

dams so that the people in country areas can enjoy the sporting facilities which are available in the city. The people living in the city are used to such amenities; they do not have to play sport on gravel pits as is done in the country in some cases. If a shire council is willing to move in this direction and build a dam on a self-help basis every assistance should be given to it, including a subsidy.

If a bomb should drop on the City of Perth, as was referred to by Mr. Hall, and the civil defence organisation went into action, the survivors of the catastrophe would be taken to the country. If the water pipeline were destroyed, what would we do with the survivors who were sent to the country? We would not have any water for them. If the dams to which I have referred were constructed—although they were primarily built to water sports fields—then in a national emergency they could be used to serve the people.

In all these matters which I have raised the main feature is that country centres should be provided with the amenities which are enjoyed by the people living in the cities. That is not asking for too much. We would be able to induce more people to work in the country if the proper amenities could be provided. The pay in the bush is pretty good, and the housing accommodation on the farms is not bad. But country centres lack the amenities which are provided in the cities.

If this State is to progress, as I expect it to progress, and if we are to play a big part in the development of this State, as we are entitled to, then we must have more men in the country, we must have better towns, and we must provide better housing accommodation. The best way to attract people to country centres is by providing amenities in those centres—amenities which are talked about but which, in some cases only, are seen. As far as I am concerned they cannot be provided quickly enough.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to make my contribution. I was a little diffident about doing so after having heard all the eloquence in this Chamber tonight. I was told by members this first speech is the worst part of a man's parliamentary career; but after sitting here and listening to the debates I find that I am thoroughly enjoying them. In conclusion, I specially want to thank those speakers who offered their congratulations to me and to my new colleagues.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Fletcher.

SUPPLY BILL, £25,000,000

Returned

Bill returned from the Council without amendment.

House adjourned at 10.31 p.m.

Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 8th August, 1962

CONTENTS

	Page
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE—	
Bibra Lake District : Land for Citizens' Association Hall	239
Drilling for Gold : Past and Current Expenditure	239
Fatal Road Accidents : Action by Crown Law Department	239
Largactil : Removal from Free List—Effect on Psychiatric Patients	238
Road Accidents : Statistical Records of Injuries and Cause	239
Traffic Roundabout : Siting at Junction of Hope, Warwick, and North Lake Roads	239
LEAVE OF ABSENCE	240
ADDRESS-IN-REPLY : FIFTH DAY—	
Speakers on Motion—	
The Hon. G. Bennetts	247
The Hon. A. R. Jones	240
The Hon. S. T. J. Thompson	255
ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE :	
SPECIAL	258

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

LARGACTIL: REMOVAL FROM FREE LIST

Effect on Psychiatric Patients

1. The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON asked the Minister for Mines:

As the reply to my question of the 2nd August, 1962, does not make the position clear, will the Minister advise whether, as a result of the decision of the Federal Government in relation to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee, Government psychiatric out-patient services are now obliged to give private prescriptions of largactil which may cost the out-patient up to £1 per week for treatment?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

No. Psychiatric out-patients of our mental health services receive their largactil as a pharmaceutical benefit, which costs them no more than 5s. per prescription like other prescriptions under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

DRILLING FOR GOLD*Past and Current Expenditure*

2. The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) What amount was spent by the Government on drilling for gold during the year ended the 30th June, 1962?
- (2) What amount is it proposed to spend for this purpose during the current financial year?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) Pound for pound drilling assistance for gold to the extent of £3,622 was provided during the last financial year.
- (2) Estimates for 1962-1963 are now being prepared and it is expected that satisfactory provision will be made for drilling operations generally.

		Total Accidents	Non-Casualty Accidents (a)	All Casualty Accidents	Persons Killed	Persons Injured
Metropolitan	....	69	39	30	4	36
Other	....	45	25	20	7	32
Total	....	114	64	50	11	68

(a) Over £25 damage.

The times at which accidents occur are not readily available.

TRAFFIC ROUNDABOUT*Siting at Junction of Hope, Warwick, and North Lake Roads*

- 5A. The Hon. P. R. H. LAVERY asked the Minister for Mines:

Have any final plans been agreed to by the Main Roads Department or other departments concerned as to the siting of the proposed round about at the junction of Hope, Warwick, and North Lake Roads, Bibra Lake?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

The Main Roads Department has no plans for a round about at the intersection referred to. However, it has under consideration a proposal to site an important intersection with grade separation on the Fremantle-Midland Junction controlled access road about a quarter of a mile west of this intersection. Finality has not yet been reached on this proposal.

BIBRA LAKE DISTRICT*Land for Citizens' Association Hall*

- 5B. The Hon. P. R. H. LAVERY asked the Minister for Mines:

As the Bibra Lake District Citizens' Association lost its hall by fire and is desirous of building a new hall, has any of the

3. This question was postponed.

ROAD ACCIDENTS*Statistical Records of Injuries and Cause*

4. The Hon. A. L. LOTON asked the Minister for Mines:

Regarding the incidence of accidents and the times at which they occurred, have any statistical records been kept under the various headings of "fatal," "serious bodily injury," "minor bodily injury" and "car damage"; and, if so, how many of each of the categories were caused by persons allegedly under the influence of liquor?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

land resumed under the State Housing Act from Mr. Fortini, at the north-west corner of Warwick and North Lake Roads, been planned for future development, as yet?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

No, but town planning for the future residential and civic development of the locality is now in progress and is expected to be finalised during the next six months.

FATAL ROAD ACCIDENTS*Action by Crown Law Department*

6. The Hon. J. D. TEAHAN asked the Minister for Mines:

(1) Where a coroner's court is held to inquire into a death following a road accident and the coroner indicates, in the absence of a definite finding, that the papers will be forwarded to the Crown Law Department, is any action taken to acquaint the principals involved in the accident of the ultimate decision of the Crown Law Department?

(2) If the answer to No. (1) is "Yes", what is the nature of the action?

(3) Should no further action be contemplated, are the principals involved in the accident advised accordingly?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) to (3) Anyone who requests the advice will be informed (either verbally or in writing, as desired) when the decision is made or the request received, whichever is the later. It is not the practice to anticipate any request.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

On motion by The Hon. R. C. Mattiske, leave of absence for six consecutive sittings granted to The Hon. J. G. Hislop (Metropolitan) on the ground of private business.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FIFTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed from the 7th August on the following motion by The Hon. H. R. Robinson:—

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor in reply to the Speech he has been pleased to deliver to Parliament:—

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

THE HON. A. R. JONES (Midland) [4.40 p.m.]: I am indebted to Mr. Bennetts for the opportunity he has granted me to speak before him. I feel that it is just as well, and I am glad to take the opportunity that has been afforded me.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: You are making a threat on his behalf.

The Hon. A. R. JONES: May I congratulate you, Sir, on again being appointed to look after the members in this House. I trust you will have a pleasant period in office, similar to that which you enjoyed during the past two years. I also congratulate the newly-elected members to this House and, with other members, wish them a happy time whilst they are here. As I can now be regarded as one of the oldest members of this Chamber from the point of view of service, and as this offer was made to me when I was first appointed to this Chamber, I wish to offer those new members any assistance I can render to them should they desire to approach me for any co-operation. I will be only too happy to help them in any way I can.

To Mr. Wise and to those other members who have been appointed to fill positions in the Labor Party, I offer my congratulations also. I feel that I cannot let

this opportunity pass without saying a word or two about the two members who were defeated at the last Legislative Council elections. It is quite certain that once a person is elected to represent a province and has been in this Chamber for a number of years, then, irrespective of party, a bond grows between that person and other members. Therefore, when any member is defeated and is forced to leave this Chamber, all of us are saddened by the fact.

Each of the two members who were recently defeated, although both of different types, carried out his duties in an efficient manner, and both were endowed with a sense of humour; one in a quiet way and the other by the way he used his pencil and brush. It is to be hoped that the latter, when Paul Rigby goes on holidays, will be able to take his place. However, whatever occupations those two members may fill in the future, I hope they will be gainfully employed, and I am sure all members wish them well.

During the debate on the Address-in-Reply, one often thinks of something on which one can air one's views in regard to what may take place in respect of the designs of the Government or the Opposition in the years to come. I have been extremely interested in the speeches that have been made to date and the thoughts expressed for the benefit of the members of this House by the various members who have already spoken. There is no doubt that the airing of any suggestion or thought in someone's mind often results in some good emerging from it after due consideration. I trust that what I am about to say will fall into that category. I hope that members will listen to what I have to put forward and will give it some consideration, and that eventually some good will come from it.

Before doing so, however, I would like to draw attention to the fact that the Midland Province, embracing the Legislative Assembly electorates of Moore, Greenough, and Geraldton, covers an area where water, in some parts, is in abundance, but is extremely scarce in others. Since we first made representation to the Government, and to successive Governments, a great deal of time has passed with nothing having been done to put into effect the comprehensive water scheme in that area. Therefore, I wish to appeal again to those in authority for immediate steps to be taken to bring this scheme to fruition in the Midland Province.

Some districts, such as Dalwallinu, have been promised the benefits of such a scheme, and work is now proceeding to link them up with the comprehensive water scheme. Nevertheless, further north there are many areas which are badly off for water and which must receive attention if production is to be brought up to

the maximum. Some years ago many people were interested in an extension of water supplies, and finally a deputation was taken to the then Minister for water Supplies, The Hon. J. T. Tonkin, who promised that an investigation and survey would be made to ascertain whether water could be found to feed a scheme that would supply the area I have outlined. True to his promise, he despatched engineers into the Gingin Brook area to conduct experimental drilling to find out whether there was an underground basin there and if the water that could be obtained from it would be sufficient to supply the needs of the district. Those engineers did carry out a fair amount of experimental work, but unfortunately no satisfactory report on their efforts has ever been made.

From the inquiries I have made, I discovered that the Gingin Brook supply would be insufficient because during the summer months its maximum flow would be 3,500,000 million gallons, whereas it is considered that 6,000,000 million gallons would be required to meet the needs of the population and stock of the area. It is known that the Ampol Petroleum Company struck water when drilling for oil, but I do not know what volume of water was obtained from the borehole. We were led to believe that there was an unlimited supply of good water to be obtained from this borehole, but how much reliance can be placed on that story I do not know. No doubt the Minister for Mines will be able to make some report in regard to that when replying to the debate on the Address-in-Reply.

It seems that the water which is so badly needed is perhaps, present in a basin in the Mingenew area; and it would appear also that there is a great amount of water to be obtained from springs in that area. There is a possibility of linking up these supplies with the water to be obtained from the Gingin Brook area—surely a strong enough possibility to warrant further exploratory work to ascertain where the rest of the water that is needed could be obtained. Ten years have now passed since our initial efforts were made to obtain more water, and despite the fact that other areas have either been linked with the comprehensive water scheme or have been promised the benefits of the scheme, this area is still without adequate water supplies. The least the Government can do now is to fulfil the requirements of the area of which I speak.

Those who are acquainted with agricultural methods know full well that in those districts where water is hard to obtain—even for stock purposes—the farmers or pastoralists are badly handicapped in their efforts in trying to bring their properties up to full production, due to the fact that they must reduce their stock numbers during the summer months. Until adequate water supplies are available they will never be able to increase

their stock numbers to the maximum and thus play their part in supplying those foodstuffs which we so badly need.

I feel that there is no need to stress this problem to Mr. Logan because he knows the area as well as, if not better than, I do, and I know his thoughts on the question are the same as mine. The two Ministers in this House should submit a case to the Minister for Water Supplies to see whether some plan can be formulated under which we can, in the near future, look forward to an extension of the scheme, or to the inauguration of a new scheme, to serve the whole of the Midland Province. A plan must be prepared forthwith.

Whilst on the subject of water, I want to mention that some years ago Mr. Logan and I were instrumental in putting forward a proposal to the then Labor Minister for Water Supplies for the setting up of boring plants to bore for water in districts where water was hard to obtain or where it was located at great depth. Although two boring plants were made available through the Mines Department and an agreement was drawn up under which farmers could have available on their properties a boring plant to bore for water, the scheme was not made as much use of by the farmers as I would have liked.

The agreement was a bad one in that it bound the farmer stringently to the whim of the geologist in the search for water, and it also bound the farmer to the payment of charges which he could not afford. For some reason the agreement could not be altered to the extent that we wanted it altered, so the farmers did not make as much use of this opportunity to use boring plants as was envisaged.

When the Government changed, the Minister sitting opposite was placed in charge of the department which administered the plan for the use of these water boring plants: the matter came under the jurisdiction of the Mines Department. The Minister has directed work to be done on some locations and water has been found to be available at varying depths, in varying quantities, and in varying quality. However, to the individual farmer that has not meant very much. I am still hoping that a broader scheme can be arrived at so that individual farmers will be able to reap the benefit from the use of these waterboring plants, which are now being used in various parts of the State.

I believe that the department is now using these plants to bore on Crown land, such as reserves, roadways, and other areas, for the purpose of proving the depth of water and ascertaining the water table. One plant is now being used to drill for water south of the river, and a promise has been made for another to be used in an area north of the river. I think that another is to be sent into the Darling Range electorate to ascertain whether

water can be found to meet the needs of the people of the district, for irrigation, and for serving the orchards and gardens.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: This is the fundamental change in the former practice: Rather than drilling on properties of individuals and giving the benefit to one person, the information which the department now obtains is made available to all members of the community, including the farmers.

The Hon. A. R. JONES: I thank the Minister for the information which he has given by interjection. It is one of the helpful ones. In many places it would be better to bore for water on private properties. If the operation proved successful and the bore were equipped by the farmer, even at a great cost, the repayment of such cost should be spread over a period of years with interest being charged at a nominal rate. That is preferable to boring on reserves, under which practice the farmer would only be able to ascertain whether water in the area could be obtained at a certain depth, say 400 ft. or 500 ft.

It is not of much advantage to the farmer to find out such information, because to put down a bore might prove too costly in the first instance; and in the second instance the farmer would experience difficulty in getting a private water borer to sink a bore at depth if he did not have the money on the spot to pay for the cost. If the Government could find the finance and make it available to farmers under certain conditions, that would be a preferable plan. One district to which I am referring is Mendel, between Mingenew and Mullewa.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: We have been carrying out drilling operations at Mendel, but without very much success.

The Hon. A. R. JONES: Many farmers in that district have spent £2,000 to £3,000 in drilling for water, but without success. They cannot carry on. There is another district east of Dalwallinu and Kalannie where one boring plant bored 77 holes, but out of those 77 only 11 were successful. That is not a very large percentage of success in the search for water. In a district where water is difficult to locate, it is better to have even a small percentage of success rather than none. Even though such drilling operations cost the Government some money, it should do something to find water in districts where water is difficult to locate.

For a very long time I have pursued this objective: Before land, in areas where water is difficult or costly to obtain, is thrown open at least one water bore should be drilled and equipped. What is the good of a 2,000-acre farm if the farmer cannot find water on it?

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I go all the way with you in that respect.

The Hon. A. R. JONES: I hope some move will be made in the near future to implement such a scheme; and the sooner it can be done the sooner we will be able to adopt sound farming practices in certain parts of the State.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I have put up a suggestion to the Minister for Lands that before new land is thrown open the Mines Department should test the district and ascertain the availability of water.

The Hon. A. R. JONES: I am very pleased to hear that. Perhaps this urging from me will reach higher ears and some result will eventuate.

I have never allowed the Address-in-Reply to go by without mentioning traffic matters. Last year I said that too many "Stop" signs had been erected, and too many traffic lights installed. Since last year more have been provided. Reference has been made in this House quite often to traffic bottlenecks in the city, but it seems to me that by installing more and more traffic lights all over the place, the traffic will eventually come to a standstill and the motorist will not be able to move at all. There are too many of these traffic lights and "Stop" signs being installed, although I know some of them are very necessary.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Soon there will not be many licensed drivers to make use of those signs.

The Hon. A. R. JONES: Driving from this House to Fremantle at 2 o'clock in the morning it is necessary for the motorist to wait at many spots for the green traffic light. The motorist might be the only one on the road at that time of the morning, but he cannot move along until the red light has changed. We should be realistic about these matters. When the peak traffic hours have passed these traffic lights should be switched off, as is done in Melbourne, and motorists should be permitted to travel without restriction when the situation is not dangerous.

Recently I spoke to a man who has been living in one suburb of the city for a number of years. He was well aware that a "Go Slow" sign had been erected at a nearby intersection. While he was away in the country for a fortnight, this sign was replaced by a "Stop" sign. When he returned he was not aware of the change, and he drove through the "Stop" sign. He was fined £7. I do not think that is justice, and I feel the police have too much say in traffic offence matters.

Under the existing practice the police are launching many prosecutions for speeding. I know that many of us do speed, at some time or another, but in prosecutions very often it is the case of one man's word against another's; and it is not always that the police officer is right. I feel

something should be done whereby the person would at least stand on equal rights with the policeman and be able to argue the case. Not very long ago while driving I saw a policeman parked in a side road. I was watching my speedometer and knew that I was doing 37 or 38 miles an hour. I do try to keep under 40 miles because it is not easy to stay right on the 35 but if motorists keep under 40 the policemen do not usually worry them too much. There are occasions when we have to go faster than 35 when we are passing other cars. However, as I was saying, I was watching my speedometer. The policeman came out from the side street, and I had only passed another two side streets when he pulled me up and told me I was doing 45 miles an hour. I challenged him and told him that as he had only come out of Florence Road he would not have had time to know whether I was doing 45 miles or not. I pointed out to him that he most likely was doing 45 in order to catch up to me but I stressed that I was not doing that speed. I am sure that if I had not submitted that argument I would have been booked for speeding.

These policemen have too much on their side these days. I know of course that too many motorists are speeding nowadays and when they do around 60 and 70 m.p.h. they should have their licenses taken from them for a long time. On the other hand it is too easy for a constable to obtain a conviction now, and we should do something about it.

I have previously raised the matter of unnecessary noise and exhaust fumes created by vehicles, and Mr. Logan has promised to investigate the situation. Whether he has done so or not I do not know, but I can tell him that the noise and fumes from buses are worse than they were last year. Perhaps the vehicles have worn out a little more in the meantime and are not receiving the attention they should. If motorists get behind some of these buses now they are nearly choked by the fumes, and it is definitely time something was done. The same situation applies to the big trucks that travel from Fremantle to the Bassendean superphosphate works. They are still very bad.

Maniacs still tear around on motorcycles, even past the Mount Hospital in Mount Street. I recently had a friend there whom I used to visit, and the noise was deafening. The road past the Mount Hospital was a prohibited area for motorcycles but now it is not. The sooner it is made a prohibited area again the better it will be for the patients in that hospital, at least. I ask the Minister to take it up with the right authority to see whether something cannot be done about the unnecessary noise and fumes from the trucks and buses which, in my opinion, are not in good mechanical order.

In Western Australia we are fortunate indeed to have reached the stage where we have expansion in industry. It is good to know that secondary industry is expanding; and we can be justly proud of the figures shown by primary industry, and the advance it has made over the past decade. I am very concerned, in this expansion which is taking place, that we should keep the *status quo* and remain on an even keel so that we do not get one industry expanding at the expense of another, or one industry expanding too fast and not keeping the balance which we need between our primary and secondary industries.

We all know that our economy in Australia depends entirely on primary industry. If there are any people who do not know this they should, because no matter how big a secondary industry is, it is dependent on the primary industries for its raw materials, whether produced in Australia or brought from overseas. This is borne out by the fact that 80 per cent. of our incoming wealth is created from primary products and 20 per cent. from secondary industry. Of course most of our manufactured products are sold within Australia.

However, if we are going to keep a balanced economy we must expect that our primary products will be sold overseas in order to bring back raw materials and other goods in the way of machinery so that we can go on expanding in our secondary industries. I think, firstly, that we should not get away from the fact that primary industry must be our first consideration, because, as I said, our economy depends on it; secondly, that we are climatically fortunate and can produce many agricultural products; thirdly, that we are, geographically, suitably situated with regard to markets, etc.; and, fourthly, that we have a moral obligation to produce as much foodstuff in this country as possible to feed those people who are not so fortunate as ourselves. It is not for me, or any one of us, to say, "Well, why produce if we cannot sell?" I feel it is our moral obligation to produce the food which is necessary, and leave it to the good sense of the people dictating the policies of the world to try to find ways and means of getting that produce to the right people so that they will not starve as they are today.

I feel that the primary producers have met a challenge which has been thrown out to them over past years, inasmuch as they have met rising costs. We have seen these costs increase over and over again, and the producers have met this challenge to the extent that today they are producing 50 per cent. more agricultural products than they were in 1950—and producing those products with the same amount of man power.

Of course, this has been made possible by different methods of farming, and by the use of bigger and better machinery. This has all been necessary because costs have been rising and we have had to put our best foot forward to meet the situation. We have had to study the latest developments with regard to different methods of farming and the latest methods of working with machinery, and cutting out labor to the greatest possible extent.

In a sense it sounds wrong to be trying to avoid the use of labour but it is a matter of "must" with the farmers today. As it is, in the last few years, labour has been very expensive; and it is not always good labour either.

So, I think we can be justly proud of the part played by primary producers in the economy of this country. We have reached the point where we have to be realistic and say to ourselves, "How far can we go?" We do know that all the time our scientific research organisation, our Department of Agriculture, and our experimental organisations at the University, are coming up with new ideas; and we are also profiting from ideas which come to us from overseas, but there is a limit to how far we can go.

We know now that scientific use of urea is playing an important part in primary production and will probably revolutionise farming in Western Australia, particularly in the early stages. But we must take stock of the position, because I believe we have just about reached the limit to which we can go. If costs keep rising, the farmer is not going to be able to operate economically, and if we have not got a thriving primary industry, we will not have any industry at all. It is common sense that if the farmer is not able to keep his present production rate going, and if we fall down on exporting our products overseas, we cannot import those raw materials necessary to boost and carry our secondary industries. Therefore, we must make sure we have a balance between the two industries; and all the people who are affected must take stock of the position and see that it does not worsen. As you yourself would know, Mr. President, we cannot raise costs any further.

I think the business world will have to play its part, instead of taking an easy course as in the past, and saying, "Well, it is going to cost another 10s. to produce an article. But why worry? We will pass the cost on to the buyer. That is an easy way of getting out of it." On the other side, the people who provide the labour will have to pull their weight by keeping labour costs steady so as not to add to costs. That is what we have to avoid, not only for the sake of internal economy, but for the sake of our economy internationally.

If we cannot produce and sell overseas at a competitive price, we might just as well not produce at all. I ask all those people who are responsible, in one way or another, for the economy of this nation to consider the position and see whether we can get together on this matter. Instead of having strife and arguments and trouble we must face things fairly and squarely so that everybody reaps the benefit of the goods this country can provide. It has been too easy in the past. I think one of the reasons is that during the war we had the cost-plus system operating. During those times our business houses learned bad habits from this free and easy system. It did not matter if it did cost another 10s., it was added to the price to be paid. That practice did not die after the war, and business went on not worrying too much about costs. We get an occasional man who strives to keep his costs low, but he is in the minority. It had been too easy for business to "push the cost on."

When it is all added up, who pays that additional cost? It comes right back to the primary producer. No matter where that additional cost is put, whether it be on labour, materials, or the cost of manufacture, it all comes back to the primary producer, and he has no chance in life of handing it on. He has to take stock of the position and see if he can make each acre produce another bushel or each sheep grow a little more wool to try to cover the rise. Therefore I issue a warning to the great industries we have in Australia that they must take stock of the position and not load the camel any further; and I liken the camel, of course, to the primary producer. He just cannot carry any more added costs.

Australia at the moment is meeting its greatest challenge since the war. Ours is a young country, and although we came through the war all right—of course we suffered during the war as did everyone else—we have to keep progressing and must put our shoulders to the wheel.

It is unfortunate that young people today are growing up with the idea that everything is easy to obtain. Only today I was talking with one of our members who, like myself, is getting a bit long in the tooth. We were talking about golf and about the fact that once—about 10 or 12 years ago—it was possible to obtain a caddy for an afternoon for 5s. Now they are not easy to get because there is too much money around. The person to whom I was talking had to pull his own buggy around and knocked himself up in the process. That is just one illustration to show us that boys today do not want 4s. or 5s.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: They want 4s. or 5s. to go to the pictures these days.

The Hon. A. R. JONES: These days boys will not even bother to gather a few bottles, as they used to do, to get a few shillings

together; they will not do anything. When I say "they" I do not mean everybody. However, very few of them bother to do anything, and it is certainly not the general rule for boys to go out of their way to earn money. Unfortunately these days children are getting it too easy, and it is not good training for our young people. However, what we can do about it, I do not know. I sincerely hope we do not have to have a depression, or even a recession, to teach them what would be the best for them and for the nation. We have certainly reached a stage that is a challenge, and we have to see that they are educated in the right way and that they are brought into our way of life, and into industry, as good citizens thinking of Australia and thinking what they must do to make this country a great one.

A few minutes ago I spoke about farm labour, and in this regard we are in a sorry plight. We have reached the stage where one can advertise for a general farmhand—as I did on two occasions this winter in an endeavour to employ men to work my farm—but although there are many replies to the advertisements the number of suitable men is very small. When one questions them on what they know about farming, and what their qualifications are for a general farmhand, one finds that their experience boils down to the fact that they can drive a tractor and a truck, but they can do very little else. If a farmer can get only that sort of labour it is of little use to him, because a lot of responsibility rests on the shoulders of the farmhand when he is sowing a crop or when he is reaping it.

A farmhand handles expensive machinery: a tractor costs from £1,500 to £3,000 or £4,000, and today the machinery that is pulled behind a tractor costs anything from £400 to £1,600 a piece. When a man is putting in a crop he has the super and the seed running through the machine in a constant stream; but I have known a farmhand to drag a drill around a paddock for quite a while without knowing that it was not doing the job properly. The farm labour we are getting today is not good enough, even though we are paying top prices for it. There is a recognised wage for competent men, but I am sure it is not sufficient—that is for the good and thoroughly competent hand. How we can ensure that we get that type of chap, I do not know, but I feel that something must be done about the problem.

We must establish some sort of school to train them, and draw up an award so that the really well-trained and competent men can receive top wages. Perhaps we could institute a system of certificates with the top-class man being granted an A-grade certificate; and while they are training as farmhands they could be granted some other type of certificate. This would mean that farmhands would be paid according to the type of certificate they held; but how this scheme could be implemented,

I do not know. We have a system for the training of apprentices for the various trades, and I suppose a similar type of scheme could be introduced to train farmhands. I take the view that it would be much better to increase the wages of a man to £22 a week, if necessary, so long as he gives good service and is a good honest toiler who can be depended upon to do the right thing, not only by himself but also by his employer and the machinery which is used on the farm.

There have been a number of letters in the Press recently criticising the type of housing that farmers expect their employees to use. I quite agree that in many instances the housing facilities on farms for married couples, and for single men, are not adequate; and in many instances the housing is of a poor standard. It is obvious that a decent standard of house will have to be provided if we are to encourage the right type of people to go to work on farms; and I think one way to overcome the problem would be to build two or three cottages in each of the various country towns instead of expecting the small individual farmers to provide quarters on their farms. This would enable these smaller farmers to employ labour from the town to work on their farms for perhaps two or three months of the year at each farm, which would mean that the men would be employed throughout the year. Farm labour is necessary at all times, and the only reason why many farmers today are not producing to the maximum is that they are unable to get the right type of labour.

If somebody could come up with a bright idea as to how we could train the men and introduce a system under which they could be paid according to the certificate they held, and if the housing facilities could be improved, I think we would encourage a better type of man to go into farm work.

On the other hand, many farmers do supply good quarters and conveniences which are not properly looked after by some of the men they employ. This may be an extreme case, but I saw this myself: A young chap of 19 or 20 years of age had a job on a good property. The quarters were excellent and the facilities included a hot water system, electric light, and provision for washing; and in my view he was comfortably accommodated. The building was lined and ceiled and there was a verandah on the front, but when I looked into his room—the boss took me over to show it to me—I was amazed. I would say that his bed had never been made since his arrival, and that the place had never been swept; because there were cigarette packets, bottles, papers, and everything else scattered across the floor of the room. In one corner there was a stack of soiled linen about 3 ft. high; it was so bad that it looked as though he had never washed anything since he had

been on the farm, and as soon as his trousers reached the stage where they could stand up by themselves he got out of them and threw them on to the top of the heap. The same thing apparently applied to his shirts. The room looked as though he was the sort of chap you could throw in the copper once a fortnight, clothes and all, to give both the clothes and the man a good wash.

I make that point to illustrate that this business of quarters and cleanliness is not all on the one side. I suppose the only thing to do is not to engage a chap like that; but he was a good worker and in this instance the boss was prepared to put up with him because he did a good job. He might have been competent but his way of life was appalling to me. Unfortunately, his boss could not do anything about it.

In the development of new land we have to be very careful and we will have to look more than we have done in the past to people to provide the necessary capital to develop this land. The other night Mr. Wise mentioned the fact that the scheme at the Ord River must not fail, and that we must select the right type of men, irrespective of capital, to take up those farms. He said that we must look firstly for men who have the necessary experience, and he further said that the personal equation was of great importance. I believe the same thing must apply to the development of all new lands in the agricultural areas. We have reached the stage where there is not much outside capital available for developing new land; and, in my view Governments, both Commonwealth and State, will have to do more in this regard than they have done in the past.

We all know that the war service land settlement scheme has been in existence for many years; and we also know that that has been a very costly scheme. But when the cost of that scheme is spread over the whole community, and we talk of it in terms of a thousand years, we realise that the cost is not so great. If we are going to develop the rest of Western Australia, although the scheme should be different from the war service land settlement scheme, a similar sum of money must be made available. What Mr. Wise said in his speech the other night applies also to the development of new land everywhere else in the State.

The personal equation must be the first factor taken into consideration, and after that the person's know-how and general thoughts on the development of agricultural land. I can well recall a bank manager coming to the district where I lived as a lad. In those days nobody had money, and if a bank manager had had to wait until a person with sufficient assets to cover his advance came along before he

would advance any money, there would have been no development in Western Australia.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: I think the banks took greater risks in those days.

The Hon. A. R. JONES: Of course they did. One bank manager I knew said—and I only realised the significance of his remark when in later years, in 1930, I went to another bank manager to try to raise money and I was told that I could not borrow even with assets—"You bring the right type of people to me who know the game, and have a good honest background and I will advance them the necessary money. Unless we advance money to that type of man we will not develop this country." I think the same can be said today, and rather than have a civilian scheme following the lines of the war service land settlement scheme, we should advance the same sum of money through our banking institutions.

I suppose the Commonwealth Development Bank would be the institution used because it is set up for developmental purposes. But unfortunately, at the moment the views of its officers are too narrow; those views must be broadened, but that will probably come with experience because the men who are holding the executive positions in that bank today have come from the old Commonwealth Bank, in the main, and they grew up under a hidebound system. At present they have no broad outlook regarding the circumstances of the bank they are supposed to be operating.

As time goes by they will no doubt broaden their views, and finance will become available for those people whom it is meant to assist. However, do not, as I said, let us adopt a civilian land settlement scheme which will follow the lines of the war service land settlement scheme; but rather we should work to see that the banks make the necessary money available to the right type of man to develop this new land of ours.

The Hon. A. L. Loton: Is Mr. McDonald a banking man?

The Hon. A. R. JONES: There is just one more matter I would like to discuss and that is the European Common Market. We have read a lot in recent times about the E.C.M., and if we are not conversant with it by now we should be. However, every time one hears it discussed by a person who has a full knowledge of it one learns just a little bit more about it. There is no doubt that we must all wholeheartedly agree with the stand taken by the Commonwealth Government officials and Ministers, including the Prime Minister; because if England, from the first day of her entry into the European Common Market, did not buy any of our produce it would mean that we would

have to find new markets for £170,000,000 worth of goods. That is a lot of money in anybody's language.

It would mean that we would immediately have to find new markets; and it would also mean that our secondary industries would suffer because we could not import the equivalent in raw materials to feed our secondary industries. Therefore, while some people are prone to say that they do not think we will suffer much, or for very long, if Britain enters the E.C.M., that was not the attitude taken by those who are responsible for the arguments put up on our behalf. They know that we will be very much affected by the entry of Britain into the European Common Market.

If I remember correctly, it was Mr. John McEwen whom I heard say that a very great percentage of the dairy products produced by all countries was used in the home country of production, and only one-seventh of the produce of all the countries producing butter and cheese was sold on the open market; and nearly all of that was sold in England.

If England does not continue to buy those products to the same extent as she does now, it will mean that that amount of produce cannot be sold anywhere else, because there will be no market for it. So I think we must continue to maintain the pressure we have exerted in the past, and give support to our Ministers, who are doing their best to see that we are protected in some way in the event of England joining the European Common Market. This protection will ensure that we have a future market for our goods.

If we are to continue expanding our industries, it is necessary for us to look for other markets, in order to make this country as great as we would wish it to be. There will be the question of providing raw materials for our secondary industries, and it is essential that we find other markets for these products. But I believe that aspect has been taken care of to a large extent. It will be necessary, however, to spend large amounts of money to find those markets, and to educate people and improve their way of life and raise their standard of living above what they enjoy now; because that will mean they will buy the goods we produce—particularly if their standard of living is comparable with ours.

I will close on the note that I hope what I have said will provide some food for thought to members of this House, in much the same way as Mr. Wise, Dr. Hislop, and other members have provided us with something to think about in the problems they have raised. I have no doubt Mr. Bennetts will also give us food for thought when he speaks, as I am sure he will tell us about Esperance—an area which he knows

so well. I know he will advocate the spending of more money for the development of Esperance; and I hope that what I have said about money being made available for the development of new lands will help to support his cause.

THE HON. G. BENNETTS (South-East) [5.33 p.m.]: Before proceeding with my speech I would like to thank Mr. Jones for reminding me of the very worthy district of Esperance. Had he not done so I might have forgotten it! I would like now to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your re-election to your very high and worthy position of President of this House—the House of review. I often wonder whether we can still call it that.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Now don't spoil it!

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: I also want to congratulate the new Labor and Liberal members who have been elected to this House. I feel sure their contributions will be to the benefit not only of this Chamber but of Parliament as a whole.

I was a little perturbed at hearing His Excellency's reference to a delegation which is being sent to the Old Country to bring tradesmen over to Australia. It is scandalous and disgraceful that the present Government should not have provided sufficient industries and facilities for the training of the youth of this State, in order to help them become tradesmen.

The Government sold out the facilities which were available for the training of tradesmen and, accordingly, there is no place now in which we can train these young boys—especially those from gold-fields areas and other mining areas, where there are many young and good citizens who are unable to secure any sort of training to become tradesmen.

The only facility available to them is the mining industry; and, as we all know, the mining industry can only absorb a certain number of lads. This means that there are a great number of young fellows who are roaming around without any chance of becoming tradesmen.

The Hon. A. L. Loton: How many extra people have been employed in the mines over the last year?

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: The number has decreased considerably because of mechanisation. The work force on the mines is now down to about 5,000 altogether. What is going to happen about these tradesmen? Before long we will find that Australian and Western Australian boys will be doing labouring work under foreign tradesmen. This is happening today; and now we propose to bring out people from England—or Pommies, as they are called. I do not mean this to be any adverse criticism of the Englishmen, because after all they are of our own colour and we should be glad to have them.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You shouldn't criticise them, because you've hardly lost your own accent.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: The Government is proposing to bring in single men, because it cannot find accommodation for married men. That is the position that exists today. Even though we have numerous boys in this country who would be glad of a trade, we are unable to provide them with the training; and only because of a lack of foresight on the part of the Government.

The Hon. C. R. Abbey: How many are there in Western Australia?

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: We will have to do something about this matter, because each year a large number of boys leave school and find it impossible to secure work.

I would now like to touch on the tactics employed during the last general elections and a subsequent by-election. We are fast reaching a very unsavory position, similar to that which obtains in other States. Our elections here are being fought on unfair grounds. For instance, much credit was taken by Government members for things which were done by the previous Labor Government. The Labor Government commenced many jobs which, in due course, were completed by the present Liberal Government. Some candidates, however, while on their platforms, gave all the credit to the Liberal Government for the work that was done.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Tell us one.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: I would refer to the black road to Esperance.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Which candidates?

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: That was referred to by a Liberal candidate for the Boulder-Eyre electorate. It was also mentioned by that candidate that when the Labor Government was in power it provided no assistance whatever for the cartage of pyrites. I would like to point out here that the Labor Government subsidised one particular company in Norseman to the extent of about £160,000 to help it bring down pyrites to the factory in Perth.

There was another company referred to by the Liberal candidate, which was assisted to the extent of £30,000 to £35,000 in the building of copper ore bins at Esperance. Yet that candidate said these people had no assistance from the Labor Government. When we reach the stage of having to fight elections in such a manner, I think we should give the game away. We should be fair dinkum with the people and tell them the truth. Of course the Government has the Press in its corner. There is no doubt that it is a Liberal-Country Party Press.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: A Liberal Party Press.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: I do not know what the Country Party members at the back of me think about the recent by-election which was fought in Darling Range. Here we find members who have supported the Government on every issue and yet in the last by-election they were let down very badly, and all because of shrewd tactics on the part of the Liberal Party. I think the best thing that these members can do is to make this a House of review, instead of a Liberal-Country Party House.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Will the honourable member please address the Chair?

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: I am endeavouring to do so, Mr. President. The cost of sending this mission to secure tradesmen from the old country must be very great; their expenses must prove a tremendous drain on government finances.

On a brighter note, I must say that I am very pleased that we have at last made some progress towards the standardisation of the railways. Since I have been here I have advocated the standardisation of the railways; and it is very pleasing to see that provision has been made in the Commonwealth Budget for the commencement of the first stage of the work.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I suppose you will say that your party did that also.

The Hon. E. M. Davies: We have been talking about it since 1917.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: We have been trying since 1917.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: The standardisation of the railways had to come; and the State Liberal Government was helped considerably in this direction by the amount of money made available by the Liberal Government in Canberra. The present State Government is receiving from the Federal Government today almost twice as much loan money as did Labor Governments in the past. The Government has money to throw around like a man with no hands!

It is very pleasing to see that there has been an improvement in our railway system. There is no doubt, however, that the unfortunate people living on the gold-fields are always the last to be shown any consideration. Our Premier has had his new train built to serve the Mullewa line. Incidentally that train does great credit to the workmen who built it—the men employed at the Midland Junction Workshops. It must be very pleasing for the Minister for Railways to see the type of work that can be done by those employees, particularly after the opinions he expressed about them some time ago.

The Westland has also been modernised; and I think it is now equal in comfort to any in Australia. I have not been a passenger on the new train in Sydney, but I do have photographs and diagrams of it, together with all other information that has been made available. It is air-conditioned. On this aspect I would like to say that not everybody likes to ride in an air-conditioned train. Some people experience a sense of suffocation, due to their not being able to open the windows to let in fresh air. On non-air-conditioned trains it is, of course, possible to open the windows and enjoy the fresh air. Many people prefer to be able to do that.

I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to the lack of facilities on the *Kalgoorlie Express*. For example, no provision is made to permit one to plug in an electric razor; the cars are untidy and in need of a coat of paint; the catches on the lockers and on the lavatory doors stick—

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: You want the Minister to tell the Minister for Railways about this, don't you?

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: Yes. As I have said, the people in the remote areas, and particularly those living on the goldfields, are the last to be shown any consideration.

I am glad now that standardisation of the railways will be realised. This is something that I have advocated ever since I have been a member of this House; and if members care to look at *Hansard* for 1953 they will note that I spoke then on this subject. I also spoke about this matter two years ago; and Mr. Simpson made mention of it, too.

People on the goldfields who have just received their accounts for water are incensed because the cost has risen considerably. On several occasions I have been in the office of the Water Supply Department and have heard members of the public growling at the clerks who are receiving payments. Of course the clerks are not responsible for the increased bills—it is the Government that has imposed the extra charge on the people living in the dry areas. I am of the opinion that a little consideration could be shown to these people as it is necessary for them to have lines of trees to protect them from the burning sun. I think it is a shame that the Government has imposed these additional charges.

I now wish to turn to television, as we are also penalised in this connection. We have two radio stations, 6KG and 6GF, but 6KG could be scrapped as it must be one of the worst radio stations in Australia. All one hears is jazz and jive music. It does not broadcast any serials; and we are paying our license fees under false pretences.

I must mention the great part the goldfields played this year in supplying honey to this portion of the State. Unfortunately I forgot to telephone the appropriate authority, so I am unable to quote the total amount of honey that was supplied.

Another of our problems is that we are unable to man the dental clinic which was established by a previous Labor Government, the Minister for Health at that time being Emil Nulsen who has recently retired. This clinic has been closed for several weeks because of the inability to obtain dentists. Therefore, I think the Minister for Health should do something about the training of men in this profession. Perhaps they could be subsidised after they sign an agreement that once they finish their training they will give a certain period of service to this State, perhaps 10 years or more. At the moment we are losing qualified men to the Eastern States.

Because of restrictions which obtain at the present time, it is difficult to qualify in this profession. Therefore, something should be done by the Government so that more young people will want to become dentists. I am sure that any money spent in this regard will be well worth while.

The other day I was speaking to a dentist at Boulder and he told me that the teeth of the goldfields children are worse than those of children in any other part of the State. He was of the opinion that the Government should issue the children with fluoride tablets under a scheme similar to the free milk scheme which now operates. I do not know what this would cost, but it would probably require quite a large sum of money to implement such a scheme. However, the sooner it is commenced the better for the children of our State.

I have been wondering about the methods used by our Child Welfare Department in regard to girls who are sent to institutions at the age of, say, 16 or 17 years and then placed in private homes until they attain the age of 18 years. I understand some of these girls are employed as housemaids. Is an inspection made of the homes to which the girls go, in order to see that they are being well treated and to ascertain what work they do and what payment they receive?

There is also the case of younger girls who are put into orphanages. Some of these girls are placed in private homes, and the people concerned receive so much per week for looking after them. I would like to know what protection is given to those children. Some of the people who take them are very good to them, but there are others who are very cunning. One or two cases which have come to my notice and about which I will speak are quite disgusting; and it makes one wonder whether the Child Welfare Department is carrying out its job on proper lines.

It is not my wish to condemn any of the welfare officers, because they are good types; but in my opinion some of them are too young for the job. Many are in their 30's and are still rearing their own families. I consider that we should employ staid men in these jobs—men who have reared their families and married them off. Men of that type would be qualified to make decisions or give rulings as to what should be done.

The young fellows are doing a good job, but when they interview a person of, say, 45 years of age the older man rightly wants to know what the younger ones know about child welfare problems. I suggest that we could profitably employ retired police inspectors on this work, even though they might have only about 10 years of active life remaining. These men are experienced and would be able to give fatherly advice. We do not want to see court actions; and very often all that is necessary is a little bit of sound advice to the people concerned.

It is now my intention to tell the Minister for Child Welfare what happened in another State, because a similar situation may exist here. It concerns three girls who were deserted by their mother. These girls were placed in an institution because their father was unable to keep them home as he had no-one to look after them. The eldest girl was aged 12, another was 10, and the other was eight years of age. They were placed with an elderly couple; and when the eldest girl came home from school she had to take two kerosene tins to a well, fill them with water and then bring them back to the house.

The life was frightened out of these children, and they were told they would be punished if they spoke outside the house of how they were being treated. These girls were frightened, but they knew they had no other home to go to. There were instances where the eldest girl had to eat crusts that were left by the old couple. In addition, fruit would be stacked on the sideboard and if any of that fruit happened to fall to the floor the girls would be accused of stealing it, and that sort of thing.

Those girls did not have the courage to tell their father what was going on. However, information reached him by means of someone else who learned of it at school. As a result, they were taken back to the institution. I have been wondering whether that sort of thing goes on in our State.

I know of a farmer who was prepared to take four children out of an institution so that he could care for them. Two of those children went to the farm: one a girl aged 16 and the other a boy who was a bit coloured. The farmer in question had three adult sons, one being 35 years of age. Those children were treated like slaves and had to do a

terrific amount of work. I do not think there was any trouble over food, even though they had to eat the food that was put in front of them. However, that would do them no harm. The children were afraid to say anything about the manner in which they were being treated because they were well and truly cowed.

The girl aged 16 was rather good looking and was a good type. This girl's bed was situated near a window; and, because of this, she was pestered by one of the adult males who entered her room through the window. The result was that the foster parent complained to the institution that the big girl was a menace and that the institution would have to take her back. I know she was a good-living girl and a splendid type. As far as I am aware, no inquiries were made into this case by the Child Welfare Department concerned to see whether the girl was at fault or whether it was the people.

This sort of thing can happen here; and I would like to know whether our own Child Welfare Department has a system by which the situation can be watched. Very likely I will go along one day and see some of our Child Welfare Department officers, and discuss this matter with them.

I would like to ask the Government why the Lord Mayor of Perth was allowed to go to America and receive all the credit from that visit, when statements had appeared in the Press that the Lord Mayor had refused to have the lights of Perth turned on for astronaut John Glenn. Why was not an officer of the department sent instead of the Lord Mayor? The Premier did say, at the time, that due to the forthcoming elections he would be unable to go. However, I think we could have sent an official from the Premiers' Department, and any credit would have gone to the right people. The following appeared in the Press on the 25th February, 1962:—

It's a waste, says Howard.

That was in big headlines, an inch thick.

"Wasteful", said Lord Mayor Sir Harry Howard today of a plan to light up Perth for astronaut John Glenn.

"I think I can speak for Perth City Councillors generally when I say that the idea is morally wrong," he said.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Why flog a dead horse? They invited the Premier to go. He was unable to go, so they issued their invitation to the Lord Mayor. The Government had nothing to do with it.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: Many people have complained to me about this matter. After all, it was the ratepayers' money that was being used. Why should we have allowed him to go—

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I have just told you: The invitation was given to the Lord Mayor by the United States of America; and the Government had nothing to do with it.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: If that is so, then it is all right.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: The Premier was invited to go, but he could not do so. When he could not go, they invited the Lord Mayor. It was not the function of the Government—

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: Why did they not send an officer of the Premier's Department?

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Order!

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: In my opinion the Premier could have gone. What difference would it have made had he been away at the time of the elections? It was vitally important that he should represent Western Australia.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: The Lord Mayor's visit was 100 per cent. successful. Why worry about it now?

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: That might be the Minister's opinion, but it is not the opinion of those I represent. They feel that the Premier himself should have gone.

I turn now to the cost of motorcars, and the cost amazes me. We are always advocating the purchase of Western Australian goods, yet some people wish to spend a large amount of this State's money on an expensive motorcar for the Lord Mayor. There are Australian made cars which could be used. We are asked to patronise Western Australian products—

The Hon. J. J. Garrigan: Why not support local industry?

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: The people on the goldfields are hostile about the matter. We have a full-size swimming pool at Kalgoorlie, and the feeling exists that the swimming events of the British Empire and Commonwealth Games could have been held in Kalgoorlie instead of a very expensive pool having to be built for the occasion in Perth. If the events were held at Kalgoorlie, that city would receive a little of the trade which will be forthcoming as a result of the Games. This is the reason why the people of Kalgoorlie have contributed very little money towards the Games. They feel they are not going to get anything out of it. Why should they contribute to what they feel is wasteful spending? Because that is all it is.

I do not know what the Government is going to do to free itself from the financial difficulties in which it will find itself at the end of the Games. I feel sure that the Government will have to pay out a good deal. It is spending a great amount of money on the houses at the Games Village. Who will buy them? An article appeared in the Press describing the type of houses being built and raising the question as to what was to become of them after the Games.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Have you been out there yet to see them?

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: I have not yet been out there; but I am satisfied from what I have heard that they will be as described in the Press.

I will not be able to raise such matters much longer, as I have already stated that I will be retiring at the end of my present term. However, I hope there will be somebody here who will continue to seek assistance for Esperance and for those other places on behalf of which I have spoken in this House. I have reached the age when I think it is time to "give it away" before somebody takes my seat from me. I wish to retire gracefully; and I hope that my place in this House will be occupied by one of my sons who intends to contest the seat. I hope he will be successful.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Hear, hear!

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: I have read in the Press where pensioners in Perth have been receiving supplies of wood free of charge. I was wondering whether a little of the finance involved could be given to Kalgoorlie for a similar purpose—say about £200 per year.

The mines at Kalgoorlie have contributed much towards the development of this State. They have employed a good many men and, during the depression years, did much to relieve the difficulties through which this State was passing. The Minister is now a member of the Prospectors' Association. He has taken a good deal of interest in the association, and he has done a good job. We recently held a prospecting field day. The weather was poor, but the interest taken in this event was very satisfying. I would like the Government to give whatever assistance it can to that association.

A good deal of money is being spent on the search for gold in Western Australia. A long time ago Bulong was a great producer of gold. I wonder if the Minister has had any request to investigate that area to see whether gold still exists. I feel sure that the Minister will give consideration to any request he receives in this connection.

I am sorry that only £300,000 has been allotted to mining in this State by the Federal Government. I hasten to add that this sum will be of great help. However, it is only a sprinkle in the ocean compared with the amount of money being spent.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: That's not all of it; that is only an amount allotted for development.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: That is quite true.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: What about the gold subsidy?

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: I notice that the Government, over the last 12 months, has been badly let down in connection with the lowest tenders for building construction. I do not know how many instances there were. I do not think it is always a good thing to accept the lowest tender.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: As I was saying before the tea suspension, the Government has seen fit on most occasions to accept the lowest tenders for buildings. I do not think that is a good policy because I understand the Government has been let down on a number of occasions through contractors going broke and being unable to complete their contracts. As a consequence, the Government has had to step in with its own men and do the work.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Which contracts do you refer to?

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: I refer to many of the buildings being erected for the Government. Neither is it always a good thing to accept the highest tender. On occasions there is a terrific difference between the lowest tender and the highest tender. It seems to me that the people who tender low do so in order to get the job, and then they provide inferior material or else go broke. Those who submit high tenders generally have a lot of work on hand and do not really want the jobs for which they tender.

I understand that in other places careful consideration is given to the middle tenders. This matter was mentioned to me and I was asked to bring it to the notice of the Government, and I have done so.

The other day I was approached in connection with workers' homes at Kalgoorlie. I do not know how many applications have been forwarded to the Minister from Kalgoorlie, but three people have approached me recently in connection with workers' homes. They wanted to know why the State Housing Commission has not continued to build homes in Kalgoorlie. I do not know whether the Government thinks there are sufficient homes available in Kalgoorlie for sale or for rent, but at present it is impossible to get a rental home there.

I think the position has arisen because the Bullfinch mine is likely to go out of production at an early date, and there seems to be an influx of people from there who are taking up any available houses. I hope the Minister will look into this matter to see whether further workers' homes can be built in that area.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: There simply have not been the applications to warrant it.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: I did not know that.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Your friend, Mr. Evans, has taken this matter up with me and I have had forms put out in various places in the town, but they have not brought forward many applications.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: A few weeks ago I visited the Norseman Native Mission. I do not think our native welfare officers have been very capable or have met the wishes of the mission or missions in the Norseman area. There seems to be some differences in respect of native affairs. Recently there has been a little trouble in the town in connection with natives, and there probably could be a lot more trouble. I think the Department of Native Welfare will know all about that.

I wonder whether, with all the talk about giving natives citizenship rights and the vote, we are doing everything possible for them. Because of the amount of vacant land we have on the east side of Esperance, I think it is time for the Government to consider a native land settlement scheme. Such a scheme could be run by the Government, and natives could be put on to it. Large areas could be taken up, and they could subsequently be cut up into sections so as to give the natives something to look forward to. After the natives had developed the land, it could be sold to them in certain acreages, or it could be retained by the Government and the natives allowed to work on it so that it would be a money spinner for the State. That would be one way of providing employment for these people who are today coming out from the missions. When they leave the missions at the age of 16 they are very fine children, but they are thrown on to the world with no occupation.

The railway buses recently put on in the Esperance area have proved a time saver, but there is quite a lot of trouble in connection with the carrying of luggage and freight. The farmers, especially those at Gibson's Soak, have had parts of tractors sent to Perth for repairs, but owing to the limited amount of room on the buses the return of the parts has been delayed for a week and sometimes longer. When the diesel train was running, it passed through Gibson's Soak three times a week and there was no delay in regard to tractor parts.

When family units travel, the space for luggage is limited to about one suitcase for each passenger, so the rest of the luggage has to go by train. It is very inconvenient. I think that at an early date there may be a deputation, or some other move, to have the diesel put back again.

In that area there is need for a veterinary surgeon. Because of the number of cattle there, and the problems that are

likely to arise, I think the sooner the Government can see fit to have a veterinary officer stationed there, the better it will be in the interests of all concerned in the large land settlement scheme.

I am grateful to know that superphosphate works are to be erected at Esperance. I mentioned some time ago that within a certain period the amount of superphosphate used in the district would warrant the establishment of superphosphate works. I understand that superphosphate works are to be built, but I do not know when. I hope it will be at an early date.

A lot of concern was expressed as to where the superphosphate works were to be built. They were to be built in the town area, and that caused a lot of trouble because the local authority would not say on what particular spot they were to be built. Another feature was that we could not find out whether the works would burn phosphoric rock or pyrites. I understand, however, that they will be built so as to use either of those commodities. I hope they will be constructed soon; and I also hope that the land-backed harbour will be built.

The people of Esperance are a little worried about the large amount of money that is being spent on the Ord River project, and the amount of assistance the Commonwealth Government is giving in that area. We know that the Ord River district is very important, but at the same time we have not yet had proof of what it can produce, whereas Esperance is now an established area and is far ahead of expectations. The sooner that money is poured into the Esperance area, and roads and everything else are provided, the better.

The people at Esperance are most concerned about the Ravensthorpe road which is a very important one because of the amount of minerals, copper, and other commodities that are carted over it. In the winter, the road is very bad. We want it completed; and perhaps the Government could make some loan money available for the purpose so that it could be finished at an early date.

The land-backed harbour is also most important; it could do with a few thousand pounds of Commonwealth money to push it along quick and lively!

One of the features of Esperance, as my farmer friends at the rear of me know, is that the progress of the district is due to the small holdings, and the cheapness of the clearing and getting the land into production. The farmers who have small acreages are easily able to overcome the labour question which was mentioned by Mr. Jones this evening when he said that farm labour was very hard to get. The small holdings around Esperance consist of about 1,200 acres of land worth £16 per acre without the home buildings. The

owners of those properties have no trouble in getting labour. But one or two of the big property owners—like those mentioned by Mr. Jones—are finding it difficult to get labour.

The farmers in the Salmon Gums area—in fact all through the farming areas of my district—are having a very good season; they are on top of the world. I do not know any part of my province where the farmers are not pleased with the season. It should be one of the best for a long time.

The Salmon Gums district is a little different from Esperance, because whereas Esperance can run two and a half sheep to the acre, as the Department of Agriculture has stated, in the Salmon Gums area the farmers can run only one sheep to two acres. The production of wheat in the Salmon Gums area is about six to seven bags to the acre, and it is the second highest milling grain produced in the State. The farmers at Salmon Gums are having a good time this year; they should have one of their best harvests.

The same applies in the Scaddan district, but there the farmers are hard pressed because of the large quantity of wheat which the district has produced; and this has resulted in there being insufficient storage in the wheat bins. Consequently the farmers have to carry the wheat to other sidings. Speddingup is in much the same position. Therefore, I would appeal to the Government to take steps to put down a wheat spur line and to install a loading ramp to obviate these farmers carting their wheat such long distances to other sidings.

As a result of the additional land that is being taken up, wheat production and stock numbers are increasing at a terrific rate and therefore the farmers in that area are sorely in need of additional facilities. I understand the Minister for Lands recently received an application for an area of land between Southern Cross and Karalee from a committee which calls itself the Industrial Land and Development Co., or something like that. As a result I have heard that the Minister visited the area in question so that he could give proper consideration to the application. The tract of land sought by the committee embraces about 30 allotments and is situated in an area which has a 10½-inch rainfall. The soil is good, and it is considered that the wheat grown in the Southern Cross area produces one of the finest grains for flourmilling.

As Mr. Jones mentioned a moment ago, farming today, with the aid of modern equipment, is an entirely different proposition to what it was in earlier years; and, therefore, on these allotments, although subject to only a low rainfall, the production of wheat could be quite a profitable venture. The committee in question desires the Minister to consider its application and

give an early decision. I therefore hope the Minister will accede to its request as soon as possible because there are many similar bodies throughout Australia today that are extremely anxious to obtain land in this State.

It has also been reported that in the Southern Cross area over £1,000,000 was obtained from the production of wool, gold, iron ore, and other minerals. Therefore, the district produces much wealth for the State; and now that the mine at Bullfinch is going to close down, if this land could be opened up some of the houses which will become vacant at Bullfinch could be purchased and re-erected in the Southern Cross area.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: The figure of £1,000,000 that you mentioned relates to the production and value of minerals, and not the return to the State.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: Yes; that is correct. When visiting Merredin the other day I realised that the old railway barracks are an eyesore in that town which serves one of the most progressive areas in the State. Many buildings are in the course of being erected and numerous improvements have been made throughout the town. Despite all this progress, the old railway barracks remain right in the heart of the town; and furthermore, they are facing the shopping area. Twenty-six men are housed there and they are living under the worst conditions that one could find anywhere in the State. They are definitely slum conditions, and the barracks should be burnt down.

Another outstanding discovery I made was that a sewerage scheme is being put in train throughout the town of Merredin, yet the Government has no intention of connecting the railway station and the railway barracks with this scheme. The old pan system is to remain on the railway premises; yet only recently—or at least within the last 12 months—the Government was conducting a campaign throughout the State to combat the fly menace by encouraging members of the public to do everything possible to minimise this nuisance. What would contribute more to the fly menace than the pan system in the heart of the town of Merredin? This is also highlighted by the fact that the rest of the town is to be sewered. I therefore hope the Government will do something to rectify this position as soon as possible.

I would also like to mention that the districts of Shackleton, Bruce Rock and Westonia are progressing favourably. A few years ago I took up with the Minister for Water Supplies the question of establishing rock catchment areas throughout the State and particularly in my province. I was told that to construct rock catchment areas for the purpose of holding water is an extremely costly business. However, this State, over all—and especially in those parts where it is most needed—does not

enjoy a very high rainfall, and if a sufficient number of rock catchment areas are not established to hold every inch of rainfall that is possible, the people of the State are going to be extremely short of water in times to come.

I think it would be well worth while if the Minister for Water Supplies could send an officer to an area near Naremben to inspect a rock water catchment that has been developed by a farmer there, so that the Minister may see for himself the volume of water that is held by this rock catchment. If this were done I am sure the report made by that officer would encourage the Government to build similar rock catchment areas throughout the State. Water has always played an important part in the development of this State, and with the increase in population it is going to become even more important in the future. Last year, fortunately, the goldfields did not suffer from a shortage of water, but there is always that possibility; and every step should be taken to ensure that it does not occur.

Mr. Jones mentioned it was unfortunate that members whom we are used to seeing in this Chamber were defeated at the elections and lost their seats. I do not like to see any member lose his seat in Parliament because once one becomes a member of Parliament and is subsequently defeated, one has to seek outside employment and it is extremely difficult for such a person to settle down to a different way of life. No matter who the member may be, the same circumstances apply when he is defeated at the polls; it is extremely difficult to re-establish himself in outside employment.

When he is elected a member of Parliament he becomes one of the high dignitaries of the State, but when he loses his seat at some subsequent election he has to drop back and find employment wherever he can. That is pretty hard on any defeated member. No matter which Government is in office I suggest that it could afford assistance to such individuals by employing them in some Government position. The Government is always requiring staff in various departments, and assistance could be given to defeated members through these channels.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: It often is.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: I omitted to mention one matter in connection with the railways. I know that the Railways Department is experiencing great difficulty in endeavouring to recruit shunters. A shunter is a key man in any railway system. The making up of trains and their despatch on time depends, to a great extent, on that man. I have performed such duties myself and therefore I am well acquainted with the true facts in regard to such a position. A shunter has to be a live wire, has to have a good head on

his shoulders, and has to keep his wits about him, because he is on the run all the time.

The Railways Department is not offering sufficient encouragement to recruit men to fill the position of shunter. To make the position more attractive the salary of a shunter should be on the same scale as that of a first-class guard. I know that many shunters have left the railways because the rate of pay is too low, and they have considered the job was not worth while.

There is no doubt that if an inefficient shunter is employed, a great deal of damage can be done to the rolling stock; and, in general, he could be the cause of a great deal of trouble in the making up of trains because the proper placing of vans and coaches is an extremely difficult job. However, if it is performed in a proper manner there is no delay occasioned to any traffic along the line.

I do not agree, and have never agreed, with what the Government has done in its endeavours to employ shunters and other railway workers; and this applies with even greater force to officers who fill administrative positions. In the last few years any vacancy that has occurred in the administrative staff of the railways has been filled by an officer from outside the State.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Which one?

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: The position of the Commissioner of Railways, for example.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Mr. Stewart was a local man.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: He has been in the department for years.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: I mean the Commissioner of Railways.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: That appointment was made a long time ago.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: And he is the man I am referring to. Furthermore, the three commissioners who preceded him were the biggest duds ever appointed in the railways. What trouble they caused the railways! They sacked a large number of junior clerks, and the Railways Department is now having difficulty in recruiting cadet clerks.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Do you think you could get a better man than Mr. Wayne to fill the position of Commissioner of Railways?

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: I am not going to argue about the ability of Mr. Wayne. Nevertheless, he was a man brought from outside the State to fill the position.

In the main, who does the work? It is the staff under him who do the work and who build up the prestige of the Commissioner of Railways. Also it is the underdog—the man in the office—who builds up the

prestige of any Minister of the Crown or other high State official. No person can enter the employ of a railway and take over a position without the assistance of an efficient administrative staff. No-one will deny that. Have we sufficient faith in our railwaymen to offer them encouragement to work their way to the top? Unfortunately, none of them has ever reached the top because they never get the opportunity.

Recently we appointed a man from South Africa to fill the position of superintendent of the King's Park Board. Have we not any men in the State with sufficient knowledge and ability to fill such a position? In many instances we recruit men from overseas to fill high positions in Government bodies and instrumentalities. In each branch of the Railways Department there is a committee which receives suggestions from the employees and, after due consideration, presents the best of them to the commissioner who, if he approves, puts them into operation. There is no doubt that the administration of the railways could not be carried out unless an efficient administrative staff were employed.

I thank members for listening to my remarks. I will admit that I have been for a trip around the State and have reported on several matters that were not known to many members of this House.

THE HON. S. T. J. THOMPSON (South) [7.59 p.m.]: I feel somewhat diffident in having to follow such proven speakers as we have heard tonight. First of all, I would like to congratulate you, Sir, on being re-elected to the position of President, and also on the excellent job you have performed during the past two years. I also take this opportunity to congratulate the two new members, as well as all members who were returned in the last election. Despite all the criticism that we have heard about this House as a House of review, the new members will find that it is very much a House of review if they remain here long enough.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: You have not been here long enough to know.

The Hon. S. T. J. THOMPSON: I have been here for three years, and in that time I have heard a review from the honourable member each year; I have also heard a contribution by Mr. Bennetts in this debate during those years. This House gives us an opportunity to review our hopes and desires.

It speaks for the good fellowship and harmony which exists in this House when we heard the Leader of the Opposition express such deep concern about the relationship between the two opposing parties. I appreciate the sincerity of his remarks and his concern in that regard, even though his concern is unfounded.

I confine my remarks to matters affecting the South Province, which I represent. If I could only cover a small portion of it I would be doing a good job. Firstly, referring to war service land settlement, a matter referred to in the Speech of His Excellency, the final stages of the scheme have been reached. On the whole the scheme has been a great success, although perhaps not to the individual settler. I rather regret that so many of the settlers have been selling their leases and leaving their properties.

That was not what the scheme intended; it was designed to enable ex-servicemen to go on to farms and to remain on them. Unfortunately conditions have been so difficult that the only way they could overcome them was to sell their leases and get off their properties. That has been brought about mainly as a result of the debt the settlers incurred in the last nine to ten years in bringing their properties up to the stage of production which they have reached.

I understand that on some of the 600-acre properties in the Rocky Gully area, the settler is expected to gross, £4,500 off his property before the bank will take over. That is a very considerable sum for a 600-acre property to yield, especially under the conditions experienced this year. Seasons vary from year to year, and perhaps the figures which the war service land settlement scheme used were based on a series of good years. Unfortunately, during this season the settlers experienced serious trouble and their returns were greatly reduced. I consider that a relaxation of the existing regulations covering their operations could prove beneficial in inducing the settlers to remain on their farms. The intention of the scheme was to keep the settlers there, and not for them to sell out after 10 years.

The Hon. A. R. Jones: If they are not the right type who will stay on their properties, what is the good of trying to keep them there?

The Hon. S. T. J. THOMPSON: There are some very good types among them; perhaps some of them are not cut out to be good farmers, but that applies in all walks of life. It is the accruing debt which the settlers have incurred that has caused them to leave their farms. These settlers have contributed a great deal to the State in bringing their properties up to their present-day values. Had a valuation been made of the properties at the time they went on them, the position would not have been as bad. Unfortunately it is very difficult to assess the value of what a settler has put in, especially after ten years of occupation.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Do you know whether the Government wrote off anything from the debt before the settlers went on to the farms?

The Hon. S. T. J. THOMPSON: I do not know what has been written off because I have not the figures for individual properties.

The granting of voting rights to aborigines has been mentioned by various speakers in this debate, and I am very pleased to see that an effort will be made during this session of Parliament to give aborigines voting rights. I feel this will only touch the fringe of the native question.

The granting of full citizenship rights to natives is a very difficult matter; it should be treated very carefully, particularly in the country districts. Before full citizenship rights are granted to natives we will be required to increase the Police Force considerably. In quite a number of country centres where hotels exist, there is not a police officer stationed. In other centres where there are hotels, only one police officer is stationed in the town. If natives are to be given full citizenship rights the life of the lone police officer in a country town will become intolerable. In places like Nyabing, where there is a hotel, it would not be possible to live in peace. This centre has a considerable native population. Quite a lot of thought will have to be given to this matter before we can go all the way in granting full citizenship rights to natives.

On the subject of main roads, I want to congratulate the Main Roads Department on the work it is doing throughout the State. It is remarkable how the bitumen road system in the country is being extended. I urge that the section from Lake King down to Ravensthorpe be put through, and that the bus route be extended to Esperance instead of terminating at Ravensthorpe. Considerable progress is being made in developing the road system, but the process could be hastened.

Unfortunately some sections of my electorate, particularly those on the eastern fringe, are not provided with main roads. The Lakes district is in that unfortunate position. It is in a very isolated position and a long distance has to be covered before the bitumen roads are reached. Naremben is another town in the same position. Quite often when there is a main road through the centre of a district there are main roads in both directions. The two districts, I have mentioned are in an unfortunate position.

Further, in those centres wheat bins have been established at a considerable distance from bitumen roads. Where bins are constructed off the line, bitumen roads should be provided to enable the grain to be carted there. That would help considerably not only the cartage contractors, but also the settlers when they have to travel in to town.

Referring to the question of water, in the Roe electorate on the eastern fringe of my province, there is an enormous belt

of country which lacks adequate water supplies. Yet, I do not think there is another area in the State which possesses the same potential for development if water could be provided. The settlers could derive a rapid return for their investment; this applies particularly in the Hyden area. The field trials of the Department of Agriculture carried out in that centre have proved to be remarkably successful.

Water is the problem throughout that area. On a recent tour there with the Legislative Assembly member (Mr. Hart) we were shown a considerable number of rock catchments, some of which had been harnessed but not others. In the East Narembene district we were taken to a 900-acre rock; it has an enormous potential as a water catchment. I do not know whether it has been surveyed, but in view of the serious water position in Western Australia all rock catchments in the eastern belt of the State should be surveyed so that we can ascertain the potential for supplying water.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: What is the rainfall in that area?

The Hon. S. T. J. THOMPSON: It varies. Several rock catchments have been harnessed and they have proved to be remarkably successful. The one at Holt Rock has two enormous tanks built on it. The reason I am making this suggestion is that in 1945 all the stock in that area had to be trucked out because there was not sufficient water. The harnessing of some rock catchments has improved the water position considerably. At the present time the stock numbers in that area are twice those of 1945, but should we experience a drought year conditions will become very serious.

This information which I am conveying to the House concerning not only the rainfall of the area but the potential of the rock catchments is a matter for the future, if we cannot make use of the catchments at the present time. Quite a number have been surveyed, and on some tanks have been erected. Admittedly many of them have not been used, but in a drought year they would be valuable. The tanks on the majority of the rock catchments are only conserving a very small amount of the water which is drawn off them.

Another subject which has exercised the minds of people living in small country towns is housing. It is comparatively easy in the bigger centres to induce the State Housing Commission to provide houses, but in the smaller country districts it is a very difficult matter to do so, for the reason that an applicant has to reside in a district for six months before he can put in an application.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: That is not so. Where did you get that information from?

The Hon. S. T. J. THOMPSON: That was the information I received. I would like to see a scheme formulated under which local governing bodies could guarantee the rental of commission houses in small

country centres, so that the housing position could be eased. We all realise that the Housing Commission cannot build houses all over the State indiscriminately.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Many people think it can.

The Hon. S. T. J. THOMPSON: We do not think so. The only responsible bodies which could guarantee the rental would be the local governing authorities.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: To which towns are you referring?

The Hon. S. T. J. THOMPSON: Kojonup, for instance, and several others. The shire council in Kojonup approached me on the question of providing houses for some of its employees. The council wants to engage more employees, and it will be able to do so if it can provide the houses. It is prepared to guarantee the rental.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Have you put the matter up to the State Housing Commission?

The Hon. S. T. J. THOMPSON: No. I am putting the matter to the Minister now. The town of Broomehill is in a similar position. It is a very small town, and the shire council considers that if the State Housing Commission could provide two or three houses it would be able to offer the occupants employment on the nearby farms or in the town. Quite a number of farmers are willing to employ more labour if houses can be provided in the town and the workers can travel to the farms each day. They are not prepared to build another house on their properties. The Broomehill Shire Council has submitted this proposition which I feel is worth investigating.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: The trouble is that the commission cannot build houses ahead of demand.

The Hon. S. T. J. THOMPSON: We realise that, too.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You give us the applications and we will investigate them.

The Hon. S. T. J. THOMPSON: The position regarding the staffing of our schools is another matter which has caused a good deal of concern, particularly in the South Province. We have been rather fortunate in the country in the last three or four years under this Government, inasmuch as most of the major towns have benefited by considerable improvements to the schools and the staffs. However, some of the smaller schools are not so fortunate and I refer particularly to Newdegate and Ongerup.

It would appear that the Education Department has stipulated a minimum number of children which a teacher may control. If there is an average attendance of over 75, three teachers are provided, but if the average attendance is under 75, only two are allowed. It seems that several of these schools at present have one or two below the average number, and immediately this occurs one of the

teachers is taken away and the schools become two-teacher schools. Naturally this means that the children are divided into two classes instead of three, and this results in considerable overcrowding because it is not as simple as it sounds. The classes are not balanced out so that there are 35 in each room. Sometimes there is a greater number in one room than in the other.

It is felt there should be some flexibility allowed in that minimum number, particularly in the case of a school which has a number of native children attending. The Ongerup school is one that has quite a large proportion of native children attending, and it is felt this is a matter that needs some consideration because in respect of the classes in such schools a greater number of problems arise than in respect of the straight classes. I therefore hope that the Minister for Education will give the matter some consideration.

I feel I have occupied sufficient time tonight with my comments. They are not really grouches, because I feel the Government has done a wonderful job over the past few years and I hope it will continue to do even better in the ensuing three years. With those few remarks I conclude.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. N. E. Baxter.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [8.18 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until 4 p.m. tomorrow (Thursday).

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 8.19 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 8th August, 1962

CONTENTS

Page

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE—

Crown Land—

Acres Released and Occupied	265
Nullarbor Plain Allocations and Rental	265

Electricity Supplies at Albany—

Changeover of Supply	260
Compensation for Power Failures	260
Sale of Power House	260

Employment Counselling Centres—

Establishment by Commonwealth Government	261
Ontario Experience	261

Government Printing Office—

Basis of Quotes and Formula	262
Inquiries by Treasury Officer	262
Quotes for Government Work	262

CONTENTS—continued

Page

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE—continued

Industrial Development: Firms Assisted and Amounts Provided	265
Mineral Claims: Survey of No. 90 and No. 292	261
Negligent Driving: Marital Immunity Against Insured Drivers	265
Old-age Pensioners: Shortage of Single-unit Homes	264
Pearse Brothers: Completion of New Factory at North Fremantle	259
Pearl Culture—	
Leases and Production	264
Sale and Value of Pearls	264
Railway Administration Buildings: Erection on Accounts and Audit Branch Site	260
San Jose Seale: Spraying Programme	263
Schoolrooms: Hire to Outside Organisations	261
State Electricity Commission: Number of Wages and Salaried Staffs, and Payments	263
Totalisator Agency Board: Agencies in Metropolitan Area	263
Tourist Development Authority—	
Greatest Locality Allocation of Financial Assistance	262
Payments to Bunbury Town Council	261
Transport License: Perth-Wittenoom Run—A.B.A.'s Priority on Perishable Goods	259
Vehicular Traffic Accidents: Number at Intersections and Truncations	262
Water: Cannington-Wattle Grove Area—	
Extension of Main: Tabling of File	259
Water Meters: Unmetered Domestic Properties	259
Water Supply Revenue—	
Receipts from Meter Inspections	260
Receipts from Thornlie for Excess Water	260
Water Supply: "House Services"—New Method of Installation and Cleaning	263

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE—

Broome: Provision of Deep-water Port	266
Government Printing Office: Quotes for Government Work	266

SPEAKERSHIP IN A LABOR GOVERNMENT—

Occupancy by a Country Party or Liberal Party Member	266
--	-----

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

	267
--	-----

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FIFTH DAY—

Speakers on Motion—

Mr. Dunn	267
Mr. Fletcher	267
Mr. Graham	269
Mr. Kelly	279
Mr. I. W. Manning	274

Speakers on Amendment to Motion—

Mr. Craig	297
Mr. Graham	297
Mr. Guthrie	302
Mr. Hawke	299
Mr. Jamieson	306
Mr. Moir	304
Mr. Toms	308

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.