

lie speech for about eight years. I thank hon. members for the kind hearing they have given me and would like to say, in conclusion, that hon. members will find, although I might not express myself too clearly, I will try to live up to the standard of political morality which is the declared duty of every member of this Chamber. I will honestly endeavour to represent all sections of the community. I shall look for and expect good from all quarters of the Chamber, and if I have any suggestion which I think will be in the interests of the country, I will claim the indulgence of hon. members' attention: I will claim their support and I feel sure I will receive it if I bring forward anything which, in my opinion and theirs, will be for the welfare of the community, but I desire it to be distinctly understood that I am not here, and I think no member should be here to represent any one particular body.

On motion by Hon. H. Carson debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 9.19 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Thursday, 2nd July, 1914.

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

QUESTION — POLICE MAGISTRATE'S RETIREMENT. MR. ROE.

Hon. H. P. COLEBATCH asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, In connection with the retirement of Mr. A. S. Roe from the office of Police Magistrate, was such retirement made at the desire of Mr. Roe? 2, If not, was such retirement recom-

mended by the Public Service Commissioner in accordance with Section 66 of the Public Service Act? 3, If so, what was the date of such recommendation, and on what grounds was it based? 4, What amount of pension will Mr. Roe receive?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: 1, No. 2, Yes. 3, 20th May, 1914. On the grounds of having attained the age of 60 years. 4, Mr. Roe not having as yet made a claim on the prescribed form or the matter having been reported on as prescribed by Regulation 153, the question of pension has not yet been submitted to the Governor-in-Council for decision under Section 1 of the Superannuation Act, 1871.

QUESTION: LOCAL COURT MAGISTRATE'S RETIREMENT. MR. COWAN.

Hon. H. P. COLEBATCH asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, In connection with the retirement of Mr. James Cowan from the office of Local Court Magistrate of Perth, did the Public Service Commissioner refuse to certify that in the interests of the Public Service it was desirable that Mr. Cowan should continue in the performance of his duties? 2, If so, on what grounds? 3, What amount of pension will Mr. Cowan receive?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: 1, No. Mr. Cowan is at present continued in his office by direction of the Governor-in-Council as required under Section 68 of the Public Service Act. 2, See answer to question No. 1. 3, Mr. Cowan not having as yet made a claim on the prescribed form, or the matter having been reported on as prescribed by Regulation 153, the question of pension has not yet been submitted to the Governor in Council for decision under Section 1 of "The Superannuation Act, 1871."

QUESTION—GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIPS.

Hon. H. P. COLEBATCH asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, Has his attention been drawn to the recently issued regula-

tions requiring candidates for scholarships to submit statutory declarations in regard to the incomes of their parents or guardians? 2, Under what authority were such regulations promulgated? 3, Will the Minister for Education reconsider the matter with a view to removing the injustice now suffered by many country children whose parents cannot afford the cost of secondary education without the assistance of such scholarships?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: 1. Yes. 2, Under 57 Vict., No. 16, Section 22 (13). 3. If it can be shown that real injustice is inflicted, the Minister of Education will always be ready to reconsider the matter. It must be remembered that free education at the Secondary School is offered to all without any income-restrictions, and that this is what is generally meant by a scholarship. In confining the additional grants for boarding to the children of parents with restricted incomes this State is working on the same principle as is adopted in New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland, but the restriction is a less narrow one here than in the other States.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Third Day.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

Hon. H. CARSON (Central): There is a number of people outside this House, and I think there are some within it who say that this is a non-party House. I never believed that, because where there is gathered together a number of men differing in opinion there are bound to be parties. It is only a non-party House in this sense, that we cannot put a Government out of office or put one into office. Now, as one of those who have been returned at the recent May elections to represent the Country party, I would like just for a moment to refer to the remarks that several members have made regarding the attitude of that party. I am not able enough, probably, to speak as I should like on behalf of the party which I have the very great honour to represent in this House to-day. But we

must recognise that we have party politics in the State of Western Australia to-day, not only party politics but machine politics. The hon. Mr. Colebatch has spoken very strongly against the pledge and the selection ballot. It was not my intention to refer to the matter. I think it is a mistake to bring such things into the House. The hon. member has, however, referred to the signing of the pledge and the selection ballot. Personally, I have no aversion whatever to the selection ballot. I think it is an advantage in the case of a gentleman who desires to represent the citizens of this country in either House of the Legislature. By the selection ballot he gets an idea of the support he is likely to receive in the constituency he may desire to represent, and by that manner he will save himself a very considerable expense in fighting the election. Therefore, on that account, I think it is an advantage. Regarding the pledge, I am not particularly enamoured of it myself. But what is there wrong with it? We find every person complying with the platform of the party to which he is allied, and where is the harm, or where it is wrong, in any member seeking to represent that party signing a pledge that he will endeavour to carry out the platform of that party?

Hon. H. P. Colebatch: It is the pledge to caucus that I objected to.

Hon. H. CARSON: There is no pledge whatever. We are in the midst of machine politics. I say the Country party's machine is a very much better one than the Liberal party's machine. I have only to give an instance in my own electorate. You all know that the hon. Mr. Connolly, who was desirous of representing the Central Province, was standing as a candidate on behalf of the Liberal party, but there was also another gentleman desirous of standing and contesting that seat; and mind you, there were nominations for that seat. Nominations were advertised for by the secretary of the Geraldton branch of the Liberal league. They advertised for nominations from gentleman willing to contest the Central Province seat. Mr. Connolly was desirous of contesting that seat, but because another gentleman had

given assistance to the Liberal candidate in the Geraldton election he probably got two or three agents to say that Mr. Connolly had to stand back, and the result was that the other gentleman was put forward as the Liberal candidate. I say that is altogether wrong; that the selection ballot is far preferable to that. Now, Mr. Cornell has likened the Country party to the extra joint in the tail of the dog, as he calls it, of the Liberal party. If this is likening a Country party's candidate's chance to the tail of a dog it will be a very good thing, and it will make the Liberal party spring a bit. The Country party is not a mere accident; it is here to stay. It is going to be a force in the country, and a force which I believe will make for the good of the country in general. I am not going to refer any further to the party. I wish now to refer briefly to the Governor's Speech. The first item in the Speech has reference to our Agent General. I congratulate the Government on re-appointing Sir Newton Moore as Agent General for Western Australia, and also for giving him an opportunity of visiting the State so that he may be better acquainted with the progress which the State has made since he left it some three years ago. We are indeed fortunate in having a man of his ability to represent us in London. Another item to which I wish to refer is the Workers' Homes Act. Now, I think it is a mistake on the part of the Legislature to make exemptions to those who might obtain land and build homes for themselves at £400. I think if it had been £300 it would have been more in the interests of the country. We must remember that our capital is limited, and therefore we should enable as many as possible to obtain these homes. Certainly it has been a very great advantage to many people in Western Australia. I commend the Government for passing that Act. There is one feature of it to which I wish to call the Government's attention, and that is that the Government are allowing the board to cut up reserves in many of the towns in Western Australia without making any provisions whatever for roads. They are not building roads in these lands

which they are cutting up for the building of workers' homes. Under the Municipal Act you are compelled to do that, and I say that the Government should amend the Workers' Homes Act accordingly, and make it compulsory that roads should be built through the areas which are being given over to the Workers' Homes Board for workers' homes. It means a very big item, I know, to the municipalities where they are cutting up reserves.

Hon. J. F. Allen: They get the rates.

Hon. H. CARSON: That may be so. We have an instance in Geraldton. The homes have got to be filled. Why discriminate? The question could probably be dealt with when the land was being divided up, because they are all on the leasehold principle. At any rate, I commend this point to the Government, and hope that something will be done so that the municipalities will not have to bear that additional burden. It is an immediate necessity that the roads should be built. It is also very gratifying to every section of the community to see the wonderful wheat production that we have had last season. It proves that the soils of Western Australia are very much better than they look. Undoubtedly we are going to be one of the largest wheat-producing States in the Commonwealth at no very distant date. Therefore it is very necessary that the Government should, at the earliest possible moment, introduce the bulk handling system. Recently, the Government appointed a commission which reported the advisability of this system being adopted, and also reported its practicability. That report has been submitted to the Government, and yet we see no reference whatever to it in the Governor's Speech, nor do we know what the Government are going to do. It is a very important matter to the wheat producers of Western Australia. The farmers are willing to pay for the installation of this system, and, after paying interest on the capital cost and providing for working expenses and sinking fund, there would be a considerable saving to the farmer. Therefore, I hope the Government will give the matter their immediate attention and endeavour to have the system introduced as soon as possible.

I do not think there are many in the cities and town of Western Australia who realise the hardships the pioneer settlers are undergoing, more especially in the dry areas of the State, and on that account every consideration should be given to them. These people are not earning the living wage we hear so much about in the cities, nor are they likely to do so for many years to come. In addition to that they are living, in many cases, under inhuman conditions and toiling, not eight, but sixteen hours a day. We also hear in many quarters that the farmers have been pampered, that they have been given water supplies and railways. That is all true, but the farmer will pay every penny of the cost of these railways, and they are going to be the finest asset Western Australia will have. The general taxpayer will have to carry the burden of these railways and water supplies for only a little time. I think too that the settlers in the dry areas have a great grievance with regard to the high price of the land on which they are settled. The late Minister for Lands was responsible for that, his contention being that the prices were charged so that the railways which were to be constructed might be paid for. I have already referred to that aspect of the question. Something must be done to help these men and also the women who are associated with them. We have a fine body of settlers who are endeavouring to develop this huge country, and something in the direction I have suggested should be done for them as speedily as possible. There was a good deal of agitation regarding this some time ago, and the Government appointed a commission to inquire into the matter. Some thought it was a reclassification board, but that was not the case. The gentlemen in question went through the dry areas of the State and presented a report to Cabinet, but we have not heard anything further about it. I think the Government should intimate what they intend to do, because there are many people who are in straitened circumstances, and it will mean much to them if they have an intimation from the Government that the rents will be totally or partially deferred for a number of years. The price of these particular

lands is too high, and it is impossible for the men who have taken up the areas to make good at the existing price, because in a great majority of cases these particular men have practically no capital. It is a feature of settlement in Western Australia that the bulk of the people who have gone on the land have done so without capital. There are those who will say, "More fools they," but if we cannot find people of this class to develop the country, how is the development to be carried on. Those who possess capital can find other avenues for investment where there are not such hardships and risks to be encountered. Therefore everything possible should be done to give the settlers all the assistance they are asking for, and I hope that the Government will not lose sight of this matter, but give it favourable attention. I know that there is a considerable amount of money owing to the Government for land rents, but that is because of the high prices the settlers were asked to pay in the first instance, and the fact that the settlers were practically without capital. The present Government declare themselves to be friends of the farmers. One would hardly think so when we find them charging more for water supplied to the eastern agricultural areas from the Goldfields Water Supply than they are charging the householders on the goldfields and are still maintaining the terminal charge of 1s. per ton on the agricultural lines. We know also that the Government have endeavoured to pass through this House during the last two sessions a land tax which would have added to the burdens of the farmers. It has been contended that the cities and the towns would pay the great bulk of this extra taxation, but that is not so. We find that the city and the town landlords pass the tax on to the tenants, and the tenants pass it on to the consumer, but the agriculturists have to pay their share and they cannot pass it on to anyone else. I trust the Government will reconsider the matter of the fertilisers, water rates, and the other subjects to which I have referred. I notice there is a reference in the Governor's Speech to the intention of the Govern-

ment to again submit an amendment to the Land Act. I do not know in what direction; we shall have to wait and see, but something might be done in regard to land which has been forfeited. The Government have been very lenient in not forfeiting land for non-payment of rent, but there are cases where forfeits have taken place, and some provision should be made whereby these people might be compensated for improvements after 50 per cent. of the amounts due to the Government have been paid. Reference is also made to the railway authorities and the manner in which they handled the wheat traffic last season. I agree that the Railway Department are to be commended for the manner in which they dealt with the harvest. It is pleasing to note that the trams have been operating successfully. I am one of those, however, who contend that it was a mistake for the Government of the day to purchase the trams. The Government should have left the purchase to the municipalities of the metropolitan area, and if that had been done there would have been something like a million of money available for expenditure in the direction of opening up this huge country. It is also pleasing to know that there has been an increase in the gold output. I hope this industry will continue to prosper and the Government should do all they can to assist it. It has done much for the advancement of Western Australia, and more particularly the agricultural industry. I recognise that the two industries are dependent one on the other. Reference has also been made to the increased output of Collie coal, and also to its improved quality. This means a great deal to the State. We have in the Victoria district a coal seam which was proved in years gone by to be equal to Collie coal. The samples were then secured near the surface. At the present time there are men engaged in prospecting for coal in the district, and I have heard that a fine sample has been located apart from the old seam to which I have referred, a seam which is on land the property of the Government of Western Australia and the Midland Railway

Company. Probably that has had something to do with the fact of the seam not having been developed. I believe there will be profitable coal found in the district in the near future. I am referring to this matter because I want the Government, when dealing with the question of improving the Geraldton harbour, to take into consideration the great possibilities of the country behind that port. Last season there were produced in the Victoria district 500,000 bags of wheat, and at the present time we are only on the fringe of the wheat production in that district. Not only have we the wheat industry, but it is a wool producing district as well, and I believe in the not distant future it will also be a coal district, while the possibilities of lead mining at Northampton are great indeed. I commend the Government for the attitude they have taken up in regard to the lead mining industry. They have done something which I believe will help considerably the progress of that industry, namely, the installation of a dressing plant. There are many people prospecting and there are also very good shows. The Government should not lose sight of the possibilities of this great district when they are considering the question of improvements to the harbour at Geraldton. These improvements should not be unduly delayed because at the present time operations are being carried on at that port under great difficulties and at considerable cost to the producer. There is a reference in the Speech to the progress of many public works, and particular mention is made of the abattoirs at North Fremantle. I am not going to enter into the question of the meat supply and the steamship service which the Government are engaged in because Mr. Holmes, who is thoroughly familiar with the matter, dealt with it exhaustively at the previous sitting. I want to call the attention of the Government to an incident which happened recently at one of the meat shops. A gentleman desired to purchase some mutton and was refused. The reply was—"We have barely enough to supply our regular customers." That is outrageous. Here we have State butcher

shops and a citizen is refused because the butcher has not enough for his regular customers.

Hon. W. Patrick: Do not they pay cash?

Hon. H. CARSON: Yes.

Hon. W. Patrick: How do they know regular customers?

Hon. H. CARSON: I do not know whether they have a particular brand on them.

Member: Do they wear a badge?

Hon. W. Patrick: A union badge, I suppose.

Hon. H. CARSON: I do not intend to refer to any of the State enterprises because I consider that the recent elections afford sufficient evidence to the Government of the day that their policy is not acceptable to the people. The Government contend that only some people have voted against them, but I would remind them that we have had one by-election since the last general elections, and that it went against the Government. This should afford sufficient evidence that the Government policy regarding State enterprises is not acceptable to the country. I wish to make a suggestion to the Government regarding one of their enterprises—the State hotels. These hotels have not been paying very well, and I suggest that the Government should call for tenders for the lease of them. No doubt some of my temperance friends will be very cross with me for making such a suggestion, but I think it will be in the interests of the country, and if the administration of the Licensing Act is carried out properly there should be no harm. It is contended that the State hotels do not exist to make profits or to induce people to drink. I do not think any hotel is erected for the latter purpose. Private hotels are established to make a profit certainly, but I do not think that they exist for the purpose of inducing people to drink. At any rate, it should be possible to deal effectively with them under the Licensing Act. I offer this suggestion because I think it would considerably help the Government finances, and would be acceptable to a great number of people in the country. According

to the figures for the last eight months of the financial year, the profit on State hotels was £1,672, but interest on capital cost and sinking fund were not taken into account. If we are to continue State enterprises, it would be advisable to have a board of directors appointed to control them. It is impossible for Ministers of the Crown to satisfactorily look after these enterprises and attend to the constitutional work of responsible Government and to all the administrative affairs in connection with the opening up and development of this country. The Government themselves are building all the railways. This, I consider, is a mistake. I am not favourably disposed to day labour, because railway construction is more expensive under that system than if tenders are called for the work. It would be wise for the Government to call for tenders for these works, and submit a tender themselves, and the work should be given to the lowest tenderers. If the Government are the lowest tenderers let them carry out the work. But the Government have far more than they can look after at the present time. A railway has been constructed from Northampton to Ajana. This railway was surveyed over three years ago, but notwithstanding that this period has elapsed no resumption notices have yet reached the land owners. There are many settlers along the line who have acquired considerable tracts of country, and have paid for it, and it is very necessary that they should have these resumption notices so that they can deal with the Government regarding the improvements they have effected. Considerable reference was made in the Speech to the water supplies of the State. It would be very much better if we had local control of water supplies. It would be more efficient and less expensive, and I hope the Government will adopt local control in all the different centres.

Hon. R. J. Lynn: Do you mean municipal control?

Hon. H. CARSON: Yes; control by the municipalities and by the roads boards where there are competent people to undertake the work. There is a noti-

fication in the Speech that the Government intend to establish a maternity hospital in the city. I have no doubt that it is very necessary, but there are greater needs in the country. The Government should do something to supply the outback areas with a qualified nurse or a doctor. It is a crying shame that in these outback places there is neither doctor nor nurse. To give an instance: Mullewa—a large agricultural centre—is 70 miles from either a doctor or a nurse. There is no doctor between Dongarra and Moora, a distance of about 100 miles, and this country is being opened up by settlers who, with their wives, are entitled to receive some consideration before further provision is made in the City. In the City there are doctors and nurses, and we in the backblocks have not this provision. I hope that the Government will do something in this matter before proceeding with the maternity hospital in the City. I commend the Government for building schools in the outback places, but I would suggest that when building them in the agricultural areas the structures should be made a little larger than is necessary for present needs, not only because of the prospect of increasing numbers of children, but in order that the people might be able to use the buildings for amusement or public meetings. There are many settlers who simply have their own shanties, and there is no meeting place for them, and it would involve very little extra expense if the schools were built a little larger, so that the settlers might have meeting places. The settlers will pay for them, and I think it would be an advantage to the State, as it would certainly be beneficial to the people. Several railway Bills are to be brought before the House, and I feel that it is necessary for me to refer particularly to the vexed question of the Esperance railway. I have always had an open mind regarding the construction of the Esperance railway, and lately have endeavoured not only to find out the facts of the case as published, but also to ascertain from private individuals who know the district whether the railway is warranted, what the country is like, and so forth. When

contesting the Central province election, I promised that I would give my support to this railway if I had an assurance from the Government that other railways authorised were first constructed. This is the attitude I took up at the elections. Statistics have been given by the hon. Mr. Colebatch which are certainly very damning, but I would like to know if the district has been subjected to a thorough test, and whether the settlers there have been using superphosphates. I realise that there is very little land in Western Australia which will give any sort of a return at all without an ample use of superphosphates. We have a report from a commission appointed by a Liberal Government regarding the Esperance railway, and a majority of the members of the commission concluded that the line was warranted and recommended the Government to construct it. Mr. Paterson, who is recognised as an authority in these matters, did not report against it, but he thought it should be allowed to wait a while. While recognising Mr. Paterson as an authority, it is very probable that he made a mistake. He made a mistake in our own district, because he reported adversely to the repurchase of the Mount Erin estate, and said it would not grow wheat profitably. But to-day this is one of the finest wheat areas in Western Australia, and many families are settled there and growing wheat profitably. The hon. Mr. Holmes also referred to the Esperance railway, and expressed the opinion that it was a mistake to have isolated railways. I suppose on these grounds the hon. member would have objected to the building of the railway from Geraldton outback. But this country must be opened up by railways, and we have to make a start somewhere. I am favourably disposed to give this railway my support. I like the suggestion made by the hon. Mr. Holmes that we should visit the district and if an opportunity is afforded I will do so. I always like to give my vote conscientiously on any matter. I have been to Norseman and have seen a very fine haystack there. It is well known that hay can be grown where wheat cannot be

grown, but the presence of this hay-stack proved that the quality of the land is all right. Several other railways are referred to. I do not know whether they are warranted; no doubt they are. I recognise that we must build railways if we are to profitably develop the country. A couple of railways are required in my province, and no mention is made of them, but I hope that the Government or any future Government—if there is to be a change—will give these matters early consideration. One of the railways is from Northampton to Geraldine, which is about 15 miles from the terminus of the present line, and in which district there are men prospecting for lead. These men, to the number of about a dozen, are there are men prospecting for lead. These there is the Geraldine mine, which produced great quantities of lead in days gone by, and if this railway is built no doubt the mine will be reopened. The Raddera mine, which was closed for many years, is now working, and last year it produced over £42,000 worth of lead. Therefore I think that the railway referred to should be constructed. It would mean much to this portion of the State, and would be very useful to the settlers who are battling there to establish themselves. The other railway to which I have referred is the continuation of the Yuna Railway on to Mullewa. There is a fine stretch of country between these two places, and there are many settlers in the district; and not only would it be an advantage to them, but it would, in my opinion, be a very great advantage to the working of the railways of the Northern system. I hope the Government will give these railways early and favourable consideration. We have referred to a great number of works, and it means money to carry them out. I think the works are warranted, but we need more people here to help to bear the burden of paying the piper. I hope that the immigration policy which was started some time ago will be vigorously carried on, and that we shall see many more people coming into this State than we have had just recently. If we are going to develop

and settle this country, we must have more people. I have great faith in Western Australia, and I like to see it prosper. I am not going to refer at length to the finances of the State. I think they are not in a very satisfactory condition. It means either that we must have increased taxation, or retrenchment, or better administration. I have only to add that, whilst associated with the Country party, I will give conscientious consideration to every measure that is brought before this House, and will vote in the way that I think would be to the best advantage of the people, the whole of the people, of Western Australia.

On motion by Hon. R. J. Lynn, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 5.18 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 2nd July, 1914.

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

QUESTIONS (2)—WHEAT AREAS, RECLASSIFICATION BOARD.

Mr. MOORE asked the Minister for Lands: 1. What are the names of the