

the imported article, while the truck carries our own product. Some of the measures mentioned in the Governor's Speech will have my support, and I think some of them will need it urgently. One of these measures I remember opposing in earlier days—possibly because it was brought in by a Labour Government. I refer to the Traffic Bill. The necessity for that measure has been brought home to me during the past few months. The Perth municipality must be collecting some thousands of pounds annually in license fees for motor cars, very many of which are never used within the boundaries of the Perth municipality. On the other hand, those cars travel all the roads between Perth and Fremantle, and these roads have to be maintained by suburban municipalities and roads boards, which have much lower valuations to rate on than Perth has. The suburban councils and roads boards have to pay for the upkeep of roads used by vehicles from which they obtain no revenue. My experience in this respect leads me to promise my support to that particular measure.

On motion by Hon. J. Mills debate adjourned.

BILL—SUPPLY, £1,561,500.

Received from the Assembly, and read a first time.

House adjourned 6.5 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 7th August, 1919.

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

QUESTION—DAIRYING INDUSTRY, CONTROL.

Mr. PICKERING asked the Premier: 1, Has his attention been drawn to the scheme for the organisation of the dairying industry, recently put before the producers of the East-

ern States by the Minister for Trade and Customs? 2, Has he noticed that the producers of the dairying industry of this State have been excluded from the conference and from representation on the contemplated controlling bodies? 3, In view of the probable immediate and progressive development of the industry in this State, and of the possible advantages which may accrue to dairying in Western Australia by participation in the conference, which decides the policy of control, and the benefits forecasted in the Minister's speech, will he take immediate steps to secure the representation necessary to bring about this result?

The PREMIER replied: 1, My attention has been drawn to a speech of the Minister for Trade and Customs on the subject. 2, In reply to inquiries the Government is in receipt of a communication from the Bureau of Commerce and Industry, Melbourne, in which the director states:—"Mr. Greene simply outlined a great ideal and submitted it for consideration to the practical men in the industry, to whom he will leave the development of this scheme, and, although it may fairly be discussed as Mr. Massey Greene's scheme, he in his speech has not done more than outline a scheme."

QUESTION—RAILWAY, ESPERANCE NORTHWARD.

Hon. T. WALKER asked the Premier: Can he inform the Assembly if, and when, the construction of the Esperance Northward railway is to be resumed?

The PREMIER replied: No, I cannot.

QUESTION—ROTTNEEST ISLAND, GAOL.

Mr. SMITH asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, Is the erection of the new gaol on Rottneest Island being supervised by an architect or skilled builder? 2, Have plans of the building been prepared, and, if so, by whom? 3, (a) What is the estimated cost of the building? (b) When will it be finished? (c) How many prisoners is it intended to accommodate? (d) Is the cost of the work provided for in the Estimates? 4, In view of the increasing popularity of Rottneest Island as a summer resort, will the Government take into consideration the advisability of removing convicts entirely from the island and discontinuing any further expenditure in the erection of the building?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: 1, Yes; if the erection of the new gaol is finally determined upon. 2, No. 3, Answered by No. 2. 4, This question is receiving careful consideration. The new prison is excluded from the rest of the island. The work of the prisoners is of value at present in developmental work on the island, and to remove the prisoners entirely would involve considerably increased expenditure. Should

it be decided at a later date to remove the prisoners from Rottneest, such buildings as are at present contemplated would be suitable and available for tourist purposes.

QUESTION—REPATRIATION, VICTORIA DISTRICT LANDS.

Mr. MALEY asked the Minister for Lands and Repatriation: 1, Is it to be accepted as a fixed principle of repatriation in regard to land settlement, that provision will be made to settle soldiers or sailors on the land in the districts whence they enlisted, if they so desire? 2, If so, will he state what provision is being made in the Victoria district as to classification of Crown lands suitable, or estates offered for repatriation? 3, Was any counter proposal made by the Government to the offer of land by Messrs. Grant Bros., at Yanget, Newmarracarra, and Moonyoonooka, or by Mr. Lee Steere, of the Chilimony Estate, at Northampton, at a certain price, which is supposed to be confidential? 4, If not, are these properties supposed to be unsuitable for the purpose offered? 5, What is the reason for exemption from sale of certain lands from Mingenew east to the Wongan-Mullewa railway and north to Mullewa?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS replied: 1, Yes, as far as practicable. 2, Classification and examination have been made of the estates offered for repatriation in the Victoria district. Sufficient information is available about Crown land in the district to obviate the necessity for further classification before survey. 3, No. 4, Yes; when offered as a whole for subdivision for discharged soldiers. 5, There is no exemption from sale.

QUESTION—RAILWAY DELAYS.

Mr. MALEY asked the Minister for Railways: 1, Will he institute a searching inquiry into the circumstances whereby seven cases of mill rolls, consigned by the Victoria District Co-operative Flour Milling Company at Geraldton to McKell, Adelaide, via the Great Western Railway (owing to shipping difficulties) on 12th June last, did not reach their destination until the 15th July last? 2, Is he aware that this consignment reached Perth, via the Midland Railway, on the 14th June, and, although plainly addressed and freight prepaid, was not despatched from Perth to Kalgoorlie until the 27th June? 3, As this has very seriously hampered this company by having to close down for at least a fortnight longer after huge expense in doubling the capacity of their plant, and necessitates detaining flour supplies from Perth at an additional cost of £2 per ton to the local consumer, owing to exhausted stocks, will he deal with this lamentable breach of assistance to industry, if proved, both promptly and decisively?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, Inquiries have been made. 2, Yes. 3, Action has been taken to avoid a repetition.

QUESTION—RAILWAY SURVEY, DENMARK-BRIDGETOWN.

Hon. P. COLLIER asked the Premier: 1, Has a survey for a railway between Denmark and Bridgetown been started during the present year? 2, If so, when, and what is the estimated cost of the work?

The PREMIER replied: 1, A survey has been commenced between Denmark and Big Brook Railway. 2, (a) 26th May, 1919. (b) Estimated cost £8,000.

QUESTION—STATE CHILDREN DEPARTMENT, POSITION OF Mr. A. H. BULLEY.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, Is Mr. A. H. Bulley an official of the Charities or State Children Department? 2, If so, what is his length of service in the department? 3, Had he any previous experience in or special qualifications for the work done by the department?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: 1, Mr. Bulley is an officer of the State Children Department. 2, He was previously employed in the Government Stores Department, and was transferred to above department in September, 1918. 3, No. He is holding the position temporarily, and had been regarded as suitable for the special work he was engaged upon. His experience of institutions is very limited.

QUESTION—WYNDHAM FOOD SUPPLIES.

Hon. P. COLLIER (without notice) asked the Premier: Is it possible by any means to convey a supply of food to the people who are isolated in the Wyndham district? It is known that a serious situation exists at Wyndham in regard to food supplies, and I should like to read the following telegram I have received from that town this morning—

Schooner ex Broome with food supplies not sighted at sea yet. Our ration of half slice bread composed equal quantities of flour and bran cut out last Saturday. Absolutely nothing left to eat but beef and sugar with sufficient quantity of tea for two days. No farinaceous food or milk for children. A number of cases of dysentery have developed on the works. Had the Charon extended last Derby trip position could have been obviated. Is the plague not depleting the population quickly enough or do the Government want famine as an auxiliary? Will not the Minister in charge of State steamships move in the matter? Ryan.

The question is of great importance. I have other telegrams of a similar kind, and it is quite obvious that the position is as serious up there as it can be.

Mr. Hudson: It is pretty serious on the South coast.

The PREMIER replied: The Government know full well the seriousness of the position at Wyndham, and they have endeavoured to meet the situation not only there but in other centres. There is a food shortage owing to the want of shipping. We have done all we could to get food to the people there. We have also endeavoured to get the boat mentioned by the hon. member to call at Wyndham, but without success.

Mr. Underwood: Why did you not try to get supplies from Darwin?

The PREMIER: I think we have also endeavoured to do that. It may be possible to get supplies by that means, but not at once. We have done all that is possible. If the hon. gentleman will see me to-morrow, I will let him know what has been done, and shall be glad if he will make any suggestion that will help us out of the situation. We are anxious that these people should be properly supplied with the necessities of life.

BILL—SUPPLY, £1,561,500.

All Stages.

The PREMIER and COLONIAL TREASURER (Hon. J. Mitchell—Northam): I move—

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to enable resolutions from the Committee of Supply and Ways and Means to be reported and adopted on the same day on which they shall have passed those Committees, and also the passing of a Supply Bill through all its stages in one day, and to enable the business aforesaid to be entered upon and dealt with before the Address-in-reply is adopted.

Question put and passed.

Message.

Message from the Governor received and read recommending Appropriation in connection with the Bill.

In Committee of Supply.

The House having resolved itself into a Committee of Supply, Mr. Stubbs in the Chair,

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Mitchell—Northam) moved—

That there be granted to His Majesty, on account of the services of the year 1920, a sum not exceeding £1,561,500.

I do not propose to make any lengthy statement. As is usual, I am asking for three months' supply based on the expenditure of last year. The leader of the Opposition, in speaking on the Address-in-reply, questioned the cause of the increased deficit for July. Hon. members know full well that July is usually a month of heavy expenditure; in fact the expenditure of all the early months of the year is much heavier than it is in the concluding months of the year. The £41,000 increase is ac-

counted for largely by railway expenditure, amounting to £20,000, due to additional wages under the new award, and also due to the purchase of sleepers, tarpaulins and railway material. The interest and sinking fund has increased during the month by £5,000. Then again, owing to the increased difficulty in connection with land settlement, the expenditure there has increased by £1,400. In the Works Department and the Charities Department there has been increased expenditure, the amount in the latter case being something over £6,000, due largely to the cost of commodities and also due, to a considerable extent, to the outbreak of influenza. This in itself accounts for something like £5,000. Then again, owing to the increased cost of living, the expenditure in the State Children's Department has gone up.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That has been increased some time.

The PREMIER: Only quite recently.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Before July.

The PREMIER: The tramways, too, show an increase. The cost of material, salaries and wages account for £1,100 more.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: There was not a great increase in July.

The PREMIER: It has been the custom of every Treasurer; for some time past, certainly since the commencement of the war, to introduce a Supply Bill and to make a statement to the House on the subject of the finances. In this instance I propose to do so fully, when replying to the motion of No-confidence moved by the leader of the Opposition the other evening. Everyone knows that, owing to the enormous amount invested in our business concerns, the railways, tramways, harbours and trading concerns, it has been impossible during the period of the war, when shipping was so scarce and trade was so stagnant, to do other than get into difficulty. So far as the railways are concerned, the tonnage carried has decreased by one-third during the past four years. That, of course, meant less revenue. All the investments have not been earning during the past four years as they did formerly, and it is largely due to losses sustained by the trading concerns that we have had to face a large deficit year after year. I have never declared, as has been said in some quarters, that the war has not had any effect on the financial position. Quite the reverse; it has had a bad effect.

Mr. Munsie: You did not admit that when you were sitting over here.

The PREMIER: I think I did. I was particularly generous to the Treasurer when I sat in opposition. I ask the Committee to grant supply and hon. members may rest assured that, so far as we can, the expenditure will be kept down.

Hon. P. COLLIER (Boulder): I recognise, of course, that it is useless to discuss the question of supply at this juncture. I might, though, be permitted to observe that the Government are commencing this session with the same policy of drift that has character-

ised the administration of the affairs of this State during the last three years.

Sir Henry Lefroy: Oh no.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Oh yes. It is pertinent to remind hon. members that for five years, when the Labour Government were in office—and I regret it will be necessary for me to make comparisons between the work of the Labour Government and the work of the past three Governments, for that is unavoidable—it is pertinent to remind hon. members that, with one exception, authority was asked for the expenditure of money. For four years out of the five the Government of which I was a member did not spend any money without first having secured authority.

Mr. Thomson: What about the "Kangaroo"?

Hon. P. COLLIER: It was a good thing for the hon. member's party that they had the "Kangaroo," otherwise their deficit would have exceeded three-quarters of a million. Hon. members should be grateful for the foresight displayed by the Labour Government in purchasing the "Kangaroo," and had it not been for the attitude of the hon. member who interjected, and other hon. members, there would have been other "Kangaroos" and the deficit would have been considerably smaller than it is at the present time. As I have said, we are beginning this session with the same policy of drift. Here we are in the first week in August. Five weeks of the financial year have already expired, and the Government are asking for supply to carry on during the first quarter of the year, the supply being based, of course, on the expenditure of last year. That will leave the House entirely without any control over the first quarter of the financial year and without any opportunity of discussing the financial situation, or seeing whether economies can be effected or not. I recognise that the Government have not been very long in office, and I admit that there may have been obstacles in meeting the House at a time when Parliament might reasonably have been called together. At the same time Parliament should have been called together at an earlier period—early in July at the latest. If Parliament is going to seriously apply itself to the task which confronts it, the monumental task of endeavouring to do something to relieve the financial position, it is necessary that the lackadaisical policy of drift shall not be pursued. What is the use of Parliament discussing supply at this juncture? The Government ask for supply based on the expenditure of the corresponding period of the last financial year.

The Premier: That is the custom.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Of course; although, if we are to judge by the results of the operations for July, last year's basis will be wholly insufficient. I do not wish to raise any obstacles to the granting of supply, in fact it is useless to endeavour to do so. I suppose the Government must carry on; but

I do not know that a shorter period should not have been asked for. If the Government had asked for two months' supply, that fact might have acted as a spur to them to try and bring down the Budget as early as possible in the financial year. Can the Premier give an idea as to when he will be in a position to deliver the Budget? Possibly we will have a repetition of what has taken place in former years, and the House will not have an opportunity of discussing the finances on the Budget debate until many months of the financial year have expired.

The Premier: I will introduce it as soon as possible.

Hon. P. COLLIER: The hon. gentleman is quite safe in saying as soon as possible. The former Treasurer, the member for Irwin, made a whole-hearted attempt last year to submit the Budget in July, but owing to the lack of support he obtained from his colleagues and the Ministry, he was unable to fulfil that promise. I fear that it broke his heart to such an extent that that was the cause of his retirement.

The Minister for Mines: You know there are a thousand reasons why it is not possible.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I know, but the former Treasurer was so enthusiastic and so optimistic about it. We are granting to the Government authority to expend $1\frac{1}{2}$ millions—a fourth of the total expenditure of the year. As I have already said, that will not be nearly sufficient if it is based on the July expenditure, and if the trouble continues on the goldfields, that will be an additional reason why it will not be sufficient. I have done my best to stay the drift so far as talk can do it and, be it remembered, I am not in a position to render any other kind of service. I have spoken as strongly as circumstances warrant, but if the Government are indifferent and have abandoned the coach and allowed it to go galloping downhill without a driver, the responsibility is theirs. I shall have the consciousness that I discharged my duty in calling the attention of the House and the country to the matter on every possible occasion. When the driver of the coach is changed so often, the coach is more likely to meet with disaster than if it remained in the hands of an experienced driver.

Hon. F. E. S. Willmott (Honorary Minister): Then we will remember that.

Hon. P. COLLIER: But seeing the possibility of getting experienced drivers on the Government side has been exhausted, they had better try the Opposition.

Mr. Foley: Your turn is not far off.

Hon. P. COLLIER: In the ordinary course, it should come at any time.

The Minister for Mines: Wait until we first reach level ground.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I emphasise that we are commencing this session in the same bad old way, nearly six weeks of the financial year having expired before Parliament is given an opportunity to discuss the question of Supply, and it will be at least three months

more before we shall have another opportunity. The responsibility rests on the Government, and I must content myself with entering my protest.

Question put and passed.

Resolution reported, and the report adopted.

Supply Bill introduced, etc.

Resolution in Committee of Ways and Means having been passed, a Supply Bill was introduced providing for the expenditure of £850,000 from Consolidated Revenue Fund, £350,000 from General Loan Fund, £47,000 from the Government Property Sales Fund, £14,500 from the Land Improvement Loan Fund, and £300,000 from the Public Account, for the purposes of temporary advances to be made by the Colonial Treasurer.

Second Reading.

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Mitchell—Northam): I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Mr. Stubbs in the Chair; the Treasurer in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1—Issue and application of £1,561,500:

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: If it is true that a good deal of the land purchased for returned soldiers is of an inferior quality and the payments for it are considerably in excess of its value, we should hesitate before voting supplies for this purpose. Mr. Kelly, the chairman of the local committee, severely condemned the Government for purchasing, in the South-West, land totally unfit for soldier settlement. According to Press accounts, the Government have purchased land at a cost of £139,000 to settle 134 soldiers which means an outlay of about £1,000 per soldier. To this must be added survey fees and other charges. We should have some information regarding this expenditure. If one half of what is stated is true, regarding certain persons being sent around the country to pick up areas, receiving a commission and letting the Government in on every occasion, it is time there was some check. If soldiers are put on the land the land should be of the best quality. If it is necessary to buy land and pay for it, from what vote will the money be taken? The amount of £47,000 from the Government Property Sales Fund seems very large for one quarter of the year. Where does this money come from? Does it represent repayments for sewerage connections in the metropolitan area, or repayments for assistance to settlers?

The PREMIER: The Government Property Sales Fund represents the repayment of advances of any sort. The land for soldiers was purchased before my time. In connection with each purchase, a careful classification of every block is

made. The block is carefully inspected by experienced men, and the matter is then submitted to the soldier settlement board, who must recommend it to the Government before the purchase is considered. I doubt if any greater safeguards could be set up. A great deal of the land purchased is improved, and a great deal of it is cleared. I shall be glad to let the hon. member see the classification of every block which has been purchased.

Mr. FOLEY: Regarding the amount for the purchase of land for soldier settlement, I want the Premier's assurance that the best is being done in the purchase of those estates. Recently two soldiers, personal acquaintances of mine, wanted to take up a small run in mulga country. They went into the office to find out about it, and the officer representing the Soldier Settlement Board asked them what improvements had been made on the block. They told him, and he then asked whether any ringbarking had been done? Anyone who knows anything whatever about mulga country will recognise that this is the most foolish question that could be asked. Are we to have that class of officer controlling the spending of this money?

Hon. P. COLLIER: Does this amount include any sum towards the subsidy for the erection of freezing works at Fremantle? Has any sum been advanced up to date, or is it proposed to utilise for that purpose any of the money we are now asked to vote? Further, is there included in this amount the £2,000 granted by the Premier to what is known as the Ugly Men's Association for the purpose of furthering a scheme of vocational training of returned soldiers? At this, the earliest opportunity I wish to offer my protest against the manner in which the Premier apparently grants sums of money to anyone who happens to come along. I have not yet heard of his refusing an application for financial assistance. Where the hon. gentleman is getting the money from I do not know. I am prepared to go as far as anybody in this Chamber to render every possible assistance to returned soldiers with a view to equipping them to enter new callings if necessary; but the State Government in granting this amount of £2,000 were simply usurping the functions of the Federal Government, who have all along freely admitted their responsibility for every phase of repatriation apart from land settlement. In the Eastern States capitals the Federal Government have already established training schools on the lines of that which is being established here by the Ugly Men's Association with the assistance of the Western Australian Government. Apparently, the Ugly Men's Association did not even apply in the proper quarter, namely, to the Federal Government, for a grant. Senator Millen, when visiting Western Australia a few months ago, elaborated all that the Federal Government had done and intended to do for the returned soldier; and included in his statement was the work

now being carried out by the body which I have named. Why should the State Government relieve the Federal Government of their responsibilities in this respect? I admire the work of the Ugly Men's Association, but that does not prevent me from saying that this matter of vocational training is one that is entirely the responsibility of the Federal Government. The Premier's generosity was quite unnecessary.

The PREMIER: I do not know where the hon. gentleman got the information about my promising sums of money. I have refused a great many requests for assistance; unfortunately, I have been able to grant only very few requisitions indeed. I think I have definitely promised only £150 for a road in the Ravenshorpe district. The money granted to the Ugly Men will be used in fitting returned soldiers to settle on the land.

Hon. P. Collier: No. The men are learning trades at East Perth.

The PREMIER: We want them to learn trades in order to fit them to go on the land. The Federal Government, we hope, will pay at least half of this amount. We consider the men will be better occupied in roughly learning trades than in merely waiting about before they are actually settled on the land.

Hon. P. Collier: That is all agreed; but the question is, who is responsible for the cost? The Federal Government have admitted that this is their responsibility.

The PREMIER: I think not. The Federal Government subsidise the State Government pound for pound in this work, and we expect to get back from them £1,000 out of the £2,000 being spent on this training.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 2—agreed to.

Preamble, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

Read a third time, and transmitted to the Legislative Council.

MESSAGE—STATE CHILDREN ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Restoration of Measure.

Message received from the Council, requesting the Assembly to resume the consideration of the State Children Act Amendment Bill, which had lapsed in the previous session owing to the prorogation of Parliament.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Third Day.

Amendment—No confidence.

Debate resumed from 5th August.

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Mitchell—Northam): The leader of the Opposition was good enough to notify me that he intended to move an amendment to the Address-in-reply. I agree with

him that during the war period he to a large extent refrained from serious opposition. At the same time, I think he should realise that it would be of advantage to the State and to the House if he still continued that attitude, for we are not yet out of the wood. Peace has been signed, but there is still a great deal remaining to be done. Of course, it is the duty of the Opposition to criticise, and therefore the hon. member was quite in order in moving his amendment. He did not attempt to make out any very serious case against the present Government. His principal objection to this Government seemed to be based on the ground that I had become Premier without first consulting him. He appeared to think that such an appointment should only be made by Parliament. It is true that when the House rose there was another Government in power. It is also true that I have been Premier for the last two months. The hon. member said that the Governor's Speech contained no indication of the policy of the Government. I suggest that if the hon. member reads the Speech carefully, he will find in it a good deal of information likely to be of use to him. The Speech contains many of the Government's proposals. The hon. member complained that we had not sent a steamer to the North with foodstuffs for the people up there, and declared that if I had agreed to pay the seamen 1s. 2d. per day extra they would have gone back to work and taken the steamer to Wyndham. But it is not merely a question of 1s. 2d. per day increase for the men on the State steamers. Everybody knows that there are four points in dispute. The men want better accommodation, a six-hour day in port, insurance against sickness and death and, in addition, an extra 35s. per month. It would be easy to show to the House that many of the men on the State steamers have earned very good wages.

Mr. Munsie: By working 22 hours out of 24!

The PREMIER: They have worked fairly long hours, it is true. I have here a list of the hours worked. But those men have been well paid and, except in respect of the "Bambra," their accommodation was quite good. Preparations are now in hand to improve the accommodation on the "Bambra." One of the men has earned up to £1 3s. 10d. per day.

Hon. P. Collier: What hours did he work?

The PREMIER: Of course, he was working overtime.

Hon. P. Collier: The whole point hinges on the hours worked.

Mr. Munsie: It is the length of hours to which the men object.

The PREMIER: I shall be glad to let the hon. member have this return showing the hours worked. An A.B. has been paid £13 5s. per month, while an ordinary seaman received £12 5s. Hon. members will agree that those men have been very well treated. It is not a question of 1s. 2d. per day increase. If it were that alone, it might be fixed up. It is

not fair for hon. members to ask the men at Wyndham who are wanting food to believe that so small a concession would settle the difference between the seamen and the State Steamship Service. The hon. member said also that unless some solution of the present industrial troubles were discovered, and unless steps were taken to reduce the price of commodities, we should be faced with a serious position. Of course, it is very easy for the hon. member to talk in that strain. Indeed, everybody will agree that the position is serious enough as it stands. Another hon. member declared that we have too many railways in the State. Certainly we have a great railway mileage, not only on the goldfields, where, unfortunately, the industry is declining, but also in agricultural districts. Notwithstanding this, there is a great demand for further railways. I have heard it said that the financial difficulties of the State are due entirely to the building of agricultural spur railways. Of course, that is not so. The loss on those lines is never very great and the spur lines confer a great benefit on the trunk lines. Without those spur railways we should never have had anything like so large a haulage of wheat. The question of railways and of rolling-stock must be faced whenever it can be shown that a railway will open up new valuable country. Fortunately, the railway system which best serves the State is almost complete. That is to say, it will not require very much more money to complete the railways which are likely to be of material advantage to the State. The hon. member pointed to unused land, and declared that it should be forced into cultivation. But everything that could be done by the owners of the land during the last few years has been done. A large amount of money has been spent on the land but, owing to the enlistments of our soldiers, it was not possible to obtain all the required labour. It should be realised that the land values are due largely to the work of the men on the land. By far the greater number of our land owners have used their best efforts to improve their land in respect both to acreage under crop and to the methods of cultivation. It may be that by drastic taxation, such as the hon. member would indulge in, many people would be compelled to sell their holdings.

Hon. P. Collier: I did not use the term "drastic taxation."

The PREMIER: At any rate, the hon. member made it clear that he would expect to do great things if he could impose sufficiently heavy taxation. I wonder if the people of the goldfields could do more than they are doing to-day if by the imposition of heavy taxation the hon. member were permitted to break up all estates? We have heard some talk of nationalisation of all property. I am afraid that many people in this country would be very glad to sell their land. As a matter of fact, land in Western Australia was never cheaper than it is to-day.

Mr. Troy: Why is that so?

The PREMIER: Owing to various causes. Labour is scarce, money is dear, and there are industrial troubles everywhere. A great deal has been said against our lands. I believe that when our lands get back to their proper productive value the affairs of this country will be very much improved. In New Zealand land has almost a fixed value. Buying land there is like buying Government bonds.

Mr. Munsie: You have not very much land in this State to compare with the land in New Zealand.

The PREMIER: We have a great deal of good land in this State, and we should be ever ready to recognise that. In an immense country like this, of many acres and few people, it is very difficult to maintain land values. We know that to-day our land is not bringing half as much as land in the Eastern States; yet much of our land is equally productive. Land in this State selling at from £3 to £4 per acre would bring £12 in South Australia.

Mr. Troy: Well, what is wrong with the values?

The PREMIER: Our values are only one-third of those in the Eastern States. That, of course, tends to bring about depression and create unemployment. Moreover, it renders it impossible for land-owners to carry out the improvements which they otherwise would. As a general rule, the leader of the Opposition is very anxious to abolish the Legislative Council, but on this occasion he says he does not care very much which House is abolished, so long as one goes.

Hon. P. Collier: I think this House deserves it most.

The PREMIER: I think so too. I admit that the outstanding trouble of the moment is the question of finance. A good deal of the deficit brought about during the four years of war was due to the loss on business and trading concerns. Before I sit down I shall show what that loss amounts to. When I make that clear I think members will see that they could not put the position right by increasing the taxation. The financial position cannot be remedied merely through taxation.

Mr. Munsie: No one suggested that.

Hon. P. Collier: I have not suggested it.

The PREMIER: The hon. gentleman went so close to it that I understood that this was his suggestion. If the deficit is to be covered at once, it can only be done by additional taxation, and by such economies as can be practised. The leader of the Opposition said that production alone would be too slow a way, when joined to a system of borrowing at a high rate of interest. Increased production cannot be brought about in a moment. The hon. gentleman would find that, if he imposed the high taxation necessary to cover the deficit at once, he

would make the problem of employment ever so much more difficult.

Hon. P. Collier: I know you do not wish to do me an injustice, and I hope you will not keep on saying that I advocated high taxation. I only dealt with taxation from one point of view.

The PREMIER: I have no desire to do the hon. member the slightest injustice.

Hon. P. Collier: But you keep on repeating the statement.

The PREMIER: If it is agreed by the leader of the Opposition that we cannot impose high taxation, then our only remedy is to so develop the country as to make the fullest possible use of our invested money. The necessity for paying interest on the deficit will be a very serious disadvantage to the State for a long time. This is money which had to be borrowed to make good the $3\frac{1}{2}$ million pounds, which represents, roughly, the deficit of to-day. We cannot avoid that. The deficit is there and the interest must be paid. It is true the expenditure is £600,000 more than the revenue, but when we remember that the revenue is now five millions, and we see where it comes from, we must agree that the people of the country have done fairly well in their contributions to the Treasury.

Hon. P. Collier: The people have done well, but the Government have not made good use of the money.

The PREMIER: I think it can be shown that very good use has been made of it. I do not say that money has not been wasted. Some of it has been wasted, and this will always be the case to a certain extent. It is quite true that taxation was increased last year by £179,000. It is also true that there are many items of expenditure of a special nature over which the Treasurer had no control. There was, for instance, an increase to meet the interest and sinking fund of £97,607. We had an expenditure in connection with the influenza outbreak, which unfortunately is going on at a greater rate from day to day.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: How much did you spend on that last year? Not 5s.

Mr. Underwood: Not 2s. 6d.!

Hon. W. C. Angwin: We had no influenza last year.

The PREMIER: Unfortunately, the expenditure was £6,500. The arbitration award increased the railway wages by £51,000. We had to spend £15,000 on rabbit destruction. Altogether the special charges over which the Treasurer had no control amounted to nearly as much as the increased taxation, namely, £176,635, as against £179,000. The increased interest and sinking fund charges this year will not be as great as was the case during the last few years. If we turn to the expenditure of loan moneys we find that, notwithstanding the fact that we have paid something approaching two million pounds for our development, our loan moneys are fairly covered by substantial assets. On mining develop-

ment we have spent £331,000 on agricultural development £328,000, and on immigration £400,000.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You did not say that two years ago.

The PREMIER: It is important that the people should know that it is so.

Hon. P. Collier: Including the 15 millions we spent and the assets in connection therewith?

Mr. Munsie: You said it had all gone into the sea.

The PREMIER: On the railways and business concerns the expenditure has been 34 million pounds and £1,308,000 respectively. We are owed by the Commonwealth Government £329,000 on the transfer of properties, on which they have to pay $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. We have, in my opinion, a solid investment for our £36,332,338.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Can you force the Commonwealth to pay up by charging them six per cent.?

The PREMIER: I should be glad to do so if that were possible. This large sum of money is invested in revenue-earning work, and works that should continue to earn revenue. In 1911 these works earned sufficient to pay, not only the cost of maintenance, but also interest and sinking fund: I believe they will continue to earn if the House will agree to the policy of the Government. When we think over the years during which we have been developing this country, and see the amount of money we have spent upon it, we cannot say that we are not secured by solid assets, which are earning interest, and I think the House ought to be satisfied that the money has been fairly well conserved. In addition to the two million pounds to which I have referred, the expenditure on buildings, roads, and bridges has been £1,598,000. When we also take into consideration the fact that we have a sinking fund, which to-day amounts to six million pounds, we must agree that the position, so far as the loan expenditure is concerned, is safeguarded and is quite satisfactory. Again, we contributed to our sinking fund from the revenue of the country in actual cash, during the time the deficit was being built up, the sum of £2,254,000.

Mr. Underwood: Are you going on paying that?

The PREMIER: We are obliged to.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: A sum of a million and a-half was paid by the Labour Government, I think. That was more than the actual deficit.

The PREMIER: The amount is increasing year by year. Whereas it was only £250,000 in the time of the hon. gentleman opposite, it was £314,000 for last year. During the war, of course, we did not earn so much, and in the circumstances I think we ought to be satisfied. Of course no one wants a deficit, but people ought to know that there is a reason for it. We are paying more in sinking fund than the rest of the States of the Commonwealth.

Hon. P. Collier: That is not unusual. It was not given as a reason for the position when we were in office.

The PREMIER: The fact that we have this deficit means that we shall have to extend our loan payments over a few more years. We shall have to contribute to the sinking fund to cover this deficit.

Hon. T. Walker: And get more into debt.

The PREMIER: This payment will have to go on a little longer than would otherwise have been the case. I do not see how any private company could have made our railways pay to a greater extent during the war period, and there is no reason why the Government should be expected to do something different. The loan indebtedness of all the States of the Commonwealth amounts to 392 million pounds. The total sinking fund of Australia is 11 million pounds. The loan indebtedness of Western Australia is 42 million pounds, or a tenth of the total debt of Australia. Our sinking fund is £5,750,000, a little more than half the total sinking fund of Australia. It will thus be realised that it is a difficult matter to keep up the sinking fund payments at the present time. New South Wales has a loan indebtedness of 152 million pounds and a sinking fund of less than half a million. Queensland has an indebtedness of 62 million pounds on loans and a sinking fund of less than £400,000. In each of the States we find exactly the same thing. It is a good thing to have a sinking fund. It is due to that fact that we have been able to borrow money more cheaply than the other States. The average rate of interest for Western Australia is lower than that paid by the other States. We shall have to go on the market for money next year. The Commonwealth Government are responsible for the raising of loans for all the States up to the end of the year, but after that we shall have to go to London. I am very glad to be able to inform the House that I have approached London and that the reply has been most satisfactory.

Hon. P. Collier: The best thing that could happen would be that London should stop supplies.

The PREMIER: I do not know. It is a good thing if the credit of this country is recognised in London. It is certainly not a disadvantage. We can finance in London and if necessary will be assisted by the London and Westminster Bank in the holding over of our loan until the market is favourable. I do not know that anything could be more pleasing at the moment. I was very glad to receive the cable from London placing that information in my hands. We must raise money from time to time. We have raised it in the last few years with the aid of the Commonwealth Government. Now we shall go back to the system which was in vogue before the war.

Mr. Underwood: Do you really think we can borrow our way out of this difficulty?

The PREMIER: I am perfectly certain that we cannot borrow our way out of it, but we must use borrowed money to help us.

Hon. P. Collier: To get us further into it.

The PREMIER: The hon. member interjected just now, "What about our fifteen millions?" Let me tell him that only by the use of borrowed money can the development of the industries be carried on. We are bound to borrow for developmental purposes, and it is particularly necessary just now that we should do so.

Mr. Underwood: So your policy is to borrow.

The PREMIER: I should like to tell the House that so far as the financial position is concerned we can carry on not only to the end of this year but for some few months afterwards. Provision was made by the late Treasurer whereby we have a balance of £1,064,583. Included in this balance is a sum of £722,000, wheat certificates money that can be drawn from the Wheat Pool at any time. This amount is carrying 4 per cent. interest. The late Treasurer has left the finances in such a position as to make it easy for me to carry on for some months to come. We cannot, of course, escape loan expenditure altogether, but I hope it will not be necessary to do more from ordinary loan funds for the next few months than to complete the works on hand. Within the next twelve months expenditure should not be heavy. We shall have to build some railways to open up the country, but I propose that that work shall be done during the next few months so far as possible in connection with the soldier-settlement scheme. The Federal Government have set apart £3,375,000 for that purpose, of which amount there has been spent £332,000, leaving a balance of £3,043,236. Quite apart from that, immigration, which will become active before very long, will mean the expenditure of a good deal of money as well. But I intend to refer to that question a little later on. I told the House earlier in the day that the tonnage carried over our railways had, during the war period, decreased by one-third. I want now to give hon. members some figures. Between the years 1913-14 and 1917-18 the tonnage decreased by 900,000, and the earnings fell by £378,000, while the expenditure remained the same as in 1913-14. The profit in 1913-14 was £128,000, while the loss in 1917-18 was £289,000. I believe, however, that that difference can be picked up, because we shall have restored to us again the tonnage which has been lost. In doing that we shall be able to provide for the sinking fund. The House should agree that the sinking fund can be paid by this means. It is expected, too, that the harbours will show a greater profit. We also expect a greater profit from our trading concerns. I do not mean that the bulk of the sinking fund is not to be kept good; it must be kept good. If we agree that the sinking fund should not be paid until the earnings of the business concerns are back to

normal, we shall have to provide £330,000 for the remaining part of the deficit. I would refer to some of our investments, particularly the Goldfields Water Supply, in connection with which we shall have contributed £570,000 more than is sufficient to repay borrowed money. I believe that the cost of that work should not be paid by 1927. Some of the capital cost should be carried after that date. It is not a good scheme to expect people to pay off the total cost of works such as that in so short a time as 20 years.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I do not think you can avoid it.

The PREMIER: I think we can find the means.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The previous Government tried and failed.

The PREMIER: I think also that the cost of water to the goldfields and to the agricultural districts should be reduced, and to bring that about we might well agree to some of the capital cost being paid after 1927. In that way it will be possible to relieve the revenue expenditure by £100,000, and the consumers will at the same time benefit considerably.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You are going to repudiate what has been done.

The PREMIER: No. We shall continue to keep faith with the people in London.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: How will you be able to do so if you do not keep up the payments?

The PREMIER: It will be possible, I think. At any rate, the matter is being gone into. No one knows better than the leader of the Opposition that it is essential that mining costs should be reduced as far as possible by every means. Next year we shall have considerably increased land rents and we shall have from taxation a much larger revenue than we had last year. In that way we shall cover a good portion of the £330,000 which was the amount of the deficit last year. It is perfectly true that next year we shall probably receive less from the Federal authorities than we received this year. Hon. members know that Mr. Watts's proposal, which is to operate after the termination of the present agreement, is that we shall receive £40,000 as a per capita allowance. I believe, however, that before Mr. Watt carries his proposal into operation he will have to fight not only the Federal House but the States. It is a monstrous thing that the Federal Government should desire to reduce the contribution to the States and throw increased responsibilities upon them. Unfortunately, the Western Australian share of representation in the House of Representatives is only five out of 75, and that means that we shall not have very much influence. The influence which we can exercise, however, will be used to the fullest extent. The Federal Government propose to reduce the per capita amount of 25s. now paid to the State year by year until it is brought down to 10s. at the end of six years. My experience is that it is most difficult to deal satisfactorily with the Federal Government. But we must realise that for the good government of our

State we must work amicably with the Federal Government. Dealing with the question of agricultural production in this State, the leader of the Opposition said that when the Government rely upon increased production it will mean difficulties, that they will be doing wrong.

Hon. P. Collier: I did not say that.

The PREMIER: The hon. member made it quite clear that increased production would not meet the increased difficulties.

Hon. P. Collier: I said that increased production was not in itself sufficient. I did not say that it was wrong.

The PREMIER: The hon. member said that it was wrong to rely upon it entirely to meet the situation, and that something else should be done.

Hon. P. Collier: That is right.

The PREMIER: Does the hon. gentleman know that even during the war period, the land in this State produced the enormous sum of 35 millions of wealth?

Hon. T. Walker: It has all gone.

The PREMIER: It has not all vanished. We know there is distress in the country, but we also know there is plenty of money in the city of Perth.

Hon. P. Collier: The position is worse than I thought. If you had all that money what have you done with it?

The PREMIER: There have been four years of war and four years of heavy expenditure, and if it had not been for the fact that production has gone on at the rate I have quoted, the city of Perth would not be what it is to-day. Of course hon. members will realise that if we are to get out of our present difficulties we must produce a great deal more wealth than 35 millions, and it will be the policy of the Government to endeavour to produce from the soil a great deal more than has been done in the past. The repatriation of our soldiers will mean considerably increased production. They are being settled on the best lands of the State and they are being given opportunities which have not been given to other farmers.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

The PREMIER: Before tea I was discussing the future of the country. I do not know that I need say much more about that. However, I should like to point out that in the past we have been importing vast quantities of dairy produce. To-day the people have shown that they are willing to face the problem of embarking in the dairy industry and producing all the food we require. We are still importing each year foodstuffs to the value of 1¼ million pounds, all of which could be produced in the State. It will be agreed that when we produce all that ourselves the advantage to the State will be immense. So long as we are to depend on shipping to bring us our food supplies from the Eastern States, we shall never have cheap food. We have to pay the freight from the East, and are called upon to submit to all

the disadvantages connected with importation. A good deal of the industrial unrest of to-day is due to the fact that the cost of living is high. When we learn to produce our own foodstuffs there will be an appreciable diminution in the cost of living. Let me tell hon. members that the soldiers who are going on the land will contribute largely to the future welfare of the State. The leader of the Opposition will recognise that, and will agree that it is worth our while to do all we possibly can for those men. We have an opportunity to settle 14,000 additional farmers on our land. This will increase our producers by at least 20 per cent. Fortunately we are able to settle those men under the best possible conditions. It will be remembered that when the first repatriation conference was held in Melbourne Mr. Johnson, the then Minister for Lands, attended, and gave an undertaking to the Federal Government that he would provide land for 14,000 men. The leader of the Opposition, the other night, seemed to believe that we could do nothing of the sort. I say we can. My hon. friend said that 500,000 acres represented the aggregate available country in the South-West.

Hon. P. Collier: No, I was merely quoting the members of the Royal Commission on Agriculture.

Mr. Underwood: The only place suitable for soldier settlement in this State is in the North-West.

The PREMIER: Why does the hon. member hold that it is impossible for this State to provide a million acres of land for soldier settlers during the next year?

Hon. P. Collier: I tell you I was merely quoting the Royal Commissioners.

The PREMIER: Our duty is clear. I think I should have the sympathy of the hon. member in connection with this settlement of soldiers. We have had allotted to us by the Federal Government £3,375,000, and of that sum £750,000 is for the purpose of opening up the country. The war is over and our duty is clear. There is no time to lose. Already 2,400 men have applied for land, and of that number 655 have been placed. Hon. members will realise the magnitude of the work ahead of us. We must push forward with that work and find the land. True, we are repurchasing land to-day. At the same time we endeavour to secure Crown lands wherever possible, for it is very much cheaper to settle soldiers on Crown lands than it is to provide them with repurchased estates.

Hon. P. Collier: Over 200 returned soldiers are drawing sustenance from the Repatriation Department while waiting for land.

The PREMIER: That is so, but I can hardly be held responsible for it. The work is being pushed ahead. The bank has advanced £143,000 in connection with soldier settlement and 655 men have been placed upon good country. Of course I should like to be in a position to find employment for all applicants straightaway. It is necessary that we should find employment for those

men. The work of preparing land for the soldiers involves time. The land has to be located, surveyed, drained, and in other ways improved; houses have to be erected, and the men given every chance of making a good start. It is a great work, and I only wish it were further advanced than it is. We require to do our duty by those men. Until we do settle all the soldier applicants, we cannot very well provide land for numerous other people asking for it to-day. Something was said by the member for North-East Fremantle about the re-purchase of estates. We have a very capable Land Purchase Board, and an equally capable Soldier Settlement Board, who closely watch the purchase of every block. All the members of both boards are highly competent men. In Mr. McLarty, the controller, with his staff of assistants, we have an organisation capable not only of dealing with the question of placing the men on the land, but also of protecting them in every way when they are there. The Lands Department have the responsibility of surveying the Crown lands and, under the board, of making the necessary purchases. All repurchased properties are purchased by virtue of the statute passed last session. Already many estates have been purchased under that provision at a cost of £139,000, while 273 farms have been purchased for an aggregate of £219,000. Many of those farms are cleared. They often include stock and, sometimes, growing crops. The other States of the Commonwealth are paying far more for their settlement of soldiers on the land. I agree that the soldier ought to have the very best done for him. It ought to be possible to secure for him highly productive land which will steadily increase in value. So far as any man can protect the soldiers, I am quite sure Mr. McLarty is doing it. The greatest possible care is being taken, and I am convinced that the work being done is perfectly satisfactory. Of course there is almost certain to be some little trouble over some of the repurchased estates. That is unavoidable. No other country can offer as great inducements to her settlers as can Western Australia. In America the authorities are content if they can induce 30 or 40 per cent. of the original settlers to remain. In our back country a very large percentage of the original settlers are still there.

Mr. Pickering: What percentage?

The PREMIER: Perhaps as high as 75 per cent. Crown lands surveyed for settlement number 150 blocks, while of repurchased estates, including those repurchased some years ago, such as at Harvey and other places, there are about 200 blocks available. Our difficulties are somewhat increased by the fact that the accepted policy is to, as far as possible, repatriate men to the districts from which they enlisted. Hon. members will agree that the soldiers ought to have the freest possible choice. Of course there must be delays, no matter how competent the management may

be. It is unavoidable. We have the assistance of the Agricultural Bank to make advances and control improvements, and there is no more experienced staff in Australia. The land must be prepared ahead for settlement. If we wish to successfully settle the South-West, we must have the land ready for the men. It will not be necessary to clear a large area for each soldier, but a certain area must be cleared ahead of settlement. Reference has been made to the proposed railway from Bridgetown to Denmark. The route is being surveyed, but the line cannot be built until Parliament agrees to it. The leader of the Opposition quoted from the report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture. The Commission found, on the word of an officer of the Lands Department, that there were 500,000 acres of first-class land in the South-West still in the hands of the Crown. No one knows how much there is because the land has not been classified. It is practically impossible to get through the country, so thick is the undergrowth in places. I believe there is a vast area of first-class land capable of supporting a very large population on comparatively small holdings.

Hon. P. Collier: If the Royal Commission were not in a position to say how many acres there were, you were not in a position to say you wanted a million acres in the first year.

The PREMIER: I do not know by what process of reasoning the hon. member comes to that conclusion. The Commission did not examine this country but went where settlement was to be found. It was no part of their duty to travel through unoccupied areas. The country from Bridgetown to Denmark could not be covered in less time than months, on account of the rivers and dense undergrowth. When this railway is built it will open up the finest part of Western Australia. It has been objected that this land is wet. Admittedly, it has a heavy rainfall, but the countries which produce the heaviest crops are the wettest. England and New Zealand, and such like wet countries produce very heavy crops, and carry an enormous number of stock. The South-West contains very fine land in a climate very much better than that of New Zealand, well watered, having pleasant surroundings, and a temperature magnificent in summer and mild in winter. The only disadvantage is the heavy rainfall. If this country is not to be opened up, we ought to determine so and let someone else have it. I believe that corner of the State is capable of carrying all the stock needed to feed the metropolitan area. The shipping strike would not affect our meat supplies if once that country were opened up. The member for Kalgoorlie (Mr. Green) visited the South-West and has become an ardent supporter of the Nornalup district. The hon. member knows it is right to settle this land.

Mr. Green: It would take about six generations to clear it. It is great country.

The PREMIER: The hon. member now supports the opening up of this land, with

a reservation. The difficulty of clearing will be overcome with modern methods.

Hon. P. Collier: And your modern methods will mean a few millions of money.

The PREMIER: I hope that next year some other members will have an opportunity to see this country. This beautiful part of the State must no longer be neglected. The railway will mean the building of a good many townships, for we must have a village at about every 10 miles. The townships will be offered to the soldiers if they care to go there. This will provide opportunities for them, and other industries will follow the settlement of the land. The leader of the Opposition said I went to Bridgetown and told the people they ought to have a railway to Denmark.

Hon. P. Collier: Two railways.

The PREMIER: And I wish the country were big enough to justify more. Probably two railways will serve it. It is fortunate that we have such land. In addition to soldier settlement, land will be available for a great many other settlers. I ask the House to say whether it is right to do this work for the soldiers, work promised by the present Government, by the previous Government, by the Wilson Government, and as far back as the Government with which the leader of the Opposition was associated in 1914. Will the whole of the members of the House assist the Government to do justice to the soldiers? We must keep our word. We have pledged our faith and the Government intend to be true to it. Other avenues of employment will be found for the soldiers. It is the policy of the Government to give them preference in the Government service. As the leader of the Opposition said, the only real activity in the State is connected with land settlement. Many soldiers are now engaged in industries about the land. I have established one or two small sawmills and I believe others will follow, and soldiers will be assisted in that way. It is regrettable to see a soldier out of work. Regarding land settlement generally, the Surveyor General is now under instructions to deal with the land adjacent to existing railways. We shall forfeit the land which is held and not improved. Inspectors are now engaged on this work. The land to be served by railways will be surveyed, and that in the South-West, I hope, will be similarly dealt with when the House agrees to the construction of the railway. Special attention should be paid to the laying out of the blocks in the South-West, and particularly to the planning of the townships. All the preparatory work is in hand. We have discovered quite recently the valuable stock-carrying capabilities of much land which is not fit for cultivation. Practically all our wheat lands have been selected, but a great deal of other land can be turned to good account. During a recent trip to the South-West, I saw land of this description which was well stocked and giving good returns. Where the rainfall is as low as 10 inches and less, and the rail-

way facilities are not suitable, and the land is not fit for cultivation, the House should agree to the granting of blocks up to 10,000 acres for stock raising purposes. This land would have to be made available at a cheap rate; the poison land should be almost given free. The leader of the Opposition asked where we would get a million acres for settlement. In the south-western division, which extends from the Murchison to Albany, there is still in the hands of the Crown something like 40 million acres of land.

Hon. P. Collier: The Premier is begging the question. What has he to say with regard to the views of the Royal Commission on the value of that land for settlement?

The PREMIER: I have already told the hon. member that. He will agree that, so far as the land is capable of growing crops, it should be so used; and so far as it is capable of carrying stock, it should do so. This will be the policy of the Government. Turning to the land which the member for Pilbara knows, we have an enormous area, some of it almost unexplored. We have constructed freezing works at great cost. The only possible way to make them pay is to stock the country for which the works will cater. A great area has been selected and is stocked, but much more remains to be selected and stocked. Members representing the northern districts should look into this question and assist the Government to put squatters on this well-grassed country, which is now overrun by natives. There is a vast area of sheep country in the North and certainly much in the lower North-West which is still unstocked. All this country should be stocked as soon as possible. To develop the North, sufficient protection must be provided for the people willing to settle there, and we would do well to make it known that we have this pastoral country. I do not know very much about the Kimberley district, but it seems to me it will have to be stocked in smaller areas than has been the case in the past. People who went there long ago took up big holdings and they have to pay for them. If we exert ourselves, instead of the State carrying some eight million sheep, it can be made to carry three times that number. I also believe that the Kimberleys should be capable of carrying 2½ million cattle instead of one million. Long before we reach that stage the Wyndham works should be paying their way. A good deal has to be done in connection with possible pastoral lands in the goldfields areas. A few years ago there were very few cattle on them, whereas to-day there are not only cattle but sheep. These areas ought to be more widely opened for stock purposes. I do not know how soon all this work can be done. The question has to be determined as to how much of the land is available, and for what it is capable of being used. The matter is in hand now. If the prospects of the country are to be brightened at all, work of this nature must be pushed on with at once. Members may be interested to know that owing to recent sales of wheat to the British Gov-

ernment, something like an additional million and a quarter of money will be made available from the Pool to the farmers of Western Australia.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Do you think you will clear the expenses for last year's wheat?

The PREMIER: I can only quote the figures as supplied to me.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: We already have Mr. Key's estimate to the contrary.

The PREMIER: This is a fairly large sum of money to have locked up. It is expected that next season's crop, on a basis of 10 million bushels, will realise two million and a half pounds. So long as our wheat goes into the Pool, advantage cannot be taken of the geographical position of the State. We have lost the opportunity of selling flour that might well have gone through Fremantle during the last few months. I believe that the markets when free to us will greatly increase our chances of export in flour. We have heard a good deal from time to time about the Industries Assistance Board. That institution has contributed largely to the wheat delivered to the Pool. Out of the 44 million bushels of wheat delivered during the past four years, a fourth of it has been placed into the Pool by the farmers assisted by the Industries Assistance Board. It is estimated that their equity in the wheat pool is not less than £300,000. I should like to say a few words in connection with immigration. The British Government are anxious to settle ex-soldiers in Western Australia, as well as in other parts of the Dominions. They have made it clear that not only men but money will be made available for the purpose of the establishment of these ex-soldiers here. We have told the British Government that we want population, and that we will be glad to have their men so long as the money necessary to settle them is advanced by that Government. We are asked to take them at the rate of 1,000 per month. It remains to be seen whether we can do that. Nothing has yet been finalised. It has, however, been made clear that if these men come they must bring with them sufficient money to ensure that they will be settled on arrival. We have also told the British Government that for the most part they will have to go to the South-West portion of the State. I doubt if any member would agree to do other than respond to this request on the part of the British Government.

Hon. P. Collier: We have for three years been trying to settle returned soldiers, and in that time have not succeeded in settling on the land more than 600. Now we are talking about settling 12,000 in a year!

The PREMIER: Does the hon. member think that settlement can only take place at that rate for all time?

Mr. Pilkington: How much money does the Imperial Government supply for each soldier?

The PREMIER: The idea is to supply £500 with each soldier, and if necessary sufficient money to open up the country

upon which they are settled and construct railways and roads, etc.

Hon. P. Collier: Will it be loan money?

The PREMIER: The conditions have not been arranged. Probably the money for the soldiers will be lent at the risk of the British Government through this Government. We have spent something like £400,000 in securing people for Western Australia. We are now offered not only the men, but the money. It will be possible to settle these men, notwithstanding the fact that in the past we have only settled 600 in three years. I would point out that the soldiers were not here to settle until quite recently.

Hon. P. Collier: Oh, yes, they were.

The PREMIER: I have told the hon. member that we surveyed millions of acres in two years. I have found since that we actually surveyed six million acres in that time. If this can be done, surely one-half of that amount can be done now. When that work is completed, we shall be able to provide not only for the British soldiers, but for all who desire to settle on the land in this State.

Hon. P. Collier: You could survey 20 million acres with surveyors if you had sufficient land. I am only going on the report of the Royal Commission, which states that there are not more than 500,000 acres of land fit for settlement in the South-West.

The PREMIER: The Commission made that statement on the word of one officer of the Lands Department. There are no records to show us how much land there really is. Does the hon. member want us to believe that there are only 500,000 acres of land in the South-West?

Hon. P. Collier: I do not want you to believe anything; I am only quoting the report of the Royal Commission. The members of that body should have known what they were talking about.

The PREMIER: The Commission did not see the country. No one knows how much land there is there.

Mr. Lambert: They were long enough about their job to clear the country.

The PREMIER: During the next three years there will be considerable activity in the timber industry. I believe during that time we shall be exporting the old quantity of a million pounds' worth of timber per annum. Mr. Lane-Poole proposes that the export shall be limited. I believe he is quite right to protect the timber that is necessary to supply the farmers of the State. It has been guaranteed that this export can be made, and the position will have to be faced in order that we may have trade from every possible source. The position in the North-West is that even if our own boats were running we would not be able to bring down from the North-West anything like the supplies of meat necessary for the metropolitan area. As a rule, we bring down 30,000 head of cattle a year. This year the total shipment will, I think, be 8,000 head. The question of transport to the North-West will have to be faced. There are at present

two steamers running. It may be necessary to strengthen the service so as to supply all the transport needed along our coast, as a guarantee that the stock needed for the metropolitan area will be brought down. It is impossible to buy steamers at present, or to get them built at Home even if the price were right. Even if we must have steamers they should not be oversea steamers, but should cater for the trade along the coast. This investment in the "Kangaroo" is not of much use to us. She has been a profitable vessel, of course, but is not doing much for Western Australia in other respects. It is far better to have our boats running along our own coast. The growers up there are entitled to be guaranteed a reasonable transport for the marketing of their stock. Many growers recently have been unable to sell a single hoof. The leader of the Opposition expects me to say a word or two in regard to the Price Fixing Bill. Members know what happened when the Federal Prices Adjustment Commission visited this State. They know that the work done then was satisfactory. This Bill will provide for the appointment of a Commissioner, who will represent to the Minister the prices to be fixed. Power will be given to him to make full inquiries and, if necessary, take evidence. He will also have power to compel owners to furnish returns and, if necessary, compel the sale of goods. He will also determine the prices to be fixed on them. Some provision will have to be made under which existing contracts will be brought under this measure. It is intended that all those employed in making inquiries shall make a declaration of secrecy.

Mr. Johnston: Will the Commission fix the minimum as well as the maximum price?

The PREMIER: I do not know how this will benefit anyone.

Mr. Johnston: I refer to local products.

Mr. Pickering: That will be very vital.

The PREMIER: I do not suppose anyone would object to a minimum price. But suppose a minimum price were fixed for potatoes of £30 per ton, and the seller could not obtain that price, what is to be done then? No doubt it would be a very good thing if a payable minimum price could be fixed for every article and commodity. Personally, I doubt whether price-fixing ever does much good. It may have a temporary effect, but what we really want is to encourage the people to produce as much as possible. During the last month or two there has been a great deal of industrial unrest and unemployment. The want of employment is a very serious matter for this State to-day. It is particularly unfortunate that we should have a strike at Kalgoorlie throwing 8,000 men out of work. The cost of the cessation of labour on the goldfields is enormous, both by way of relief and by the loss of revenue and in other directions. I do not know how this industrial trouble is going to end. There seems to be no solution of the difficulty at the moment. Indeed, it appears that there

are men in the country breeding trouble and raising disputes—I do not say they belong altogether to one section or the other section. However, there does seem to be an indisposition to settle disputes, and until we can have some better understanding between the two parties we shall never have industrial peace.

Mr. Green: You can settle the goldfields dispute in 24 hours if you want to.

The PREMIER: I will very gladly do so if my friend will show me how. If the shipping strike continues and sea transport remains at a standstill for very much longer we shall have not only the men at Kalgoorlie out of work, but a great many more. The timber industry will be strangled for a time, and another thousand men thrown out of employment. I do not know quite what is to happen, but I regard it as the duty of everybody to endeavour to bring about a settlement of these troubles.

Mr. Luty: What about settling Hedges for a start?

The PREMIER: While they can, the Government are finding employment for men out of work; but it is very difficult to get men not accustomed to clearing to go out on such a job. To-day we have work in that direction for 500 men if we can get them. Reconstruction as a necessary result of the war is going to be difficult enough. All sections of the community should realise that, and should assist in the work of bringing Western Australia back to prosperity. In some of the disputes it is very difficult to say who is to blame. At Kalgoorlie nobody seems very anxious for a settlement.

Mr. Lambert: You are absolutely incorrect in saying that.

Mr. Green: You know very well that if you provide the sidings the men will go to work to-morrow; and you promised to supply the sidings, too.

The PREMIER: At all events there does not appear to be much inclination to negotiate.

Mr. Green: You broke faith with the men.

Mr. Lambert: You know who are the people that were in earnest as regards trying to settle the dispute.

The PREMIER: One half of my time is taken up in dealing with the goldfields dispute, in answering telegrams on the subject, and in listening to protests. I wonder is it ever realised that if all the wealth produced in this State were divided amongst the adults on the electoral roll each of them would probably get for his or her share less than he or she is getting to-day? As a fact, the share would amount to about £180 per annum. And yet we all believe that out of that production we can get vastly more. I want to say to the leader of the Opposition that unless confidence can be restored, and restored fairly soon, unless the people who have money to invest can be encouraged to invest it, unless the enterprising can be got to exercise their enterprise, we are going to have

widespread want of employment in Western Australia. Our industries will never be built up unless people can invest their money here with some degree of safety. If as the result of the firewood strike all the mines at Kalgoorlie closed down, what is to be done with the men working there? So far as I can see, there would be no place for them to turn to. It is true, of course, that a great deal of our auriferous country has not yet been opened up; but can it be opened up quickly enough to absorb those men? I think not. I consider that everyone should do his best to bring about a reasonable settlement as quickly as possible.

Hon. T. Walker: That is very vague. Tell us how you would settle the dispute.

The PREMIER: I would settle the Kalgoorlie dispute by asking both parties to go to the Arbitration Court.

Mr. Lambert: To this present Arbitration Court?

The PREMIER: Yes; or at any rate to agree to some tribunal that could fix the rates of pay and the conditions of work.

Mr. Lambert: The present Arbitration Court is going to Karrakatta.

The PREMIER: I have endeavoured to let the House know something of the intentions of the Government, and I hope the House will approve of our proposals. I do not quite know why the leader of the Opposition moved his amendment to the Address-in-reply. Certainly, he had nothing to say against the present Administration. He seemed to be perfectly satisfied that we were doing all that could be done at the moment. One realises, of course, that the Opposition are justified in challenging the Government at any time and on any question. Had we been in office for any length of time, I daresay something might have been got hold of out of which the hon. gentleman could have made a case. As it happens, we have been in office two months; and, as it further happens, those two months have been two very busy months, during which a great deal has been done. They are two months in which strikes have occurred day by day. When an industrial trouble occurs in Western Australia, the Government are immediately called upon the scene and asked to settle the difficulty. I believe I have shown the House that as regards the soldiers the Government are doing all that can be done. I believe I have shown the House that we are doing all we can to rectify the financial position. I do not agree—and I wish the House to realise this—that by taxation we can square the ledger. I do believe that by active development, increased production, and increased trade the ledger will be squared, and squared very much sooner than most people imagine. But unless we do aim at much greater trade activity the outlook is hopeless. I have nothing more to say on the amendment, but I do wish the House to realise that I am doing the best I can for the country at the moment. If it is better for the interests of the country that my friend opposite should change seats with me, then I hope that will

happen. My one desire is to see the people of the country prosperous. Ministers have not spared themselves for a moment during the last two months in doing their best, so far as they are able, for the development of this great State of ours.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (North-East Fremantle): I move—

That the debate be adjourned.

Motion put and negatived.

Mr. JONES (Fremantle—on amendment): After the speech of the leader of the Government it is really very difficult for a mere layman on this side of the House to address himself to the amendment. The real difficulty lies not so much in dealing with what the Premier has said as in exactly knowing where to hit with regard to the failure of the present Ministry. The classical figure of Achilles was vulnerable only in the heel. The Government seems to be vulnerable in every part of its body. No matter what Ministers have tackled—in finance, or in initiative, or in repatriation, or in administration—it has been a dismal failure. The Government have been playing a peculiar game, in which they have shuffled and reshuffled the cards to such an extent that some of the spots have been rubbed off. In the first place we have seen the Nationalists under the kind and benevolent leadership of Sir Henry Lefroy play a game of nap with hearts as trumps. Then the game became bluff poker with clubs as trumps. But the man who held the hand, the strong hand of nationalism, found that his bluff was called at Fremantle, and that he only had four clubs to the flush. Now I presume we are in for a very interesting game of banker with spades as trumps. I trust that the spade with which they are playing will not sooner than they expect be the spade with which the grave of nationalism will be dug. I do not wish to make a joke of this debate, because I would remind hon. members that if they do wish me to play the rôle of the joker, the joker is the card with which the Government is euchred. Whatever the present amalgamation of members of Parliament, who constitute the Government, may be, it is very hard to know exactly who is the leader of the Government. It is one member one day and another member on another day.

The Minister for Mines: You take your pick.

Mr. JONES: Possibly it may be necessary to take a shovel to dig them out. Whatever this present amalgamation of nationalists in politics seems to have touched, it has been turned to mud. They went to Fremantle and left a bloody shamble; they went to Kalgoorlie and left a howling wilderness of unemployment.

Mr. Thomson: Eating grass.

Mr. JONES: I do not wish to take any of the hon. member's natural food. They have by their maladministration left the people of Wyndham in a state of starvation and disease, a state which I may say should make hon. members pause and consider, a position

of things which purely through the Government's want of consideration, through their own inability, may result in a number of our population in the far North during the next few days passing out through that starvation and disease. We find that in the matter of finance, which has been dealt with so extensively by the leader of the Opposition, the Government are well behind any previous administration, and that, too, in spite of the business acumen which they were supposed to bring to their aid in the administration of the affairs of this unfortunate country. Where are the secondary industries about which they talk so much? Where are the woollen mills which were about to be established with such a flourish of trumpets? What has become of the fellmongering works? Where are the numerous potteries which were to be scattered through the length and breadth of Western Australia?

The Minister for Works: Where is the ship building?

Mr. JONES: The hon. member knows who stopped it. The ship building was stopped because a living wage was refused to the human beings who were to be engaged in the work.

The Minister for Works: It was the Federal Government who started the ship building.

Mr. JONES: The hon. member knows that the Federal Government never had the slightest intention of starting ship building here. The whole thing was worked up so that the whole blame could be thrown on those who were to be engaged in the industry.

The Minister for Works: I suppose you will tell that to the Federal Government when you go there next year.

Mr. JONES: I will also tell them what an excellent Prime Minister is allowed to languish in Western Australia in the Public Works Department. In the matter of repatriation we find that the whole of the schemes, particularly of land settlement—and that is the strong card of the administration in power at the present time—are giving rise to discontent. The land settlement scheme is strewn from end to end with the dissatisfaction of the returned men. Those men are unable to get the land they want and they find when they do get it that portion of the repatriation money has gone to pay off mortgages that someone else piled up. So far as administration is concerned, right from the Fremantle freezers to the Wyndham meat works, we find the same absolute inability to do anything. Is it not a fact that the very labels which were prepared for the meat works, and which were printed at the Government printing works, to the number of half a million, have had to be destroyed because they had infringed some else's trade mark? The Government were incapable of even getting out a label without falling foul of some other trading concern in the State. Then we find ourselves faced at the present time at Wyndham with a situation which can-

not be regarded too seriously. A white population numbering between 700 and 800 are absolutely destitute of food supply. The latest advice which has been received of the position there is that there is a launch out looking for the lugger which is conveying the food to Wyndham and that the lugger has not yet been sighted. The advice goes on to say that immediate relief is necessary, and not when the men are under the ground. If there had been any trouble there a gunboat would have been sent to Wyndham in a hurry, but it never occurred to anyone that a gunboat might be sent there with flour so that lives might be saved. Where the lives of our fellow countrymen are concerned, the Government should do something without delay. It is time that some move was made to provide relief for those people at Wyndham. If it was possible by some means or other for the Federal Government to send a gunboat to protect the life of a cow doctor in Darwin, it should be possible to get into communication with the same Federal Government to send supplies of flour to Wyndham so that white people might be saved from disease and the consequences of epidemics which are even now making their appearance there. It is time the Government woke up. Do they think they can leave men to starve? Do they think that in this time of the history of the world that men will stand it? I say, if the Government had wanted to help those people, trouble would never have arisen at Wyndham.

Mr. Hardwick: Did you expect them to wire it up?

Mr. JONES: I expect the Government to send it up in boats. It is an easy matter for fat and well fed members to sit here and laugh at the sufferings of men in the North. I cannot do it; I do not intend to do it. Why have not these food supplies been sent up? Why in the first place did not the State steamship service resume its operations along the coast? I know that the Minister opposite will say that there is a seaman's strike on. I presume there is, but I have yet to learn that the State steamship department of this State is a member of the shipping combine of the Commonwealth. I have yet to learn that the department is a party to the dispute, in regard to the claims of the seamen for an increase in wages and an improvement of conditions. There was no reason, and no excuse can be offered by the Government for not acceding to the seamen's demands some months back. Whose fault is it? It lies at the door of the Government and the death of every man who succumbs to starvation at Wyndham will lie at the door of the present Government. Make no mistake about that.

The Minister for Works: We are not making any mistake.

Mr. JONES: Wyndham perhaps will be another mark upon the roll of honour of nationalism in Western Australia—roll of dishonour if you will. Call it what we may, it is almost impossible to find words to voice the indignation which we feel

in regard to the apathy of the Government to do anything in connection with this matter. There are battleships which could be sent to Wyndham if necessary. There are also vessels lying in Fremantle harbour which could be manned by seamen who are ready to take them up on the improved conditions they are asking. I am not going to put up a claim for the seamen; it is not necessary that I should do so. Every man who has an idea of justice will say that the seamen's claims are right and just.

The Minister for Mines: We have never denied that.

Mr. JONES: No one will deny it. Then if the fact is not denied, why were not the boats manned by the seamen and allowed to proceed to Wyndham?

The Minister for Mines: When we offered to man those boats and promised that whatever decision was arrived at would be made retrospective, they refused our offer. We made them understand that whatever decision was finally arrived at it would be made to apply to them. But they preferred to allow the people to starve.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You did it yourself when you were with us.

Mr. JONES: What I want to know is whether the Minister controlling the State steamships is in collusion with the shipping combine of the Commonwealth?

The Minister for Works: You know perfectly well that he is not.

Mr. JONES: Well, why must they wait until the shipping combine grudgingly agree to give what they will have to give to the seamen before the boats resume their voyages? If there is no agreement between the State Steamship Service and the shipping combine, there was nothing to prevent an agreement with the men being fixed up.

The Minister for Works: We offered them an agreement, yet those men will let their mates starve rather than take the boats out.

Hon. T. Walker: It is you who are letting them starve.

Mr. JONES: What sort of an agreement have you offered them? The Minister knows in his heart that the men would not accept that sort of agreement.

The Minister for Works: If permitted to accept it, they would do so, but the disputes committee will not allow them.

Mr. JONES: They offered to accept the increased wages and improved conditions which they are asking for, and it was the duty of the Government to grant the request. If the Government persist in refusing they stand convicted of being in collusion with the shipping combine. For no other reason could they refuse to give the men what is asked for, and so allow the boats to carry foodstuffs to the starving population of the North.

The Minister for Works: There is no excuse for those men refusing to take food to Wyndham.

Mr. JONES: They are perfectly justified in their demands.

Mr. Pickering: They think more of their wages than of the starving people of Wyndham.

Mr. JONES: To hear him one would think that the hon. member was the leader of the Country party, although we know that he is not.

Mr. Pickering: He is as much a leader as you are.

Mr. JONES: Women and children in the metropolitan area come to see me almost daily in an endeavour to learn what the chances may be of their men folk at Wyndham obtaining supplies. I trust the Government will make some announcement through the Press to-morrow morning, so that those anxious wives and children may have the satisfaction of learning that the Government are prepared to do something to save the men at Wyndham from starvation. I trust this will be done, not because the request comes from these benches, but in the name of common humanity, of which, surely, Ministers have a little left. The Wyndham trouble is the latest mark upon the Government's roll of dishonour. I do not propose to refer to the Albany election, when, in order to strengthen their front benches, the Government found it necessary to send down a candidate with his portfolio already in his pocket.

Mr. Griffiths: Do not shame them.

Mr. JONES: What would shame the hon. member would drive an ordinary man to suicide. A little earlier than the Albany election there was some trouble in Fremantle. During April and May discussions took place between the Government and representatives of the Fremantle lumpers as to whether the National workers should continue on the wharf. At one time it was believed that the Government were likely to bring common sense to bear upon the question. But representatives of the shipping combine which is holding up the shipping of Australia to-day met representatives of the Government, and thenceforward all negotiations with the lumpers were off. Then some mischievous member of the present Government seems to have gone to a drunken orgie at the Commercial Travellers' Club one Saturday night, made an inflammatory speech, and induced his hearers to go down and defy constituted authority at Fremantle. I should like to know exactly what authority that representative of the Government had to go to a beer house, a drinking shop in Perth, rake together all the Saturday night drunks in the place, and take them down in the battleship "Mayflower" to assume possession of the Fremantle wharf.

Hon. P. Collier: With a heavy commissariat.

Mr. JONES: The House and the country are entitled to know exactly what sort of gentlemanly understanding there was between the members of the Nationalist Cabinet and the drunks of the Commercial Travellers' Club.

The Minister for Mines: An understanding similar to that between the Trades Hall and the Weld Club when Don Cameron visited the club.

Mr. JONES: Whatever the understanding may have been which resulted in that trip to Fremantle, it led to disastrous consequences. It is scarcely necessary for me to traverse the details of Bloody Sunday at Fremantle. I believe every member of the Government is ashamed of the episode. If he is not, God help him! for I cannot. The members of the Nationalist party are anxious to forget that disastrous day because, for the first time in the history of this State, was blood shed in an industrial dispute; for the first time in the history of Western Australian industrialism were the thugs of the law brought out to beat in the heads of the workers. That only one man lost his life is no credit to the Nationalist Government. It happens to have been merely a fortunate chance. We know that constituted authority won at Fremantle, that the will of the majority of the Fremantle people was put into execution, and that the Nationalist general, together with his "Morning after" cohorts from the Commercial Travellers' Club beat a hasty retreat up the river. The whole thing constitutes one of the most disgraceful episodes in the history of any Government, one which even I deplore—and I was on the winning side.

The Minister for Works: You were a little late in arriving, I think.

Mr. JONES: I can assure the Minister that I was in good time for part of the scrap. The whole episode was another evidence of the absolute inability of Nationalism in politics to achieve anything whatever. They had not even the grace to concede gracefully, not even the strength to win strongly. They went down there bluffing, with the lion's skin only on the outside, and returned again with the alcoholic cohorts to Perth, like whipped curs.

The Minister for Mines: They will not give you any more invitations to the club.

Mr. JONES: Nevertheless, I do not know what else to call them. If I were to go down to the Fremantle club and make an inflammatory speech, I should expect to find something doing. Let us come to the third glorious episode upon the roll of dishonour of the Nationalist Government. I refer to the hold-up of the goldfields.

Mr. Griffiths: What about the influenza?

Mr. JONES: I do not blame the Government for that. Had it been possible for the present Government to introduce influenza, no doubt they would have done it. That the introduction of the disease does not lie at their door is due simply to the fact that they are not able to control influenza. No doubt, goldfields members will deal with the wood-line trouble at greater length than I intend to do.

The Minister for Mines: The subject may even be made a lever in the next selection ballots.

Mr. JONES: At the present moment I am not concerned with any selection ballots, but only with the interests of the class to which I belong, namely, the working class. Still, I am a little concerned for the safety and sanity of the Nationalist Government. Can they not realise that men will not be starved at the present time? that with Lloyd George's world in the melting pot waiting to be stamped with the workers' audacity, with the promise of the new world given from the public platform to our boys before they were soiled to the Front—that with all these things in the minds of the workers, the workers are not going to be starved. I cannot realise what the Government, representing the trusts and the employing class, can be thinking of in not recognising that very patent fact in the position of the world to-day, unless it be that those whom the gods intend to utterly destroy they first make mad. Unless the gods intend to destroy the Government, I cannot see how they fail to realise the position they are creating on the Eastern Goldfields.

Mr. Angelo: They will be following the example of Nebuchadnezzar presently.

Mr. JONES: I have told the hon. member that Nebuchadnezzar came back to his senses afterwards. I wish he would do likewise. The methods of the Government in dealing with the goldfields trouble is going to stir up for them a crisis which they do not realise. Cannot they foresee the storm of trouble they are making for themselves throughout the length and breadth of the State? The old conditions of the world are gone for ever; the old system under which it was possible for the worker to toil like a dumb slave, to work uncomplainingly, is gone for all time.

Mr. Griffiths interjected.

Mr. JONES: I do not expect the hon. member to know it. I do not expect him to know anything outside a little commission agency work for his own electorate. Anyone who studies the industrial conditions of the world must realise that the old system has gone for ever and the time is coming when the workers will demand more and more of their rightful share in the industries of the world. That being so, what are the Government dreaming of in allowing an unemployment problem to exist as it does on the goldfields?

Thus Minister for Works: Why not suggest a remedy when your friends are starving?

Mr. JONES: How easy it is for the Minister—

Mr. Lambert: The Minister for Works knows how he settled Kurrawang before.

Mr. JONES: The remedy is simple. Make that co-operative scheme possible. Do not put impossible conditions in it, and do not allow friends in the Chamber to do the same thing. I do not think the Minister realises the difficulties which have been placed in the way of a settlement.

Mr. Lambert: He knows the position better than any man in this House if he likes to speak.

The Minister for Works: You be quiet.

Mr. JONES: I hope the Minister will give us his experience. I do not wish to trespass on the affairs of the member for Coolgardie—

The Minister for Mines: You are taking the wind out of his sails completely.

Mr. JONES: I have no intention of doing that. I am here to take the wind out of the Minister's sails. To a looker-on, the position on the goldfields is not so difficult as the Minister would have us believe. A supply of fuel is necessary to the mines. That supply has been cut by the firewood workers who toiled on the various woodlines. Unfortunately, there has been a middleman standing between the cutters who did the work and the mines who consumed the wood. Get rid of the middleman. It is the simplest thing in the world. It is a problem which our friends on the cross-benches solved in supplying farmers with stores through their co-operative system. Last session the Government came down with flying colours, pledged to support the principle of co-operation. Have they forgotten it? Have they got a new policy? Have they twisted on that as on other things? Are they still prepared to back the principle of co-operation?

Mr. Pickering: You opposed it from that side of the House.

Mr. JONES: Because I always think anything coming from the hon. member is loaded.

Mr. Lambert: You are pretty safe.

Mr. JONES: The only objection I had to co-operation was its advocates. Because the member for Sussex was beaten for the leadership of the Country party, he need not vent his spite on the whole House.

Hon. P. Collier: Why make us suffer for it; we were not responsible.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. JONES: A co-operative scheme in which there were no prohibitive terms, under which the men could still cut the wood and the mines could still consume it, would settle the difficulty, and it could be settled in 24 hours. In the meantime, we find inability or unwillingness to settle the trouble is not sufficient for the Government. They must endeavour to bring that old time method to bear on the men who are unfortunately locked out—the miners—who, through no fault of their own, cannot continue their employment. They must bring to bear the old-time bludgeon of starvation. They must try to cut down their rations. This sort of thing has been tried from time immemorial, but the day has gone for ever when it will succeed. The sooner the Government and every other capitalistic Government in the world realise this, the better for their own necks; the better for their own personal safety. I know a little about the conditions of the working classes of the world. What has happened in Russia, in

Germany and in other parts of the world, it is quite possible to happen here. There are just as many lamp-posts and just as strong ropes in Australia, and men cannot be perpetually starved or goaded into submission by the cutting off of means of nourishment from them and their families. The Government have to learn their lesson. Not that I think whatever action they take will save their lives, or the life of the system which is practically dead.

Mr. Lambert: You mean their political lives?

Mr. JONES: Yes.

The Minister for Works: Now we breathe again.

Mr. JONES: The present Government have to administer affairs in the interests of the combines, employers' federations, and Chambers of Commerce of this State. That is their function.

Mr. Angelo: And yours for the Trades Hall unions.

Mr. JONES: Yes, I do a little propaganda for them because they represent the brains and bulk of the community. The more the Government allow industrial unrest to grow, the more they permit discontented and dissatisfied men to be toiling in the various corners of the State, the more harm they are doing to the cause in which they are working. I suggest that the gold-fields trouble should be settled right now. I suggest it is the only way in which they can avert temporarily the coming revolution.

Hon. T. WALKER (Kanowna): I move—

That the debate be adjourned.

Motion put and negatived.

Amendment (No-confidence) put and a division taken with the following result:—

| | | | |
|------|----|----|----|
| Ayes | .. | .. | 11 |
| Noes | .. | .. | 22 |

Majority against .. 11

AYES.

| | |
|-------------|--------------|
| Mr. Angwin | Mr. Lutey |
| Mr. Chesson | Mr. Troy |
| Mr. Collier | Mr. Walker |
| Mr. Green | Mr. Willcock |
| Mr. Jones | Mr. Munsie |
| Mr. Lambert | (Teller.) |

NOES.

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Mr. Angelo | Mr. Mitchell |
| Mr. Broun | Mr. Money |
| Mr. Brown | Mr. Pickering |
| Mr. Davies | Mr. Pilkington |
| Mr. Draper | Mr. Robinson |
| Mr. Durack | Mr. Scaddan |
| Mr. George | Mr. Stubbs |
| Mr. Griffiths | Mr. Thomson |
| Mr. Harrison | Mr. Willmott |
| Mr. Hickmott | Mr. Hardwick |
| Mr. Hudson | (Teller.) |
| Mr. Johnston | |

Amendment thus negatived.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Williams-Narrogin): I move—

That the debate be adjourned.

[4]

Motion put and a division taken with the following result:—

| | | | |
|------|----|----|----|
| Ayes | .. | .. | 23 |
| Noes | .. | .. | 12 |

Majority for .. 11

AYES.

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Mr. Angelo | Mr. Mitchell |
| Mr. Broun | Mr. Money |
| Mr. Davies | Mr. Pickering |
| Mr. Draper | Mr. Pilkington |
| Mr. Durack | Mr. Robinson |
| Mr. Foley | Mr. Scaddan |
| Mr. George | Mr. Stubbs |
| Mr. Griffiths | Mr. Thomson |
| Mr. Harrison | Mr. Underwood |
| Mr. Hickmott | Mr. Willmott |
| Mr. Hudson | Mr. Hardwick |
| Mr. Johnston | (Teller.) |

NOES.

| | |
|-------------|--------------|
| Mr. Angwin | Mr. Lutey |
| Mr. Brown | Mr. Troy |
| Mr. Chesson | Mr. Walker |
| Mr. Collier | Mr. Willcock |
| Mr. Green | Mr. Munsie |
| Mr. Jones | (Teller.) |
| Mr. Lambert | |

Motion thus passed.

House adjourned at 9.23 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 12th August, 1919.

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| Questions: Soldier Settlement, pastoral lands .. | 79 |
| Lands Classification .. | 80 |
| Bill: Supply, all stages .. | 80 |
| Address-in-reply, fifth day .. | 81 |
| Chairman of Committees, election .. | 81 |

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

QUESTION—SOLDIER SETTLEMENT, PASTORAL LANDS.

Hon. J. MILLS asked the Minister for Education: Will the Government exercise the powers conferred on the Minister for Lands under Section 30, Subsection 2, of the Land Act Amendment Act, 1917, and, for the purposes of soldier settlement, reserve from further leasing to pastoralists all land within 50