deficit. However, we have not collected that yet. And, may I ask, how can the good season experienced in 1924-25 have any effect on the amount of income tax the Government would have received?

Hon. W. T. Glasheen: If the good seasons had not been responsible, why are we so much afraid of a drought at present?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Certainly the good season has not been responsible for increased income taxation, because the returns were only recently filled in and submitted to the Taxation Commissioner. We shall not derive that increased income taxation until toward the end of this financial year. Mr. Stewart complained of the shortness of time allowed for the recent South-East Province by-election. I communicated with the Chief Electoral Officer, and I will read his explanation as follows:—

1. The Clerk of the Writs (myself) received, on the 25th June last, a warrant from the President of the Legislative Council ordering the issue of a writ for the holding of an election in the South-East Province.

2. The writ was issued forthwith (on the date of its receipt) as required by Section 67 of the Electoral Act.

3. The dates fixed were—Nominations, 3rd July; polling day, 18th July; return of writ, 4th August.

4. So far as the intervening days are concerned, these dates practically coincide with those for the South-West Province By-election in 1923, the conditions of the two provinces from an electoral standpoint, being practically identical. The South-West Province dates were as follow.—Issue of writ, 19th June; nominations, 27th June; polling day, 14th July; return of writ, 28th July.

No special effort, so far as I am concerned, was made to hurry matters, but it should be remembered that there is bound to be some variation in periods between nomination and polling day owing to the necessity of adhering to the general practice of holding all elections on a Saturday.

5. Looking back on previous by-elections generally, I find also that, with the exception of the East Province, the intervening days for province by-elections outside the metropolitan area vary very little from those obtaining at the recently-held South-East Province by-election; in fact, in some cases the period intervening between nomination and polling days are less.

Now that Mr. Stewart's remarks have been submitted to the Chief Electoral Officer, no doubt that officer, when making future arrangements, will provide for further time being given for the holding of by-elections. Mr. Stewart also wanted information about the extension of the railway for Denmark. That question was before Cabinet and the decision was arrived at that it could not be commenced during the present financial year. Mr. Stewart dealt with the light lands question and suggested an amendment of the Land and Income Tax Assessment Act to increase the acreage exempted for five years from taxation. I am bringing that matter under the notice of the Minister for Lands, and I trust that some action will be taken, as suggested by Mr. Stewart. Mr. Stewart also asked what had been done in regard to the dedication of State forests. Not much has been done, yet more has been done than was done during the previous year. Up to the 30th June, 1924, some 54,099 acres were dedicated, whereas last year the area dedicated was 132,896 acres. The matter is having the attention of the Surveyor General. The delay has been due in large measure to the absence from the State of the Premier, who is Ministerial head of the Forests Department. No doubt now that Mr. Collier is again here on the spot, he will go on with further dedications. Mr. Potter, in urging the claims of Fremantle, stressed the amount

paid into Consolidated Revenue by the Fremantle Harbour Trust. That is not a good argument. Fremantle is the gateway of the State, and a vast proportion of the goods that come to Western Australia come through Fremantle. Some of the revenue is contributed by persons living thousands of miles from Fremantle. Despite that, a number of improvements are going on at the port, improvements involving a substantial amount of money. During the last few years a fairly large sum has been expended on the port. I have obtained information from the Fremantle Harbour Trust in respect of this question. It is as follows:—

Work performed by the Public Works Department—deepening entrance channel and inner harbour to 36 feet:—In the year 1922-23 the amount spent was £38,742, in 1923-24 it was £35,538, and in 1924-25 it was £29,202. The work was practically completed during 1924-25, very little remaining to be done at 30th June, 1925.

Victoria Quay reconstruction: In regard to this work very considerable progress has been made in the replacement of Victoria Quay with ferro-concrete piles and a heavier timber superstructure to provide for advanced methods of handling goods. Up to 30th June, 1925, 737 concrete piles had been made and 283 driven in position. A length of 400 feet of new wharf was completed and in use since December last. The work of reconstructing the whole quay will go steadily on.

New Wharf Cranes: Four new cranes of the Babcox & Wilcox type of wharf gantry level luffing electric cranes are in course of construction at a cost of £6,000 each. The first of these cranes is approaching completion and the three remaining machines are well in hand. These cranes are being paid for out of Treasury Suspense Account. These cranes are being constructed by the State Implement Works, which is making an excellent job of them. Designs are in hand for a 15 or 20-ton crane for Victoria Quay, which it is proposed to build at the State Implement Works, also out of Treasury Suspense Account.

Wheat Shipping Facilities: Considerable alterations to railway lines at the North Quay to facilitate the shipment of the promised heavy wheat harvest next season are in hand by the Harbour Trust, and a new grain shed 500 feet long by 60 feet wide is being built at the North Quay by the Public Works Department, on the recommendation of the Harbour Trust Commissioners, to cost £11,000; this will be ready for the coming season.

Precooling of Fruit for Shipment: The Harbour Trust Commissioners, at considerable cost, fitted one shed at Victoria Quay with ventilating doors and roof eowls to ventilate fruit stacks prior to shipment, and the fruit shippers have expressed themselves as well satisfied with the work.

So it will be seen from this report that Fremantle is in no way neglected, that both the Government and the Harbour Trust recognise its needs and will not spare money required to effect necessary improvements. The question of the dry dock is one requiring careful examination. When I was a member of the Daglish Government we proposed to establish a floating dock at Fremantle at a cost of £150,000. This was announced by Mr. Daglish, and as a result indignation meetings were held at Fremantle and Mr. Daglish was strongly denounced. The proposed floating dock had to be abandoned. Then a graving dock was proposed and a Bill was introduced to provide for the establishment of such a dock. The Bill was carried by one vote in this Chamber, and I took the responsibility of casting my vote in its favour. However, it proved a ghastly failure. Now the question of a dock at Fremantle must receive consideration. It will involve a heavy expenditure of money, and the Government will first have to be satisfied as to its absolute necessity. Mr. Willmott referred to the Collie power scheme, but there has since been a deputation to the Premier, and he knows the result. Mr. Willmott also alluded to the delay in the taking over of the line from Jarnadup to Pemberton. The Railway Department made an inspection of the line on the 23rd October of last year and found it to be in a very unsatisfactory condition. The Railway Department's engineer was unable to certify to its being fit for traffic, consequently it was not taken over, for it would involve a pretty heavy expenditure to put the line in proper repair. The sawmills are retaining control of the railway for the time being. Mr. Nicholson said that sugar beet might be one of the commodities capable of being grown by group settlers. It is essential to the production of sugar beet that the land should be good, deep and friable. At Maffra, in Victoria, the soil on which beets are grown consist mostly of river flats having several feet of loam. Sugar beet, I am informed by the Agricultural Department, cannot be grown under pioneering conditions; intensive cultivation is essential to a degree to which the bulk of our settlers have not attained. It is also a summer plant and requires moisture during the summer months. At Maffra the average annual rainfall is over 21 inches, of which something like 12 inches falls during the summer months, October to March, and about 9 inches between April and September. Even

at Maffra for the most satisfactory results irrigation must be resorted to. It is considered that in portions of the South-West of this State, where the climatic conditions are most favourable, the production of this crop could be satisfactorily achieved. The rainfall in the South-West ranges from 30 ins. to 40 ins. annually, but only a small percentage of it falls during the summer months. Therefore, except in picked spots it is probable the cultivation of beet in Western Australia can only be carried on under irrigation conditions. A number of trials with sugar beet have been made in this State, the results indicating that it is possible to produce satisfactory returns and that the quality is superior to the average quality of the beet produced in America; but it has not been proved to such an extent as to justify anyone in embarking upon the enterprise on a commercial scale. I agree that experiments should be carried out, and no doubt the matter will in due course receive the attention of the Agricultural Department. Mr. Baxter referred to the appointment of a successor to the late Mr. Basil Murray on the Fremantle Harbour Trust. He thinks a representative of the producers should have been appointed. I agree that the producers could put up a good case in support of their claims. The position was that the members of the Trust were appointed by a previous Government, and the present Ministry had no representative amongst the Commissioners. We required one member there who would protect our interests. A representative of the Lumper's Union was appointed by the Scaddan Government, and re-appointed during the term of successive administrations. The appointment of that gentleman in many instances prevented the occurrence of industrial disputes. But the Government required a man who, while sympathetic with their policy could view matters from every angle and they found him in Mr. McMahon. He was in the employment of the Trust, he knew everything about the harbour, and had the confidence of all sections of the community. It was recognised that his services as Commissioner would be of great value. Mr. McMahon occupied a high position in the Labour movement. That would be considered by some sufficient disqualification. In the eyes of a few no Labour man is fit to fill a responsible public position. That is the view prevailing in some quarters, and Mr. Baxter himself seemed to

provide the fuel. Referring to Mr. Taylor's re-appointment he said—

I had to put up a good fight to keep a representative of the Labour class on the board. With whom? Not with narrow political partisans, but with a Cabinet that had the reputation of being broad minded, which everyone took to be broad minded, and which in the end proved to be broad minded. There is a Biblical utterance which assures us that bread cast upon the waters will return after many days. I will keep Mr. Baxter in mind, and I hope that when the time comes it will not be necessary for me to put up a good fight in order to secure the representation of the producers upon the Trust. Mr. Gray attacked the Education Department over the distribution of milk in the State schools. Poor Education Department! It had nothing whatever to do with the distribution, for that had been arranged by the vendors and individual teachers. The Department simply gave its consent. The movement was not a success. In the early stages the bulk system was adopted and proved fairly satisfactory. Subsequently, the milk was supplied in bottles, but the bottles did not contain more than a quarter of a pint of milk. At an early stage trouble arose with some of the teachers. They complained that the distribution was interfering with the school work of the children, and they urged that the vendors should arrange for the distribution. Various reports came in as to the quality of the milk. In some cases it was said to be of a peculiar flavour, in other cases to be undrinkable and had to be thrown away. Other people complained that the milk was sour, and a further report stated that it contained dead flies. The climax was reached when Dr. Dale stepped in and pronounced the system unsatisfactory. The distribution of milk in bottles was prohibited by the Department of Public Health who were satisfied that, until proper precautions were taken to prevent bacteria from multiplying in the bottles, it would be a grave blunder to permit the system to continue in the metropolitan area. I cannot understand why the Education Department was subjected to this criticism. I have been approached by members and by different citizens who were under the impression that the responsibility was cast upon the Education Department. The Department simply gave their consent to the sys-

tem, and as soon as it reached the ears of the Public Health Department that there were dead flies in the milk, that the milk was sour and had to be thrown away, the Health Department concluded the system would be a menace to the health of the children, although there was no objection to the bulk system if it were properly established. Mr. Gray advocates a prison farm. I am heartily in accord with the suggestion, but the question of finance comes in. If we had a prison farm we could grow all the vegetables and turn out all the dairy produce required by the different charitable institutions, but I feel certain that opposition would soon arrive. The gardeners and dairymen would be up against it. There is a prison printery at Fremantle. It is doing good work for different charitable institutions, and also supplies stapled pads for the Education Department. There is a movement on foot to abolish that printery. Besides doing the work for charitable institutions and the Education Department, which distributes the pads free, the prison printery prints a newspaper fortnightly for the prisoners. It keeps the men intelligently occupied, and has a most beneficial effect upon them. Refractory characters have been sent there and their conduct has been considerably improved, as is the case with all the other workrooms. Nevertheless those engaged in the trade in the metropolis are trying to secure the abolition of the prison printery. It will not be done with my consent. Mr. Gray further suggests that prisoners should be employed on reforestation work. I think that would evoke even greater hostility. We have a large fund for reforestation, and it could readily be contended that this money should be expended in providing work for the unemployed. If there is objection to continuing the printery at the prison, there would be still stronger objection to the employment of prisoners on reforestation work. While Mr. Gray gives praise for improvements effected by the administration to the Hospital for the Insane, he thinks we ought to go abroad to secure an alienist of the highest qualifications. There are many opportunities for reform at this institution, but it is not the fault of the Inspector General that they have not been brought about. From time to time he has made appeals to successive Governments to assist him in carrying out essential reforms, but owing to the financial position it was impossible to

help him. I have increased the number of doctors at the institution by one, but it could well be increased by many more. There are 1,100 patients there and only two doctors, apart from the Inspector General, to attend to them. There should be at least 10 doctors. There should also be greater classification of patients. At present there are only five classifications whereas there should be at least a dozen, which would mean more buildings and heavier expenditure. When members of this House or another place criticise the Inspector General for the existing state of the institution they should remember it is not his fault, and that he has been pleading with every Government for the last 10 years to help and he has pleaded in vain.

Hon. J. W. Kirwan: When there should be 10 doctors and there are only two, are not two rather too few?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I am appointing an additional doctor.

Hon. J. W. Kirwan: That would make three. Even there the disparity is rather too great.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: In order to achieve the object in view and have effective treatment and bring about the necessary cures, there should be a large and efficient medical staff there.

Hon. J. M. Macfarlane: Would you go to five?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I will do my best in process of time. We are building a mental reception home at Point Heathcote at a cost of something like £40,000 and making provision for about 60 inmates. The patients will remain in the home until they are certified, and will only be certified if they are proved after a process of treatment to be insane. They will go in uncertified, and as a last resort will be sent to the Hospital for the Insane at Claremont. Mr. Burvill put up a good case with regard to the disadvantages from which Albany is suffering for lack of connection with the wheat areas, which are nearer to it than to the other ports. I congratulate him upon his efforts. I have much sympathy for Albany, and will impress upon the Government the necessity for investigating the possibility of constructing the railways he advocated. There will have to be a good deal of preliminary investigation first.

Hon. A. Burvill: At present we are bringing bran and pollard from South Australia to Albany.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Mr. Burvill referred to the reduction of railway rates. He said that in the Governor's Speech it was stated that all sections had received special concessions in the case of reduced rates, and he added that the worker came in for £63,000, the merchants and manufacturers came second, while the farmers came practically nowhere. I cannot follow his statements. Early last year the Premier asked the Commissioner of Taxation to supply him with figures as to the amount of land tax received by reason of the increase in the rate of the tax. He stated that the amount would be approximately £45,000. It was decided to reduce the railway rates as follows: £15,000 on supplies specially required by the agricultural industry, £11,000 on supplies specially needed by the mining industry, and £17,000 on commodities used by farmers, miners, and the general community. The freights on goods between Perth and Fremantle were reduced by £2,000 a year. This makes up the £45,000. The percentage of land tax imposed is 42.30 per cent., metropolitan-suburban; 43 goldfields town, and other towns 5.45; country 40.84, and pastoral leases 10.98. Although the metropolitan and suburban areas contribute 42.3 of the tax, they get only 4.4 per cent. of the £45,000. This is only right, because land values in the metropolitan area have been increased by reason of the development in the country. Of course the farmers now pay much more by way of land tax than they paid formerly. For some years past there have been revaluations of properties which have resulted in an increase of the assessments, but the Government never promised to give a reduction of freights to the extent of the increases resulting from revaluations. What the Government promised to give were reductions to the amount received by reason of doubling the land tax, and those reductions have been given. I am totally unable to follow Mr. Burvill's statement that the workers have benefited to the extent of £63,000.

Hon. A. Burvill: What about increased wages?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The reduction has been fairly distributed; it represents a very little relief in each instance, but the Government will not have the bene-

fit of any of that money for their own purposes. No payment is made to the Railway Department, but the revenue of that department must suffer to the extent of £45,000 a year. The returns for last month show that the department has suffered to the extent of £4,000 for the month.

Hon. V. Hamersley: Was not that due to increased wages?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: No; but there has been an increase of expenditure owing to increased wages. I did not intend to refer to the recent strike. I have no sympathy with strikes. I think that industrial disputes should be settled by the ordinary process of law laid down by the legislature. Dr. Saw, in his efforts to explain an injudicious interjection he made the other evening, stepped a little over the bounds. He seemed to be bordering on the hysterical in the course of his address. No doubt he had been reading the leading articles in a section of the Press which stated that there had been atrocities, outrages, and anarchy. Those are general statements with which it is impossible to deal; one can only deal with something that is specific. If I am accused of being a thief, I want to know what I stole and when I stole it, and if I am accused of perpetrating atrocities and outrages, and being concerned in anarchy, I want particulars of the charge. No particulars have been furnished to this House by Dr. Saw or anyone else; simply general statements have been made. What about the stink bombs? It was stated that the strikers threw stink bombs. Does Dr. Saw know who threw them. I do, and the people responsible were certainly not connected with the Labour Party. Stink bombs were thrown by people who were hostile to the Labour Party, and it is generally known by whom they were thrown. Telegrams were despatched to the Eastern States and cablegrams to England stating that the stink bombs had been thrown by strikers. In some instances the word "stink" was omitted, and the statement ran that bombs had been thrown. There was picketing. Should picketing be suppressed?

Hon. J. M. Macfarlane: That form should have been.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: We had picketing during the civil service strike and during the teachers' strike—picketing in its most extreme form. Did the Government

of the day attempt to suppress it? Picketing prevented the payment of employees in Government departments, and the Government took no action. We are told that the Government during the recent strike were bloodless and spineless. I knew a Government who thought they had backbone. I remember the Fremantle strike of 1919. I was not a member of Parliament at the time, but I was in Perth in my capacity as a newspaper man. Having heard that there was going to be trouble, I decided to be present, and I know a good deal of what took place at that time. Someone organised a gang of glorified roughs, and took them to Fremantle by steamer with the object of breaking the strike. They had been fortified with strong liquor, and they had a police force at their back, an armed force with bayonets. There were 800 lumpers, and about 80 police constables armed with rifles and bayonets were put in front of them. The people were so incensed that the 800 lumpers were augmented by about 4,000 other people at Fremantle, and the 80 police charged the crowd. One man was killed and another was bayoneted. What was the position after that? Within a quarter of an hour of that occurrence, a high official of the Government put up the white flag. It is scarcely correct to say it was a white flag because I am informed it was a white handkerchief attached to an umbrella. That was the humiliating position that developed owing to the interference by a previous Government in a strike. It has been asked why did not the police prosecute during the recent strike. Where were the members of the Justices Association, who Mr. Yelland said had power to arrest, if there were breaches of the law? There was only one prosecution during the whole of the strike, but anyone had liberty to prosecute if an offence had been committed against him. A poor unfortunate returned soldier was struck in the face by a girl. He took the case to the police court and the girl was fined about 30s. That was the only prosecution. Take that and place it side by side with the Fremantle demonstration and remember the humiliating position in which the Government were placed after their failure to break the strike! Dr. Saw was not associated with that Government, but that Government was an offshoot from a Ministry to which he was attached. Mr. Yelland had another and a

new reason for the reduction of the deficit. He said the haulage of extra wheat had added £80,000 to the railway revenue. But what about the corresponding expenditure? I am informed by the Minister for Railways that wheat is not carried by the department at a profit, or else at very little profit indeed. If the revenue from the extra five million bushels of wheat was £80,000, there must have been something like a corresponding expenditure. How then can it be said that the £80,000 revenue from extra wheat reduced the deficit?

Hon. J. W. Kirwan: Is it asserted that the carriage of wheat does not result in any profit?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Very little, if any. That is the complaint of the Railway Department.

Hon. H. Stewart: That statement is frequently made, but it has never been proved.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Many other subjects have engaged the attention of hon. members. There have been requests for new railway construction and Government expenditure in various directions, but it is not possible for me to deal in a definite manner with those requests at present. They are questions which have not come before Cabinet for decision, and in the circumstances it will be realised that I am not in a position to give any indication as to how they may be viewed by the Government. There has been criticism, but in the majority of cases it has been fair comment on the actions of the Ministry. It is what every Government has been subjected to, and so long as base motives are not imputed—and such have not been imputed during the course of the debate—the criticisms of hon. members will be accepted by the Ministry with fitting respect.

On motion by Hon. T. Moore, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 10.44 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Wednesday, 26th August, 1925.

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

QUESTION—NORTH-WEST, EXPENDITURE.

Mr. COVERLEY asked the Premier: What amounts of public money have been spent during the past 12 months in the Pilbara, Roebourne, and Kimberley electorates, separately?

The PREMIER replied: I present two statements containing the information desired by the hon. member, one of which includes the expenditure on the Wyndham Meat Works.

QUESTION—STATE FARMS.

Crops and Rainfall.

Mr. GRIFFITHS asked the Minister for Agriculture: 1, How many bushels of wheat and oats per inch of winter rainfall are obtained at the Merredin State farm? 2, How many bushels of wheat and oats per inch of winter rainfall are obtained at the Chapman State farm?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE replied: 1, Assuming that by "winter rainfall" is meant that falling from May to September, the number of bushels of wheat obtained per inch of rainfall at the Merredin experiment farm ranged from 2.24 to 3.03, an average of 2.39, and the number of bushels of oats obtained per inch of rainfall ranged from 1.41 to 4.92, an average of 2.38. Assuming that the "winter rainfall" is meant