

dividual who addresses meetings. During the meeting itself they were led by a man employed on the wharf, who should have known better. In my opinion, not more than 50 people took part in the disturbances and interference with the rights of 1,200 people who had come to hear one of the foremost political leaders of Australia.

The disturbers at that meeting are the people who shriek for the right of free speech, but only their speech; who shriek for a Second Front, being prepared to send hundreds of thousands of men to their death while they themselves are sitting in security 12,000 miles away; the people who are sowing the seeds of civil war in the country; the people who attach themselves to the political party which was successful at the recent elections but who will be prepared to split that party in twain when it suits them. That this danger is recognised in the Eastern States is evident from the statement made in the Legislative Assembly of Victoria by a prominent Labour man, who in referring to this type of person said, "I have a hatred of any form of Fascist domination, but I have a horror of Red Fascism." The Lieut.-Governor's Speech also made reference to the conditions on the goldfields. As an old goldfields resident, I sincerely sympathise with the people who have suffered and are suffering there. I trust it will not be long before sufficient men are made available to man the mines again, because I believe our mining industry will be one of the main factors in the successful repatriation of our soldiers. I support the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-reply.

On motion by Hon. H. L. Roche, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 5.48 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Thursday, 2nd September, 1943.

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

QUESTIONS (2).

TAXATION.

As to Deductions for Donations.

Mr. SAMPSON asked the Premier: 1, Are donations made by taxpayers to the Infant Health Association allowed as concessional deductions? 2, If not, will he make representations to the Federal Treasurer to that end?

The PREMIER replied: 1, No. 2, Yes.

RABBIT SKINS.

As to Disparity in Prices.

Mr. SEWARD asked the Minister for Agriculture: 1, Has he noted the instances I quoted, when speaking on the Address-in-reply debate, of Western Australian rabbit skins being sold in the Eastern States at prices approximately 50 per cent. higher than similar skins realised when sold on the same day in this State, and particularly that the skins sold in Sydney were sold as Western Australian skins? 2, As the marked disparity in prices received in the Eastern States and here, is leading to a demand to send skins to the Eastern States for sale will he cause inquiry to be made with a view to adopting some other means of sale, such as sales after appraisalment in this State? 3, If not, why not?

The MINISTER replied: 1, Yes. 2, Yes. 3, See 1 and 2.

BILLS (2)—FIRST READING.

1, Workers' Homes Act Amendment.

Introduced by the Premier.

2, Public Authorities (Retirement of Members) Act Amendment.

Introduced by the Minister for Works.

BILL—ELECTORAL (WAR TIME).

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the 26th August.

MR. WATTS (Katanning) [4.34]: It is my intention to support the second reading of this measure, because I believe it to be essential that we should provide some reasonable and satisfactory means of enabling members of the Forces to record their votes at our next election. I am very glad that the Bill does not resemble the measure which was introduced into this House a couple of years ago at a time when we were not considering or had not considered the postpone-

ment of the State election but were in preparation, as it were, for the ordinary general election in 1942. That other Bill had a great many aspects which were decidedly undesirable and, had those aspects occurred in this measure, my support of the second reading would have been very substantially qualified. It provided for every one of the members of the Forces and had a nominee system of voting, a system which was likely to be open to most fraudulent practices, and in any event not to record the vote of the elector at all but the vote as expressed on the ballot paper of some third party whom he may have appointed to vote for him.

It was possible under the proposed schedule in the previous Bill for the Premier or the Leader of the Opposition or the Leader of the National Party to record the votes of hundreds or thousands of persons. That measure, in the form in which it was introduced, was preposterous, and one which in no circumstances should receive any support in a Chamber such as this. If I remember rightly it never reached the statute-book, and to me that was a matter for great satisfaction. In the present Bill we have, on the face of it, a much more legitimate attempt to deal with a problem which is not very easy of solution and one which affects not only members of the Forces themselves—who in the meantime have very greatly increased in number—but also persons who are called upon to work under the direction of the Allied Works Council or, as we say, in the Civil Construction Corps.

The Minister for Mines: They are nearer home: that is the only thing.

Mr. WATTS: Admittedly, many of the soldiers are nearer home, but there are also great numbers of others who were not in the Forces at all at that time: nor did we have this Civil Construction Corps—at least in any strength. I was about to say that the Civil Construction Corps is one which is doing a national service and, under the direction of the manpower authorities, it resembles very closely a branch of the Armed Forces, except that its members work with pick and shovel rather than with rifle or hand grenade, or other weapons of war. It is doing a service which is just as essential for the defence of the country and the prosecution of the war as that which is done by various branches of the Armed Forces, and is doing it in a manner very similar to that of the Armed Forces themselves in that the

people concerned are told where to go and when, and what to do.

It is quite obvious to me that both branches of the National Service require consideration, and consideration is given to each branch in different parts of the Bill. I feel, too, it is vital that for a State election in particular we should ensure that every soldier and every member of the Civil Construction Corps votes in the district whence he came prior to his enlistment or direction to the work in which he is engaged, as the case may be. We know perfectly well that from time to time there have been movements of such people into other districts, but many of them—and I believe this to be particularly true of those who live in metropolitan and suburban electorates—such as I have come in contact with, are most anxious to continue to exercise votes in the districts where they live. They are acquainted with the local political characteristics and with the members they have had to deal with and, in many instances will be acquainted with the candidates who will be offering themselves in opposition to the sitting members, and they are entitled to vote in those districts and not elsewhere.

Mr. Withers: They know the sitting members at least.

Mr. WATTS: That is so.

The Minister for Mines: Did you mention "candidates"? Surely you do not expect anyone to oppose us!

Mr. WATTS: I do not know that I can answer the Minister's query effectively. I can only assume from experience of the recent Federal elections that there are likely to be some candidates offering themselves for seats in the State Parliament. That is the only suggestion I have to offer for assuming that Government members will experience some opposition. Let us content ourselves with that. If the men and women in the Forces are to be allowed to vote for candidates in their own electorates, the question arises as to what the Bill really means in some respects, and certainly there are one or two points that very definitely require clearing up. I am forced to say that it would have been very much wiser and made the passage of the Bill much easier if the proposals of the Government had been submitted, prior to the introduction of the measure, to a committee of some kind representative of members of this House. Opposition members are

equally interested in the matter as are those sitting on the Government side of the House.

We do not desire any better treatment than is available to members sitting opposite nor, I feel sure, do they desire to enjoy any better treatment than is accorded to us. In the circumstances Opposition members should have, as nearly as possible, knowledge equal to that possessed by members sitting on the Government side of the House. I have no doubt that the Government, having the advantage of the officers of the Crown Law Department as well as other officials to assist it, is far better acquainted than are Opposition members with the position that exists in regard to the whereabouts of the soldiers, the difficulties that will have to be faced with regard to the provision of presiding officers, electoral officers and so on, and in connection with the provision of voting facilities as well. The Government, too, will be better acquainted with those aspects in relation to the Civil Construction Corps than we can possibly be. On the other hand, we are obliged to arrive at conclusions on this important matter comparatively hastily. While there is no doubt in my mind that investigations by the officers of the Electoral Department and others interested in the matter have been proceeding over a very long period, we are now compelled, within a week or two, to arrive at conclusions as to whether the proposals embodied in the Bill are practicable and, if practicable, whether they are the best for inclusion in a measure of this kind so as to permit of the fair exercise of the franchise by those concerned. We are asked to decide whether what is proposed is likely to be agreeable to all parties represented in this Chamber.

If an opportunity had been taken to enable the matter to be considered by an inter-party committee, which step could have been easily arranged either prior to or immediately after the assembling of the House, I have no hesitation in saying that a better measure would have resulted, one that would have been agreed to by the House without the slightest difficulty. As it is, I shall feel called upon, when the measure is dealt with at the Committee stage, to submit a number of arguments and seek information on several points simply because I am not clear as to what the provision really is in respect of a Bill of this description. That will be necessary in order to arrive at a conclusion as to whether the

solution offered in the Bill is the best. That argument I frankly admit does not apply to every Bill that is placed before members. The Government is entitled to have a policy and to introduce legislation that will implement it in its various phases. In doing so the Government can say to us, "This represents our policy and you must decide whether or not you will support the legislation. As for us, we stand or fall by the measure seeing that it is in accord with the policy of the Government." That is quite a correct attitude. But when it comes to a Bill the object of which is to amend the Constitution and which affects the franchise of the State electors and the position of every member of the House as well as of every candidate who may submit himself for election, the position is quite different.

Circumstances arise that entitle us to be told something more about the measure than the mere fact that it represents Government policy. We are entitled to assure ourselves, and to be assured, that the proposals are equitable and just and do not provide any avenue for fraudulent behaviour on the part of those to be found in all walks of life who may take advantage of loopholes that can occur, particularly in legislation of this character. If we had been given an opportunity prior to the assembling of Parliament, or even since then, to refer this matter to a committee representative of all parties so that the whole problem could have been discussed and an opinion formed in the light of knowledge gained not only in the House but in private discussions elsewhere, we would have been in an immeasurably better position to deal with the Bill than we are at present. I regret that some such action was not taken by the Government.

I have no doubt that some such feeling in the minds of some members prompted the member for West Perth—he can tell us himself if that is so—to give notice of motion for the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into methods for dealing with the problem that is now facing us. I have no doubt the feeling was uppermost in his mind that there were aspects that should be satisfactorily cleared up and warranted further inquiry in order that members sitting on both sides of the House might appreciate the difficulties that will arise. I realise the fact that the member for West Perth has not moved his motion, and I do not think I would be in danger of successful contra-

diction if I were to say that he did not move it because he regarded it as useless, seeing that the Bill was then before the House. Here we have a concrete proposal brought down by the Government in the form of a Bill dealing with the very matter that the member for West Perth, by the motion of which he gave notice, sought to make the subject of an inquiry.

The Premier: And after the experience of the Commonwealth Government with legislation that is somewhat similar.

Mr. WATTS: It is no wonder that the notice of motion was not proceeded with yesterday. I submit that the Federal legislation referred to by the Premier, the provisions of which were tried out for the first time a fortnight ago, is not, in the first place, altogether on all fours with the Bill now before the House while, secondly, there are different aspects that we ought to consider. To begin with, the Commonwealth Government is in charge of the Armed Forces and can do with them just as it chooses. It is in charge of the Civil Construction Corps and can do with it just what it pleases. The State Government is in charge of neither. It must submit. I take it—and here again I am without information—to the Commonwealth Government its intended activities before they can be put into operation.

The Premier: I had that assurance seven or eight weeks ago. That is why the Bill was brought down.

Mr. WATTS: I have already obtained from the Premier information which I did not gather from the speech of the Minister for Justice. Up to a point, that assurance is very satisfactory; but it would be very nice if members on this side of the House had some knowledge of the exact procedure intended. Moreover, in the Bill I find a complete absence of the declarations and applications that are to be used by members of the Forces in making application for votes, and in regard to the requirements of returning officers in making certain that applicants for permission to vote are so entitled. There is nothing in the Bill to that effect.

These things are to be prescribed by regulations. We all know perfectly well that there is every chance that the regulations will be issued at such a time that it will be impossible for any member of this Chamber to take the opportunity, as he is allowed

to do now, of moving to disallow those regulations, because it is extremely unlikely that there will be time and opportunity for those regulations to be gazetted and submitted to this House in the normal way, and to be debated if any member wishes to object to them. Even then, suppose a member did object to the terms of a regulation or declaration and succeeded in having the regulation or declaration disallowed, the House itself has no control over the regulation or declaration substituted. I submit that the proper place for these regulations or declarations is in the Bill itself, so that we who are equally interested in the matter may know exactly what documents are to be placed before the members of the Civil Construction Corps who are going to vote. Many of them are not on the roll. Many of them will have no opportunity of enrolment. We have had in this State large numbers of soldiers from other States of the Commonwealth. It is surely not desirable that such of these soldiers as have their home rights to preserve should be entitled to exercise the franchise in Western Australia when they are here on military service.

The Premier: The present electoral law denies the soldier that right.

Mr. WATTS: I quite agree with the Premier.

The Premier: So that there is no fear in that regard.

Mr. WATTS: Unfortunately the fact is that people who are not enrolled to vote can reach their objective by making a declaration. We have an equal interest in seeing that proper methods are adopted in connection with the exercise of the franchise. I do not advance those arguments against the intention of the measure, but against the fact that there is nothing in the Bill to indicate to members of this House just what sort of declarations applicants are to be asked to comply with.

The Minister for Justice: The regulations will be laid on the Table of the House.

Mr. WATTS: Even if we did have time to disallow them, we could not then assure ourselves as to the contents of the form of declaration which would actually be used, because one could simply immediately after disallowance, put up a new declaration which there would certainly be no time to disallow. In the past there have been schedules to measures of this kind, and the

House has been able to go carefully into the matter in Committee and decide whether it wanted the proposed schedules or not. I remember a Bill of that kind, a measure to allow nominees to vote, introduced in 1941. That Bill had schedules specifying the type of nomination papers to be used, and other things new to the electoral laws of this State. That was the proper course to pursue. But in this Bill there is nothing of that kind. The matter is simply to be prescribed by regulation.

I shall be very glad if some form of declaration can be agreed on by this House for use in the various cases and inserted in the Bill, so that it may be a matter of common knowledge, and that everyone would be given an assurance that all proper precautions would be taken to see that persons entitled to vote were certain of their votes and that persons not entitled to the franchise here could not vote unless they committed a very grave offence against the laws of this State. There are people in this State, and I believe there will be people among the recording officers, who would not find it easy to distinguish between a Western Australian soldier and, for instance, a New South Wales soldier. Many people are familiar with the distinctions between the soldiers of the various States, but others are not. In the case of this Bill we have to rely on people without much experience in such matters—honest, decent men who try their best to do their duty and in most cases do it effectively, but who should not be placed in the position, under those circumstances, of having to ask a number of questions, especially when they are very busy. It is for the House to say as a part of this measure what type of declaration and application shall be used, and what other safeguards are required. I trust that before the debate on the Bill concludes, steps will have been taken to ensure that that has been done. I do not propose to enlarge any further on the Bill at this juncture. I have said that I propose to support the second reading, and any further comments that I wish to make can be made in Committee.

MR. McDONALD (West Perth): I believe all members of the Chamber hold that men who have left our State in order to serve in the Fighting Forces should not be deprived of their votes. A measure is essential to provide the machinery to ensure that

this privilege shall not be denied to those men and, it may be, women. Therefore I propose to support the second reading of the Bill. I do feel, however, that the measure is one which requires a good deal of consideration. In fact, the more I have looked into it in the comparatively limited time since its introduction, the more I feel that if the machinery is to be satisfactory, if the public is to have confidence in the measure, we should give the Bill a very careful scrutiny before finally passing it into law. We have had experience, as the Leader of the Opposition said, of various legislative measures to provide for the franchise being exercised by soldiers in time of war. The first measure in the present war was the Queensland Act, which introduced the novel form of voting by proxy. It is pleasing to note that the Commonwealth Government, when it had occasion to pass legislation for the purpose of enabling soldiers to vote, had no hesitation in rejecting this exceedingly undesirable innovation with regard to the franchise of the people. Then we have had the Commonwealth Act, which was passed in August, 1940, and was intended to provide for the votes of soldiers, particularly soldiers overseas. Then the Commonwealth had occasion recently—in July of this year—to amend the 1940 Act in order to vary and extend the machinery for voting by members of the Defence Forces.

Of course, in the intervening period between 1940 and 1943 the Japanese nation had entered the war and it became obvious that the measure of 1940, which had been designed to deal with the situation involved by a war with Germany and Italy as the main antagonists, necessarily required reconsideration when we had the Japanese nation not only entering the war on the side of the Axis, but actually menacing our own shores and in some cases attacking our shores through their air raids. Then we had the Minister for Justice reminding the House of the Act passed last year by the Victorian Legislature, the Act under which that State's recent elections were conducted. The Victorian legislation provided for a more restricted area of franchise, and the votes of soldiers were only taken when the soldiers were in Australia. There, again, that may have been due to developments since the Act was passed, because I think the Act was passed last year, and no doubt since it was passed the extent of the campaign outside

Australia in the New Guinea area has been very greatly enlarged and the number of soldiers from Australia has been very greatly increased in those areas, compared with the number who were engaged possibly when the Victorian Act was passed.

The Commonwealth legislation has been the basis of the Bill which the Minister has placed before the House, but there have been certain variations. I do not propose to go into those variations in detail, because they will be largely the subject of discussion in Committee. As the principle of the Bill is a matter of general agreement, it is more convenient that the details of the measure should be the subject of discussion and decision in the Committee stage. There are, however, one or two features about the Bill to which I would like to make reference. First, there is the question of the extension of votes to those under 21 years of age; this provision is more extensive or wider in the Bill now before the House than it was or is in the Commonwealth legislation. Then there is another principle, and that is that under the Commonwealth Act the Commonwealth returning officers were appointed for different areas of Australia and for the theatres of war in which soldiers' votes had to be taken. I do not know how many returning officers were appointed for those different areas of operations or in Australia, but I presume there would be one appointed, for example, in the Darwin area.

The Premier: The same procedure will be followed as was followed by the Commonwealth; the same people will do the work.

Mr. McDONALD: That would no doubt be convenient, because the men appointed under the Commonwealth Electoral Act will have had experience under that Act, and it would be desirable that their experience should be utilised and that the basis of machinery that applied to the recent Federal elections should be utilised for our State elections. But I would like to know, as a matter of interest, a little more about the basis on which the returning officers operate. I would like to know, roughly, how many there are and whether they are in charge of small areas or very big areas. For example, would there be one in charge of the whole of the New Guinea area, or would there be two or three in New Guinea, one for Port Moresby and one perhaps for the north coast of New Guinea?

The Premier: They would have jurisdiction over a particular unit, not an area of country, particularly in Western Australia.

Mr. McDONALD: It appears that the returning officers are concerned with units; that may well be so, but they would also be concerned with areas. It may amount to the same thing, because if they are concerned with units they are no doubt concerned with units inside those areas. The wording of the Commonwealth Act is that the commanding officer shall transmit by the most expeditious means available the ballot papers to the returning officers controlling the area. So the idea of the Commonwealth Act is apparently that the returning officers shall control an area, and I think that we have followed the same scheme in the Bill before the House, because in one of the clauses it says, "The commanding officer shall forthwith transmit by the most expeditious means available the ballot papers to the returning officer controlling the area." So the returning officers appear to be appointed in relation to areas. The interest which members will have in this particular point is this: Under the Commonwealth legislation the returning officer controlling the area is the man who counts the votes. He receives from the commanding officer the ballot papers in their envelopes, and then the returning officer controlling each area counts the votes. In the case of the House of Representatives—which is comparable to our Legislative Assembly—he first of all counts the first preference votes, and if that count does not decide the election in the district concerned, he proceeds to count the second preference votes, and so on, and he wires the result of his count, in the case of the Commonwealth, to the divisional electoral officer for the State.

The Minister for Justice: We have made a request for some consideration in that respect, but it has been refused. It was suggested that we should count the votes in Western Australia.

Mr. McDONALD: That seems to be a deviation from the Commonwealth legislation and it deserves some consideration. Under the Commonwealth Act, as applied to the last elections, the returning officer for each area counts the votes and reports the results by telegraph. For example, the returning officer in the Darwin area would receive in due course the ballot papers from all the units inside his area. He would then proceed to count the votes and would wire the

results to the appropriate electoral officer. That is decentralisation of the voting, whereas under our system—perhaps for the reason mentioned by the Minister for Justice—the returning officer of an area does not count at all; he merely acts as a conduit pipe when the ballot papers are sent to him by the commanding officer of the unit. Then the returning officer of the area puts them all into a sealed packet and sends the packet on to the Chief Electoral Officer of Western Australia. It is a matter for inquiry by members of the House whether the danger of the loss of ballot papers may not be enhanced by the long transit which, under the Minister's Bill, must inevitably occur when sealed packets come from the returning officer in perhaps a very remote area in New Guinea and have to be sent by motor-car, aeroplane and other conveyances all the way from New Guinea to the Chief Electoral Officer in Perth, and whether or not it might not be better, with the consent—which I hardly think would be refused—of the Commonwealth Government to have these votes counted by the area returning officer in the same way as was done in the recent elections under the authority of the Commonwealth Act.

Of course, when we talk about the identification of members of the Forces who may be entitled to vote under this legislation, it would be simple if a unit outside this State were composed entirely of Western Australians. While I am not very conversant with conditions inside the Army, I understand that a number of units are of a composite nature, composed of men drawn from various States. Others may be technical units in which the reason for assembling the men together is the specialised knowledge possessed by each member of the unit. For that reason I agree with the Leader of the Opposition that in each State we should have a form of declaration, to be made by the intending voter, which will clearly convey to his mind the qualifications he must have before being able to exercise the franchise, and which will prevent him from exercising the vote at these elections under a misunderstanding when he is not eligible.

The Premier: Do you think a man from another State would want to vote at a Western Australian election?

Mr. Doney: He might be an ex-Western Australian.

Mr. McDONALD: He might have a desire to see what he considers the right party returned, and consider that the means would justify the end. However, I am not very concerned with that. I am concerned, though, that our declarations should be framed to convey to all personnel concerned, both administrative officers and voters, exactly what are their rights so that there will be no mistake about the conditions under which they are required to vote, and the area or district for which they should be entitled to vote. The Bill proposes to give a vote to all members of the Defence Forces on active service. It may be of interest to members to know what "on active service" means. I did not know what "members of Defence Forces on active service" meant. I had an idea, but did not know precisely. Perhaps I do not know now, but the position, as far as I have been able to ascertain, is that the term "on active service" was defined originally, and still is, by the English Army Act, Section 189, Subsection (1). The Commonwealth Defence Act adopted that definition. However, since this war started, the meaning of the term "on active service" has been extended and varied, not by the Commonwealth Defence Act, but by National Security Regulations, and from time to time the meaning of the term has been altered according as the war position has varied and extended.

The matter now is dealt with by National Security Regulation (Military Forces), or one of those regulations, which enables the Governor to declare any area within which troops subject to military law shall be deemed to be on active service. The regulation to which I refer is to be found in Vol. 1 of the Manual of National Security Legislation (third edition) at page 641. The clause in question is No. 14, and it states that a man may be on active service whenever he is serving in an area in respect of which the Governor-General declares that the persons subject to military law serving in that area are "on active service." By a proclamation in the "Commonwealth Gazette" of the 15th April, 1942, the Governor-General declared that the whole area in the Commonwealth of Australia and the area of each of the Territories of the Commonwealth should be areas within which any person under military law should be deemed to be on active service. The result of this definition in the Bill now before the House

is that all men and women subject to military law within Australia or its Territories, or in any place outside Australia in the Pacific zone, would be on active service, and persons subject to military law within Australia and other areas would be on active service, and this term would include the A.W.A.S. and the W.A.A.F.S., and the other auxiliary forces in which women are engaged, as well as the other services.

It is a most comprehensive definition, taking in any person, man or woman, who is subject to military law. Of course, in addition to the persons subject to military law inside Australia and its Territories and in the Pacific zone are those persons in the Army, Navy and Air Force further afield. They would also be on active service in practically every case, but in this Bill we are not concerned with people beyond the Pacific zone for the reasons explained by the Minister and which I may say I think he has justified. So we have a Bill, in the most comprehensive terms, and the people it affects and on whom the franchise is to be bestowed are all Western Australians who were living in districts in this State immediately before they enlisted, provided they are subject to military law, including—so far as I can see—women engaged in the auxiliary services. However, the matter is one mainly for the Committee stage, and I propose to reserve any further comments and suggested variations to improve the Bill until such time as it is being dealt with in Committee.

HON. N. KEENAN (Nedlands): I desire to make a few observations before the second reading of this Bill is taken. It will be remembered that this House previously considered another somewhat similar Bill, the intent of which was, of course, to give the right to exercise the franchise to Western Australians who were absent from the State of account of war duties. At that time we on the Opposition side endeavoured to liberalise the measure in its sphere, and in fact succeeded in so doing. As a result, this measure commends itself to me, as it does to all members on this side of the House. The Bill may be described as being one to give a certain privilege to members of the Forces in respect of the franchise. The ground for giving that privilege is fully justified. If—as has been put forward by the Minister when he did a little bit of a

steal from our language when dealing with the former Bill—a man is prepared to fight for us and is in fact fighting for us, then he certainly deserved to be given the privilege, and it is a privilege, to vote. It is a privilege which I am afraid is not regarded by everyone as it should be. It is a matter of the greatest importance to any democracy to ensure that all the people understand the privilege of the vote, and exercise it.

Mr. W. Hegney: They understand the right, but not the privilege.

Hon. N. KEENAN: If the hon. member wants to draw a distinction between the two words, I stand corrected. I think he only wants to show that he has given the matter careful consideration. While I confess that I do not for a moment imagine that I would ever be able to discharge the debt I owe to those defending our liberties, including every member of the United Nations' Armies, because we in Australia, although we are a very fine fighting force, could not carry this contest to a successful issue without the aid of every soldier fighting on the side of the United Nations, I find no enthusiasm, on my part, at any rate, to give these special privileges to every person in uniform, man, woman and child.

Mr. J. Hegney: Where are the children?

Hon. N. KEENAN: That might be the effect of this Bill. If there is one thing that unfortunately causes me to have thoughts that are not perhaps of the right kind, it is the huge army that walks about Perth in uniform. One is a bandmaster, a captain, a very worthy gentleman no doubt, who has taken part in various smoke-socials that I have had the privilege of attending, and what he is capable of doing he does very well. I understand that with others goes around the camps on some occasions, and probably the member for Kalgoorlie has enjoyed his efforts and endeavours to amuse the troops. I confess that while I feel a debt of gratitude which I cannot hope to discharge to the fighting men who are protecting my liberties and the liberties of all of us, I have no enthusiasm in respect of thousands of men who are walking about Perth in uniform and who would not and could not defend the liberties of anyone.

Mr. J. Hegney: Evidently they are doing essential service of some kind or the military authorities would not keep them.

Mr. Seward: That does not follow.

Hon. N. KEENAN: If the hon. member for Middle Swan spoke his mind, I imagine that he would not find himself enthusiastic when he meets those people. I was speaking to a working man, a very old friend of mine who works at a bootshop in Fremantle, and part of his complaint is that when he is returning home at night, very tired, he finds that every seat in the bus is occupied by a young lady in uniform—a very young lady, in his opinion, because he is a middle-aged man. I doubt whether the support of these young people could have been obtained unless the authorities had held out the attraction of the uniform. I do not object to their being in uniform, but I repeat that I am not enthusiastic about granting the franchise to men, women and children just because they are in uniform.

It is perfectly true that the Bill does purport in the definition clause to limit the extension of this privilege by stating that they must be on active service. They must not only be members of the Forces of the Commonwealth, which I presume these young ladies are, but they must also be on active service. The definition reads—

“Member of the Forces” means a person who is or has been a member of the Defence Force of the Commonwealth and who is or has been on active service during the present war.

But that term is very wide indeed. One person could apply a meaning to it that would be entirely different from the meaning another person would give it. We had to consider this matter when we were dealing with the question of granting exemption from taxation to those on active service. Unfortunately, the point cannot be determined from the commonsense view, because it is so wide. One of the judges said that everybody must be on active service, even if he is not actually fighting. What about Lord Kitchener? No one would imagine that he got into the front line and took part in the actual battles. Of course he did not. Nor could it be said that the general commanding the troops in Flanders ever took any risk by going to the actual scene of battle. So it might mean to one individual something quite different from what it would mean to another individual, and each might be perfectly honest in the opinion he formed.

I make these observations because it is essential that in the Committee stage we should define the position and say exactly

what we mean. I hope the Minister, when replying to the debate, will tell us what his view is. It would be interesting even if it were not accurate. This is my personal view: I cannot hope to discharge properly and adequately the debt I owe to every soldier who is defending my liberties; on the other hand, I have no enthusiasm for a proposal to give a special privilege to everyone who is in uniform simply because he is in uniform. Another matter I should like to deal with briefly is the provision in the Bill for discharged soldiers. A discharged soldier is one who has ceased to be a military man, or woman, and has gone back to the civilian state.

Mr. Triat: And he might be a real hero, too.

Hon. N. KEENAN: Yes. Suppose a man had been wounded and the wound was of such a character as not to permit of any further service; I presume he would be discharged. My want of knowledge of military affairs handicaps me in giving expression to my views. I suppose there are some men who have been discharged for reasons that were not at all honourable. Suppose a man had been persistently absent without leave!

The Premier: Such a man would be put in gaol at Fremantle.

Hon. N. KEENAN: I hope it is not a matter of frequent occurrence, but there must be cases where the discharge of the soldier has not been the result of any honourable reason whatever. Of course I realise that a man might be discharged on the ground that he was not likely to make an efficient soldier. I realise also that the navy will not take a man as a recruit without being absolutely certain that the applicant has borne an excellent character. An applicant has to produce evidence to that effect. If he cannot get it, that is the end of his application. If this Bill becomes a statute, it will apply to the Navy, Army and Air Force, and it is quite feasible and possible that some men will be discharged for what I might describe as other than honourable reasons. Are we going to provide that such men shall have some privilege far in excess of what is granted to the civilian population?

The Premier: Such a man might have rendered honourable service previously.

Hon. N. KEENAN: Such cases might arise.

Mr. Thorn: A shipload of men came back, men who were discharged and not honourably, either.

Hon. N. KEENAN: I am pointing out the difficulty that the use of a general term would involve. It would embrace not only the cases we want to cover but also many that we do not want to cover. We are going to give this privilege to possible cases of no merit whatever. Many Western Australians are serving still with distinction. For instance I might mention the boy from your constituency, Mr. Speaker, who has done honour to Western Australia in the discharge of his duties. He will have no vote. I admit it is impossible to give him the vote. But there we have a comparison. Shall we give this privilege to some that do not deserve it simply because the term will cover them, though we do not give it to a man with the highest record, a man who has conferred the greatest honour on our State?

The Minister for Mines: Does not that happen in civilian life with compulsory voting? A man might be convicted of an offence and get the vote a couple of years after he comes out of gaol.

Hon. N. KEENAN: The comparison will not lie. This is one of the blots in the Bill and I hope means will be found to remedy it. There is another matter that apparently has not been given the consideration it deserves. If the measure is to be passed, I presume it will remain on the statute-book and be in force for a period of 12 months after the end of the war. We must define what is meant by "the end of the war." When proposing to delegate certain powers to the Commonwealth recently, we had to take precautions to fix the time which would be covered by a vague statement like "the end of the war," because the end of the war might well be interpreted to mean the date of the peace treaty. We are not within coo-ee of recognising what is the predominant feeling in the world at large or amongst the United Nations; we might not make peace for many years. We might resolve to say to the people who have been warring with us, "You can have an armistice, but we will require some years to see what is developing before we come to peace with you and remove our military forces from control of your affairs." So it might be many years before there is an absolute end of the war, and for all that time this statute is to remain in force.

Reference is made to the South-West Pacific zone. That is purely an imaginary line. The situation must arise—it must arise in course of time unless we are going to carry on the war against Japan, not only during our lives, but also during the lives of our children—when that line will be crossed. To set out an imaginary line in the middle of an island so that a soldier will not know whether he is on one side or the other seems to me impracticable. It is not desirable to have such a provision in the statute-book, especially in the case of a one that is intended to remain there for a long time. I trust I have not dealt with matters of detail which should not be discussed at this stage, but only matters which stand out as something which must be determined if we are to make this a useful measure. I hope the Minister in his reply will explain his views as to what the term "on active service" means, and also his views as to the meaning of the term "discharged soldier," so that thereby we may be guided in the matter of any amendments we may think necessary, or any amendments which other members may think necessary to submit in Committee. This is a measure which discharges only to a small extent the debt we all owe to those who are actually fighting for us, and so of course I give it my support.

MR. SEWARD (Pingelly): I want to refer at the outset to what I consider is the disadvantage under which we on this side of the House labour by reason of the fact that we have not received our copy of "Hansard" until today, and therefore have not had the opportunity to read the speeches that were made last week by Ministers when moving the second reading of Bills.

Mr. Cross: The same thing applies to us.

Mr. SEWARD: That is a serious matter, and I hope that for the remainder of the session arrangements will be made to see that "Hansard" arrives in our hands earlier.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have made inquiries and am informed that the Government Printing Office is so busy printing the rolls that it has taken it all its time to get "Hansard" out today.

Mr. SEWARD: I appreciate that fact, but point out that we will be judged not by the date when the rolls are prepared, but by what measures are put through this Chamber. It is not fair that we should be asked

to consider measures when we are not in a position to grasp their contents.

Mr. Cross: Surely you have enough intelligence to read a Bill and give an opinion upon it.

Mr. SEWARD: When a measure somewhat similar to this was before us last session I opposed it. I have no great enthusiasm concerning this one. I cordially join with the member for Nedlands in his expressions in regard to returned soldiers. We cannot do too much for those men. We who happened to be at the last war thought we had very great difficulties to overcome and put up with, but when reading the accounts of what the men in New Guinea and other places had to go through I feel we had a very easy time in comparison. Nothing we can do for these men can be too great or too big a reward for the hardships they are enduring and the risks they are taking on our behalf. I notice that when the Minister was speaking he stated that the soldiers were entitled to have some say as to the Government that is to control their destinies when they return. I cordially agree with that sentiment. I think, however, we would be discharging our duty if we were to provide that an election should be held within, say, six months of the time when these men return, so as to give them every opportunity to take a full share in the responsibility of electing the House which carries on the affairs of the State.

Mr. Cross: Many of the soldiers will not return within six months of the end of the war because it will be necessary to garrison so many places with them.

Mr. SEWARD: Perhaps I should sit down and allow the member for Canning to address the House.

Mr. Cross interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The member for Canning must keep order.

Mr. Marshall: You can give way to the hon. member if you like.

Mr. SEWARD: The hon. member might not rise in his place when I have finished my remarks. I support the second reading of the Bill in the hope that we may amend it in Committee so that it may not be as dangerous as it now is. The only objection I have to a measure of this sort is as to the haphazard way in which it must be carried out, and as to the impossibility, practically, of effectively carrying it out.

The Premier: Any country that is at war is a little disorganised, you know.

Mr. SEWARD: Yes. Imagine if on the date that we must fix for the election this happens to coincide with a big forward movement in a particular zone! There will be officers in charge of that movement who will have the responsibility of the lives of thousands of men, a responsibility far bigger than we can imagine. Fancy asking these men to interest themselves in an election which will show who is going to administer the affairs of the State for the ensuing period.

The Minister for Justice: That was done in the case of the Federal election.

Mr. SEWARD: Too wrongs do not make a right.

The Premier: Surely you would not deny them the right to vote?

Mr. SEWARD: No. It is not fair to ask them to undertake such a duty. During the last war the soldiers were invited to vote on a referendum. I was not so struck by the way in which that was carried out to be convinced that we should repeat the experiment.

The Minister for Mines: There were two referenda, as well as an election.

Mr. SEWARD: They were not carried out in such a way as to create any enthusiasm in the direction of having a repetition of that sort of thing now. Our soldiers have a very heavy duty and responsibility to carry out in the task they have undertaken, and in my view we have been left the minor task of looking after the State while they were away, a task that we ought to be able to carry out. A measure of this kind affords a great number of loopholes. I believe there was an election in South Africa a few weeks ago. I remember where certain parties there approached the court for an injunction against the counting of soldiers' votes, but the application was not granted. Apparently there were some irregularities which came under the notice of certain people who thought they had sufficient ground to justify an application for an injunction against the counting of soldiers' votes. I wish also to relate an instance that occurred a few weeks ago. I happened to be here—I think it was only two or three days before the Federal election on the 21st August—and heard a gentleman say that there were 43 votes in from Garden Island "all for Curtin," and that there were 19 votes

in from Rockingham, "all for Curtin." I expressed wonder that such a statement should be made in this building. I want to know how it is that anyone can tell that there is any particular number of votes for a candidate two days before the date of the election and can tell for whom such votes were cast.

The Minister for Justice: The gentleman in question may have been guessing.

Mr. SEWARD: He did not say he was guessing, but stated that these particular votes had come in "all for Curtin."

Mr. Cross: Are you strictly correct in that statement? I have heard a different version.

Mr. SEWARD: That is my version. When one hears such things one wonders whether the polls can be conducted in a proper manner. I remember looking at a photograph in "The West Australian" only a few days ago showing the taking of the poll in New Guinea. The men were seated jovially around a table and a soldier was casting his vote while all present were watching the whole procedure. There was no privacy about it and that is the kind of thing I fear. I know perfectly well that an enthusiast on either side—I am not levelling the statement against either side—might unduly influence votes.

The Minister for Mines: There was a photograph in the Press of the Prime Minister recording his vote.

Mr. SEWARD: I did not see it, but I cannot believe that it occurred. I have sufficient confidence in our presiding officers here to assert that they would not allow a photographer to accompany the Prime Minister while he was voting.

The Minister for Mines: The photograph appeared in the "Daily News."

Mr. SEWARD: In the case I mention, one could see in the picture the table and ballot box; everything was there, so apparently it was a representation of what actually occurred. Those are my reasons for opposing this provision of the Bill. I am perfectly in accord with those who wish to do everything possible for our soldiers when they return; they richly deserve it, as the member for Nedlands said; but this is not the time to bother the men with a matter of this kind. I hope that when we reach the Committee stage it will be possible to provide some further safeguards, such as those outlined by the Leader of the Opposition.

I refer particularly to the power to make regulations when Parliament is not sitting, as members will not then have the opportunity to deal with them. We should know exactly what regulations are to be made, and we have the chance now. I support the second reading in the hope that amendments will be made in Committee.

On motion by Mr. Cross, debate adjourned.

ASSENT TO BILL.

Message from the Lieut.-Governor received and read notifying assent to the Supply Bill (No. 1), £2,500,000.

MESSAGES.

Messages from the Lieut.-Governor received and read recommending appropriations for the purposes of the following Bills:—

- 1, Farmers' Debts Adjustment Act Amendment.
- 2, Wood Distillation and Charcoal Iron and Steel Industry.
- 3, Electoral (War Time).
- 4, Coal Mine Workers (Pensions).
- 5, Industries Assistance Act Continuance.
- 6, Mine Workers' Relief Act Amendment.
- 7, Main Roads Act (Funds Appropriation).

ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1943-44.

Message.

Message from the Lieut.-Governor received and read transmitting the Annual Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the financial year 1943-44, and recommending appropriation.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 1943-44

In Committee of Supply.

The House resolved into Committee of Supply to consider the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year ending the 30th June, 1944, Mr. Marshall in the Chair.

THE PREMIER AND TREASURER

[5.59]: In submitting the Financial Statements covering last year's operations of the Consolidated Revenue Fund and the Estimates for this year, I am pleased to be able to say that we are meeting under much more

favourable conditions than those which prevailed when the Budget Speech was delivered last year.

War Situation and Federal Election.

Two important changes have taken place. Firstly, the war situation is much improved. Both in Europe and in the Pacific our Fighting Forces have gained such outstanding successes that we have solid hopes for believing that final victory is not too distant. Even should it be delayed longer than we hope, we feel sure we are now at the beginning of the end of this disastrous war. Last year we met under the shadow of the fear of invasion of our own land, whereas today that fear has been removed and we are able to conduct our affairs under conditions more approaching normality. Secondly, the recent Federal elections have enabled the people of Australia to express their wishes as to the type of Government they desire, and they have done so in no uncertain voice. The destinies of Australia will for the next three years be controlled by a Government which represents the political views of a large majority of the people, and will be able to function unhampered by the restrictive conditions that surrounded the Curtin Government in the preceding two years. The present Commonwealth Government will, I am sure, have the responsibility of piloting Australia to victory and through the early post-war years. It is well for Australia, therefore, that the Government which during the war will be preparing plans for post-war reconstruction will be the same Government which should see those plans put into operation without the interruptions inevitably arising from a political change. We can face the future with a high degree of confidence and with the assurance that both in the military and political spheres a great improvement has taken place in Australia.

Revenue and Expenditure, 1942-43.

In reviewing the figures for last year I have no intention or desire to weary members with a recital of figures and explanations of small variations. Figures are not easy to follow during a speech, and in any case they are all available in the tables which have already been presented to members. They will be explained in detail when the Ministers are dealing with their various departments. I intend rather to outline very briefly the principal features of last year's financial

operations and deal in the same manner with the budget for this year. In doing so I will refer to the chief functions of the various departments and show how they were affected last year and are expected to be affected this year.

Actual Results, 1942-43.

Last year we budgeted for a deficit of £33,810 and finished the year with a surplus of £24,436. The estimated and the actual figures were as follows:—

		£
Estimated revenue	.. ..	12,394,502
Actual revenue	.. ..	13,151,678
Increase	.. ..	757,176
		£
Estimated expenditure	.. ..	12,428,312
Actual expenditure	.. ..	13,127,242
Increase	.. ..	698,930

Dealing with the expenditure, it always follows that when there is an increase in earnings of public utilities the expenditure also rises.

Taxation Revenue.

Taxation receipts exceeded the estimate by approximately £17,000. Increases in Totalisator Duty, Probate Duty, Entertainment Tax and License Fees were slightly offset by a decrease in Land Tax receipts and Stamp Duties.

With the operation of the Commonwealth's uniform taxation scheme, the room for variation in taxation receipts has been very much curtailed. The bulk of our taxation comes from income tax; and, as members know, this tax has now been taken over by the Commonwealth, in return for which we receive a fixed amount of compensation.

Territorial Revenue.

Territorial revenue—covering receipts from land, mining and timber—was about £30,000 above the amount budgeted for. Most of this increase came from land rents, the result of a favourable season and a reasonable fixed price for wheat. Departmental revenue was £102,000 greater than the amount anticipated. A substantial increase in the revenue was earned by the Public Works Department on account of the full use of the new slipway being made during the year, plus supervision charges and hiring of plant on work done for the Common-

wealth Government. In preparing the Estimates we did not know the extent to which the slipway would be used, but I am sure we are all gratified to know that it has been in almost constant operation since it was completed some time ago.

Another department which showed improvement in revenue was the Forests Department. This was due to the sales of firewood being greater than was anticipated. Members know that in order to relieve the firewood position in the metropolitan area, the Forests Department undertook the supply of such wood as could be obtained. The expenditure in obtaining the wood and the receipts from the sale of the firewood are passed through the accounts of this department. We received about £24,000 more from the earnings of the Royal Mint than was budgeted for, the increase being due to the earnings from additional coinage contracts. The profits from the State Sawmills were lower than we estimated by £11,000. Public Utilities earned £620,000 more than was expected. Of this amount £430,000 represented additional earnings by the Railway Department. The Fremantle Harbour Trust also exceeded the Estimate by £94,000. Tramways earned £45,000 more than the Budget Estimate while the Electricity earnings were £11,000 above the Budget figure.

Expenditure for 1942-43.

On the expenditure side the actual expenditure under Special Acts was £33,600 below the Estimate. Most of this amount represented a saving in interest payments due to the Conversion Loan which occurred during the year, in addition to which provision was made in the Estimates for interest on new money. As members know, our loan raisings were very small, therefore little had to be paid in the way of interest on new borrowed money.

Departmental expenditure exceeded the estimate by £332,000. Treasury Miscellaneous expenditure was £225,000 more than was budgeted for. Expenditure under war conditions was £81,000 above the figure included in the Budget Estimate. War-caused expenditure covers the administration of the Civil Defence Department, Special Police, military concessions on rail fares—which were approximately £40,000 greater than the figure included in the Estimates—cost of emergency reserve stocks, departmental shelters, transfer of offices and provision of

internal sectors. Treasury Miscellaneous expenditure also included an amount of £101,000 representing State shipping losses written off for which no provision had been made on the Estimates.

Drought Relief.

An amount of £35,000 was also provided to meet known losses on Commonwealth drought relief money advanced. This is a wholesome reminder that the assistance rendered by the Commonwealth for drought affected farmers imposes heavy financial obligations on this Government. The money advanced has to be repaid by the expiration of seven years and, if assisted farmers are unable to repay their advances in that time, we have to find the money. We know from our experience that some money which was advanced will not be repaid and consequently at this early stage—though the loan has not to be redeemed for four or five years yet—we have made provision of £35,000 out of last year's revenue to meet the losses we know will be made.

Public Works Buildings.

In the Public Works Department the expenditure was £130,000 greater than the Budget figure. This was accounted for by the provision of £100,000 placed in reserve to meet deferred maintenance on public buildings. I shall have something to say in regard to this matter at a later stage. At this point I need only say that it was caused by the fact that we were unable to obtain labour to carry out maintenance on public buildings. The sum of £15,000 incurred by way of expenditure in connection with the new slipway was not included in the Estimates. As I said earlier the slipway has been in use almost the whole time since it was constructed. It has to be manned and expenditure is necessary on that account. The foregoing accounts for practically the whole of the variation in the departmental expenditure.

Public Utilities Expenditure.

Public utilities expenditure was £400,000 greater than the amount included in the Estimates. Most of this was caused by the Railway Department, whose expenditure was £333,000 above the Estimates. As the revenue increased by £430,000 this is understandable. Included in the increased expenditure, however, was an amount of £120,000

paid into a reserve to meet belated maintenance. Electricity Supply Department expenditure was £45,000 above the Estimate.

Result of Year's Operations.

The result of the year's operations is in keeping with the results achieved by all other States, with the exception of Tasmania. All States but Tasmania finished the year with a surplus, the approximate figures being as follows:—

State	£
New South Wales	1,115,000
Victoria	775,000
Queensland	102,000
South Australia	233,000
Tasmania—deficit	109,000

In regard to Tasmania, members may perhaps be aware of the fact that an additional grant was promised to that State by the Commonwealth Government following inquiries made by the Commonwealth Grants Commission. The additional grant was £200,000, which, if it had been accepted by Tasmania, would have enabled that State to show a surplus. However, the Tasmanian Government was not willing to accede to the conditions under which the grant was made and it was not accepted, because it implied a reduction of the grant in subsequent years.

Mr. Watts: That was pretty harsh!

The PREMIER: We were in a similar position the year before last. Owing to drought our finances got into a bad way and the Grants Commission recommended we be paid £150,000 more, but that had to be taken from the grant for the next year when it was expected our revenue would be greater. The same procedure was adopted with regard to Tasmania.

Mr. Watts: That is not the intention of the uniform taxation law—that grants should be made and taken back again.

The PREMIER: The grant was to be made on an estimate made five or six months prior to the closing of the financial year.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

The PREMIER: Before tea I was discussing the tendency of the Australian States, in the last couple of years, to improve their finances, and I was detailing what each State, except Tasmania, had by way of a surplus. Tasmania could have had a surplus if it had accepted the grant which the Commonwealth Government proposed to

make to it, but the conditions attaching to the grant were such that that Government did not feel inclined to accept it, and so finished up with a deficit of £100,000. That brings me to the point that it must be admitted that to a large degree, the satisfactory state of our own Budget is war-caused. The Commonwealth Government has spent enormous sums of money throughout Australia, and this has particularly applied to railway revenue for the transport of troops, material, munitions of all types and armaments. A tremendous volume of traffic has been carried over the railway systems of the various States, and particularly Queensland. Because the States are so fully occupied with their railway systems, their financial positions have improved to a large extent. As a matter of fact, generally speaking, the weak spot in State finances, throughout Australia, in the pre-war years was railway revenue. Now that has been improved by the Commonwealth undertaking such a huge amount of transport. Queensland finished the year with a surplus of £102,000, but was able to place in a reserve fund to meet post-war expenditure an amount of £5,250,000. Most of this reserve was contributed by the Railway Department.

Deferred Railway Maintenance Reserves.

In addition to swollen revenue, due to Commonwealth expenditure, the States were in the unfortunate position of not being able to carry out the normal amount of maintenance due to lack of manpower and material. It should not be forgotten, therefore, that the surpluses of the States are more nominal than real—at least to some extent—because each State is building up a fairly substantial liability for deferred maintenance which will have to be overtaken when the war is over. Most States have, therefore, very wisely placed sums aside to meet this liability. New South Wales regularly sets aside amounts to meet maintenance on railways, but so far the accounts of the Commissioner of Railways of that State have not been made available and I am unable to say what provision was made last year. Victoria set aside £1,800,000 as a contribution to railway renewals and replacement fund, while South Australia and Tasmania each made provision for belated maintenance, though on a much smaller scale.

In regard to our own railways, we set aside last year the sum of £120,000 for de-

ferred maintenance, in addition to which an amount of £116,000 representing the sale of rollingstock, for use on narrow gauge railways, to the Commonwealth was paid into a special trust account for additional rollingstock when it becomes possible to provide it. Similarly in the year 1941-2 an amount of £102,660 was set aside from the sale of rollingstock to the Commonwealth. In all, therefore, we have accumulated the sum of £338,660 to meet maintenance and renewals on the railway system, including replacement of worn-out rollingstock. For the information of members, I may say that the estimate of deferred maintenance and replacement of worn-out rollingstock as prepared by the Commissioner of Railways, is approximately £500,000.

Hon. N. Keenan: Does this £500,000 include the necessary supply of rollingstock?

The PREMIER: It does not include new rollingstock. It covers all belated repairs and maintenance which it has been impossible to carry out. It is hoped to be able to set aside some amount from this year's revenue, but the Estimates do not contain any specific provision for it.

Government Buildings Maintenance Reserve.

In addition to the deferred railway maintenance, we have made provision to the extent of £100,000 for deferred maintenance on Government buildings. It was impossible to get men or materials to keep those buildings in proper repair so we have put that sum of money into a suspense account to be utilised for this particular purpose when men and material are available. It is a matter for regret that this maintenance could not be carried out because there is no doubt that buildings quickly deteriorate if not given proper attention. Normally we provide the sum of £45,000 a year to meet minor repairs and renovations to our various buildings, but in the five years ended June last we spent £139,000 only. This means that we were below our normal expenditure by about £86,000. In order to be able to meet that expenditure when we have men and materials available, we put aside £100,000 last year, otherwise our surplus would have been that much greater. In addition to that amount, we have provided on this year's Estimates a further sum of £40,000, which will be placed

in reserve if not spent, so that a fairly substantial contribution towards meeting the rapidly growing liability has been made.

It is proposed to place that sum into a suspense account because there is no doubt that any amount of labour will be available when the war ends, and with this money we will be able to get on with the job. We would all prefer to have the renovations carried out now because buildings deteriorate more rapidly when not properly looked after. I suppose it will cost us much more than if we had spent a reasonable amount each year.

I think members will agree that the standard of our Government buildings throughout the State is, with a few exceptions, somewhat out of date. This is particularly true of our Government offices in Perth and I am hopeful that, when the war is over and manpower and material are available, a start will be made with the erection of a suitable type of building, to enable most of the Government departments in Perth to be housed together for greater convenience.

Mr. North: You have money in suspense for that.

The PREMIER: No, but we have a source from which we can borrow, the State Insurance Fund.

Mr. Patrick: You had the money and the site for the buildings at one time.

The PREMIER: Yes, and we had nearly sufficient labour.

Mr. Thorn: It will come in handy after the war.

The PREMIER: These are the things that wise Governments endeavour to hold over until the time when they will need every possible source of employment for the men returning from the war. As the Minister for Works constantly reminds me, the building trade is the greatest of any to absorb labour. It provides a tremendous amount of employment.

Effect of War on State Budgets.

As I have stated, the apparent financial buoyancy in the State budgets has been brought about mainly by war conditions. When the Commonwealth Ministers met the Premiers at the conference five or six weeks ago, the position was put before the conference with a request that the States should transfer their surpluses to the Commonwealth to assist in meeting the greatly increased war expenditure. The States did not

receive the proposal with any enthusiasm, realising that when the war is over, all the money that can be saved will be needed to overtake the arrears of work which normally would have been carried out during the war. Unless we have the money available to make good the arrears and put public buildings in order, we shall find ourselves in a difficult position.

Personnel Seconded to the Commonwealth.

The war has affected our operations in many ways. Nearly all Government departments are carrying out work on behalf of the Commonwealth Government, whereas many of the ordinary activities of our departments are either greatly curtailed or altogether suspended. Many of the senior personnel in the Public Service and departments have been seconded to the service of the Commonwealth. For instance, from departments under my control, the Secretary to the Premier's Office, the Auditor General the Conservator of Forests, a senior Treasury officer acting as Prices Commissioner, and others are engaged on Commonwealth work. The Commissioner of Railways has been on loan to the Commonwealth for a considerable time to supervise the construction of a special class of locomotive required for the north of Australia. The Commissioner's experience, both as an expert in railway administration and as an engineer, has proved invaluable to the Commonwealth, and I have received many expressions of appreciation and gratitude from Commonwealth Ministers and from other men not necessarily public servants but men like Mr. Essington Lewis, engaged in various phases of war work for the Commonwealth Government.

Difficulties of Railway Administration.

Mr. McLarty: Is the Commonwealth keeping the Commissioner of Railways for the duration of the war?

The PREMIER: No; some months ago the Commonwealth asked for his services for another five or six months. A lot of organising work still remained to be done, and I was satisfied to allow him to remain to continue that work. The carrying out of the work, however, will not be so important, and the Chief Mechanical Engineer can be allowed to remain with the Commonwealth. The Commissioner will be returning to the State within a few weeks to resume his

usual activities. Railway administration is a very important aspect of our public life and, while the department has done a good job in very trying circumstances, many difficulties are being encountered and it will be advantageous to have the Commissioner resume his duties as soon as possible.

Mr. Styants: It was an opportunity to test his ability.

The PREMIER: Yes, but I emphasise that there are many difficulties associated with railway administration at the present time. I referred to them the other day in reply to a question on coal supplies. I do not want to give tonnages, but it has often been the experience that we could not see coal supplies for more than a week ahead. Thousands of tons of wheat, which it was desired to bring to the metropolitan area or the port, still remain in the country owing to lack of adequate coal supplies. Members will appreciate, therefore, that railway administration is not an easy matter at present.

Fremantle Slipway.

The Public Works Department has also been affected by war conditions. Many technical officers of the department are on loan to the Commonwealth Government, and those remaining are supervising works that are being carried out either by direct contribution by the Commonwealth or by the State on behalf of the Commonwealth. The new slipway is controlled by the Public Works Department and is already earning substantial revenue. It is proving of great assistance to the Naval authorities, both of the Commonwealth and of the United States Governments. I had the opportunity of discussing the provision of the slip with the Commander of the Dutch warships here and the commander of the U.S.A. Forces, and both expressed extreme gratification that the construction of the slipway had been expedited. It has been in operation ever since it was finished, and will be required for many months to come.

Mr. North: Is that what Mr. Curtin refers to as the dock at Fremantle?

The PREMIER: No, that is an entirely different matter. The dock, as a subject for discussion, is absolutely taboo, for security reasons. I think we may take pride in the fact that the slipway was designed and that a great part of the machinery required, if not all of it, was manufactured in the State.

It cost a good deal more than was expected at the outset, but the Commonwealth has been generous in this respect, and has made a contribution to the extra cost.

Department of Agriculture.

Another department whose activities have been interfered with to a large extent is the Department of Agriculture, practically all of the technical officers of which are engaged on work for the Commonwealth Government, either in the way of technical advice or in charge of special sections of work. As an example of the diverse nature of the problems with which the department has to deal, I may say that requests have been received for advice on the suitability of soils on prospective air fields, on how to control various insect pests in military camps, and on technical problems connected with dehydration and canning. The department has been able to advise the Commonwealth on these matters, and the advice has assisted the Commonwealth in reaching its decisions. One of the department's officers is chairman of the State Nutrition Committee, and as such is closely concerned with the study of civilian nutrition problems occasioned by the war.

Flax-growing Industry.

The Agricultural Department has also been very active in encouraging the growing of flax and in the control of flax mills at Boyup Brook, Donnybrook and Yarloop. It is probable that flax-growing may prove one of the lucrative industries established as a result of the war, and an industry which may ultimately remain when the war is over. It has been demonstrated that flax can be grown very easily and cheaply in Western Australia. Though we had some difficulty in convincing the Commonwealth Government that land in this State was suitable for flax-growing, it is good to know that, thanks to unremitting representations by the Minister for Agriculture, that difficulty has been overcome and now fairly extensive areas are devoted to the cultivation of the fibre. The quantity and quality of flax produced have improved year by year, and the price received by our farmers has been a payable one.

Mr. Watts: Is the price likely to be maintained after the war?

The PREMIER: Not that price. There is always a fairly good price obtainable for

anything of quality. The Minister for Agriculture reminds me that the world's best flax maintains its price always. I consider that what we grow here is equal to anything grown anywhere else. Let me emphasise that, because of our anxiety to assist in wartime production, very probably we shall have established the nucleus of an industry which will be of tremendous importance to Western Australia in future. Mills have been established to treat the fibre, and water retting will be undertaken at Boyup Brook in the near future. While it is recognised that there will be difficulties in the way of continuing the industry when the war is over—because of the cheap methods of production which obtain in European countries—we are hopeful that the high quality of the fibre produced in Western Australia will obtain for it a market at prices which will prove remunerative to our people. A special feature of flax-growing is that it provides in the district in which it is grown an opportunity for crop rotation with beneficial results to other crops grown as well as to the flax.

Meatworks at Robb's Jetty.

Allied to the work of the Agricultural Department, though not directly under its control, is the operation of the meatworks at Robb's Jetty recently acquired by the Government, and now included as one of the State Trading Concerns. On a request being made by the Commonwealth Government, additional cold storage space for 1,750 tons of commodities was provided, mainly for apples and pears. The works had a profitable year and, in addition to paying interest on the full amount of capital involved, were able to contribute a small amount of profit to Consolidated Revenue. The works are controlled by a board of management consisting of Government officers, of whom the Under-Secretary for Agriculture is the chairman. Up to the present their activities have been marked by a considerable degree of business efficiency and success.

Grasshopper Pest.

Another matter which has caused the Agricultural Department some concern and a considerable amount of work, though not war-caused, has been the grasshopper pest. Substantial sums were spent last year on an attempt to eradicate grasshoppers by bait-

ing and by ploughing, assistance being given by the Government to enable farmers to plough those of their own lands which were affected, and also by letting contracts for the ploughing of agricultural properties in the affected districts which had reverted to the Agricultural Bank. In this year's Estimates £18,000 has been set aside for a continuance of this work, and it is hoped that by the putting into effect of these active measures the grasshopper menace will be kept in check. As we have very favourable climatic conditions and grasshoppers are endemic and not epidemic, everybody is not inclined to take the necessary precautions. However, whether we have good or bad weather conditions, the Government will continue to combat the pest.

Officers in Defence Services.

In the Lands Department the Surveyor-General's staff has continued to carry out work for the Defence Services, in the way of making surveys and in preparation of plans and maps. This diversion to Commonwealth duties has naturally resulted in considerable arrears in the ordinary work of the department. These will have to be overtaken when the war has ended.

Work of Health Department.

The Public Health Department has also been affected to a large extent by war conditions. Meat inspectors have been required to undertake additional duties in the inspection of meat for the Defence Forces; and the control of venereal disease has thrown a very serious burden on the department. The department is meeting the full cost of the special ward at the Perth Hospital for treatment of such disease, though small relief has been granted by the Commonwealth Government. It is hoped that further sums will be made available to assist in this work. The outstandingly satisfactory feature of the department's activities is the success which has attended the treatment of Army cases at Heathcote. Many men of the services whose health broke down as a result of the war have been sent to Heathcote. Of the 94 service men admitted since the outbreak of war, only 11 have failed to improve, while 42 have been discharged fully recovered and 32 have been discharged as improved, nine still being under treatment. That is an excellent record,

showing enormous improvement on the results from mental cases after the last war. At that time, I believe, a Victoria Cross winner had to be treated.

Statistical.

The staff of the Registry and Statistical Office has been kept very busy on the preparation of additional statistical data for the Commonwealth Government, and on preparation of certificates of birth for military requirements. The War Funds Council, which is attached to the Chief Secretary's Department, has had a considerable volume of work thrown upon it. No less than 350 war funds have been approved, involving subsequent supervision of the financial operations of these funds.

Prisons and Barton's Mill.

In the administration of the prisons, very complex problems have arisen, due to the need for evacuating the prisoners at the Fremantle Gaol and establishing, at very short notice, an emergency prison at Barton's Mill. While this evacuation created problems of some complexity, the change has opened up the possibility of a considerable improvement in the treatment of persons committed to our gaols; and the Government is having this policy explored. There is no doubt that the type of gaol which was provided at Fremantle is long outmoded. Modern prisons should make provision more for reformatory treatment than for punishment or retribution. All the trade shops have been transferred from Fremantle to Barton's Mill, where they are in full working order. In addition, new avenues have been opened up in the production of firewood and the burning of charcoal. It is hoped that as a result of the investigations which are now proceeding either a new type of gaol will be established at Barton's Mill, or a suitable site will be found for the erection of a new gaol where the treatment of prisoners can be carried on more in conformity with modern methods.

The prisoners at Barton's Mill have been engaged in the production of firewood. They have cut a considerable proportion of the quantity required for our public buildings, as well as quantities for use by private owners. A large quantity of charcoal for the use of gas-producers on Government motor-vehicles has also been obtained from

this source. Investigations are now actively proceeding with a view to establishing a gaol that will be reformatory in its character and where prisoners will be able to learn a trade during their period of incarceration, and thus be enabled to work at it when they regain their liberty.

I was astonished to read recently in a report that not half the number of men in gaol are tradesmen; they are mostly of the labouring class and are not skilled in any particular trade. After four or six months training, they develop skill in boot-repairing, tailoring and printing. I made an inspection of prisoners' work some three months ago and was astonished and gratified to note the excellent work done by prisoners who previously had had no experience of the trades I have mentioned. Prisoners prefer to be at a place in the country, such as Barton's Mill, rather than within the four stone walls of the prison at Fremantle. While we may have to return the prisoners from Barton's Mill to the Fremantle Gaol, the policy of the Government is that when a new gaol is built it should be conducted on lines quite different from those now prevailing at Fremantle.

Mr. McLarty: Has the Government decided upon Barton's Mill as a permanent prison site?

The PREMIER: No. There are difficulties in the way. Barton's Mill is situated on a catchment area; and of course it is undesirable to establish a permanent prison there, especially in view of the sanitary arrangements that would have to be made.

Mr. Doney: In view of what you have just said, I am surprised that Barton's Mill was selected even temporarily as a prison site.

The PREMIER: I was asked by the member for Murray-Wellington whether the Government intended to fix upon Barton's Mill as a permanent site. That is doubtful; although, as a matter of fact, the mill was stationed there for 15 or 20 years and no harm resulted. However, we cannot afford to take any risk.

Third Successive Surplus.

Before turning to the Estimates for this year, I hope I may be pardoned for reminding members that the surplus achieved last year was the third successive surplus enjoyed by Western Australia. This is a record, at least since Federation, and it is a

result which naturally gives me, as Treasurer, great satisfaction. However, not only has a record been created by these three successive surpluses, but for the second year we have reduced the public debt. This also is a record.

Per Capita Debt.

The per capita debt at the 30th June last stood at £205 2s. 4d., as compared with £206 8s. 4d. in 1942 and £207 7s. 4d. in 1941.

Mr. Watts: That is a saving of a couple of pounds per head.

The PREMIER: For every man, woman and child in Western Australia. The amount has not all been contributed by the State, because the Commonwealth pays a proportion to our sinking fund. With the increase in population and the contribution to the sinking fund of £1,537,000 for the last two years, our net indebtedness is slowly decreasing.

Improving Our Assets.

Mr. Perkins: What about the State's assets? Some of our assets are seriously deteriorating.

The PREMIER: I do not know whether the hon. member was present immediately after the suspension for tea, but I then pointed out that we have £300,000 in hard cash ready to expend on improving our assets, which I admitted had deteriorated during the last year or two. We have not altogether stopped spending loan money, but because of lack of material and manpower we simply have not been able to carry out public works, some of which are urgently necessary. However, I think that all these jobs will be fully exploited as soon as the war is over when no doubt there will be difficulty in providing employment for all the men returning to Western Australia. Comparing the State of Western Australia to a business I should say that it can be quite successful when developed and expended, when its revenue exceeds its expenditure and when it is reducing its overdraft. That is the position of Western Australia at the present time. There is more revenue than expenditure.

Mr. Patrick: Owing to the war.

The PREMIER: It is because of the immense amount of activity necessary to the conduct of the war having made a lot of money available. We have benefited to the extent I have mentioned. I freely acknow-

ledge that. Nevertheless this trend in regard to the reduction of deficits and reduced loan expenditure has not been inaugurated within the last year or two. It has been the tendency over the last five or six years. We have not been spending loan money. We could not get it even if we had wanted to. We have been doing essential work, but some work has had to be postponed. The finances of this State were getting into what might be termed an alarming position 10 or 12 years ago when the net debt per head of population varied from £6 to £10 per head. We had serious deficits and we were not paying anything off our overdraft. The position has immeasurably improved and I hope that procedure will be continued, because the long straight road to bankruptcy does not seem very far ahead when people spend much more than they earn and at the same time borrow money to keep themselves going. That tendency has stopped and we are in a sound financial position. I hope that will continue.

Estimated Surplus of £1,505.

In preparing the Estimates for this year very little departure has been made from the provisions to meet requirements as they existed last year. The estimated revenue is £13,136,558 and the expenditure £13,135,053 leaving an estimated surplus of £1,505. With the continuance of the Commonwealth uniform tax scheme the chief item for the adjustment of expenditure—alterations in taxation—has been removed from the care of the States, at least temporarily. Previously people awaited the Budget Speech with fear and trepidation as to the amount of additional taxation that might be imposed. To a great extent that has been removed because the Commonwealth has taken over our income tax arrangements.

Mr. Watts: We know there is to be additional taxation without your having to tell us!

The PREMIER: Well, it is not forecast in this Budget Speech.

Mr. Patrick: You get the benefit of the expenditure of it, though.

The PREMIER: No. I was going to remark a minute or two ago that the reason for the very tremendous improvement in our financial position was that this Government, supported by Parliament, was not afraid to levy a proportionate amount of taxation which would enable us to get round our

difficulties. Where we used to raise £300,000 or £400,000 in taxation 15 or 20 years ago, this House and another place passed legislation enabling us to raise £2,500,000. That is how it is possible to run the finances of the country if Parliament is willing to impose taxation on a scale of that kind. I am not taking credit for the Government. Parliament as a whole agreed to it—not only this House, but another place also. When revenue can be raised in millions by taxation, it is possible to improve financial conditions.

Mr. Watts: I have always said the best legislation was passed by the Legislative Council!

The Minister for Lands: It had to be initiated here.

The Minister for Mines: A lot of good legislation was passed out of the window, too!

Taxation Receipts.

The PREMIER: To return to taxation, receipts are estimated to yield about £12,000 less than last year. The items contributing to this decrease are the falling off in the estimated receipts for land tax and a known decline in the receipts from entertainments tax. Members are aware that early last financial year the Commonwealth Government took over from the States the right to impose entertainments tax and in lieu agreed to pay a fixed amount of compensation. However, we had the levying of the tax for three months and received from £12,000 to £15,000 more last year than will be received under the scale of compensation provided by the Commonwealth Government. The compensation payable to us this year for the loss of the tax is £98,000. Last year we collected nearly £107,000, the receipts for the first three months of the year being much in excess of those of any three months in the preceding 12 months.

Forests Department and Firewood Supplies.

Departmental receipts—that is from the Forests Department, the Lands Department and other departments—are expected to exceed last year's receipts by £97,000. It is hoped that the revenue of the Forests Department will be £32,000 more, due to the increased supplies of firewood, which will be brought to the metropolitan area, although, of course, expenditure will increase to the same, if not to a greater extent on this

account. We felt that we had a duty to the people of the State to provide firewood and this was the department most competent to do it. The Prices Commissioner would not allow us anything extra for the increased distance the timber had to be carted. However, we undertook the responsibility and, as a result, we did not have to ration firewood although we had made necessary preparations for the imposition of rationing had it been necessary.

Public Works Department Revenue.

It is expected that the Public Works Department revenue will be greater by £36,000, due to increased earnings from the slipway and a continuance of the work done on behalf of the Commonwealth Government.

Treasury Revenue and Grants.

Treasury revenue is estimated to be £24,000 above last year's actual receipts. The receipts from the Commonwealth are estimated to be the same as last year. So far I have not received the report of the Grants Commission and in the meantime I have budgeted for the same amount as received last year. From information I obtained when I was last in the Eastern States I have reason to believe that the grant will be somewhat about the same figure as last year, although from an analysis of the position it would seem that a slight increase is justified. We received £800,000 last year and the figures produced in support of our claim before the Grants Commission warrant our getting somewhat more.

Reduction in Railway Revenue Forecast.

The earnings of public utilities are expected to be £140,000 below the earnings of last year, the receipts from the railways being estimated at £146,000 less while the Fremantle Harbour Trust earnings are estimated to be down by £22,000. These are offset by slight increases in the Tramways and Electricity Supply Departments.

Mr. Watts: Why do you estimate so great a reduction in railway revenue?

The PREMIER: I think members will agree that we have had tremendous military movements of all types. I have seen it in districts where I have had to go. I think there is an indication that the war is getting further and further from Western Australia and the previous great activity in

railway transport will hardly be necessary this year, in which case the revenue will not be as great. I do not know whether it will be so, but it appears it will be so in view of the different conditions obtaining today from those which prevailed at this time last year when we were in danger of invasion and there were tremendous military movements all over the place—to Bunbury, Busselton, Southern Cross, Narrogin and other places. There was a lot of military transport to the northern areas. Unfortunately our coal supply is not increasing. The men employed are getting older and we are having no recruits to the industry.

Mr. Watts: You expect a reduction of £146,000 on the Railways?

The PREMIER: Yes, but the percentage reduction represented by £146,000 on a revenue of £4,000,000 is not very large.

Mr. Watts: It is a fair percentage in respect of one section of our transport facilities.

The PREMIER: That is so.

Mr. Patrick: Considerable arrears of wheat cartage have to be caught up.

Railways and Manpower.

The PREMIER: The difficulty is that we have neither the facilities nor the manpower to enable us to catch up on the arrears of wheat cartage. Lately, in order to increase the production of coal, the Government was anxious to put in another siding at Collie. The Railway Department advised the Government that it would be stretching the demand on the department to the danger point if 60 or more men were to be diverted to Collie for that purpose for a given period. However, the Government persuaded the manpower authorities to make the necessary men available, and the work is now in hand. That incident serves to illustrate the desperate position of the Railway Department with regard to its manpower difficulties. Of course, that is not peculiar to the Railway Department, but it applies to wheatgrowing, the production of vegetables and fruit, and in many other directions.

Mr. Mann: Yet thousands of men who have been trained for four years are doing nothing at all at present.

The PREMIER: That is a military problem over which the Government has no control. The member for Nedlands offered some pertinent remarks about that phase this afternoon, and we agree with what he

said to a certain extent. On the other hand, I cannot say to the military authorities, "You have 10,000 too many men here and we want their services to do this or that." That involves a matter, the decision in connection with which rests with the High Command as a problem of war policy.

Mr. Watts: But you do admit that our excess enlistments have been availed of to make up deficiencies elsewhere.

The PREMIER: I do more than admit it; I assert it. We can say that Western Australia has at least done the right and patriotic thing to a greater extent than any other part of Australia regarding the enlistment of both men and women.

The Minister for Lands: And the provision of money for War Loans.

The PREMIER: Yes, and in respect of production generally.

Mr. Watts: Therefore the Commonwealth should give us our reward.

The PREMIER: I have made that point, but I have been told that the same position arises in other States, and sometimes we are sarcastically reminded that there is a war in progress. We certainly have nothing to be ashamed of in Western Australia.

Estimated Expenditure for 1943-44.

The estimated expenditure is slightly above last year's actual figures, Governmental expenditure being less by £40,000 and that of Public Utilities by £21,000. This is off-set by an increase in expenditure under Special Acts of approximately £70,000. Payments for interest and sinking fund are expected to be greater than last year's expenditure by £60,000, although the recent Conversion Loan at a lower rate of interest will help to counteract what would otherwise have been a greater increase in interest payments. Then again, payments under other Special Acts are expected to be greater than last year's figures by £12,000. The main contributory factor to the expenditure under Other Statutes is the increased payment of pensions under the Superannuation and Family Benefits Act. Last year the Government made additional payments to the University amounting to £8,255 to assist the Senate in paying off an overdraft incurred during the last few years. The University authorities have been strenuously urging the payment of an increased subsidy this year, but the provision made is the same as that set out for the previous 12 months,

namely, £34,700. As members are aware, it is the Government's intention to amend the University Act, as a result of which it is hoped to implement some of the recommendations of the Royal Commissioner who investigated the affairs of the University. The discussion on that Bill will afford members an opportunity to express their opinions as to what amount of subsidy the institution ought to receive.

University and Education Vote.

The attitude I take up is that the provision for the University should bear a very distinct ratio to the expenditure on primary and secondary education and that if the Education Vote as a whole is increased, the subsidy for the University should be increased correspondingly. I cannot feel it to be my duty as Treasurer to neglect to provide the educational needs of outlying districts with regard to primary and technical education while increasing the amount of the subsidy paid to the University. I am a great admirer of the work done by our University, but our greater duty is to provide for the people generally a better system of primary education and increased facilities for tuition in technical branches. The point is generally accepted that it is essential to increase our educational facilities as a whole. Democracy cannot function properly unless the educational standard of the people is adequate. If we are to make any advance in our industrial development, the responsibility rests upon us to provide the trained personnel to man the various undertakings. With that end in view, increased attention must be given to technical education. The Minister in control of the Education Department, the Director of Education and his inspectors are going into that phase with the object of improving matters. One means will be by the provision of increased bursaries and exhibitions.

Mr. Doney: I hope those gentlemen will have before them the report presented by the Select Committee that investigated our educational system.

Technical Education Scholarships.

The PREMIER: Yes, they have it. As a matter of fact, we have never in the past granted scholarships on the technical side but only on the academic side. Now that industry will, we expect, play a greater part in our future development, the time has

arrived when we must set about ensuring that the technical side of our educational system shall receive assistance equally with the academic side.

Mr. Doney: That is one of the views expressed by the Select Committee to which I referred.

The PREMIER: Yes; the seed sown has at last brought forth some fruit.

Mr. Doney: I am very glad to hear that.

The PREMIER: While the amount to be made available has not necessarily been decided upon, I, as Treasurer, have said that if acceptable proposals are submitted for the expenditure of £20,000, I shall have no hesitation in increasing the vote to that extent. The officials of the Education Department are busy on that scheme at the moment. As members are aware, considerable expenditure has been incurred in the erection of the Perth Technical College and of technical schools at Fremantle, Leederville and elsewhere. At the moment, of course, much of the space available and the services of the present staff are availed of for the training of Army and Air Force personnel. Naturally we cannot refuse to provide that training and accommodation for the personnel of our Fighting Forces, but later on that extra provision will be available for increased technical education.

Mr. Doney: Is it your intention to extend those facilities to certain country centres?

The PREMIER: Yes, and we have done so to some extent.

Mr. Doney: To a very small extent.

The PREMIER: We have established schools at such centres as Wiluna and Norseman.

The Minister for Labour: The member for Williams-Narrogin seems to have a very dismal outlook tonight!

Farm Schools.

The PREMIER: The educational side of the agricultural industry has been removed from the hon. member's district of Narrogin. I hope it will return there after the next term holidays and that the farm school at Denmark will also continue.

Mr. Doney: So do I.

The PREMIER: There are two principal sides to farming and agricultural development in this country, namely, wheat and grazing, and there is still another distinct type in the closer settlement farming which produces milk, butter, flax, potatoes, fat

lambs and fruit in the South-West district. We could with advantage to the State have two farm schools, one dealing with wheat and another at Denmark to deal with closer settlement farming. The hon. member has induced me to give him information that I had not intended to give.

Mr. Watts: It would be a great pity if they were not continued.

The PREMIER: If the Leader of the Opposition wants to spur the Government on he will receive encouragement rather than adverse criticism.

Mr. Mann: Let us discuss it after the election.

Mr. Watts: I think we will discuss it next week.

The Minister for Lands: It was discussed today.

The PREMIER: Although no additional provision has been made for deferred maintenance of public buildings, we have provided a sum of £40,000 for that work. If that amount is not expended it will not go into ordinary revenue, but into a suspense account which will be increased by that sum.

State Financial Policy.

The policy adopted in dealing with the State's finances has been to keep a firm control over expenditure in order that all possible assistance might be rendered to the Commonwealth Government in the war effort, and I can assure members that no item of expenditure has been incurred without its having been very closely scrutinised in order that we might be satisfied that it was essential. While our efforts have been directed towards assisting in the war effort we have had at the same time our eyes to the future. The war has brought many difficulties for State Treasurers—not only for me, but for all State Treasurers—though some of the pre-war burdens have been removed. No State Treasurer has any anxiety in regard to relief of unemployment; his difficulty lies rather in the direction of finding sufficient labour and material to carry out what are considered to be essential works.

Our Future Economy.

No one knows what the future holds, and in this State I think we may claim that the war has placed us in a somewhat difficult position. We were just emerging from the stage of being almost entirely a primary pro-

ducing country and were hopeful of establishing more secondary industries, and thus relieving ourselves of the anxiety of economic fluctuations which are inseparable from an economy based on export of primary products. Three or four years ago our primary production went down by 30 per cent. or 40 per cent. That is too great a fluctuation in our main industry. If our industries are diversified to a greater extent failure of any one would not affect the State to the same degree as when, to use a homely phrase, we have all our eggs in one basket.

Mr. Watts: The member for Canning will be able next Wednesday to supply you with information about not having all your eggs in one basket.

Mr. Cross: We have done that too long.

Australia and the Atlantic Charter.

The PREMIER: Whether Australia as a whole can continue to build up an industrial economy no one at this stage can foretell. Australia has committed itself to the adoption of the provisions of the Atlantic Charter and, though I have no doubt that many interpretations as to the meaning of the Charter are possible, it appears to me to envisage at least a very great expansion of international trade.

Mr. Doney: They have to get something in return.

The PREMIER: Yes. The economic development of most countries after the 1914-18 war was towards the restriction of international trade and a striving after economic self-sufficiency. If as a result of the operations of the Atlantic Charter this policy of economic self-sufficiency has to be broken down, it is obvious that there must be very big economic changes, and problems of great complexity will have to be solved. It is possible that Australia will find itself in somewhat peculiar difficulties, because it is apparent that many manufacturing industries established in the Eastern States have been built up under the protection of a high tariff. If that tariff has to be reduced the industries which have found protection under it will have to evolve means of reducing costs, if they are to survive. One of the other points in the Charter is that access is to be had by all nations to the raw materials of the world. We do not know how these problems will work out.

Mr. Patrick: We have shown that we can produce steel at a very low figure.

The PREMIER: It is a good job that we can. One of the reasons is that our development of steel production has been of a modern character. Our plant and machinery have been installed during the past 15 or 16 years, whereas in Great Britain steel is being produced in foundries that have been operating for 50 to 100 years without having been modernised. Rationalisation of industry has not taken place to any great extent here, and it is not necessary because our developments are very modern and allow us to compete with any other part of the world. In this State our position for the first few years after the cessation of hostilities will be satisfactory.

Demand for Foodstuffs.

It is obvious that there will be a big demand for the foodstuffs which we produce in abundance. Everyone agrees that after the war there will be a tremendous market for foodstuffs of all types and varieties. The starving millions in Europe and other places will have to be catered for. I do not know how they will be financed, but I suppose the Allied Nations will be so impressed with the necessity to provide these people with foodstuffs that they will find some means to meet the cost. But unquestionably this State will be in a favourable position because of the fact that we have a tremendous potential capacity to produce these commodities.

Mr. Seward: Our wheat production figures are falling at an alarming rate.

The PREMIER: But with manpower they could be increased at an impressive rate. We have a tremendous potential natural capacity for the production of foodstuffs in Western Australia. If the man-made problems, and the commercial and banking questions can be solved we have immense possibilities.

Post-war Demand for Gold.

I also have confidence that after the war there will be a continued demand for gold, and that we shall see marked activity in the goldmining industry in this State. Gold will be used as a world-wide means of exchange. I have read a good deal about the proposals for financial reconstruction in America, Canada and Great Britain. It seems that there must be a medium of exchange, and I have not read one competent authority who has expressed any serious doubt about the necessity for the production of gold as a

means to stabilise world currency. We have a large potential gold production, and for a few years after the war all the gold that we can produce—and it is a big amount—will be assured of a ready market.

Need to Develop Secondary Industries.

In the meantime though we may be dependent for a few years on the export of primary products to help our economic stability, I feel that the Government must not lose any opportunity to develop secondary industries for the purpose of utilising our raw products, and to meet to a much greater extent our own requirements. I am not worrying about the trend towards the socialisation of industry. We must have secondary industrial development in Western Australia. If private enterprise is willing and anxious to come here and establish industries, the Government will be eager to assist in their establishment. If private enterprise shows no inclination to come here, industries must be established whether under a system of socialisation or anything else. If the Government can undertake this work, it will be done. I repeat that anyone who is prepared to establish a remunerative industry in the State will find that the Government will not be niggardly in assisting it; we will aid to the greatest extent not only financially but also with technical advice and in every way possible.

Production of Potash.

Members know that the Government is financing the establishment of an industry at Lake Campion for the production of potash from the alunite existing there in very large quantities. Experiments are also being carried out to ascertain whether it is possible to extract from the alunite pure alumina, which is the base for the manufacture of aluminium. It is hoped that these experiments will be completed within the next 12 months. In the meantime, the plant necessary for the production of potash is almost completed, and it is hoped that crushing will commence by the end of this month and that the works will then be in production. Potash is in very great demand, and I am confident that the works at Lake Campion will prove to be an asset of great economic value not only to the State but also to Australia, and will provide very welcome assistance to our primary producers. The production of potash will be ex-

remely useful in the campaign for increased vegetable and other food production in Australia. Throughout Australia there is a shortage of potash. A considerable amount of delay was experienced in getting the works at Lake Campion into production—a delay brought about entirely by war difficulties. Only a very small part of the plant could be secured in the ordinary way from manufacturers, who were already overloaded with orders for munitions and implements of war. In consequence, secondhand plant had to be improvised and perhaps the job will not be as good as it otherwise would have been. Day by day, however, we are approaching the goal of active production, and it is confidently expected that we shall be producing potash at the end of the present month.

Charcoal Iron Production.

Members may recollect that when the Industrial Expansion Committee appointed by the Commonwealth Government investigated the possibilities of secondary industry production in this State, it recommended that experiments should be carried out in the production of iron. No country can hope to have extensive secondary industries unless it has as a base an iron industry. One of the difficulties that has to be overcome is that of power. Unfortunately, we have neither hydraulic power nor good coking coal, but we have timber supplies that could be utilised successfully, I understand, for the smelting of charcoal-iron which, I am informed, is of greater value than iron produced with coal.

Mr. Cross: What about electric power?

The PREMIER: Our costs of producing electric current are higher than usual. In Tasmania the cost is .1d. per unit whereas ours is at least .75d., so we could not hope to compete with Tasmania in the production of electrolytic steel. I am given to understand that charcoal-iron is very valuable and that we have good prospects of success. I must pay a tribute to the officials of the Broken Hill Proprietary Company, Limited. They are anxious from the standpoint of Australian development that our efforts should be successful. Our engineers and technical officers were received by them with open arms and afforded all possible opportunity to obtain information. As a result, the Government was influenced to start production at Wundowie.

Tobacco Industry.

Another industry which should prove of great value to the State is the growing of tobacco. Some people were very pessimistic about the prospects of growing tobacco of good quality in this State, simply because it was a new industry. Of course our people did not have the requisite technical knowledge, but the development of the industry is progressing. It has been proved that large areas in this State are suitable for growing a high grade leaf. That produced here is at least equal to if not better than that grown in other parts of the Commonwealth. We have a market for all the leaf we can grow. I expect this industry to expand because the quality of the leaf is being steadily improved under the methods that have been evolved.

Ord River Irrigation.

Another direction in which the Government is turning its attention is the far north where experiments are being carried out in the Ord River district in the planting of various types of grasses which could be cultivated in irrigated areas. The Ord River basin is a very fine natural catchment and an immense quantity of water can be conserved. Engineers are investigating the possibility of constructing a dam that could be used to irrigate large areas. It is hoped that this land will provide pastures and ultimately cereals. The provision of pastures would improve the quality of cattle going to the Wyndham Meat Works for treatment, and enable employees of the works to take up small holdings to occupy them in the off season and thus assist in the development of the Kimberley district.

Mr. McDonald: How far would that be from Wyndham?

The PREMIER: About 40 or 50 miles.

Mr. McLarty: What area could be irrigated.

The PREMIER: That has not yet been demonstrated. We are going to experiment with an area of about 100,000 acres, but we believe that a considerable area can be brought under cultivation and, if this is so it will have a tremendous effect on the production of baby beef and of the quality of other cattle treated at the Wyndham Meat Works.

Minerals.

The Mines Department is making investigations of various minerals produced in the State, and already it has found that Western Australia is wealthy in many types of minerals, which not only have a very high value for war purposes but which should also prove of great worth in normal times.

Output of Engineering Shops.

Enlargement of the Midland Junction Workshops and the reorganisation of the North Fremantle Engineering Works have provided us with modern well-equipped engineering establishments capable of turning out high class technical equipment. Many private workshops in the State, as a result of the stimulus of war production, have been equipped with up-to-date machinery and I can foresee that 50 per cent. of the material we used to import can be manufactured in the State because of the modern plants that are now available here.

Shipbuilding.

The shipbuilding industry has been revived. Thanks to very satisfactory financial arrangements with the Commonwealth Government, a yard where a number of wooden ships will be built is now in full operation; and if there is a demand for this type of vessel after the war, we should be able to build them at payable prices. Though at the outset there was a scarcity of experienced shipwrights, a capable staff has been obtained by teaching carpenters and by the transfer of men from other industries. With the object of decentralising industry, wooden ships are also being built at another port, and it is hoped to make an early start at another port.

Mr. Willmott: A very good job is being done.

A Wonderful Country.

The PREMIER: As I have stated on many previous occasions, we have a wonderful country which, with population and development, can provide good living for many more thousands of people than our present population. The Government's endeavour during the war period has been to carry on investigations for the further development of the State, while at the same time doing our utmost to assist in the war effort. We are all looking forward to a better world when peace comes—a world in

which men can work and lead happy, healthy lives. Western Australia is a State in which that fuller life should be possible. When the war is over, we should be ready to move forward towards the achievement of that goal. The exploits of our gallant fighting men, to which I have previously made allusions, prove at any rate that Western Australians are a virile people. We who are not engaged in the active defence of the country have to hold this land as a heritage for the men and the women in the Fighting

Services, who, upon their return, will look to find employment with no great trouble. The Government's aim in all its activities has been to make it possible for them to return to a country which will give them the means of living the kind of lives for which the Allied Nations are fighting. I move the first division of the Estimates, namely—

Legislative Council, £2,012.

Progress reported.

House adjourned at 8.56 p.m.

**CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND.
ESTIMATE FOR 1943-44 YEAR.**

	£	£	£	£
SURPLUS FOR YEAR 1942-43 .....	....	....	....	24,486
Add Increases in Estimated Revenue, 1943-44—				
Taxation :				
Stamp Duty	913			
Probate Duty	5,712			
			6,625	
Territorial :				
Land	2,270			
Timber	2,404			
			4,674	
Law Courts .....	....	....	1,611	
Departmental :				
Forests		32,357		
Harbour and Light		3,181		
Lands Titles		1,099		
Native Affairs		7,772		
Police		1,511		
Public Trustee		1,353		
Public Works		35,809		
Treasury :				
Government Workers' Compensation Fund				
Surplus	18,118			
State Insurance Profits	30,000			
		48,118		
			131,180	
Royal Mint .....	....	....	4,241	
Trading Concerns :				
Recoup of Departmental Charges, Interest, etc. :				
Increases :				
Wyndham Meatworks		23,171		
West Australian Meat Export		2,844		
State Engineering Works		5,927		
Sundry Variations		738		
			32,680	
Public Utilities :				
Bunbury Harbour Board		2,000		
Goldfields Water Supply		4,221		
Tramways		10,249		
Electricity		23,096		
Sundry Increases		708		
			40,274	
				221,285
Add Decrease in Estimated Expenditure, 1943-44—				
Departmental :				
Literary and Scientific Grants :				
Special Grant to Zoo		5,000		
Treasury Miscellaneous :				
Expenditure owing to war conditions	12,237			
State Shipping losses	100,660			
Drought Relief Losses	34,825			
		147,722		
Public Works Department		56,107		
Unemployment Relief		8,345		
			214,264	
Public Utilities :				
Railways		44,171		
State Batteries		5,393		
Sundry Decreases		6,638		
			56,202	
				270,466
				516,187
Less Decreases in Estimated Revenue, 1943-44—				
Taxation :				
Land Tax	8,102			
Entertainment Tax	8,607			
Sundry Decreases	1,811			
			18,420	
Territorial :				
Land .....	....	....	3,707	
Departmental :				
Crown Law		2,021		
Friendly Societies and Registry		1,714		
Public Health		2,000		
Treasury :				
Interest, Perth Public Hospital	2,934			
Sewerage Capitalised Interest	5,174			
State Insurance—Assessed Tax	5,674			
Superannuation—Departmental Charges	4,518			
Sundry Minor Variations (net)	5,700			
		24,000		
Sundry Variations (net)		4,520		
			34,255	

CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND—*continued.*

Departmental— <i>continued.</i>	£	£	£	£
Trading Concerns :				
Profits recovered			722	
Public Utilities :				
Fremantle Harbour Trust		22,241		
Railways		146,370		
State Batteries		6,723		
Sundry Decreases		3,967		
			179,301	
				236,405
<i>Less</i> Increases in Estimated Expenditure, 1943-44—				279,782
Special Acts :				
Interest		19,112		
Sinking Fund		39,506		
Transfer to Reforestation Fund		5,290		
Superannuation		25,791		
		89,789		
<i>Less</i> Sundry Variations (net Decrease)		19,904		
			69,885	
Departmental :				
Treasury Miscellaneous :				
Exchange on Overseas Interest, etc.	8,833			
Royal Mint—Additional Grant	9,500			
Discount and Expenses on Conversion Loan	23,220			
		41,553		
<i>Less</i> Sundry Variations (net)		907		
		40,646		
Forestry		26,908		
Agriculture		19,899		
Public Health		10,716		
Prisons		5,396		
Education		28,561		
Crown Law		11,445		
Native Affairs		7,250		
Sundry Minor Variations		22,772		
			173,593	
Public Utilities :				
Metropolitan Water Supply		13,903		
Tramways		12,099		
Electricity Supply		7,147		
Sundry Increases		1,650		
			34,799	
				278,277
ESTIMATED SURPLUS FOR 1943-44				£1,505

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[Return No. 1.]

BALANCE SHEET OF THE GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA AT 30th JUNE, 1942, AND 30th JUNE, 1943.

—	30th June, 1942.	30th June, 1943.	—	30th June, 1942.	30th June, 1943.
Public Debt	£ 97,359,245	£ 96,988,206	Invested in Works and Services, etc. Balance—General Loan Fund c/d. ...	£ 96,374,863 984,382	£ 95,921,830 1,066,376
	97,359,245	96,988,206		97,359,245	96,988,206
Balance General Loan Fund ...	984,382	1,066,376	Consolidated Revenue Fund ...	5,964,432	5,939,996
Advances to Revenue Fund ...	5,966,200	5,939,996	Advances (under Appropriation "Advance to Treasurer") ...	458,927	302,314
Reserve Accounts	14,853	14,783	Stores on Hand	678,876	708,877
Suspense Accounts	62,421	89,441	Trust Fund Investments—		
Trading Concerns	111,856	76,836	Governmental	1,714,241	1,678,429
Trust Funds—			Private	1,770,422	2,018,863
Governmental	3,543,801	4,698,918	Banking Account	1,746,189	2,920,372
Private	1,972,198	2,203,963	Cash in hand, etc.—		
			Banks Current Account ...	194,337	477,021
			Banks in Eastern States ...	43,653	29,054
			In London	4,766	9,796
			In Transitu	9,582	5,593
			In Hand	70,286	...
	12,655,711	14,090,315		12,655,711	14,090,315

[Return No. 2.]

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1942-43, COMPARED WITH ESTIMATE.

SUMMARY

	Estimate.	Actual.	Comparison with Estimate.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Revenue	12,394,502	13,151,678	757,176	
Expenditure	12,428,312	13,127,242	698,930	
Deficit	33,810	...	...	33,810
Surplus ... ..	...	24,436	24,436	
Net Improvement			£58,246	

DETAILS.

Revenue.	Estimate.	Actual.	Comparison with Estimate.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Taxation	3,300,750	3,317,679	16,929	
Territorial	287,500	317,033	29,533	
Law Courts	82,000	68,389	...	13,611
Departmental	1,146,717	1,248,651	101,934	
Royal Mint	37,000	60,750	23,750	
Commonwealth	1,273,432	1,273,432		
Trading Concerns	128,003	106,708	...	21,295
Public Utilities	6,138,800	6,759,027	620,227	
Total Revenue	12,394,502	13,151,678	792,082	34,906
Net Increase			£757,176	

Expenditure.	Estimate.	Actual.	Comparison with Estimate.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
SPECIAL ACTS—				
Constitution Act	16,910	16,910		
Interest—Overseas	1,784,573	1,766,069	...	18,504
Interest—Australia	1,744, 16	1,731,432	...	13,384
Sinking Fund	594,750	594,154	...	596
Other Special Acts	488,082	488,906	...	1,176
GOVERNMENTAL—				
Departmental	3,008,511	3,342,430	333,919	
Exchange	500,000	497,167	...	2,833
Unemployment Relief	2,500	3,818	1,318	
PUBLIC UTILITIES	4,288,170	4,688,356	400,186	
Total Expenditure	12,428,312	13,127,242	735,423	36,493
Net Increase			£698,930	

UNFUNDED DEFICIT.

	£
Unfunded Deficit to 30th June, 1942	5,964,432
Surplus for 1942-43 year	24,436
Total Unfunded Deficit to 30th June, 1943	5,939,996

(Return No. 3.)

REVENUE.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS FROM 1934-35 TO 1942-43 AND ESTIMATE FOR 1943-44.

Heads.	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1937-38.	1938-39.	1939-40.	1940-41.	1941-42.	1942-43.	Estimate 1943-44.
TAXATION—	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Land Tax	121,895	117,682	117,249	124,083	115,229	99,580	122,063	136,455	132,102	124,000
Income Tax	235,331	274,794	283,539	582,097	741,178	859,617	1,874,400	2,141,332		
Financial Emergency Tax	684,980	827,119	971,372	1,074,561	1,214,695	1,263,700	295,288	43,208	2,546,000	2,546,000
Dividend Duty	318,058	361,367	427,966	184,028	141,036	150,449	188,570	149,329		
Totalisator Tax	53,393	59,892	60,782	57,041	57,146	51,669	48,423	48,045	61,870	61,000
Stamp Duty	259,732	281,192	273,274	290,360	283,921	260,096	245,067	229,082	209,087	210,000
Probate Duty	74,076	112,657	93,820	101,631	123,798	122,928	165,006	182,550	179,288	185,000
Entertainment Tax	83,951	89,246	95,232	98,610	103,463	98,722	98,692	98,284	106,691	98,184
Licenses	70,670	81,851	80,841	82,678	83,757	88,993	94,185	82,958	82,641	81,700
Other										
Total	1,902,036	2,185,800	2,403,575	2,594,987	2,664,223	2,996,054	3,127,604	3,111,250	3,317,679	3,305,834
TERRITORIAL AND DEPARTMENTAL—										
Land	250,688	206,831	189,111	170,600	138,176	132,757	139,190	127,157	157,730	160,000
Mining	45,049	42,242	41,538	38,584	41,201	39,893	34,558	32,579	21,707	18,000
Timber	110,504	134,318	155,469	165,126	137,395	143,585	151,079	160,083	137,596	140,000
Royal Mint	25,653	28,621	30,750	33,959	34,980	43,274	57,038	65,291	60,759	65,000
Departmental Fees, etc.	780,819	838,374	863,679	939,951	892,928	971,047	958,122	1,101,813	1,248,651	1,345,576
Law Courts	55,500	65,242	75,722	81,957	88,158	84,966	84,704	81,812	68,389	70,000
Commonwealth	600,000	800,000	500,000	575,000	570,000	595,000	650,000	630,000	800,000	800,000
Do. Special Grant	133,000	35,000	33,000							
Do. Interest Contributions	473,432	473,432	473,432	473,432	473,432	473,432	473,432	473,432	473,432	473,432
Total	2,474,735	2,624,080	2,363,001	2,528,909	2,376,268	2,483,924	2,542,124	2,662,167	2,968,264	3,072,008
PUBLIC UTILITIES—										
Native Stations	3,703	4,785	5,005	4,277						
Bunbury Harbour Board	8,400	8,500					500	11,500	5,000	7,000
Fremantle Harbour Trust	236,686	231,307	238,429	257,413	261,537	242,333	192,160	185,344	287,241	265,000
Goldfields Water Supply	187,949	240,461	286,848	293,873	296,994	310,728	347,748	300,198	273,779	278,000
Kalgoorlie Abattoirs	5,928	6,003	6,638	6,490	6,396	6,504	6,092	6,225	6,307	6,000
Metropolitan Abattoirs and Sale Yards	42,675	52,260	52,719	52,227	50,615	54,909	61,442	67,370	78,682	78,000
Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage	364,240	376,608	412,545	430,184	468,762	501,219	527,180	561,628	583,768	563,000
Other Hydraulic Undertakings	52,664	61,755	58,147	61,104	54,055	61,308	68,502	78,483	82,210	80,000
Perth City Markets	1,118	866	66							
Railways	3,277,544	3,424,494	3,468,657	3,645,942	3,586,013	3,407,529	3,573,979	3,808,806	4,446,370	4,300,000
Tramways, Perth Electric	234,813	287,103	285,797	236,568	302,354	304,866	334,561	402,693	469,751	480,000
Electricity Supply	322,674	348,425	364,063	387,037	414,519	425,715	437,988	462,786	477,904	501,000
State Ferries	8,799	8,514	8,468	8,231	8,148	7,762	8,404	9,964	11,337	12,000
State Batteries	116,062	126,298	122,532	125,072	120,095	124,424	110,756	70,759	42,723	36,000
Cave Houses, etc.	5,212	5,870	5,804	6,585	10,372	13,641	13,361	10,689	13,955	14,000
Metropolitan Markets	37									
Total	4,918,502	5,188,249	5,316,308	5,574,009	5,579,380	5,560,923	5,683,173	6,066,451	6,759,027	6,620,000
TRADING CONCERNS	38,107	40,612	102,549	121,137	129,809	89,042	79,167	100,281	106,708	138,666
GRAND TOTAL	9,331,430	10,037,721	10,185,433	10,819,042	10,949,660	11,119,943	11,432,068	11,040,149	13,151,678	13,185,558

[Return No. 4.]

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE FROM 1934-35 TO 1942-43, AND ESTIMATE FOR 1943-44.

Head.	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1937-38.	1938-39.	1939-40.	1940-41.	1941-42.	1942-43.	Estimate 1943-44.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Special Acts ...	3,842,339	3,918,351	3,997,418	4,181,908	4,270,903	4,402,863	4,511,542	4,583,533	4,695,471	4,665,356
Parliamentary ...	12,279	13,374	14,992	14,544	14,809	14,992	14,882	15,867	16,209	16,469
Premier ...	22,013	20,626	21,901	18,146	19,045	17,718	17,998	10,687	12,459	10,120
Treasury ...	21,788	23,781	26,454	27,211	28,780	29,788	34,205	34,313	31,053	32,004
Governor ...	1,980	2,339	2,419	2,487	2,474	2,401	2,382	2,437	2,444	2,493
London Agency ...	9,029	10,156	10,160	12,039	12,361	10,478	10,000	10,819	9,643	9,540
Public Service Commission	1,196	1,571	1,520	1,540	1,788	1,675	1,727	957	1,564	1,612
Government Motor Cars	4,857	2,256	3,584	3,597	3,151	3,383	2,924	2,443	1,589	1,094
Audit ...	11,291	12,420	18,333	14,190	15,739	10,416	16,653	16,425	17,273	18,050
Compassionate Allowances	5,176	6,711	8,182	7,162	8,992	6,230	2,599	8,386	3,056	3,141
Government Stores ...	12,357	18,738	14,637	15,643	16,862	17,135	17,769	16,956	18,194	18,303
Taxation ...	33,640	33,894	33,699	33,860	33,795	33,698	43,739	40,805	12,441	12,000
Workers' Homes Board	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Superannuation Board	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,250
Printing ...	52,878	53,564	56,905	61,049	60,914	68,356	66,921	67,425	68,415	70,000
Tourist and Publicity Bureau	1,760	2,112	3,752	4,387	6,638	7,144	7,109	3,887	1,489	467
Literary and Scientific	8,935	11,148	11,101	11,150	11,320	11,150	11,249	11,802	16,550	11,550
Miscellaneous and Re-funds	569,335	605,939	751,688	778,467	625,650	640,075	777,850	837,157	1,338,831	1,229,755
Forests ...	18,624	22,289	26,469	27,105	28,474	28,096	26,146	28,456	77,949	104,867
Public Works ...	49,206	87,627	103,335	93,682	100,757	98,416	90,453	98,902	261,977	195,780
Town Planning ...	939	1,374	1,414	1,478	1,653	1,725	1,679	1,787	1,635	1,650
Unemployment Relief	92,445	98,005	69,678	69,826	64,183	73,132	41,353	13,355	8,865	3,520
State Labour Bureau	48,723	51,094	51,743	52,237	56,785	56,077	56,519	54,202	55,353	60,013
Lands and Surveys	2,154	3,944	8,681	7,024	6,057	5,072	3,987	2,939	2,679	2,658
Farmers' Debts Adjustment and Rural Relief	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Agricultural Bank	75,535	87,254	100,419	118,174	117,049	112,640	108,885	107,559	105,370	125,356
College of Agriculture	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Labour ...	...	891	908	913	1,118	1,428	1,538	1,695	1,183	1,250
Factories ...	4,344	4,806	5,250	5,570	6,785	7,402	7,308	7,824	7,520	7,670
Arbitration Court	4,777	4,148	6,523	7,688	6,477	5,762	5,598	5,277	5,075	5,800
State Insurance	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Department of Industrial Development	1,599	1,572	2,235	1,884	2,518	3,891	3,639	8,176	4,680	4,904
Child Welfare ...	125,957	118,502	116,338	120,957	126,809	133,081	132,145	108,833	78,930	82,346
Mines, Explosives, Geological, etc.	120,685	145,720	144,092	142,504	144,103	139,698	129,847	123,341	112,264	112,307
Medical and Health	64,660	69,095	83,112	78,194	80,090	83,287	81,988	83,278	88,337	100,020
Mental Hospitals	98,218	101,248	107,269	112,004	120,453	124,490	128,423	134,578	140,240	144,000
Office of Chief Secretary	24,845	26,634	28,610	28,734	31,339	33,705	35,157	37,440	40,173	40,625
Prisons ...	25,620	26,674	29,084	28,015	29,513	29,949	32,879	32,373	33,465	43,861
Education ...	612,703	665,284	715,957	736,917	757,051	772,656	784,009	831,095	815,439	842,000
Police ...	219,683	223,394	239,458	243,124	255,378	258,846	269,795	279,743	292,070	296,574
Crown Law & Branches	65,767	78,374	74,194	84,663	92,204	91,694	87,586	88,272	87,127	93,274
Natives ...	12,608	14,083	20,008	25,202	39,000	44,644	44,900	44,000	40,250	47,500
Harbour and Light and Jetties	19,880	22,957	24,149	27,240	26,743	28,411	28,135	29,513	32,243	33,048
Fisheries ...	3,606	4,158	4,583	4,563	5,473	6,189	6,982	7,980	7,141	7,278
North-West ...	...	...	...	...	...	13	143	86	34	200
Total, Departmental...	2,460,818	2,648,636	2,935,670	3,023,170	2,970,790	3,032,083	3,142,615	3,218,882	3,843,415	3,802,744
PUBLIC UTILITIES.										
Goldfields Water Supply	128,369	114,411	120,334	125,155	135,389	130,055	136,763	145,022	134,642	135,750
Kalgoorlie Abattoirs ...	2,990	3,584	4,802	4,569	4,020	4,531	4,738	4,551	5,235	5,754
Metropolitan Abattoirs	27,866	30,231	38,550	30,830	33,912	34,480	35,172	40,975	49,041	47,864
Metropolitan Water Supply	97,133	99,202	101,357	97,088	101,990	105,268	106,655	138,205	126,552	140,455
Other Hydraulic Undertakings	47,095	51,092	60,142	61,090	58,635	64,960	63,316	61,093	74,878	69,945
Railways ...	2,943,560	2,498,412	2,691,698	2,669,131	2,902,677	2,800,650	2,783,203	2,998,484	3,490,171	3,446,000
Tramways ...	199,978	204,392	205,646	211,013	247,071	249,438	255,500	299,684	345,401	357,500
State Ferries ...	7,993	7,996	8,068	8,462	8,380	8,598	8,157	8,656	10,628	10,100
Electricity Supply	220,079	241,853	270,364	290,870	312,719	307,895	304,023	344,577	392,853	400,000
State Batteries	103,739	113,648	118,100	112,225	113,806	112,918	106,416	88,359	47,453	42,060
Cave House ...	5,636	5,760	7,786	7,468	9,751	11,925	12,261	11,360	11,502	11,526
Native Stations	5,190	6,902	6,693	6,777	...	...	...	...	...	...
Perth City Markets	720	678	110	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total Public Utilities	3,195,363	3,378,156	3,623,550	3,624,657	3,923,409	3,830,916	3,766,800	4,140,966	4,688,356	4,666,953
GRAND TOTAL ...	5,498,626	5,945,843	10,556,638	10,829,735	11,170,102	11,266,668	11,420,057	11,938,381	13,127,242	13,150,593

Return No. 5.]

STATEMENT SHOWING ANNUAL SURPLUSES AND DEFICIENCIES OF CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND,
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS 1900-01 TO 1942-43.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Annual.	
			Surplus.	Deficiency.
	£	£	£	£
1900-01	3,078,033	3,165,244	...	87,211
1901-02	3,688,049	3,490,026	198,023	...
1902-03	3,630,238	3,521,763	108,475	...
1903-04	3,550,016	3,698,311	...	148,295
1904-05	3,615,340	3,745,225	...	129,885
1905-06	3,558,939	3,632,318	...	73,379
1906-07	3,401,354	3,490,183	...	88,829
1907-08	3,376,641	3,379,006	...	2,365
1908-09	3,267,014	3,368,551	...	101,537
1909-1910	3,657,670	3,447,731	209,939	...
1910-1911	3,850,439	3,734,448	115,991	...
1911-1912	3,966,673	4,101,082	...	134,409
1912-1913	4,596,659	4,787,064	...	190,405
1913-1914	5,205,343	5,340,754	...	135,411
1914-1915	5,140,725	5,706,541	...	565,816
1915-1916	5,356,978	5,705,201	...	348,223
1916-1917	4,577,007	5,276,764	...	699,757
1917-1918	4,622,536	5,328,279	...	705,743
1918-1919	4,944,851	5,596,566	...	652,015
1919-1920	5,863,501	6,531,725	...	668,225
1920-1921	6,789,565	7,476,291	...	686,725
1921-1922	6,907,107	7,639,242	...	732,135
1922-1923	7,207,492	7,612,856	...	405,364
1923-1924	7,865,695	8,094,753	...	229,158
1924-1925	8,381,446	8,439,844	...	58,398
1925-1926	8,806,186	8,907,309	...	99,143
1926-1927	9,750,833	9,722,588	28,245	...
1927-1928	9,807,949	9,834,415	...	26,466
1928-1929	9,947,951	10,223,919	...	275,968
1929-1930	9,750,515	10,268,519	...	518,004
1930-1931	8,686,756	10,107,295	...	1,420,539
1931-1932	8,035,316	9,593,212	...	1,557,896
1932-1933	8,332,153	9,196,234	...	864,081
1933-1934	8,481,697	9,270,609	...	788,912
1934-1935	9,331,430	9,498,525	...	167,095
1935-1936	10,033,721	9,945,343	88,378	...
1936-1937	10,185,433	10,556,638	...	371,205
1937-1938	10,819,042	10,829,735	...	10,693
1938-1939	10,949,660	11,170,102	...	220,442
1939-1940	11,119,943	11,266,768	...	146,825
1940-1941	11,432,068	11,420,957	11,111	...
1941-1942	11,940,149	11,938,381	1,768	...
1942-1943	13,151,678	13,127,242	24,436	...

[Return No. 6.]

LOAN EXPENDITURE FOR 1942-43 COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS YEARS.

(EXCLUSIVE OF LOAN SUSPENSE EXPENDITURE).

Undertakings.	1942-43.	1941-42.	1940-41.	1939-40.	1938-39.	1937-38.	1936-37.	1935-36.	1934-35.	1933-34.	1932-33.	1931-32.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Railways, including Land Resumptions	23,781	29,890	102,476	102,153	198,065	349,393	178,882	116,240	295,076	316,124	180,567	137,186
Tramways—Perth Electric	71,940	29,857	9,109	125	8,042	8,512	35,501	...	...	11,290	5,601	...
Electric Power Station	56,136	22,578	15,125	1,097	17,919	39,977	109,837	281,165	203,268	2,069	918	3,681
Fremantle Harbour Works	63,817	97,168	51,853	15,845	34,603	31,691	78,781	100,058	98,688	91,975	169,616	37,694
Harbours and Rivers generally	3,401	3,251	24,518	36,081	57,689	70,240	108,065	200,949	206,830	154,169	72,302	39,882
Sewerage—Perth and Fremantle	17,494	71,112	115,483	242,105	351,400	253,490	381,334	455,901	380,199	177,673	125,055	90,669
Water Supplies <i>a</i>	73,003	270,451	754,483	611,559	584,132	709,742	831,636	819,339	784,605	656,072	656,640	437,315
Development of Goldfields <i>b</i>	137,854	17,790	43,453	55,908	42,015	29,071	20,550	27,167	59,882	74,166	30,041	27,932
Development of Agriculture	28,997	91,814	165,747	205,611	179,482	154,658	187,711	217,644	341,850	366,116	267,150	125,604
Assistance to Settlers, Industries, etc.	6,048	8,429	12,895	9,198	442	8,471	5,570	9,289	6,921	113,535	94,679	79,516
Agricultural Group Settlement	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,618	26,073	115,904	79,646	67,518
Land Settlement for Soldiers	121	8	679	417	540	87	434	427	331	1,199	403	12,284
College of Agriculture	41	775	1,116	443	679	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Immigration	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	132	461	500
Agricultural Bank—Working Capital	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50,000	325,000	303,257	317,460
Steamships	...	...	417	3,000	15,023	215,325	58,385	...	...	...	...	...
Workers' Homes—Working Capital	...	...	10,000	10,000	...	25,000	35,000	...	35,000	35,000	35,000	...
State Hotels	1	147	20,702	9,173	4,999	18,922	4,647	8,000	...	519	...	413
Ferries	2,211	2,843	1,646	...	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
State Engineering Works	15,571	39,429	7,571	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Public Buildings	53,151	35,239	57,231	103,535	114,954	91,726	89,182	84,454	108,418	98,020	34,634	...
Hospital Buildings and Equipment, including Grants	75,000	59,291	300,000	3,194	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Roads and Bridges	...	...	41,734	326,000	65,000	160,038	83,294	182,902	213,804	124,647	89,004	...
Sundries	130	613	5,000	9,415	9,000	...	5,448	593	c 25,103	b 412	1	a 2,244
Bulk Handling of Wheat	...	...	5,204	4,478	7,049	62,493	...	...	...	...	...	...
Boys Quarries	...	...	...	2,645	1,586	600	...	...	...	...	...	...
Air Raid Precautions	60,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
West Australian Meat Export Works	85,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Native Stations, Hospitals, etc.	...	11,207	14,000	8,294	5,500	5,568	470	421	337	...	...	...
Discount and Flotation Expenses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	78,007	...
Totals	774,606	791,951	1,760,366	1,750,174	1,698,111	2,315,004	2,193,117	2,464,187	2,784,185	2,664,022	2,217,982	1,380,225
Less Expenditure from Loan Repayments	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Receipts	184,708	89,867	140,203	101,086	153,105	154,825	73,376	74,791	97,064	215,740	249,275	171,800
Net Expenditure from Loan Raisings	589,900	702,084	1,620,163	1,658,088	1,545,006	2,160,179	2,119,741	2,389,396	2,687,121	2,448,282	1,968,707	1,208,425

Includes Loans to Local Authorities for erection of Country Hospitals, etc., *a* £1,442; *b* £400; *c* £103.*a* Including Goldfields Districts.*b* Excluding Water Supplies.

[2 SEPTEMBER, 1943.]

[Return No. 7.]

PUBLIC DEBT.

(a) LOAN AUTHORISATIONS AND FLOTATIONS.

	£	£	£
Authorisations to 30th June, 1942 ... ..	...	119,548,825	
Authorisations, 1942-43 ... ..	...	384,041	
		<hr/>	119,932,866
Flotations—			
Inscribed Stock, Debentures, Treasury Bonds, etc., issued in Australia and Overseas—Net proceeds :—			
For Works and Services... ..	99,143,520		
For Funding Deficits	6,140,087		
	<hr/>	105,283,607	
Discounts and Flotation Expenses (including Cost of Conversion Loans), net :—			
On Works Loans... ..	3,972,714		
On Deficit Loans... ..	198,807		
	<hr/>	4,171,521	
			109,455,128
Short Term Debt current at 30th June, 1943—			
London	2,998,014		
Australia	6,305,000		
	<hr/>		9,303,014
			<hr/>
Total Flotations ... ..	...	...	118,758,142
			<hr/>
Balance available for Flotation ... ..	...	...	* £1,174,724

* Includes surplus of £46,415 under Treasury Bonds Deficiency Acts.

(b) LOAN INDEBTEDNESS.

	£	£
Total Amount raised to 30th June, 1942 ... ..	...	118,252,749
Flotations during the year—		
Counter Sales	50,820	
Instalment Stock	390,000	
Discount on Conversion Loan	64,573	
	<hr/>	505,393
		<hr/>
		118,758,142
Redemptions—		
Total to 30th June, 1942	20,893,504	
During the year:		
National Debt Commission:		
	£	
Securities repurchased	581,000	
Instalment Stock redeemed (Australia)	16,790	
Do. do. do. (London)	26,932	
Inscribed Stock redeemed at maturity	251,710	
	<hr/>	876,432
		<hr/>
		21,769,936
		<hr/>
Gross Public Debt at 30th June, 1943... ..	...	96,988,206
Sinking Fund ... ..	...	173,515
		<hr/>
Net Public Debt at 30th June, 1943 ... ..	...	£96,814,691

[Return No. 7—continued.]

(c) SUMMARY OF GROSS LOAN RAISINGS AND DISBURSEMENTS.

<i>Raisings.</i>		<i>Disbursements.</i>	
	£		£
Total Flotations, as per Return 7 (b)—		Discounts and Expenses—	
To 30th June, 1942 ...	118,252,749	To 30th June, 1942 (Net) ...	3,898,673
During Year 1942-43 ...	505,393	During Year 1942-43 ...	74,041
Receipts from Loan Repayments—		Redemption of Agricultural Bank Mortgage Bonds ...	1,566,000
To 30th June, 1942 ...	2,021,871	Deficits Funded (including Discount and Expenses) ...	6,338,894
During Year 1942-43 ...	281,355	Advances to meet Expenditure pending receipt of Revenue ...	5,939,996
		Expenditure on Works and Services ...	102,158,017
		Loan Suspense Expenditure ...	19,371
		Balance of General Loan Fund	1,066,376
	121,061,368		121,061,368

(d) NET PUBLIC DEBT FOR HEAD OF POPULATION ON 30TH JUNE EACH YEAR.

Year.		Debt per Head.		Year.		Debt per Head.	
		£	s. d.			£	s. d.
1943 ...	...	205	2 4	1929 ...	...	162	6 9
1942 ...	...	206	8 4	1928 ...	...	165	10 7
1941 ...	...	207	7 4	1927 ...	...	157	14 4
1940 ...	...	205	0 8	1926 ...	...	155	14 8
1939 ...	...	204	7 1	1925 ...	...	146	3 11
1938 ...	...	202	19 8	1924 ...	...	146	13 6
1937 ...	...	201	15 2	1923 ...	...	142	9 6
1936 ...	...	199	7 10	1922 ...	...	137	1 0
1935 ...	...	197	11 11	1921 ...	...	†124	15 11
1934 ...	...	193	7 6	1920 ...	...	119	7 3
1933 ...	...	187	4 8	1919 ...	...	116	7 0
1932 ...	...	180	3 8	1918 ...	...	118	0 8
1931 ...	...	174	2 6	1917 ...	...	116	5 5
1930 ...	...	163	9 9				

† Compared with the previous year, £2 16s. 11d. of the increase is due to an adjustment in the figures of the population at the Census.

(e) CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AT 30TH JUNE, 1943.

	Securities Issued.	Re-deemed.	In Circulation.	Funds Invested.
Finance and Development Board Act ...	700,000	320,073	379,927	
Metropolitan Market Act ...	19,000	969	18,031	
Workers' Homes Act ...	189,000	8,530	180,470	
Agricultural Lands Purchase Act ...	587,471	464,479	122,992	3,376
	1,495,471	794,051	701,420	3,376
Bank Guarantees in force ...			156,230	
Metropolitan Water Supply Act *			76,898	
Land Drainage Act *			754	
Total, Contingent Liabilities ...			935,302	

* Principal and Interest on Debentures chargeable on the revenue and assets of the concern.

(Return No. 8.)

LOAN LIABILITY—STATEMENT SHOWING AMOUNTS MATURING EACH YEAR.

Earliest Date of Maturity.	Latest Date of Maturity.	Interest Rate.	Repayable in—		
			London.	New York.	Australia.
		%	£	£	£
...	1943	1½	...	...	*6,305,000
...	1943	2½	*2,998,014	...	...
...	1943	3½	...	...	1,831,820
...	1943	4-2625	...	...	1,100
...	1943	4-65	...	...	755,000
...	1943	3½	...	...	287,000
...	1944	3	...	...	72,500
...	1944	3½	...	...	286,000
...	1944	4	...	...	1,607,494
...	1945	2½	...	...	215,090
...	1945	3½	...	...	463,000
1944	1946	3	3,228,661	...	...
1945	1946	2½	...	...	247,233
...	1946	2½	...	...	266,000
1927	1947	3½	1,417,801	...	...
1946	1947	2½	...	...	236,150
...	1947	3½	...	...	32,630
...	1947	4	...	...	1,274,724
...	1947	5-0375	...	...	250,000
1947	1948	2½	...	...	920
...	1948	3	...	...	1,443,925
...	1948	3½	...	...	1,147,070
...	1948	3-4875	...	...	281,055
...	1948	3½	117,576	...	...
...	1948	3½	...	...	1,461,380
1943	1948	4	2,716,302	...	...
...	1949	3½	...	...	1,304,220
...	1949	3½	...	...	1,741,310
...	1950	4	...	...	1,341,198
...	1951	3½	...	...	3,952,210
1948	1953	3½	864,303	...	...
...	1953	4	...	...	1,238,774
1952	1954	3½	...	...	587,800
...	1954	3½	...	...	3,167,950
1935	1955	3½	3,204,904	...	...
...	1955	4	...	...	1,239,763
1953	1955	3½	...	...	2,467,805
1952	1956	5	...	1,498,444	...
1950	1956	3½	...	...	1,159,260
1950	1956	3½	...	...	476,000
1950	1957	3½	...	...	2,753,281
...	1957	3	...	...	147,012
...	1957	4	...	...	1,174,159
1947	1957	5	...	516,992	...
1950	1958	3½	...	...	3,116,230
...	1958	3	...	...	168,943
1950	1959	3½	...	...	25,150
...	1959	3	...	...	364,250
...	1959	4	...	...	1,167,005
...	1960	3	...	...	445,469
1940	1960	3½	877,408	...	...
1956	1961	3½	1,739,527	...	...
...	1961	4	...	...	1,216,546
...	1961	3	...	...	306,390
...	1962	3	...	...	181,454
1942	1962	4	4,866,583	...	...
...	1963	3	...	...	191,316
...	1964	3-1	...	...	1,568,000
...	1964	3	...	...	155,019
...	1965	3	...	...	31,502
...	1966	3	...	...	447,567
...	1967	3	...	...	537,274
1964	1974	3½	8,829,191	...	...
1945	1975	5	12,976,462	...	...
Average Rate 3-611%			43,836,822	2,016,436	51,135,948
			£96,988,206		

* Floating Debt.

[Return No. 9.]

SINKING FUND.

TRANSACTIONS DURING THE YEAR 1942-43.

<i>Receipts:</i>	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Balances brought forward, 1st July, 1942—				
National Debt Commission ... ..	...		267,425	10 11
Contributions:				
State—				
5s. per cent. on loan liability	258,955	19 9		
4½ per cent. on cancelled securities	314,507	6 0		
3 per cent. under Federal Aid Roads Act	17,623	6-11		
Special contribution on account loan for purchase of M.V. "Koolama"	20,690	10 10		
Exchange on contribution re M.V. "Koolama"	5,250	4 6		
Commonwealth—				
5s. and 2s. 6d. per cent. on loan liability	183,295	2 11		
Net earnings on investments... ..	5,385	18 6		
			805,708	0 4
			1,073,134	0 3
Disbursements:				
Redemptions and Repurchases, etc., at net Cost (including Exchange)	...		899,619	0 5
Balance, Sinking Fund, 30th June, 1943 ... ..	...		173,514	19 10
			1,073,134	0 3

TRANSACTIONS FROM 1ST JULY, 1927, TO 30TH JUNE, 1943.

<i>Receipts:</i>	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Balances brought forward—				
1st July, 1927—Endowment Policy (M.V. "Kangaroo"), Premiums paid	57,697	10 0		
1st July, 1929—Crown Agents	897,347	0 10		
			955,044	10 10
Contributions:				
On account M.V. "Kangaroo"	47,250	0 0		
On account, Crown Agents	40,312	13 5		
State—				
5s. per cent. on loan liability	3,472,606	14 10		
4½ per cent. on cancelled securities	1,961,621	1 4		
3 per cent. under Federal Aid Roads Act	275,520	17 5		
Special contribution on account loan for purchase of M.V. "Koolama"	113,767	19 7		
Exchange on contribution re M.V. "Koolama"	23,876	4 9		
Commonwealth—				
5s. and 2s. 6d. per cent. on Loan Liability	2,255,050	15 6		
Net earnings on investments	377,728	6 10		
Accretions to Endowment Policy at maturity	35,052	10 0		
Exchange on remittances	29,504	6 1		
			8,637,323	0 9
			9,592,373	0 7
Disbursements:				
Redemptions and Repurchases, etc.	8,192,689	12 11		
Contributions refunded to the State	636	17 11		
Contributions to Crown Agents	30,934	2 8		
Premiums on Policy account M.V. "Kangaroo"	47,250	0 0		
Repayment of 1934 Loan	998,353	7 3		
Repayment of 1936 Loan	140,000	0 0		
			9,418,858	0 0
Balance, 30th June, 1943:—				
National Debt Commission ... ..	...		173,514	19 10
			9,592,373	0 7

[Return No. 10.]

SUMMARISED CLASSIFICATION OF LOAN ASSETS, 1942-43. (a)

Undertaking.*	Loan Liability. (b)	Capital Charges (c).			Net Earnings.	Surplus.	Deficiency.
		Interest.	Sinking Fund.	Exchange.			
FULLY REPRODUCTIVE.							
State Saw Mills	£ 268,470	£ 10,000	£ 1,534	£ 1,371	£ 71,061	£ 59,006	
State Hotels	80,257	3,012	493	413	4,405	487	
Metropolitan Markets	153,513	5,791	612	790	8,762	1,290	
Abattoirs, Sale Yards, Grain Sheds, and Cold Stores	318,760	11,982	1,858	1,640	30,988	16,528	
Stock Suspense	24,027	902	142	124	1,750	582	
Tramways	1,347,109	50,553	7,523	6,932	124,347	59,339	
Small Loans Scheme	14,928	500	108	77	753	8	
State Ferries	9,487	350	47	49	709	257	
State Engineering Works	175,980	6,604	996	905	14,000	5,495	
West Australian Meat Export	219,193	8,220	438	1,128	13,487	3,695	
Loans to Public Bodies	66,769	2,506	417	344	3,851	584	
	2,676,493	100,442	14,518	13,773	275,013	146,280	

PARTIALLY PRODUCTIVE.

Railways (e)	28,080,404	1,001,241	157,514	137,301	954,200	....	341,856
Harbours and Rivers (d)	6,540,057	245,430	38,074	33,656	276,624	....	40,836
Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage	17,032,803	639,193	100,553	87,654	504,880	....	232,520
Mining Generally	848,876	31,856	4,984	4,368	289	....	40,919
Roads and Bridges	3,443,985	129,243	20,341	17,723	33,717	....	133,590
Plant Suspense	154,401	5,794	912	794	1,968	....	5,532
Pine Planting and Reforestation	1,005,413	37,730	5,824	5,174	46,470	....	2,258
Assistance to Industries	516,842	11,883	2,626	1,629	793	....	15,345
Agricultural Bank (f)	8,182,908	307,082	51,569	42,110	274,808	....	125,943
Soldiers' Land Settlement (g)	2,059,899	77,302	12,167	10,600	20,104	....	79,985
Group Settlement	4,293,038	160,730	25,334	22,041	31,898	....	176,407
Agriculture Generally	3,853,171	125,835	19,786	17,255	15,604	....	147,371
Bulk Handling of Wheat—Bunbury	71,208	2,672	421	360	900	....	2,559
Electricity Supply	2,013,092	75,546	11,606	10,361	85,031	....	12,461
Public Buildings, Including Schools, Police Stations, Gaols, Court Houses, Hospitals, and Institutions	4,144,730	155,540	24,317	21,320	5,330	....	195,856
Tourist Resorts	75,284	2,825	445	387	2,453	....	1,204
Workers' Homes Board	717,233	26,916	4,259	3,691	30,282	....	4,584
	80,923,153	3,036,818	481,020	416,430	2,375,071	....	1,559,206

TOTALLY UNPRODUCTIVE.

State Shipping Service	631,751	23,708	22,851	8,501	....	....	55,080
Miscellaneous	233,131	8,748	1,175	1,200	Dr. 730	....	11,853
Rabbit-proof Fence	334,548	12,555	1,976	1,732	Dr. 2,195	....	18,448
Camperon Alunite Deposits	98,994	3,715	50	509	....	....	4,274
Aborigines, Stations, etc.	94,144	3,533	550	484	Dr. 7,066	....	11,639
State Batteries	422,015	15,837	2,497	2,172	Dr. 4,729	....	25,225
Wyndham Meat Works	1,072,392	40,241	4,394	5,518	....	....	52,093
State Quarries	30,931	1,468	236	205	....	....	1,039
State Brickworks	52,231	1,060	308	280	....	....	2,537
	2,979,067	111,795	35,973	20,580	Dr. 14,720	....	183,068

SUMMARY.

Fully Reproductive	2,676,493	100,442	14,518	13,773	275,013	146,280	
Partially Reproductive	80,923,153	3,036,818	481,020	416,439	2,375,071	....	1,559,206
Totally Unproductive	2,979,067	111,795	35,973	20,580	Dr. 14,720	....	183,068
Capital Adjustments and Unallocated Costs of Raisings	3,403,121	127,711	21,591	17,514	....	....	166,816
Advances to C.R. Fund	5,930,906	89,100	35,238	....	....	....	124,338
Balance of General Loan Fund	1,066,370	31,635	5,814	3,573	....	....	41,022
	96,988,206	3,497,501	594,154	471,879	2,835,304	146,280	2,074,450

Public Debt, 30th June, 1943 £96,988,206.

NET DEFICIENCY £1,928,170

* For details see Return No. 11.

(a) This statement distributes the net cost of loan charges for the year over the various assets. (b) Total expenditure from loan funds (including proportionate cost of raising), after allowing for sinking fund redemptions and other adjustments. (c) Actual expenditure averaged over all assets. (d) To this should be added £571,846 included in Railway Capital. (e) Includes £571,846 being part of Capital Expenditure on Harbours and Jetty's controlled by Railway Department. (f) Includes £3,324,598 in respect of advances to settlers under Soldiers' Land Settlement Scheme. (g) Represents expenditure by P.W.D. on roads, bridges and drainage, and by Lands Department on repurchased estates.

[Return No. 11]

DETAILED CLASSIFICATION OF LOAN ASSETS 1942-43*.

Undertaking.	Loan Liability.	Capital Charges. (a)			Net Earnings.	Surplus.	Deficiency.
		Interest.	Sinking Fund.	Ex-change.			
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Railways (b) ...	26,680,404	1,001,241	157,514	137,301	954,200	...	341,856
Tramways ...	1,347,109	50,553	7,523	6,932	124,347	59,339	...
Electricity Supply ...	2,013,092	75,546	11,605	10,361	85,051	...	12,461
	30,040,605	1,127,340	176,642	154,594	1,163,598	...	294,978
<i>Harbours and Rivers.</i>							
Fremantle Harbour Trust	2,876,310	107,940	17,107	14,802	287,241	147,392	...
Fremantle Other ...	682,158	25,599	3,671	3,610	4,529	...	28,251
Bunbury Harbour Board	610,290	22,902	3,610	3,140	5,000	...	24,652
Bunbury Other ...	79,398	2,980	469	409	Dr. 851	...	4,700
Geraldton (c) ...	699,339	26,244	4,130	3,599	Dr. 1,367	...	35,340
Albany (c) ...	153,292	5,753	905	789	Dr. 1,439	...	8,886
Esperance (c) ...	15,951	599	94	82	18	...	767
Busselton (c) ...	20,351	764	120	105	...	...	989
North-West Ports (c) ...	576,472	21,633	3,405	2,967	Dr. 11,724	...	39,729
Swan River ...	445,759	16,728	2,632	2,294	467	...	21,197
Dredges, Steamers and Plant ...	231,988	8,706	1,370	1,193	Dr. 1,435	...	12,704
Other Jetties and Works	148,749	5,582	861	766	Dr. 3,805	...	11,014
(c)	6,540,057	245,430	38,374	33,656	276,624	...	40,836
<i>Water Supplies.</i>							
Metropolitan ...	8,090,434	303,611	48,060	41,635	442,389	49,083	...
Goldfields Water Scheme	3,059,469	114,813	17,862	15,744	143,174	...	5,245
Country Towns ...	1,087,593	40,814	6,354	5,597	22,070	...	30,695
Country Areas ...	1,146,766	43,035	6,734	5,901	Dr. 2,912	...	58,682
Goldfields Areas ...	955,818	35,869	5,649	4,919	Dr. 458	...	46,895
Irrigation and Drainage	2,517,582	94,478	14,862	12,956	Dr. 9,042	...	131,338
Other Works ...	175,141	6,573	1,032	902	Dr. 341	...	8,848
	17,032,803	639,193	100,553	87,654	594,880	...	232,520
<i>Trading Concerns.</i>							
Wyndham Meatworks...	1,072,322	40,241	6,334	5,518	...	...	52,093
Quarries ...	39,931	1,498	236	205	...	...	1,939
Brickworks ...	52,231	1,960	308	269	...	...	2,537
Engineering Works ...	175,980	6,604	996	905	14,000	5,495	...
Saw Mills ...	266,470	10,000	1,584	1,371	71,961	59,006	...
Shipping Service ...	631,751	23,708	22,851	8,501	...	...	55,060
Hotels ...	80,257	3,012	493	413	4,405	487	...
West Australian Meat Export ...	219,193	8,226	438	1,128	13,487	3,695	...
	2,538,135	95,249	33,240	18,310	103,853	...	42,946
<i>Development of Agriculture.</i>							
Agricultural Bank (d)...	8,182,908	307,082	51,559	42,110	274,808	...	125,943
Soldiers' Land Settlement (e) ...	2,059,899	77,302	12,167	10,600	20,104	...	79,965
Group Settlement ...	4,283,038	160,730	25,334	22,041	31,698	...	176,407
Rabbit-proof Fence ...	334,548	12,555	1,976	1,722	Dr. 2,195	...	18,448
Generally ...	3,353,171	125,835	19,785	17,255	15,504	...	147,371
	18,213,564	683,504	110,821	93,728	339,919	...	548,134

* See footnote (a) on Return No 10.

[Return No. 11—continued.]

DETAILED CLASSIFICATION OF LOAN ASSETS 1942-43—continued.

Undertaking.	Loan Liability.	Capital Charges. (a)			Net Earnings.	Surplus.	Deficiency.
		Interest.	Sinking Fund.	Exchange.			
<i>Abattoirs, Saleyards, etc.</i>	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Metropolitan Abattoirs	226,412	8,497	1,313	1,165	29,641	18,666	
Kalgoorlie Abattoirs ...	25,013	961	151	132	1,072	...	172
Generally ...	66,735	2,504	394	343	275	...	2,966
	318,760	11,962	1,858	1,640	30,988	15,528	
<i>Development of Mining.</i>							
State Batteries ...	422,015	15,837	2,487	2,172	Dr. 4,729	...	25,225
Generally ...	848,876	31,856	4,984	4,368	289	...	40,919
	1,270,891	47,693	7,471	6,540	Dr. 4,440	...	66,144
<i>Public Buildings.</i>							
Education (including Narrogin School of Agriculture and Muresk College of Agriculture) ...	1,658,361	62,234	9,730	8,534	Dr. 4,358	...	84,856
Police Stations, Quarters, etc. ...	172,671	6,480	1,010	889	Dr. 2,207	...	10,586
Court Houses, Quarters, etc. ...	44,282	1,662	262	228	2,152	...	1,057
Gaols ...	65,301	2,450	326	336	51	...	3,061
Hospitals ...	1,038,126	38,958	6,274	5,342	16,183	...	34,391
Institutions ...	633,004	23,755	3,703	3,257	1,800	...	28,915
Buildings generally ...	532,994	20,001	3,012	2,743	Dr. 7,234	...	32,990
	4,144,739	155,540	24,317	21,329	5,330	...	195,856
<i>All Other.</i>							
Aborigines Stations ...	94,144	3,533	556	484	Dr. 7,066	...	11,839
Assistance to Industries	316,642	11,883	2,626	1,629	793	...	15,345
Bulk Handling, Bunbury	71,208	2,672	421	366	900	...	2,559
Ferries ...	9,487	356	47	49	709	257	
Loans to Public Bodies	66,769	2,506	417	344	3,851	584	
Metropolitan Markets...	153,513	5,761	912	790	8,762	1,299	
Miscellaneous ...	233,131	8,748	1,175	1,200	Dr. 730	...	11,853
Pine Planting and Re-forestation ...	1,005,413	37,730	5,824	5,174	46,470	...	2,258
Plant Suspense ...	154,401	5,794	912	794	1,968	...	5,532
Roads and Bridges ...	3,443,985	129,243	20,341	17,723	33,717	...	133,590
Small Loans Scheme—							
Workers' Homes Board ...	14,928	560	108	77	753	8	
Stock Suspense ...	24,027	902	142	124	1,750	582	
Tourist Resorts ...	75,284	2,825	445	387	2,453	...	1,204
Workers' Homes Board	717,233	26,916	4,259	3,691	30,282	...	4,584
Campion Alunite Deposits ...	98,094	3,715	50	509	...	...	4,274
Capital Adjustments and Unallocated Costs of Raisings ...	3,403,121	127,711	21,591	17,514	...	...	166,816
Advances to C.R. Fund	5,939,996	89,100	35,238	...	...	...	124,338
Balance of General Loan Fund ...	1,066,376	31,635	5,814	3,573	...	...	41,022
	16,888,651	491,590	100,878	54,428	124,612	...	522,284
TOTAL ...		3,497,501	594,154	471,879	2,635,364		1,928,170
					Net Deficiency ...		£1,928,170
Public Debt, 30th June, 1943 ...	96,988,206						

(a) Actual Expenditure averaged over all assets.

(b) Includes £571,846 being part of Capital Expenditure on Harbours and Jetties controlled by Railway Dept.

(c) To this should be added £571,709 included in Railway Capital in respect of the following Harbours and Jetties—Albany, £110,077; Russellton, £34,704; Geraldton, £330,608; Esperance, £63,225; Port Hedland, £24,142.

(d) Includes £3,324,598 in respect of advances to settlers under Soldiers' Land Settlement Scheme.

(e) Represents expenditure by P.W.D. on roads, bridges and drainage, and by Lands Department on repurchased estates.

In Return 11 the average cost of servicing the Public Debt has been applied to all undertakings. In Returns 12-14 the figures as shown have been prepared in accordance with the published Commercial Accounts of the Utilities.

[Return No. 12.]

RETURN RELATING TO RAILWAYS.

—	1942-43.	1941-42.	1940-41.	1939-40.	1938-39.
	miles. 4,381	miles 4,381	miles. 4,381	miles. 4,381	miles. 4,378
Number of Miles Open					
	£ 26,082,078	£ 26,190,866	£ 26,160,572	£ 26,102,401	£ 25,925,555
Loan Capital	633,808	633,808	633,808	633,808	633,338
Revenue Capital					
Total	26,715,886	26,824,674	26,794,380	26,736,299	26,558,893
Working Expenses	3,447,512	3,025,919	2,757,891	2,828,329	2,911,570
Interest	1,031,816	1,032,870	1,030,279	1,028,014	1,000,799
Total Annual Cost	4,479,328	4,058,789	3,788,170	3,856,343	3,912,369
Gross Revenue	4,417,907	3,996,312	3,571,828	3,555,982	3,599,143
Loss	61,421	62,477	216,342	300,361	313,226

[Return No. 13.]

RETURN RELATING TO TRAMWAYS.

—	1942-43.	1941-42.	1940-41.	1939-40.	1938-39.
	£ 1,219,525	£ 1,155,290	£ 1,117,372	£ 1,107,402	£ 1,105,235
Loan Capital					
Working Expenses	386,906	318,000	281,507	275,003	278,526
Interest	47,700	45,327	44,635	44,521	44,469
Total Annual Cost	434,606	363,327	325,842	319,524	322,995
Gross Revenue	469,575	402,145	333,152	304,447	301,179
Profit	34,969	38,818	7,310	...	...
Loss ... ..	...	...	...	15,077	21,816

[Return No. 14.]

RETURN RELATING TO ELECTRICITY.

—	1942-43.	1941-42.	1940-41.	1939-40.	1938-39.
	£ 1,969,154	£ 1,930,817	£ 1,922,487	£ 1,926,579	£ 1,885,657
Loan Capital					
Working Expenses	394,738	360,455	314,066	312,181	324,266
Interest	78,126	78,156	76,086	75,491	67,568
Total Annual Cost	472,864	438,611	390,152	387,672	391,834
Gross Revenue	483,349	461,095	443,307	425,754	415,930
Profit	10,485	22,484	53,155	38,082	24,096

In Return 11 the average cost of servicing the Public Debt has been applied to all undertakings. In Returns 15 and 16 the figures as shown have been prepared in accordance with the published Commercial Accounts of the Utilities.

[Return No. 15.]

RETURN RELATING TO METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY, SEWERAGE, AND DRAINAGE.

	1942-43.	1941-42.	1940-41.	1939-40.	1938-39.
	£	£	£	£	£
Loan Capital	9,093,957	9,082,146	8,996,194	8,794,462	8,306,105
Working Expenses	106,709	100,233	86,451	87,952	81,604
Interest and Sinking Fund	449,692	437,653	420,916	401,888	378,242
Total Annual Cost	556,401	537,886	507,367	489,840	459,846
Gross Revenue	546,613	533,218	513,783	497,693	460,263
Profit ... ..	...	...	6,416	7,853	417
Loss	9,788	4,668	...	...	...

[Return No. 16.]

RETURN RELATING TO GOLDFIELDS WATER SUPPLY.

	1942-43.	1941-42.	1940-41.	1939-40.	1938-39.
	£	£	£	£	£
Loan Capital	3,059,470	3,024,998	2,944,479	2,724,111	2,513,042
Working Expenses	137,843	145,889	140,510	136,935	137,469
Interest and Sinking Fund	208,156	203,578	190,581	175,346	161,062
Total Annual Cost	345,999	349,467	331,091	312,281	298,531
Gross Revenue	(b) 279,960	(b) 312,456	(b) 362,164	(b) 322,377	(a) 331,457
Profit ... ..	...	...	31,073	10,096	32,926
Loss	66,039	37,011	...	...	...

(a) Includes Commonwealth Grant, £25,536.

(b) Includes Commonwealth Grant, £8,074.

[Return No. 17.]

SUMMARY OF TRADING CONCERNS.

	1941-42.	1940-41.	1939-40.	1938-39.	1937-38.	1936-37.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Loan Capital	2,314,961	2,292,595	2,275,597	2,249,545	2,251,247	2,041,263
Revenue Capital	203,640	192,974	157,794	157,794	162,794	163,035
	2,518,601	2,485,569	2,433,391	2,407,339	2,414,041	2,204,298
Gross Revenue	1,133,405	1,427,369	1,477,420	1,454,296	1,516,771	1,347,971
Increase in Stocks	14,679	8,640	1,657	73,066	206	9,562
Decrease in Stocks	25,241	34,928	75,253	111	52,865	8,949
	1,122,843	1,401,081	1,403,824	1,527,251	1,464,112	1,348,584
Working Expenditure (a) ...	1,071,494	1,318,216	1,331,462	1,444,176	1,341,466	1,244,740
Interest and Sinking Fund ...	122,645	132,853	132,740	146,999	116,319	115,273
Depreciation	20,638	31,675	38,080	49,673	37,741	41,361
Superannuation	338	...	...	...	...	...
Total Annual Cost	1,215,115	1,482,744	1,502,282	1,640,848	1,495,526	1,401,374
Profit ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Loss	92,272	81,663	98,458	113,597	31,414	52,790

(a) Includes provision for Bad Debts and Bad Debts written off.

Note.—Wyndham Meat Works—Financial years end 31st January, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942.

State Shipping Service—Financial year now ends 31st December. 18 months to 31st December, 1939, included in above figures for 1938-39.

[Return No. 18.]

RETURN RELATING TO STATE BRICKWORKS.

	1941-42.	1940-41.	1939-40.	1938-39.	1937-38.	1936-37.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Loan Capital	52,231	52,231	52,231	52,231	52,238	52,238
Revenue Capital	1,774	1,774	1,774	1,774	1,774	1,774
	54,005	54,005	54,005	54,005	54,012	54,012
Gross Revenue	47,377	37,667	33,498	42,605	32,848	25,279
Increase in Stocks ... ..	...	854	...	87	206	...
Decrease in Stocks	766	...	10	...	...	353
	46,611	38,521	33,488	42,692	33,054	24,926
Working Expenditure	42,411	35,409	31,981	38,008	30,620	24,359
Interest and Sinking Fund ...	2,820	2,820	2,819	2,828	2,849	2,821
Depreciation	1,384	1,557	1,463	1,743	1,685	1,838
Superannuation	338	...	...	...	...	...
Total Annual Cost	46,953	39,786	36,263	42,579	35,154	29,018
Profit ... ..	...	...	...	113	...	...
Loss	342	1,265	2,775	...	2,100	4,092

[Return No. 19.]

RETURN RELATING TO STATE ENGINEERING WORKS.

—	1941-42.	1940-41.	1939-40.	1938-39.	1937-38.	1936-37.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Loan Capital	168,548	141,554	121,554	121,554	121,554	121,816
Revenue Capital	123,461	123,461	123,509	123,509	123,509	118,750
	292,009	265,015	245,063	245,063	245,063	240,566
Gross Revenue	210,026	61,723	67,753	66,547	63,603	63,211
Increase in Stocks	14,679	5,270	...	...	...	...
Decrease in Stocks ... ..	...	...	822	111	518	6,801
	224,705	66,993	66,931	66,436	63,085	56,410
Working Expenditure	203,739	60,422	58,041	62,634	60,861	55,389
Interest and Sinking Fund (a) ...	13,886	12,448	12,390	12,390	12,443	11,726
Depreciation	3,870	3,848	3,848	...	...	4,091
Total Annual Cost	221,495	76,718	74,279	75,024	73,304	71,206
Profit	3,210	...	...	...	...	...
Loss ... ..	...	9,725	7,348	8,588	10,219	14,796

(a) Includes Sinking Fund not charged in the accounts of the Concern as follows :—

£366 £304 £304 £305 £305

[Return No. 20.]

RETURN RELATING TO STATE QUARRIES.

—	1941-42.	1940-41.	1939-40.	1938-39.	1937-38.	1936-37.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Loan Capital	39,931	39,931	39,931	39,953	35,596	34,996
Revenue Capital	872	872	872	872	872	872
	40,803	40,803	40,803	40,825	36,468	35,868
Gross Revenue	8,381	12,603	26,337	20,704	17,388	10,598
Increase in Stocks ... ..	...	...	1,657	1,385	...	104
Decrease in Stocks	1,160	1,091	...	...	394	...
	7,221	11,512	27,994	22,089	16,994	10,702
Working Expenditure	11,700	12,430	26,978	21,727	15,072	10,029
Interest and Sinking Fund	2,131	2,131	2,133	1,904	1,884	1,872
Depreciation	1,249	2,254	2,343	1,625	1,600	1,637
Total Annual Cost	15,080	16,815	31,454	25,256	18,550	13,538
Profit ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Loss	7,869	5,303	3,460	3,167	1,562	2,836

[Return No. 21.]

RETURN RELATING TO STATE SHIPPING SERVICE.

	1942.	1941.	1940.	18 months to 31-12-39.	1937-38.	1936-37.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Loan Capital	631,751	631,751	631,751	629,956	634,204	421,879
Revenue Capital	75,000	45,000	...	...	...	...
Gross Revenue	128,733	247,842	241,353	317,877	189,148	189,748
Working Expenditure	166,479	275,682	263,940	339,568	195,785	196,978
Interest and Sinking Fund (a) ...	39,925	38,141	38,046	53,676	22,426	22,292
Depreciation	13,813	23,589	23,512	37,873	25,118	25,118
Total Annual Cost	220,217	337,412	325,498	431,117	243,329	244,388
Profit ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Loss	91,484	89,570	84,145	113,240	54,181	54,040

(a) Includes Sinking Fund not charged in the accounts of the Concern as follows :—

£1,579	£1,579	£1,575	£2,373	£1,055	£921
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[Return No. 22.]

RETURN RELATING TO STATE HOTELS.

	1941-42.	1940-41.	1939-40.	1938-39.	1937-38.	1936-37.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Loan Capital	82,068	85,069	86,569	60,853	61,154	61,441
Revenue Capital	2,533	2,539	5,524	5,524	5,524	5,524
	84,601	87,608	92,093	66,377	66,678	66,965
Gross Revenue	58,725	60,572	63,547	62,429	63,456	61,434
Working Expenditure	52,320	52,543	53,229	52,461	52,034	49,937
Interest and Sinking Fund	5,941	4,818	4,772	3,607	3,609	3,401
Depreciation	298	210	353	240	80	129
Total Annual Cost	58,559	57,571	58,354	56,308	55,723	53,467
Profit	166	3,001	5,193	6,121	7,733	7,967
Loss ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...

[Return No. 23.]

RETURN RELATING TO STATE SAW MILLS.

	1941-42.	1940-41.	1939-40.	1938-39.	1937-38.	1936-37.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Loan Capital	268,110	269,679	271,181	272,618	274,121	276,513
Revenue Capital ... ..	...	19,328	26,115	26,115	31,115	36,115
	268,110	289,007	297,296	298,733	305,236	312,628
Gross Revenue	665,817	696,551	578,349	574,192	660,707	592,754
Increase in Stocks ... ..	...	...	...	2,332	...	...
Decrease in Stocks	20,176	33,837	113	...	14,889	1,795
	645,641	662,714	578,236	576,524	645,818	590,959
Working Expenditure	(a) 572,016	(a) 592,307	559,944	538,575	(a) 579,868	534,350
Interest and Sinking Fund	15,047	16,195	16,280	16,294	16,808	16,869
Depreciation	(b) 24	(b) 217	6,561	7,523	8,697	8,548
Total Annual Cost	587,087	608,719	582,785	562,392	600,373	559,767
Profit	58,554	53,995	...	14,132	40,445	31,192
Loss ... ..	...	...	4,549	...	...	...

(a) Includes £5,000 paid to Mill Construction Reserve Account.

(b) On new assets only. Temporarily suspended on existing asset.

[Return No. 24.]

RETURN RELATING TO WYNDHAM MEAT WORKS.

	1-2-42 to 31-10-42.	1-2-41 to 31-1-42.	1-2-40 to 31-1-41.	1-2-39 to 31-1-40.	1-2-38 to 31-1-39.	1-2-37 to 31-1-38.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Loan Capital	1,072,322	1,072,380	1,072,380	1,072,380	1,072,380	1,072,380
Gross Revenue	14,346	310,411	466,583	369,942	489,621	404,947
Increase in Stocks ... ..	...	2,516	...	69,262	...	9,458
Decrease in Stocks	3,139	...	74,308	...	37,064	...
	11,207	312,927	392,275	439,204	452,557	414,405
Working Expenditure	22,829	289,423	337,349	391,203	407,226	373,698
Interest and Sinking Fund (a)	42,895	56,300	56,300	56,300	56,300	56,292
Depreciation (b) ... ..	...	...	...	669	561	...
Total Annual Cost	65,724	345,723	393,649	448,172	464,087	429,990
Profit ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Loss	54,517	32,796	1,374	8,968	11,530	15,585

(a) Includes Sinking Fund not charged in the accounts of the Concern, as follows:—

£2,681	£2,681	£2,681	£2,681	£2,681	£2,681
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(b) Depreciation on Stores.

[Return No. 25.]

THE AGRICULTURAL LANDS PURCHASE ACT, 1909, and AMENDMENTS.

Position of Estates under the above Act, at 30th June, 1943.

[Amount Authorised £1,500,000.]

Estates.	Receipts.				Payments.				Balances.		
	Proceeds of De-bentures.	Sale of Lots, Rents, etc.	Inter-est.	Total.	Purchase Money.	Survey Expenses, Interest, etc.	De-bentures Re-deemed.	Total.	Amount Over-drawn.	In Hand.	Invested.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Anniebrook ...	4,992	1,025	...	6,017	4,992	3,418	...	8,410	2,393	...	...
Avondale ...	49,949	95,984	3,417	149,030	49,949	61,021	49,949	100,919	11,880	...	...
Baerton ...	32,875	16,097	...	48,972	32,875	23,020	...	60,895	11,923	...	...
Bowes ...	54,352	95,483	17,589	107,422	54,352	60,891	54,352	169,595	2,172	...	...
Brunswick ...	6,660	9,720	1,005	16,984	6,660	5,050	5,050	17,225	241	...	...
Backlands ...	30,162	17,599	...	47,761	30,162	15,010	30,162	75,043	28,182	...	...
Henty ...	4,528	9,186	34	13,606	4,528	4,608	4,527	13,661	...	80	...
Homebush ...	1,250	1,979	742	3,971	1,250	1,471	1,250	3,971	...	...	...
Jelcobine ...	8,320	18,262	361	26,943	8,320	10,206	8,320	26,935	...	7	...
Jingalup ...	2,734	2,714	15	5,463	2,734	2,859	2,734	8,327	2,864	...	...
Kookatea ...	16,170	7,032	...	23,202	16,170	10,190	...	26,860	3,158	...	...
Marjidin ...	4,452	7,909	1,749	14,110	4,452	5,216	4,452	14,120	10	...	...
Mendel ...	16,586	9,616	224	26,426	16,586	11,385	...	27,971	1,346	...	...
Narra Tarra ...	24,120	40,568	3,881	68,569	24,120	21,412	24,119	69,650	1,081	...	...
Norman ...	7,000	11,444	4,303	22,747	7,000	8,747	7,000	22,747	...	...	...
Oakabella ...	22,000	30,947	12,018	73,966	22,000	26,315	22,000	70,315	...	3,661	...
Pickering ...	4,295	2,014	100	6,415	4,295	3,163	...	7,458	1,048	...	...
Porongorup ...	1,704	631	30	2,734	1,704	1,154	...	2,918	183	...	...
Ulljugulup ...	3,350	5,114	817	9,281	3,350	2,555	...	5,905	...	...	3,376
Weirs ...	700	...	...	700	700	457	...	1,157	457	...	...
Wongoodny ...	42,260	11,956	...	54,216	42,260	26,240	...	68,500	14,284	...	...
Yandacooka ...	140,000	293,801	16,182	449,963	140,000	165,738	140,000	445,738	...	4,225	...
Estates under S.S. Scheme	...	307,210	...	307,210	...	237,252	...	237,252	...	69,000	...
	477,507	1,005,439	63,061	1,546,007	477,507	713,951	354,514	1,545,972	81,220	77,886	3,376
									£81,201		
									Credit Balance, £35		

[Return No. 26.]

DISSECTION OF CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND EXPENDITURE, 1935-36 TO 1942-43.

Item.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1937-38.	1938-39.	1939-40.	1940-41.	1941-42.	1942-43.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Interest	3,229,161	3,258,860	3,301,569	3,440,331	3,523,753	3,540,508	3,540,025	3,497,501
Sinking Fund	338,471	359,759	397,827	449,074	481,561	516,635	555,296	504,154
Exchange	454,250	480,459	453,902	470,829	492,989	503,482	408,242	497,167
Unemployment Relief	49,870	51,144	51,966	46,859	53,580	26,215	4,024	3,818
Salaries and Wages	3,618,271	3,917,627	4,006,298	4,306,034	4,435,780	4,323,906	4,596,107	4,587,714
Materials	787,970	920,234	905,021	1,049,207	1,009,158	995,293	1,068,018	1,259,319
Grants	154,754	155,756	186,644	189,815	138,533	166,092	151,038	151,250
Pensions	118,014	124,570	131,097	134,241	142,625	196,017	232,390	252,904
All other	1,194,582	1,308,279	1,305,411	1,083,712	983,884	1,147,809	1,285,441	2,283,406
Total	9,945,343	10,550,638	10,829,785	11,170,102	11,266,768	11,420,957	11,938,881	13,127,242

[Return No. 27.]

LOAN REPAYMENTS.
RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE.

Year ended 30th June.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Balance in hand.
	£	£	£
1928	154,108	...	154,108
1929	235,404	33,297	356,215
1930	153,583	216,647	293,151
1931	84,248	...	377,399
1932	112,361	171,800	317,960
1933	91,751	249,275	160,436
1934	100,935	215,740	45,631
1935	150,507	97,064	99,074
1936	107,906	74,791	132,189
1937	122,975	78,376	176,788
1938	134,462	154,825	156,425
1939	147,040	153,105	150,360
1940	127,470	101,086	176,744
1941	127,889	140,202	164,431
1942	171,232	89,867	245,796
1943	281,355	184,707	342,444

[Return No. 28.]

**SUMMARY OF TRANSACTIONS OF FUNDS, THE EXPENDITURE OF WHICH IS NOT SUBJECT TO
PARLIAMENTARY APPROPRIATION, FOR YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1943.**

Fund.	Balance, 1st July, 1942.	Receipts during Year.	Payments during Year.	Balance, 30th June, 1943.
	£	£	£	£
Hospital Fund (<i>see</i> Return No. 29)... ..	17,900	308,056	274,886	51,070
Forest Improvement and Reforestation Fund (<i>see</i> Return No. 30)	107,472	49,720	78,470	78,722
Road Funds (<i>see</i> Return No. 31)	413,725	505,450	373,711	545,464
Metropolitan Markets Trust	888	21,022	(a)19,925	1,985
Fremantle Harbour Trust ... ..	...	710,162	(b)710,162	...
Bunbury Harbour Board	2,150	16,598	(c)14,185	4,563
	542,135	1,611,008	1,471,339	681,804

(a) Includes payments on account of—Interest, £7,723 ; Sinking Fund, £951 ; and Profits, £88.

(b) Includes payments on account of—Interest, £144,810 ; Sinking Fund, £23,119 ; Replacement Fund, £2,000 ; and Surplus Cash, £119,312.

(c) Includes payments on account of—Interest, £5,000.

[Return No. 29.]

HOSPITAL FUND.—TRANSACTIONS DURING THE YEARS 1938-39 TO 1942-43.

—	1938-39.	1939-40.	1940-41.	1941-42.	1942-43.
<i>Receipts.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Balance from previous year ...	17,465	2,684	25,154	5,560	17,900
Hospital Tax Collections ...	264,072	271,689	284,910	292,700	275,750
Treasury Grants ...	1,502	61,000	26,703	6,000	30,000
Recoup of Expenditure on Buildings	25,000	...	...	...	...
Miscellaneous Receipts ...	...	3,080	2,106	2,207	2,306
Overdraft at end of year ...	...	...	...	...	...
	308,039	338,453	338,873	306,467	325,956
<i>Payments.</i>					
Overdraft at beginning of year ...	...	...	...	...	...
Administration Expenditure ...	4,481	4,555	5,198	5,133	2,294
Hospitals Expenditure—					
Departmental ...	123,978	128,138	119,885	101,908	87,118
Non-Departmental Subsidies, etc.	174,658	180,606	199,091	179,416	171,631
Miscellaneous ...	2,238	...	9,139	2,110	13,843
Balance at end of year ...	2,684	25,154	5,560	17,900	61,070
	308,039	338,453	338,873	306,467	325,956

[Return No. 30.]

FORESTS IMPROVEMENT AND RE-FORESTATION FUND—TRANSACTIONS DURING THE YEARS 1938-39 TO 1942-43.

—	1938-39.	1939-40.	1940-41.	1941-42.	1942-43.
<i>Receipts.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Balance from previous year ...	89,043	88,814	100,164	97,853	107,472
Appropriation from Revenue Fund	46,964	49,234	53,230	52,206	39,710
Sundry Receipts ...	4,970	16,375	8,846	11,957	10,010
	140,977	154,423	162,240	162,016	157,192
<i>Payments.</i>					
Expenditure on Forest Improve- ments and Re-forestation during the year ...	52,163	54,259	64,387	54,544	78,470
Balance at end of year ...	88,814	100,164	97,853	107,472	78,722
	140,977	154,423	162,240	162,016	157,192

[Return No. 31.]

ROAD FUNDS.—TRANSACTIONS DURING THE YEAR 1942-43.

	Main Roads Contribu- tions Trust Account.	Metro- politan Traffic Trust Account.	Transport Co-ordina- tion Fund.	Federal Aid Roads Agree- ment Account.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
Balances from Year 1941-42 ...	26,630	18,753	273	368,069	413,725
Receipts during Year—					
License Fees and Permits ...	...	152,913	31,267	...	184,190
Contributions by Local Authorities	305	...	...	...	305
Premiums on Omnibus Routes ...	...	...	220	...	220
Commonwealth Grant ...	...	...	...	320,043	320,043
Miscellaneous Receipts ...	...	...	...	1	1
Other Receipts in Suspense ...	...	...	70	267	337
	26,035	171,666	31,830	688,380	918,811
Transfers to other Funds ...	...	...	...	26,513	26,513
Transfers from other Funds ...	26,513	...	364	...	26,877
Totals ...	53,448	171,666	32,194	661,867	919,175
Payments during Year—					
Administration, Plant, Office Equip- ment, etc. ...	...	15,533	6,800	13,186	35,519
Transferred to Consolidated Revenue Fund ...	...	26,861	...	...	26,861
National Debt Commission Sinking Fund ...	...	...	...	17,623	17,623
Treasury—Interest, Sinking Fund, and Premiums ...	...	7,396	220	...	7,616
Road Construction, Maintenance, Surveys, etc. ...	...	2,604	...	164,584	167,188
Distributions to Local and Statutory Authorities ...	...	94,001	22,182	...	116,183
Other Payments in Suspense ...	...	...	44	1	45
Subsidies paid for the operation of various Road Transport Services ...	...	...	2,676	...	2,676
	...	146,395	31,922	195,394	373,711
Balances in hand at 30th June, 1943	53,448	25,271	272	466,473	545,464

[Return No. 32.]

TOTAL NET COLLECTIONS OF STATE TAXATION TAKEN TO THE CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND, TRUST ACCOUNTS, AND SPECIAL ACCOUNTS, FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1943.

Particulars.	Paid to C.R. Fund.	Paid to Trust or Special Accounts.	Total.	Taxation per Head. (c)
	£	£	£	£ s. d.
Probate and Succession Duties ...	179,288	...	179,288	0 7 8
Other Stamp Duties ...	195,103	...	195,103	0 8 4
Land Tax ...	132,102	...	132,102	0 5 7
Income Tax—Commonwealth Reimbursement (a)	2,546,000	...	2,546,000	5 8 4
Liquor Licenses ...	78,121	...	78,121	0 3 4
Racing—				
Entertainments Tax on Admission (d)	1,934	...	1,934	0 0 1
Stamp Duty on Betting Tickets ...	12,845	...	12,845	0 0 7
Totalisator Duty ...	61,870	...	61,870	0 2 8
Totalisator Licenses ...	613	...	613	...
Stamp Duty on Tote Dividends ...	731	...	731	...
Motor Taxation ...	16,262	340,892	357,154	0 15 2
Other Vehicles ...	...	7,165	7,165	0 0 4
Entertainments—Commonwealth Reimbursement	(b) 104,757	...	(b) 104,757	0 4 6
Vermis Tax ...	...	30,948	30,948	0 1 4
Licenses, not elsewhere included ...	10,857	...	10,857	0 0 5
	3,340,483	379,005	3,719,488	7 18 4

(a) This amount includes arrears of State Income Tax, £294,291; Goldmining Profits Tax, £6,576; Financial Emergency Tax, £21,805; and Hospital Tax, £42,229: Total, £364,901. From this Commonwealth Reimbursement Grant an amount of £275,750 was paid to Hospital Trust Fund.

(b) Includes State collections, £31,117.

(c) Based on estimated mean population for year 1942-43, viz., 470,000.

(d) Collections for July, August, September, 1942, only.

Service.	Loan Li- ability.	Expenditure :					Receipts.	Net Ex- penditure.	Cost per Head. (*)
		Indirect.		Direct.		Total.			
		Interest and Ex- change.	Sinking Fund.	Con- solidated Revenue Fund.	Trust and Special Accounts.				
1.—Education—	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.
(a) Education Department and Schools ...	1,415,133	60,389	8,328	759,845	...	828,562	19,096	809,466	1 14 5
(b) University	34,115	1,455	201	50,851	...	52,507	...	52,507	0 2 3
(c) Technical Education	107,455	4,586	601	73,700	...	78,887	3,104	75,783	0 3 2
(d) Agricultural Education	101,659	4,338	600	16,700	...	21,638	8,193	13,445	0 0 7
(e) Library, Museum, Observatory ...	35,956	1,534	212	9,976	...	11,722	465	11,257	0 0 6
(f) Deaf, Dumb and Blind	884	38	5	3,350	...	3,393	...	3,393	0 0 2
Total 1	1,695,202	72,340	9,947	914,422	...	996,709	30,858	965,851	2 1 1
2.—Health, Hospitals, and Charities—									
(a) Public Health ... ..	...	...	...	57,902	...	57,902	15,876	42,026	0 1 9
(b) Care of Sick and Mentally Afflicted, Health of Mothers and Children	1,518,472	64,799	9,107	151,006	370,903	595,815	(†)145,312	450,503	0 19 2
(c) Recreation Facilities ... ..	...	...	...	13,300	...	13,300	...	13,300	0 0 7
(d) Relief of Aged, Indigent and Infirm, Child Welfare	95,366	4,069	531	107,405	...	112,005	33,026	78,979	0 3 4
(e) Miner's Phthisis ... ..	...	...	...	53,177	...	53,177	25,000	28,177	0 1 4
(f) Natives... ..	94,144	3,533	484	58,034	...	62,051	7,228	54,823	0 2 3
(g) Unemployment Relief ... ..	...	...	...	4,298	...	4,298	37	4,261	0 0 2
Total 2	1,707,982	72,401	10,122	445,122	370,903	898,548	226,479	672,069	1 8 7
3.—Law, Order and Public Safety—									
(a) Administration of Justice	44,282	1,890	262	87,840	...	89,992	93,013	Cr. 3,021	Cr. 0 0 2
(b) Police	192,282	9,248	1,132	285,727	...	296,107	46,760	249,347	0 10 8
(c) Gaols and Reformatories	65,301	2,786	326	40,615	...	43,727	5,260	38,467	0 1 8
(d) Public Safety ... ..	...	...	...	24,060	...	24,060	9,121	14,939	0 0 7
Total 3	301,865	13,924	1,720	438,242	...	453,886	154,154	299,732	0 12 9
GRAND TOTAL	3,705,049	158,665	21,789	1,797,786	370,903	2,349,143	411,491	1,937,652	4 2 5

(*) Based on estimated mean population for year 1942-43, viz., 470,000.

(†) Includes £96,017 Patients' Fees paid to Hospital Fund,

RAILWAYS.—STATEMENT SHOWING TONNAGE AND EARNINGS ON GOODS CARRIED.

Class of Goods.	1942-1943.		1941-1942.		1940-1941.		1939-1940.		1938-1939.	
	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.
Coal, Coke, and Charcoal	263,338	10.51	238,726	10.95	257,339	9.88	267,203	10.05	299,048	10.46
Ores and other Minerals	175,965	7.02	200,968	7.62	192,456	7.39	252,030	9.48	280,478	9.81
Wool	39,829	1.50	32,621	1.24	28,696	1.10	31,430	1.18	28,426	0.99
Hay, Straw, and Chaff	33,709	1.35	33,631	1.27	39,931	1.53	39,045	1.47	45,074	1.58
Wheat	442,476	17.67	666,860	25.27	681,758	26.18	671,453	25.26	750,495	26.24
Other Grain and Flour	143,041	5.71	143,359	5.43	182,088	6.23	159,568	6.00	163,449	5.72
Firewood	133,065	5.31	83,777	3.18	43,407	1.67	43,117	1.62	43,495	1.52
Local Timber	276,989	11.06	332,600	12.61	346,068	13.37	298,424	11.22	317,339	11.10
Imported Timber	280	.01	597	.02	935	.04	1,571	0.06	2,298	0.08
Fruit and Garden Produce	86,220	3.44	84,039	3.19	88,171	3.30	95,810	3.60	118,062	4.13
Fertilisers	130,691	5.22	178,939	6.78	251,053	9.64	271,509	10.21	279,563	9.78
All other goods	779,080	31.11	592,352	22.44	509,860	19.58	527,718	19.86	581,414	18.59
Total	2,504,682	100.00	2,638,469	100.00	2,603,857	100.00	2,858,876	100.00	2,859,141	100.00

Class of Goods.	1942-1943.		1941-1942.		1940-1941.		1939-1940.		1938-1939.	
	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.
Coal, Coke, and Charcoal	£ 156,161	5.57	£ 181,638	6.88	£ 152,020	5.02	£ 158,344	5.04	£ 179,659	6.07
Ores and other Minerals	76,806	2.74	74,012	2.83	72,872	2.84	66,693	3.25	90,880	3.68
Wool	105,537	3.76	84,748	3.20	75,623	2.95	85,927	3.22	74,079	2.76
Hay, Straw, and Chaff	26,059	.93	26,780	1.01	34,317	1.34	33,160	1.24	38,498	1.43
Wheat	279,389	9.96	419,308	15.86	443,112	17.46	431,078	16.98	478,760	17.78
Other Grain and Flour	82,083	2.92	75,857	2.88	87,390	3.40	90,774	3.42	95,535	3.55
Firewood	37,227	1.33	19,875	.75	10,733	.42	10,673	0.40	10,929	0.41
Local Timber	263,018	9.37	267,670	10.12	296,903	11.57	250,281	9.89	255,451	9.48
Imported Timber	340	.01	907	.03	1,328	.05	3,553	0.13	3,190	0.12
Fruit and Garden Produce	108,888	3.88	99,327	3.75	101,603	3.08	110,466	4.15	128,367	4.69
Fertilisers	36,780	1.31	46,529	1.77	67,378	2.03	73,555	2.76	75,735	2.81
All other goods	1,633,822	58.22	1,346,871	50.93	1,218,510	47.46	1,310,161	49.17	1,253,898	46.73
Total	£ 2,806,110	100.00	£ 2,644,422	100.00	£ 2,568,803	100.00	£ 2,664,874	100.00	£ 2,693,484	100.00

[Return No. 36.]

TRADE, PRODUCTION, POPULATION, ETC.

	1932-33.	1933-34.	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1937-38.	1938-39.	1939-40.	1940-41.	1941-42.	1942-43.
Railway and Tramway Revenue	£3,203,018	£3,185,593	£3,562,357	£3,711,597	£3,754,454	£3,932,510	£3,888,367	£3,802,385	£3,908,540	£4,301,502	£4,916,122
Railway Mileage (Route)	4,338	4,360	4,359	4,358	4,357	4,376	4,378	4,381	4,381	4,381	4,381
Wool exported ...	£2,553,592	£4,810,846	£3,413,569	£4,671,736	£4,194,433	£3,161,540	£3,270,580	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
Wool produced (c)—(quantity)—(lbs.)	75,147,012	78,424,200	89,991,658	85,706,700	63,537,200	64,739,400	72,475,000	75,400,000	89,427,000	74,985,000	†92,086,000
(value)	£2,601,965	£5,103,128	£3,419,308	£4,793,147	£4,020,713	£3,183,641	£2,962,360	£4,054,729	£3,858,984	£4,055,000	†£5,782,000
* Wheat produced (bushels)	41,791,866	37,306,100	26,985,000	23,315,417	21,549,000	36,224,800	36,543,600	40,861,000	21,060,000	37,500,000	20,700,000
Wheat produced (value)	£3,352,364	£5,483,650	£4,317,600	£4,639,768	£5,947,524	£7,426,084	£4,494,919	£7,269,316	†£4,114,911	£5,764,000	(e)
* Hay produced ... (tons)	435,368	512,439	462,947	504,571	412,082	450,410	437,809	476,677	376,143	414,115	277,957
Gold produced (b) ... (value)	£4,610,376	£5,306,102	£5,213,894	£3,713,027	£3,191,168	£9,438,078	£10,784,852	£12,657,448	£12,000,027	£10,770,977	£7,167,716
Coal produced	£292,285	£269,392	£297,581	£334,797	£326,756	£362,196	£371,713	£361,152	£367,403	£431,005	£478,078
Other Minerals produced (c)	£47,348	£65,178	£33,391	£113,140	£140,446	£200,817	£187,592	£129,636	£238,733	£157,621	(e)
Timber exported ...	£258,510	£484,241	£631,228	£675,932	£699,613	£932,394	£721,941	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
Timber produced	£437,213	£683,391	£987,231	£1,161,031	£1,368,591	£1,425,342	£1,341,975	£1,317,031	£1,301,777	£1,468,348	(e)
‡ Number of Sheep...	10,417,031	10,322,330	11,197,156	11,082,972	9,007,535	8,732,076	9,177,531	9,574,443	9,516,272	9,722,780	10,424,335
‡ Number of Cattle...	857,473	885,669	912,016	882,761	792,508	740,241	767,680	799,175	733,929	839,731	831,231
‡ Number of Horses	157,443	159,646	161,636	160,181	155,177	151,067	143,679	139,207	130,057	124,402	112,782
Area of land selected (acres)	463,356	351,313	310,170	281,921	521,117	718,823	627,443	305,218	346,365	172,129	123,941
Area of land leased (acres)	3,231,418	7,543,950	6,327,978	4,613,172	3,926,517	3,883,060	3,201,701	2,795,938	2,509,275	2,244,369	1,855,497
Area of land under cultivation (d)	14,200,631	14,626,556	14,530,020	14,908,072	15,218,254	15,679,891	15,652,929	16,112,071	15,931,281	16,085,051	†16,000,000
* Area of land under crop (acres)	4,262,884	4,217,260	3,840,530	3,726,324	3,851,876	4,168,021	4,683,333	4,286,935	3,988,303	3,816,522	2,732,866
Tonnage Shipping, Inwards	3,549,604	3,564,705	3,757,174	3,827,038	3,729,623	4,104,922	4,251,368	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
Tonnage Shipping, Outwards	3,563,879	3,567,884	3,775,162	3,831,105	3,773,566	4,111,171	4,326,529	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
Exports, including Gold	£15,537,412	£17,291,577	£16,879,168	£18,891,679	£20,991,133	£23,100,537	£23,006,410	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
Exports, excluding Gold	£10,803,066	£11,964,436	£11,717,923	£12,165,281	£13,040,135	£13,746,172	£12,296,635	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
Imports ...	£12,186,760	£12,632,517	£14,226,406	£16,111,631	£18,028,869	£19,334,013	£18,048,238	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
Savings Bank Deposits	£7,447,503	£8,182,895	£8,967,677	£9,468,844	£9,716,932	£10,004,412	£10,602,936	£10,039,271	£10,193,000	(a)	(a)
Savings Bank Withdrawals	£7,747,633	£7,938,122	£8,501,441	£8,958,575	£9,425,588	£9,853,281	£10,285,055	£10,641,171	£9,657,739	(a)	(a)
Population end of Financial Year	433,852	442,027	445,692	450,243	454,231	460,161	465,429	467,855	468,819	468,819	(f) 469,910

* Season ended 28th February. ‡ As at 31st December of year first mentioned. † Preliminary figures, liable to slight revision. (a) Information not available for publication. (b) Australian Currency Value. (c) Calendar year first mentioned. (d) Area cropped, cleared, fallowed, ringbarked, etc. (e) Not yet available. (f) As at 31st December, 1942.