

passed another place it has been subjected to close scrutiny by auctioneering firms and others, and it has been found that there are one or two provisions that need to be inserted. For instance, it is intended to re-enact the old provisions for holding auction sales at night. The sale by auction of wool in Western Australia is likely to become an important matter, and it is customary to hold these sales at night. There is also need for some provision for auctioneers to act on behalf of firms. When the second reading is carried I shall place on the Notice Paper the several amendments I have indicated and which have arisen chiefly out of the close scrutiny of the Bill by auctioneering firms and others since the Bill was first brought in. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. Sir EDWARD WITTENOOM (North) [6.0]: I have given the Bill a good deal of attention and from the number of amendments which the Leader of the House proposes to move, I am surprised that the Treasurer, when he introduced the measure in another place, did not secure the opinions of those interested in the business, to a greater extent than he did. Several amendments are to be submitted so that the Bill may be made more workable. These amendments I will not go into now, especially as they have been to some extent adverted to by the Leader of the House. But, generally, I think the Bill will be a good one by the time it is finished. Without going into further details, I have pleasure in supporting the second reading.

On motion by Hon. J. J. Holmes, debate adjourned.

*House adjourned at 6.2 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 24th November, 1921.

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

### QUESTION—RATES, PAYMENT AT MILLS.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN asked the Minister for Railways: 1, Is he aware that the Murray Road Board has levied rates on the occupiers of the cottages at the railway mill at Dwellingup, 2, Is it a fact that similar rates levied at Holyoake have been paid by the State Sawmills Department? 3, Is he aware that the whole of the rates levied at Pemberton and Manjimup Sawmills are paid by the State Sawmills Department? 4, As the provision of cottages and huts is a condition of employment and such rates are paid by all private sawmillers, will the Minister make the necessary provision?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS (for the Minister for Railways) replied: 1, Yes. 2, No, but an agreement has been recently made to pay on cottages from which revenue is derived. 3, Yes, on cottages from which revenue is derived. 4, The provision of cottages and huts is not a condition of employment inasmuch as occupation is optional to employees. Arrangements have been made to pay the rates on cottages from which revenue is derived.

### QUESTION—ABORIGINAL PRISONERS, EMPLOYMENT.

Mr. WILLCOCK asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, Is he aware that the road board at Broome is employing aboriginal prison labour for the construction of a water pipe line at Broome where there is ample white labour available? 2, Is this in accord with the Government's policy? 3, In any case, will he give instructions for discontinuance of the employment of prisoners while men are seeking employment?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: 1, The latest return, which is for the month of October, shows that, among other jobs, some work was being done on trenching a pipe track. 2, The work of aboriginal prisoners in North-West gaols is, under certain conditions, made available to local authorities. The nature and locality of the work is arranged between the gaolers and the local authorities. This has been the policy of all successive Governments. 3, No; it is necessary that the prisoners be employed.

#### QUESTION—WATER SUPPLY, MT. MONGER.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN (for Mr. Munsie) asked the Minister for Mines: 1, What has been the total cost to the Government for providing water at Mt. Monger—(a) sinking of the dam; (b) boring for water; (c) deepening the water shaft; (d) laying and relaying the pipe lines; (e) any other costs incurred? 2, What would be the approximate cost of laying the 5in. main from Boorara to Mt. Monger, a distance of 21 miles?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS (for the Minister for Mines) replied: 1, (a) Approximately £2,500, fresh water tank. (b) £181, salt water for battery. (c) By contract, £260. (d) Pipe lines and pump equipment, £2,015, including gas engine and producer. (e) Pastoralists' tanks was leased from Mr. Creedon, £1,000 cash and £3 per day rent—£765. Total, £1,765; Caretaker's wages, £128 13s. 4d.; Total, £1,893 13s. 4d.; Revenue collected, £38 15s. 6d.; Total, £1,854 17s. 10d. (2) The distance is 24 miles. Estimate, £41,000.

#### QUESTION—RETRENCHMENT AND ECONOMY.

Mr. PICKERING (for Mr. A. Thomson) asked the Premier: 1, Has his attention been called to a paragraph which appeared in the "West Australian" of the 22nd instant, detailing a considerable amount saved in the Dominion of New Zealand by means of retrenchment and economies, and also the proposal made therein by the Prime Minister for an all-round 10 per cent. reduction of salaries? 2, In view of the condition of the State's finances, will he consider a like proposal?

The PREMIER replied: 1, Yes. 2, Stringent economies have already been adopted in departments. Further economies can only be effected by cutting out services. Expenditure by this State for the year is estimated to be—(a) on administrative: salaries £260,009, wages £124,159, total £384,168; (b) on domestic: salaries £506,211, wages £218,146, total £724,357; (c) public utilities: salaries £387,834, wages £1,593,386, total £1,981,220. Total: salaries £1,154,054, wages £1,935,691, grand total £3,089,745. In practically all cases the wages are fixed by Arbitration Court awards, and the salaries are governed by the decision of Appeal Boards.

#### QUESTIONS (2)—RAILWAYS.

##### *Shunter's Death at Merredin.*

Mr. MANN asked the Minister for Railways: 1, Is he aware that the replies of the Commissioner for Railways to my questions on 22nd inst., re the death of shunter Joseph Jackson at Merredin are incomplete? 2, In view of the reply of the Commissioner that the evidence available was not conclusive that Jackson's injuries were caused through deceased's foot being caught in the points at Merredin station, will he instruct the Commissioner to have the necessary inquiries made by a competent officer with a view of establishing conclusively the cause of the death of shunter Jackson, as there are numerous witnesses available and in a position to prove conclusively how the accident occurred? 3, Will he cause the Commissioner to give a more direct reply to my question, which was as follows:—"Will he cause to be issued to shunters in the Perth yard and other busy centres safety boots with elastic sides in order to prevent a recurrence of a similar accident"? 4, Will he instruct the Commissioner to reply to my question, which was as follows:—"Will he cause instructions to be published compelling shunters to wear safety boots when on duty"?

The PREMIER (for the Minister for Railways) replied: 1, The replies of the Commissioner of Railways were not incomplete. 2, A departmental inquiry has already been held by three competent officers, viz., the District Traffic Superintendent, the Resident Engineer, and the District Locomotive Superintendent, who have been unable to establish conclusively the cause of the accident. There are not numerous witnesses in a position to prove conclusively how the accident occurred, as it was not witnessed by any person. 3, It is not intended to issue boots to shunters, as it is not the function of the department to do so; nor is such done on any railway system in the Commonwealth, neither is the practice known to exist elsewhere. 4, It is not proposed to compel shunters to wear any particular type of boot. The Commissioner has, however, issued a notification to the staff pointing out the desirability of those who engage in shunting operations wearing elastic side boots, in the interests of their own safety; also that he is prepared to endeavour to arrange for such boots to be supplied at a special rate, as was done formerly—if there is sufficient demand for them.

##### *Coal Boxes Shortage.*

Mr. O'LOGHLEN (for Mr. Wilson) asked the Premier: 1, Is he aware that the s.s. "Garvet" cancelled on 14th November an order for 400 tons of coal, owing to the inability of the Railway Department to supply coal boxes? 2, Is he aware that a sum equal to £750 was thereby lost to the State for all time? 3, Is he aware that there are over 200 miners unemployed at Collie for want of trade? 4, Will he take steps to have the complaint above referred to remedied and so

provide some work for unemployed miners and lumpers?

The PREMIER replied: 1, It is reported that the s.s. "Garvet" declined to take coal in ordinary trucks as special shipping boxes were not available at the time, having been utilised to supply prior orders. 2, No. 3, No. 4, Every endeavour is made at all times to supply shipping boxes for bunkering coal. The Government are prepared to do what they can to assist all in need of work to secure employment.

#### QUESTION—TURTLES, EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO CAPTURE.

Mr. UNDERWOOD asked the Colonial Secretary: In view of the fact that the holders of an exclusive right to take and treat turtles (for sale) on the coast and islands between North-West Cape and Cossack have not fulfilled their undertakings, will he forfeit their right under the provisions of the agreement?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: Not at present. Mr. Rodway has paid rent to the end of the year for his exclusive license to take and farm edible turtles, to which date an extension of time has been approved for the commencement of operations.

#### HOSPITALS BILL, SELECT COMMITTEE.

##### Publication of Proceedings.

On motion by Mr. Gibson resolved—That the Standing Orders having reference to the publication of the proceedings of a Select Committee be suspended so far as to permit the Select Committee appointed to report on the provisions contained in the Hospitals Bill to exercise its discretion in admitting the Press to its meetings.

#### BILLS (4)—RETURNED.

- 1, Inspection of Machinery.
- 2, Factories and Shops Act Amendment.
- 3, Gold Buyers.  
With amendments.
- 4, Mining Act Amendment.  
Without amendment.

#### MOTION—FEDERATION AND THE STATE.

##### Proposed National Convention.

##### Standing Orders Suspension.

The PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [4.43]: I move—

That the Standing Orders be suspended so far as to permit of the moving, without notice, of the following motion:—"That this Parliament is of opinion that the Bill

to make provision for the National Convention for the purpose of a revision of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, introduced in the Commonwealth Parliament, is unreasonable in its provisions, and that this Parliament is further of the opinion that any Convention to revise the Commonwealth Constitution should consist of an equal number of representatives of each State."

Question put and passed.

Mr. SPEAKER: This motion will need to be carried by an absolute majority. I have counted the House and there is an absolute majority present. I will put the question and, if there is no negative voice, I will take the question as being carried unanimously without dividing the House.

Question put and passed.

The PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [4.45]: It is a very unpleasant thing to have to suggest insincerity on the part of any public man—particularly one so highly placed as the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth—but, after giving the matter careful consideration, I can come to no other conclusion than that the Bill has been so constructed as to ensure its rejection by the Senate. From time to time the Prime Minister has made evident his support of a policy of unification. Unhappily the present Federal Constitution has a unifying tendency because it permits the successful attack by the Commonwealth authority on the financial independence of the States. The practice of the Commonwealth Government to accumulate huge surpluses in defiance of both the Constitution and the Surplus Revenue Act, and its invasion of unexpected avenues of taxation are illustrations in point, and one can readily understand an advocate of unification being content to let things stand as they are, in the sure knowledge that the tide was in his favour. The proposed convention held out a hope to the States of re-establishing that measure of financial and economic independence which the original framers of the Constitution fondly hoped that they had preserved to the States. It will be remembered that the Prime Minister promised this convention as the outcome of a conference of Premiers held in Melbourne in September, 1919. He was then seeking additional powers for the Federal Parliament. Prior to that convention the Federal Government had announced their intention of cutting down the per capita contribution to the States. This matter was raised in the conference by Mr. Colebatch, who was representing me, and the Prime Minister agreed that it should be discussed subsequently between the Federal Treasurer (Mr. Watt) on the one hand and the Premier of Victoria (Mr. Lawson) and Mr. Colebatch, representing the States, on the other hand. As the result of that conference Mr. Watt, with the approval of the Prime Minister, announced that the Government would postpone any alteration

until the whole financial question was considered by the Convention. The undertaking of the Prime Minister, at that time, was to endeavour to arrange for the holding of the Convention during the year 1920. I quite recognise the importance of the Imperial questions that have occupied so much of the Prime Minister's time since then, but it is distinctly disappointing to find that his tardy fulfilment of a promise made more than two years ago is accompanied by conditions that render such fulfilment valueless. It is not as though the Bill might be made acceptable by the alteration of details here and there. It is entirely wrong in principle, and destroys all the hopes the smaller States have indulged of relief through the medium of a Convention. From the outset it has been insisted by the smaller States that any convention established to suggest amendments to the Constitution must be on the same basis as the conventions that framed the Constitution: that is to say, equal representation for each of the States. This is an essential principle. We entered the Federation as a partnership of self-governing States, and the Constitution itself made provision that in one House of the Commonwealth Parliament all the States should enjoy equal representation, and that no amendment of the Constitution should be adopted excepting with the consent of a majority of the States, in addition to the consent of a majority of the people. The Prime Minister's Bill cannot be accepted by the Senate.

Mr. O'Loughlen: They are not State representatives.

The PREMIER: I cannot imagine that any representative of either of the four smaller States would support it. Even under a unified form of Government it would be inequitable. It destroys the Federal conception of a partnership by giving preponderating power to the two larger States over the four smaller States. Not content with this, it provides that twelve members shall be elected by the House of Representatives, by which the two larger States again have a predominating vote. What would our position be under such a system? We should have five members elected by the people, three elected by our State Parliament and perhaps one elected by the Senate—nine in a Convention of 111. Tasmania would have the same, South Australia 11, Queensland 14—a total delegation of 43. New South Wales would have 27 elected members, three State Parliamentary members, one from the Senate and probably six from the House of Representatives—37 in all, and Victoria 31 in all. The two bigger States would have 68 representatives against 43 from the four smaller States. However, the extent of the disproportion is immaterial. We cannot agree to any departure from the principle of a Federal partnership, a principle that can be maintained only by equality of representation. I move—

That this Parliament is of opinion that the Bill to make provision for the Na-

tional Convention for the purpose of revision of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia introduced into the Commonwealth Parliament is unreasonable in its provisions and that this Parliament is further of the opinion that any convention to revise the Commonwealth Constitution should consist of an equal number of representatives of each State.

Hon. P. COLLIER (Boulder) [4.52]: I have no hesitation in supporting the motion moved by the Premier. In the main I agree with the points he has urged in the course of his remarks. One finds it difficult to believe that the Commonwealth Government are serious in putting forward such a proposal. In fact I consider that the Bill, on the information telegraphed to us, is an outrage. We were promised a convention for the purpose of a revision of the Constitution. This was a pre-election promise made in 1919 and two years have been allowed to pass by without any action being taken to fulfil that promise. Now, in the dying hours of the Commonwealth session, we have a proposal such as this put before us. I agree that we should maintain the Federal basis and that in any convention called to revise the Federal Constitution we must have equal representation of the States. Apart from that the basis of election is entirely undemocratic. I also think that the size of the convention would render it unwieldy, and unable to do the best work. To have 111 men sitting in a convention to review the Constitution would be utterly absurd. The original convention consisted of, I believe, 60 members, 10 from each State, and I should say that any body called together for a similar purpose should not exceed that number. I am of opinion that nothing will come of this proposal; that the Federal Government do not desire the Bill to be passed and never intended it to become law. If the measure survives the passage through the House of Representatives, it certainly will be or should be defeated in the Senate. This Bill is merely keeping a promise made with the lips two years ago without any intention of effect being given to it. I support the motion and I hope the Bill will be defeated during its passage through the Federal Parliament.

Mr. HARRISON (Avon) [4.54]: It becomes a duty to enter our emphatic protest against the manner in which the request for a Federal Convention to revise the Constitution has been flouted. The States should have equal rights in any such convention. Western Australia suffers more than any of the other States in the matter of disabilities which require to be redressed. This State suffers from a lack of secondary industries, while in the Eastern States secondary industries are firmly established. This State needs special assistance. Our vast area and sparse population are factors which should appeal to Federal members. I protest against the proposed form of the convention, and

against a preponderance of the voting strength being given to the larger States, which now enjoy so much prosperity at the expense, in a very large degree, of some of the smaller States. Western Australia has been bled and repeatedly bled while Victoria and some of the other States, with their established manufactures, have reaped the benefits, and this State cannot possibly submit to a continuance of this state of affairs. We need our money in this State. It is essential that the representation of this State should be adequate to safeguard our interests. If a fair basis of representation at the convention had been suggested, we might have secured something approaching justice. I enter my protest against the suggested constitution of the convention.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. W. J. George—Murray-Wellington) [4.56]: I believe I am the only member in this Assembly to-day who sat in the old House when these matters were discussed some 20 years or more ago. I should like to take the opportunity of saying that so far as the discussion by the members in those days was concerned—the Premier of the day was Sir John Forrest—we distinctly understood that the basis of the convention was that there should be equal representation of the States. We were led to understand from the debates at the Adelaide conference and at the Melbourne conference and Sydney also, that the rights of the smaller States would be fully conserved. I have no hesitation in saying that the interests of the smaller States have not been conserved and have not been respected. Irrespective of whatever political party have been in power, the smaller States have had to suffer. To my mind there is not the slightest doubt that, from the very commencement, the intention was unification. Unfortunately our representatives in the Federal Parliament—I am not impeaching the honour or their motives—have certainly not had the power to make the requirements of Western Australia known and respected. If the present proposal of the Federal Government be carried into effect, those representatives who go from this State will go to play a game against loaded dice and marked cards, a game in which the absolute determination on the part of those holding the controlling power is to concentrate this power in the middle States of the Commonwealth. I told Mr. Watt practically the same thing two and a half years ago when I was in Melbourne. Mr. Watt lost his temper with me; somehow he seemed to lose his temper easily with me. It was not for me to lose my temper with him when fighting for Western Australia, but I told him, the fact that he could not keep his temper was proof that my statements were correct. I hope that the desires of this State will go forth from this Assembly in no uncertain voice. Western Australia knows what its rights are, and all of us in this Chamber, irrespective of party, are determined that those rights shall be respected

by the Commonwealth, no matter how far we have to go.

Hon. T. WALKER (Kanowna) [4.59]: I hesitate to add to the discussion, because what has been said is so much to the point that to continue the debate might obscure the effects already produced. Like the Minister for Works I have some memory of what took place in connection with the inauguration of the movement towards the federation of the Commonwealth. When the first convention was held in Sydney, I happened to be a member of the New South Wales Parliament. I attended the discussions and heard such distinguished men as Sir Henry Parkes and Sir George Grey, men who have been in their sphere, builders of this great Commonwealth. I am reminded also of Kingston of South Australia and Alfred Deakin. The matters were discussed in the initial stages, not only by the convention but on the floor of the Parliament of New South Wales, and if there is one thing more than another that has engrafted itself on my memory, it is the fact that in the combination of States, as outlined in that masterpiece of drafting by the late Chief Justice of the Commonwealth, Sir Samuel Griffiths, it was the claim of partnership that there was no danger to the individual States, because it was merely a partnership of States. There was to be a deed of partnership, and the Constitution expressed that deed of partnership. Each State entering into the compact was to preserve its sovereignty, and it was to enjoy all the rights and privileges of Constitutional Government and administration, except in such matters as the separate States might hand over to the separate jurisdiction of the Commonwealth. And in order to preserve that, Sir Edmund Barton, who gave the final touches to the Bill, especially emphasised the democratic character of the legislation for the election of the Senate, making it more democratic than any so-called Second House, or Upper House, ever known in the world's history, with a view to preserving intact the rights and sovereignty of the individual States. That was the keynote, and the Minister for Works will remember that in this very State there was considerable hesitancy about entering into the partnership. The late Sir Winthrop Mackenzie, and the late Sir John Forrest, for a time opposed our entry into the compact, foreseeing with clear discerning judgment that the time would come when the partnership would be abused and that some of the partners would seek to take advantage of the others. There was a long struggle in making the conditions, and one of the conditions laid down, and almost put into the Constitution itself, when the late Sir George Reid had the management of affairs, was that we should have the Transcontinental line given to us to assist us, and knowing the disadvantages this State would suffer, knowing that we were throwing from the grip of our power all that taxation that came through the Customs and Excise, knowing that there were special inducements and special conces-

sions granted to Western Australia such as the payment per capita of the population—all this was the *sine qua non* of our entry. We entered under hesitancy, and, let me say, under compulsion. If it had not been for despatches from the Home Office on the question, I doubt whether we should to this day have been in the Federation.

Mr. DAVIES: What about the pressure from the goldfields?

Hon. T. WALKER: That had a lot to do with it, I admit, but it was as much due to Chamberlain's messages.

Mr. ANGELO: Those messages were the result of the goldfields agitation.

Hon. T. WALKER: Not altogether the result, but there was an Imperial motive at the time, and now that the war is over we see what that motive was. These things were foreseen then. However, we went in cautiously and hesitatingly on the assurance that certain things would be done for us, amongst others that our finances would be guaranteed to us for a time. Every possible opportunity has been taken to destroy our position, and more and more are we getting into the financial grip of an octopus that is absolutely sapping our life's blood and energy from us. That is the position, and I regret that sometimes Ministers themselves forget, and members sometimes forget the State and the Commonwealth relationship, as was evinced by handing over our State Taxation Department to the Commonwealth. They will regret it by-and-by. But the point is now that they are seeking to put the chains tighter around us, unless, of course, this be a huge jest, playing with the people of the Commonwealth. If it be serious, it is no other attempt than an attempt to strangle the smaller States and giving absolute supremacy to the sovereignty of the Commonwealth. I congratulate the Premier on the motion he has moved, and trust the people of the State will take it up whole-heartedly. They are in danger of suffering more than they can realise. The weight of taxation that now is upon us is light in comparison to what it will be if a convention such as has been suggested is brought about. I congratulate the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Country Party on their view, and we can rejoice in the fact that this House, to the last man, is unanimous in a resistance of this attempt at coercion, aggression and political robbery.

Mr. McCALLUM (South Fremantle) [5.8]: I can say with the Leader of the Opposition that in the main I agree with the sentiments expressed by the Premier, but I am rather pleased at the action the Prime Minister has taken, because I believe it is devised with the idea of killing the convention. I can see no good at all in the convention other than that it will mean an unwarranted waste of public funds. The Premier said that he thinks any authority for the alteration of the Constitution should take the form of a basis similar to that on which it was framed. When the Constitu-

tion was framed very few thought that it would last for 20 years without amendment. The Constitution itself provides for the means of amendment. It is set out that a Bill must pass through both Houses of the Commonwealth Parliament and subsequently receive the endorsement of a majority of the people of Australia and a majority of the States of the Commonwealth. And if this convention met and agreed to proposals, just as this State wanted, those proposals would have to be embodied in a Bill which would have to be passed through the Commonwealth Parliament. That would mean that it could be altered in any way the Commonwealth Parliament liked, and subsequently it would be submitted to the people by way of a referendum. The whole scheme of holding the convention was merely devised by the Federal members to shelve responsibility, to throw it on to the shoulders of others. It is the duty of members of the Federal Parliament to frame amendments and put them into the form of a Bill, and pass that Bill through both Houses of Parliament, and then that measure should be submitted to the people for approval or rejection. The holding of an expensive convention such as that suggested is absolutely unwarranted, especially when the Constitution itself provides the means for amending the Constitution. It is nothing but passing on to the shoulders of others responsibility which rightly belongs to the Federal Parliament. That is what they are paid to do. A great many of the conferences of Premiers and Ministers of the Crown have done the work which should have been performed by members of the Senate who are paid to do it, and who are elected to do it. The members of the Senate were elected to look after the interests of the States. The Constitution was framed for that purpose and the members of the Senate are elected on a State basis. I am glad the proposed convention will be killed. The Commonwealth Parliament itself should take the responsibility of framing a Bill to submit to the people. If a convention were necessary, then I would agree with the sentiments expressed by the Premier, but I am glad to see steps taken which will prevent the expenditure of public funds.

Mr. ANGELO (Gascoyne) [5.12]: I also desire to congratulate the Premier on the prompt action he has taken in bringing this matter before the House. I am also delighted to find that we are going to have a unanimous House in this protest. The Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Country Party have thoroughly endorsed the action of the Premier, and I think this unanimity of opinion will lead to the success of any protest we make against the holding of a convention on the outrageous lines proposed by the Prime Minister. I consider that the suggestion is simply the outcome of the fact that the

four small States have shown that they are determined to have a better deal from the Federal compact. It is the fact that those four States have shown by their actions in the several Parliaments that they intend to hold a private investigation of the position so as to go to the convention fully prepared to show how the Federal compact has affected them, that has led the Prime Minister to deal with the matter in the manner he has done. Evidently he is going to make it such an urgent matter, that the States will not have the opportunity to carry out the fullest investigation which they desire to do. The Prime Minister has thrown down the gauntlet and it is for us now to fight for our rights.

Mr. Marshall: Where are our Federal members?

Mr. ANGELO: In the same position as our delegates will be, if the proposed Bill is passed. It will be a voice calling in the wilderness. We will be wholly out-voted by the two larger States.

Mr. Chesson: That is so in the Senate.

Mr. Marshall: They are I.W.W.—ing it.

Mr. ANGELO: To be a truly Federal Convention, it should be composed of equal representation from each State. That aspect was, I think, pointed out when the Federal Constitution was first framed. In the Federal House of Representatives the States were given numbers according to their populations; but in the Senate, which was supposed to be the States House, the same representation was given to the various States, no matter whether large or small. That course should be followed at the Federal Convention. Without that, the Convention cannot be truly Federal in character. The Convention should be representative of the States, and, secondarily, representative of the people in each State. Therefore, I am very glad that this motion has been moved, and so ably endorsed by the leaders of political opinion in this House. I desire to say further, however, that the matter is of such importance that we should not depend even on our Cabinet to move in it. Neither should we leave the matter to our Houses of Parliament. We should point out to the public of Western Australia the great importance of the matter to their livelihood, to their very existence, and also to the continued existence of the sovereign rights of the State. The Press should on every suitable occasion draw attention to the importance of the question, and educate our people in regard to it. Public meetings should also be held, so as to bring home to our people the necessity for a strong protest against the outrageous suggestion of Mr. Hughes. I unreservedly support the motion.

Hon. T. Walker: Let us remember this when the Federal elections come round!

Question put and passed.

On further motion by the Premier, resolution transmitted by Message to the Legislative Council for its concurrence.

[The Deputy Speaker took the Chair.]

## BILL—GRAIN.

Report of Committee adopted.

## BILL—DREDGING LICENSE.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the 8th November.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. W. J. George—Murray-Wellington) [5.20]: During the previous debate on the Bill, I took a note of various objections raised by hon. members. I do not complain of that criticism, because I consider hon. members are quite right in seeking what information they think necessary. One objection raised was that the passage of this Bill would lead to the erection of unsightly buildings along the foreshore, thus turning what hon. members evidently thought should be an ornamental river front into one disfigured by buildings of the type necessary for manufactures. I am quite in accord with the view expressed by the Premier. He knows, as we all know, that every avenue of employment which can be obtained should be and must be fostered. Although taste might grumble at a building, the practical business of finding employment for our workers in Western Australia should receive full consideration. Even as regards the buildings, however, the Municipalities Act has a good deal to say. Personally, I think there need be no fear on that score. Next, as to the Government having control of the site on which the buildings may be erected: that all depends upon where the site is to be. The Government have very little land indeed that would be suitable for the erection of buildings for this manufacture; and the great bulk of the land on the other side of the river, where the septic tanks and so on are located, is in the hands of private owners. I do not know whether hon. members think they should introduce into the Bill a clause insisting that wherever the buildings are put, they must be put upon Government land. Such a proposal seems to me hardly tenable. If seriously insisted upon, a provision of that kind might interfere very much with the arrangements which must be made. While it is quite within the power of the House, and even desirable, to keep control of manufactures as much as possible, yet we must lend the fullest weight to the consideration that if we attempt too much control, become too finicky, we may perhaps stifle the proposal to establish an industry which would result in the provision of work here. Hon. members were somewhat dubious as to whether the shell in the river is in sufficient quantities to meet the requirements of the Government and various local governing bodies as well as of the proposed manufacture. I regret I have been unable to bring up with me to-day, and place before hon. members, a plan showing the localities and areas of shell in the river. I think I am justified in saying that hon.

members need have no nervousness regarding the quantity of shell available. There is no reason to doubt that other applications of this nature, if put forward, would be considered by the Government for different areas from the one now under consideration. One hon. member said that a person dredging might make a tremendously deep hole, which would prove a danger. However, it is quite possible for the regulations to insist upon even dredging. Another thing: the people who have to do the dredging will find it to their advantage to dredge on an even bottom. I have made inquiries concerning the alleged nuisance from the cement works at Burswood. Certain complaints have, I think, been made; but it is extremely doubtful whether the damage caused is of such magnitude as to call for any serious consideration. If we are to block the establishment of secondary industries along the Swan River, we shall find ourselves up against considerable trouble. The position as regards cement works is that they roast the material after it has been ground. They certainly use the coal dust which has been mentioned, and, of course, there rises from them a certain volume of what appears to be smoke. The great bulk of it, however, is moisture—moisture coming out of the ground mud when it is inside the heated revolving cylinder. The moisture has to be eliminated till the stuff dries. All manufacturing towns have difficulty with the discharge of smoke, etc., from their stacks. In the Old Country there was for many years—I do not know whether the same thing obtains now—a department for investigating and prosecuting any manufacturing premises which emitted large volumes of black smoke. It is not so much that the smoke and other vapour encountered in manufacturing districts are injurious, as that they are a nuisance. I do not think we shall ever be able to go in for manufacturing here unless we are prepared to put up with some inconvenience and some nuisance. One hon. member suggested that we ought not to give any specific area to any one particular person, but that various persons should be permitted to dredge over the same area. That suggestion carries its own refutation. It would lead to endless trouble, and would be altogether unfair. Hon. members may not be aware that the man who first dredges for shell will remove a great deal of mud on the top of it, but hon. members need only ask themselves whether, if they had done some pioneering work, they would like it if other persons came along and reaped the benefits of that initial work. It was also argued that the fairway of the river would be interfered with. That is quite imaginary. We have dredges there now obtaining shell, and there is plenty of room on the river for any number of boats. The area of this lease would afford scope for three or four dredges, without interfering with the river fairway. One point which has had my attention as Minister for Water Supply, Sewerage, and

Drainage is that the proposed dredging must not interfere with the pipes which go from the septic tanks near East Perth across to Burswood Island. Those pipes must not be jeopardised in any way by the dredging operations. Therefore it has been provided that for a certain distance on either side of the pipes no dredging shall take place. Hon. members will see that if dredging took place near those pipes, the result would be to remove the supporting shell from the pipes. The further result would be the breaking of the pipes, and the discharge into the river of the contents of the septic tanks. One hon. member said he could not look upon this as a cement proposition. My view is that it must be a lime proposition, as the amount of capital put down would not be sufficient to provide cement making machinery. If the capital put down by the applicant remains at £5,000, it would be absurd to expect this to become a cement proposition. As for the term of the lease, hon. members can form their own conclusions about it and deal with this point in Committee.

Mr. LAMBERT (Coolgardie) [5.30]: Most hon. members are mistaken in the belief that this is going to give to the owner anything in the nature of a monopoly. As a matter of fact, with the many deposits of limestone and shale in Western Australia, it would be impossible for any company to get a monopoly of lime or lime burning in this State. There are many people who, so soon as ever a new industry is mooted, can think only of how best to block it. That is particularly pronounced with the Chamber of Commerce, constituting as it does the greatest curse and bugbear to the development of secondary industries. In many instances the members of that Chamber, in most unscrupulous manner, use the power of their capital to stifle industry in Western Australia. It is for us to try to encourage secondary industries. If we are ever to make an attempt to build up a well balanced State that can meet its obligations, it is essential that this neglected section of our activities should be promoted to the fullest extent. It is amazing that to-day in Western Australia we should be burning lime as they burnt lime for the building of the walls of China. Yet it is so; in this important industry, upon which so many other industries such as building and agriculture depend, we are burning lime in the same manner and by the same methods as it was burnt 2,000 years ago. The Minister said that possibly there would be a little dust arising from the establishment of secondary industries. Some members take exception to the fact that a little dust emanates from the existing cement works at Burswood. Possibly they fear that the dust will get all over the seating accommodation at the adjacent racecourse. If it is going to be a choice between the closing of secondary industries and the closing of racecourses, it will not take me long to decide how to vote. It is true there is a good deal of



what appears to be smoke coming from the cement works. As a matter of fact, it is not smoke at all. If you put certain material in a cement kiln with a view to making Portland cement, practically 50 per cent. of it must go up the stack in the form of carbonic oxide, which is a heavy looking smoke, but is in no way detrimental to the community. Indeed, all vegetation is dependent on carbonic oxide for its existence. Even if the proposed new works were to be erected in South Perth, I do not think the South Perth residents would have anything to find fault with. Another important aspect of this proposal to give these people an opportunity to burn lime in the most approved manner is that all the limestones along our coast when burnt contain only from 60 per cent. to 70 per cent. lime oxide, and for every 100 tons of lime used the public are paying for 30 or 40 tons of sand or silica. If we give the company the opportunity to burn lime from shell, we shall get an absolutely pure lime oxide, and so the building contractors and the agriculturists and others who depend upon lime will have a considerable advantage. The only possible way in which to burn a pure limestone is to burn it either from shell or from sedimentary deposits such as that at Lake Clifton. It is regrettable that the cement company have not seen fit to erect a kiln in which to burn their limestone. It would yield a lime equal to anything in the world. There are in England to-day companies featuring the fact that they are using for the burning of lime a plant similar to that proposed in the Bill.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: A plant costing £5,000! You would require one costing more like £45,000.

Mr. LAMBERT: A combination of the shell in the Swan River and the sedimentary deposit to be obtained in the Darling Ranges will possibly make as good a Portland cement as any in the world. The time will come when we shall have big Portland cement works here such as exist in dozens of other places where the whole of the material is secured by the dredging of rivers similar in nature to the Swan River. No other country in the world offers better facilities for the establishment of big cement works than are offered here by the combination of the shell in the river and the sedimentary deposits in the Darling Ranges. In the river Thames to-day they are dredging hundreds of thousands of tons of sludge and converting it into Portland cement which foolish people, such as the people of Western Australia, pay for when they should be establishing their own industry here. Even this company—

Hon. W. C. Angwin: It is one man, not a company.

Mr. LAMBERT: That does not matter. So long as we are safeguarding the public interests—

Hon. P. Collier: We are not doing it in the Bill.

Mr. LAMBERT: I do not see where the public interest is at all jeopardised. If there are any safeguarding provisions which should be put in—

Hon. P. Collier: The Bill looks as if it had been drafted by the applicant for the concession.

Mr. LAMBERT: Even so, it is not asking very much to ask to be allowed to dredge over a few acres of the Swan River.

Mr. McCallum: No Bill is necessary for that.

Mr. LAMBERT: So long as the public interests are safeguarded, it is advisable that we should have industries like this in our midst. The building trade to-day is at a disadvantage because the whole of the lime burnt is from very low grade limestone. If the Leader of the Opposition has something in mind which he feels necessary to the safeguarding of the public interests, I will be pleased to support it; but when that object is achieved I want the people of this State to get busy and start industries. There are dozens of other industries which would provide profitable employment for both labour and capital. When we learn to think along those lines, then shall we see the State progress. From a casual glance at the Bill, I see in it nothing to fear. I have read carefully the whole of the objections offered to the passage of the Bill, and I can only class them as being somewhat trivial. As for dredging deep in the river, no great harm will be done. As for giving a definite area, I think a man launching out in an industry of this sort, calling for the expenditure of £5,000 or £6,000, should be given a definite area and tonnage to work upon. So sure as somebody does the pioneering work, scores of people are prepared to rush in and steal the reward of his enterprise and ability. I hate to think of the many men in this State who have no faith whatever in Western Australia. Only a little time ago another concern somewhat similar to this was referred to the State Mining Engineer, who said that to utilise any of our minerals in a commercial way could only be regarded as speculative. Just think of it! To say that it is impossible to put capital into the limitless mineral wealth we have in Western Australia except on a speculative basis!

Mr. Simons: They even down oil.

Mr. LAMBERT: Yes, particularly Bremer Bay oil. I only hope the necessity for establishing industries in Western Australia will be reflected in Parliament itself and that it will be cried from the house-tops. We are draining this young State so long as we do not give every possible encouragement to the establishment of industry. It appears to me that we in this State know nothing except broad acres and agriculture. It is most commendable in the Premier to have a clear policy in that direction; but a greater obligation rests on him and on us to establish in every possible way indus-

tries essential to our social and economic life. We have in the metropolitan area thousands of young people walking about without employment. Employment can be created in a helpful way if Parliament will bend its will to the matter.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (North-East Fremantle) [5.45]: It is amusing to hear the member for Coolgardie (Mr. Lambert).

Mr. Lambert: I did not set out to amuse people, but to instruct them.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I have not received much instruction from the speech the hon. member has just made.

The Premier: He made a good speech.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: There is no guarantee in the Bill that any industry will be started, nor is there any compulsion about it for the establishment of an industry.

Mr. Lambert: What are the odds?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The hon. member said that the Bill provided for the starting of an industry.

The Premier: So it does.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: And that members were opposing the starting of an industry. I am going to plead guilty to having fixed up an arrangement in 1915 for much the same purpose as is set forth here. I thought at the time that the safeguards were such that there was a possibility of an industry being established to provide cement and lime for the other industries of Western Australia.

The Premier: You have got that now.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Another company came along later. The persons who obtained the right to take shell out of the Swan River—it was not an exclusive right for any particular area—were forced out of the business. It was said at the time that some monetary consideration was given to ensure that only one company would make cement within the State. Mr. Scott, who secured this right, had to spend a fairly large sum of money in establishing work within a certain period, but the whole thing fell through. Several of the gentlemen interested with him are, I understand, now interested in the Burswood cement works. Some of them interviewed me in Adelaide upon the question of taking shell from the river. Now Mr. Moss comes along. I do not know who he is.

The Premier: Yes, you do.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I know the name, but not the man. Mr. Moss says, in effect, "If you will give me the sole right to dredge for shell over a certain area I may possibly start cement works on a site to be provided by me." The Bill does not say he is going to do that. As a matter of fact it says he is not going to do it.

The Premier: The Bill says he must do it.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Mr. Moss says "I must only be compelled to spend £5,000." That sum would not buy a plant necessary to take the shell out of the river, and would not even buy a dredge.

The Premier: He must take so many thousands of shell annually.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I do not know if Mr. Moss has any connection with the other company.

Mr. Lambert: He has, or used to have his own dredges.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: There may be dredges at Greenbushes, but it would cost a large sum of money to bring them up. Perhaps they are all white ant eaten by now. If it were stated that the other company was to get the shell to assist them in carrying on their works we might understand the position. What does Mr. Moss want to do?

The Premier: To make lime.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: He wants an exclusive right over an area close to the cement works. He has possibly tested the depth of shell there. He may then go to the other company and sell his rights to them for a certain sum.

The Premier: He cannot do it.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Is it his object to get a certain amount of money out of the company which has already started cement works?

The Premier: He would not be allowed to do that.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The only way to prevent it is to throw the Bill out.

The Premier: It prevents anything like that.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: If the Premier will indicate that the Bill contains a guarantee that the industry will be established I shall be glad if he will point it out. It has been estimated that to establish Government cement works for the manufacture of cement at a price that the people can afford to pay would cost between £30,000 and £40,000. The amount mentioned in this Bill is in itself an indication that there is no intention on the part of the gentleman concerned to make cement or lime. Lake Clifton can supply all the lime that is required. The member for Bunbury (Mr. Money) complained that the Government have not put into force the provisions regarding Lake Clifton, and that people in the South-West who want lime have not yet got it. Nothing has been done in that matter.

The Premier: They will supply any lime that is wanted.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The Government have not enforced the conditions regarding the Lake Clifton lease.

The Premier: They are ready to supply lime now.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The hon. member says the South-West people cannot get it.

The Premier: I looked into the matter after that.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The Bill should guarantee that works will be started within a certain period, and that a big deposit shall be put down as a guarantee of good faith, and we shall then know where we are. The Government were bitten once; I do not want them to be bitten again.

The Premier: It did no harm.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Yes, it did.

Mr. Davies: The House has been assured that there are many other similar areas of shell in the river.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I know of some places.

Hon. P. Collier: Such assurances count for nothing on the following day.

Mr. Davies: It came from the Minister for Works.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: When the boring was being done just below Blackwall Reach shell was found at a depth of 100 feet, but I do not know either the quantity or quality of the shell.

The Premier: I wish we had lived in the oyster days.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I am content to live in these days. To any person who puts up a proposition and can stuff the Government with statements that he intends to do something, the Government say—

The Premier: They cannot do it until they get the right to do it.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN:—“We will introduce a Bill for you.” I do not blame the Premier in this matter so much as I blame the Minister for Lands. The Bill gives us no guarantee as to what will be done. We should know what the position is, and the fullest possible information should be afforded to us. We should know what time would elapse before the works are started.

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

The Premier: The shell is being used now to make a racecourse.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The House should know what the intentions of the people concerned are, and whether a company has been or is being established. I will vote for the Bill if the Premier will give us a straight out assurance as to how much money will be spent, whether that money is available, and when the works will be started. We should oppose the Bill until we get that information. We have had enough of granting concessions to people who hawk them about in order to make money out of them.

The Premier: You must be referring to mining leases.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: An hon. member complained last night about the manner in which these large oil areas had been hawked round the country. The intention probably is to hawk this particular concession if it is granted. The sum of £5,000 is not nearly sufficient for the establishment of works.

Hon. P. Collier: It would not buy a rusty old dredge.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Until the information we require is placed before us we should hesitate to pass the Bill.

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

|              |    |    |    |    |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|
| Ayes         | .. | .. | .. | 21 |
| Noes         | .. | .. | .. | 11 |
|              |    |    |    | —  |
| Majority for | .. | .. | .. | 10 |
|              |    |    |    | —  |

# AYES.

|                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Mr. Angelo      | Mr. Mann           |
| Mr. Broun       | Sir James Mitchell |
| Mr. Carter      | Mr. Money          |
| Mrs. Cowan      | Mr. Pickering      |
| Mr. Davies      | Mr. Piesse         |
| Mr. Durack      | Mr. Sampson        |
| Mr. George      | Mr. Teesdale       |
| Mr. Gibson      | Mr. J. Thomson     |
| Mr. Harrison    | Mr. Underwood      |
| Mr. Lambert     | Mr. Mullany        |
| Mr. H. K. Maley | (Teller.)          |

# NOES.

|             |                |
|-------------|----------------|
| Mr. Angwin  | Mr. Marshall   |
| Mr. Chesson | Mr. McCallum   |
| Mr. Collier | Mr. Munslie    |
| Mr. Corboy  | Mr. Walker     |
| Mr. Heron   | Mr. O'Loughlin |
| Mr. Lutey   | (Teller.)      |

Question thus passed.

Bill read a second time.

## ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1921-22.

In Committee of Supply.

Resumed from the previous day; Mr. Munslie in the Chair.

Colonial Secretary's Department (Hon. F. T. Broun, Minister).

Vote—Fisheries, £6,574—agreed to.

Vote—Registry and Friendly Societies, £10,714:

Mr. McCALLUM (South Fremantle) [6.4]: I was hopeful that the Committee would have heard a statement from the Minister regarding the position of the Arbitration Court and the policy of the Government on that question. At the present time the business of the court is managed by the Registrar of Friendly Societies and by the clerk of the Arbitration Court. With these two separate officers conducting their duties in different parts of the city, an unsatisfactory position is created in connection with industrial matters. For some time past, requests have been made for improvements in connection with arbitration matters generally. The present arrangements are not calculated to expedite business nor to assist in the maintenance of industrial peace. If the administration of industrial matters were under one head, the parties would know where they stood under the uniform system which would be brought about. As it is at present, one section of this work is controlled by the clerk of the Arbitration Court and the other by the Registrar of Friendly Societies, with the result that the division of duties sometimes proves vexatious and causes delay. Parties sometimes hardly know where they are in connection with the business of the court. The Arbitration Court is not equipped with the necessary facilities for carrying on the work properly. I have on more than one occasion been summoned to the court to at-

tend a compulsory conference. The only room available for the proceeding is a dingy little one, possessed of four chairs only: I believe that another four chairs have been installed in the room quite recently. There have been 30 or 40 people in attendance at the compulsory conferences and only four chairs in the room. There is one cupboard, but beyond that, no provision to deal with records and papers of the court is made. Anyone desirous of having an old decision, or early records, searched, will find that the clerk cannot put his hand on any of them immediately, with the result that more delay is caused by the necessity for an extended search for the documents. The clerk of the court has no proper facilities for filing papers dealing with the decisions of the tribunals of the Eastern States, or for keeping them up to date, so that those decisions can be inspected quickly. It is unfair to place the clerk of the Arbitration Court in such a position. Surely the Government can afford to equip the building in an adequate fashion. The clerk of the court is a most obliging officer and tributes have been paid to him and his work by not only unions but by employers as well. He is a good administrator and a capable man, but it is impossible for anyone to carry out the duties of such a position with satisfaction to those concerned, with the facilities at his disposal. It is only within the last few weeks that a messenger has been provided for the convenience of the clerk. Until then, the work was done by the clerk himself and a typist. The work is piling up and it is unreasonable to expect that the existing staff can carry out the job. I have heard it said that there should be a central office, at the head of which there should be an official paid a decent salary, that official to have the administration of all matters affecting the trades unions. It would only need a slight amendment of the Act to enable that to be done, for the present measure provides that the Registrar of Trade Unions shall be the Registrar of Friendly Societies for the time being. It would merely require the alteration, the effect of which would be to enable the appointment of an officer other than the Registrar of Friendly Societies. If that were done, it would be of advantage to all parties, and would tend to smooth working of industrial matters. In addition to appointing an officer who would take charge of that work, the court should be provided with proper accommodation and a proper staff to do the job satisfactorily. Even the tablecloth at the Arbitration Court developed some sort of disease which made it impossible to shift papers or books once they were laid upon it. It would have been impossible to shift the cloth from the table with a crowbar, so tightly had it adhered to the wood. It was only recently that representations made by the court, resulted in a new cloth being provided. These indications, however, show the conditions under which the court has been asked to carry out its functions. To

ask a man to carry out duties for a salary such as that provided for the clerk of the Arbitration Court, is altogether unreasonable. I want to see that job enlarged, with a central official with more extended powers, such as a Commissioner provided for under last session's amending Act, who will have power to convene compulsory conferences, negotiate with the parties to a dispute, narrow down the issues and simplify the work of the court. It should not be necessary for such an official to act as clerk of the court, which office could be held by a lesser official. I hope the Minister will give the Committee some information as to the Government's intentions and inform us if there is any idea of improving the position. This step is very necessary and surely the expenditure of a few hundreds, or even a few thousands, should not stand in the way of improving the position of a court, that should help to assure industrial peace. The Premier has already drawn attention to the fact that he attributes the deficit to the disturbed condition of industry and strikes, and the expenditure of money in the direction I have suggested, would be money well spent, so that facilities for adjusting grievances may be correspondingly improved. The employers, as well as the unions, have urged that this improvement should take place.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. T. Broun—Beverley) [6.11]: I cannot give the member for South Fremantle (Mr. McCallum) any definite information regarding this question at the present moment, because it is only quite recently that the unions and the employers' federation brought it under the notice of the Premier. It was brought under his notice since he attended the conference in the Eastern States recently, when the question of arbitration was discussed. The whole matter is, however, under consideration and it all depends upon the decision arrived at by the Government regarding the amendment of the Arbitration Act. The various amendments to the Act, which have been requested by the unions and the federation, are under consideration, and as soon as the Government agree upon the alterations to be embodied in an amending Bill, and the future methods to be adopted, the other matters to which the hon. member has drawn attention, will be taken into consideration as well.

Item—Clerk of Arbitration Court, £336:

Hon. P. COLLIER: This item bears on the question raised by the member for South Fremantle. It indicates the official view of the status the chief Arbitration Court official should possess. The chief executive officer of the court gets a miserable salary of £336. The surroundings and work of the Arbitration Court should be considerably elevated and it requires to be put into a new home and to be given a new status befitting the work the court has to perform. Bearing in mind the responsibility attached to the court, and its bearing upon the harmonious

working of our industrial and social activities, it will be admitted that there is room for considerable improvement. We have a capable officer holding the responsible position at the head of the department and he receives £750 a year. The position of the chief executive officer of the Arbitration Court is not one whit less responsible than that of the officer I referred to, and the clerk of the court should draw a salary equivalent to that paid to an under secretary or a permanent head of a Government department. The power and influence of the clerk of the Arbitration Court in helping to secure amicable settlements of disputes, are great indeed. I know that the salary of this officer is not fixed by Ministers but is the result of the Public Service Commissioner's classification. It, however, provides one of those anomalies which bewilder one and make one wonder how such salaries are fixed. We see one man drawing £800 a year whose duties may be infinitely inferior in importance and responsibility to that of another officer drawing £300 or £400 a year. In such circumstances, one wonders if the names of responsible officers and salaries are put into a hat and drawn out willy nilly, the salaries being fixed accordingly.

*Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.*

Hon. P. COLLIER: I repeat that the important and responsible nature of the duties performed by the clerk of the Arbitration Court do not seem to be recognised by the Public Service Commissioner. An officer holding this position must be a capable man, and must be well informed as to cost of living statistics not only of Western Australia but of all the States of the Commonwealth. He has to give advice to numerous applicants coming to the court. If through the agency of the clerk of the Arbitration Court even one industrial dispute or strike is prevented, the State might be saved a loss of hundreds of thousands of pounds; and therefore this officer's services are potentially more valuable to the community than those of many officers appearing on the Estimates at double his salary. The Public Service Commissioner's salary has recently been increased from £850 to £1,000; and, in addition, there has been the appointment of an Assistant Public Service Commissioner at the Public Service Commissioner's former salary of £850. Thus work which was formerly done by one man for £850, is now being done by two men at a total cost of £1,850 to the State. I do not wish at all to disparage the office of Assistant Public Service Commissioner; the officer holding the position is one of the most capable and most efficient men in our Public Service. Nevertheless, I cannot consider that the duties of an Assistant Public Service Commissioner compares in importance and value with those of the clerk of the Arbitration Court. Yet this latter position is valued by the Public Service Com-

missioner's office at £360 per annum, round about which figure it has been ever since it was created. The present clerk of the Arbitration Court has held the position for nine or 10 years; I do not think he is now receiving £50 per annum more than his salary was on his taking over the duties of the office. Whilst recognising that it is not within the province of the Minister to fix the salary of this officer, I hope that those whose duty it is to fix the salary will pay more heed to the importance of the work done by various officers. Apparently the Public Service Commissioner deems this position to be merely that of an ordinary clerk, a man without responsibility, simply attached to a ledger.

The Colonial Secretary: Before fixing the salary the Public Service Commissioner must become acquainted with the duties of the position.

Hon. P. COLLIER: No doubt he made himself acquainted with the routine work of this officer; but evidently he knows nothing of the possibilities of industrial peace or industrial war in the hands of the clerk of the Arbitration Court. With reference also to the assessors, it is a reflection upon Parliament that men of such responsibilities in the Arbitration Court should receive salaries not exceeding £400 per annum. The Arbitration Court should be given the importance which its duties warrant. That cannot be so nowadays, when the court is housed miserably and judges come and go every six months. It seems that when a judge takes over the duties of President of the Arbitration Court, he does so only with the idea of fulfilling a term which all judges seem to be called upon in turn to fulfil.

Mr. Davies: When the clerk has acted as arbitrator himself, has he drawn any fees?

Hon. P. COLLIER: No; nothing but his salary. I hope the Government will reconsider the whole position of the Arbitration Court, and then perhaps arbitration will become more popular here.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—Gaols, £28,750—agreed to.

Vote—Harbour and Light and Jetties, £21,980:

Mrs. COWAN: I wish to secure a remedy for the present condition of things on the river. To me it seems extraordinary that there should be such entire freedom from restrictions in respect of private boats. No one is there to prevent young people from going out in any weather or from overcrowding their boats. A board should be appointed to look after the river. I know that the Fremantle Boat Licensing Board, under Capt. Winzar, does this work to some extent now. But private boats should be registered, paying a small fee towards the upkeep of the river, jetties, and so forth. Then the position would be much safer. There should also be a proper and regular police patrol of the river. I know that on Saturdays the police

launch goes out from about 2.30 to 6 p.m., and on Sundays from about 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; but those patrols are hardly sufficient to permit of the police looking after private boats, which seem to do as they like. It is a very serious matter that year after year we have terrible river tragedies, but without any control being established. I understand there is no control even of hired boats beyond the Causeway and Canning Bridge.

Mr. CORBOY: For some years I have spent every week end during the summer in sailing boats on the river. My party were very fortunate, never being capsized; but I always thought, and still think, that some board should be established by Parliament to control private boats, and especially to ensure that anyone in charge of a boat shall carry sufficient lifebelts for everybody on board. As regards upkeep of jetties, the jetties are not used by the yachting fraternity.

Mrs. Cowan: Yes, they are, by means of dinghies.

Mr. CORBOY: Only about 4 or 5 per cent. of the sailing boats on the river have dinghies. The police do not allow yachts to use the jetties.

The Colonial Secretary: They are allowed to if they pay jetty dues.

Mr. CORBOY: I think they should pay a registration fee, which would entitle them to use the jetties. The matter is not of sufficient importance to delay the House over; but I should like to see supervision by a board as regards the supply of adequate life-saving appliances.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: I do not know that the matter is not of sufficient importance to delay the House. I do not know that we have had many more important things to consider in connection with these Estimates. We lose some of the very finest of our youth on that river, and to devote a few minutes to an endeavour to prevent that loss is well worth while. Sailing is the finest exercise in which young people could be engaged, and every encouragement should be given to its indulgence. At the same time we should endeavour to protect life. What is required is some supervision to prevent foolish young people taking undue risks. I hope the Minister will go into the matter and endeavour to bring in some provision for the supervision of the boats.

Mr. PICKERING: Few members have had more yachting experience than have I. I should be sorry to see any attempt to mollycoddle the youth on the river. I know of no country where measures are taken such as those proposed by the member for West Perth. If we teach our youth to swim, and if in addition we see to it that every boat carries life-saving appliances, nothing further should be necessary. When we consider the small percentage of accidents on our river, it will be seen that there is very little to worry about, after all. The accident generally happens through overcrowd-

ing and having a lot of girls aboard the boat; it seldom happens when the boat is manned exclusively by boys. I suppose I have been capsized as many times as anybody else; but it never mattered, because I always preferred to go out with a buck's party, where there was only one's own hide to consider.

Hon. P. COLLIER: The hon. member has entirely misjudged those who spoke before him. The member for West Perth did not suggest any mollycoddling; all she contended was that we should recognise our responsibilities in the matter and should pass such legislation as would provide ordinary precautions for the preservation of life. The hon. member for Sussex remarked that not many lives were lost on the river. I know of seven within the last 12 months. A year ago four fine bright boys were lost out of the "Cynthia," and within 12 months, or a couple of weeks ago, three more young people were lost. Yet the hon. member says it is not important. Our Notice Paper is crammed with Bills to regulate this and that and safeguard somebody's pocket. If we are justified in protecting people against material loss, surely we are justified in framing legislation to protect lives. I hope the Government will frame a short Bill and pass it through, say, next week. Every time these accidents occur speeches are made and promises given that the matter will be considered. Yet nothing is ever done. If, with the assistance of his departmental officers acquainted with this subject, the Minister can draft a short Bill within the next day or two, a Bill to regulate the size of boats, provide that they shall not be overcrowded, and that life-saving appliances shall be carried, we could put it through next week. We provide police constables to attend other dangerous sports, and we should do the same on the river.

Mr. Harrison: Is there not a police launch on the river?

Hon. P. COLLIER: One is not sufficient, and in any case she is not properly equipped for the work. If we can afford to pay the wages of half a dozen constables at a football match, we can afford to pay the wages of a similar number in a launch patrolling the river, particularly on Saturdays and Sundays, when the bulk of the yachting is done. I hope the Minister will bring down that Bill this session. Then there is the question of teaching our young people to swim.

Mr. Corboy: They should be taught at school.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Yes, it should be compulsory. In the metropolitan area, where every facility is afforded, the young people are not taught to swim in the same numerical proportion as obtains in Boulder and Kalgoorlie, where there are only small enclosed baths. Some of the best swimmers in the State come from that district. I

hope the Minister will do something this session.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I quite agree with what has been said, and I promise that if it be found necessary to pass legislation a short Bill will be brought down. But I do not know whether legislation will be necessary. We have now a committee conferring with representatives of the aquatic clubs, and it may be found that whatever is necessary can be done by regulation. An endeavour will be made to secure control over the sailing boats on the river. In view of the number of lives lost, the Government should have power to force owners of yachts to carry life-saving appliances and to refrain from using chain ballast. Undoubtedly the use of such ballast had a lot to do with the 'Fleurette' not righting herself on that fatal occasion.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—Immigration, £5,000:

Mr. PICKERING: Members who went on the South-West trip had an opportunity to see the Fairbridge Farm School, and were greatly interested in the good work being done. I wish to quote a few facts for the information of members. The school was established in 1913, since which year 143 immigrants, mostly children, have been brought to the State. Two have returned to England, two are in the Eastern States, and 110 are permanent settlers amongst us, some of them already owning their own land.

The CHAIRMAN: Is there anything in the vote for the Fairbridge Farm School?

Mr. PICKERING: It is a phase of immigration—

The CHAIRMAN: That has nothing to do with the vote.

Mr. PICKERING: I think it has; it is a matter of child immigration, and the State is interested in the scheme. It has been demonstrated conclusively that the school is being run on very good lines in the interests of the State. It is the first school of its kind established, and it is now being initiated in other parts of the world. As a result of the school, £25,000 has been introduced into and expended in the State. My contention is that this form of immigration is the best for Western Australia, seeing that the children arrive here at such an age that they become good Australians from the start, being brought up in an environment which fits them for the work for which they are required. It has been proved by statistics that this scheme has resulted in a very large majority of them taking up land as a livelihood. I hope the Minister will do all in his power to encourage this school. If we can assist immigration in this way, we shall be serving the best interests of the State.

Mr. SIMONS: I think every member will regret that there is not more money available for immigration. Only a very slight analysis of the vote is required—

The CHAIRMAN: That phase of the question can be dealt with on the Loan Estimates.

This vote relates only to officers' salaries, and on it the hon. member cannot discuss the broad principle of immigration.

Mr. SIMONS: So long as that is understood—

The CHAIRMAN: Yes; the hon. member will get an opportunity when the Loan Estimates are considered.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—Inspection of Liquor, £1,378—agreed to.

Vote—State Labour Bureau, £3,344:

Mr. MANN: I have come closely into touch with this institution, and I can speak favourably of the officers and the manner in which they have assisted to find work for a large number of unemployed during the last few weeks. The method of conducting the business, however, impressed me as being somewhat behind the times, inasmuch as they wait for situations to be notified, instead of looking for them. The officers of the department should lay themselves out to get into touch with the agricultural and other centres.

The Colonial Secretary: They do.

Mr. MANN: I have not found it so.

The Colonial Secretary: They have their agents in the country towns.

Mr. MANN: I think they wait until they are notified of situations, and then allocate them.

The Colonial Secretary: Oh, no.

Mr. MANN: It should be their function to look for situations throughout the length and breadth of the State, so that when there are unemployed in the city, they will be in a position to allocate the men to work for which they are suited. If the Minister assures me that this is being done—I am afraid it is not being done as he thinks it is—

The Colonial Secretary: I said we have agents in our country towns.

Mr. MANN: Perhaps they are as loose in their methods as the bureau. In the seasons when employment is plentiful they would be able to ascertain where work was offering, and thus make the institution of much greater service to the State than it is at the present time.

Mr. TEESDALE: It is so unusual nowadays to come across a department, with the existence of which one feels really pleased, that I would like to mention my experience of the State Labour Bureau. I think it is one of the best ordered departments of the State. I have a deal to do with it from time to time, and I am very pleased with the administration. The officials are very painstaking and considerate in their treatment of those in search of employment.

Mr. Mann: But their methods are obsolete.

Mr. TEESDALE: I have not noticed anything obsolete about their methods. They have rather a good system with regard to the reception of men until they have been dealt with and are passed out for employment, or told to return later on. I have taken the trouble to interview a few of the men,

and they have informed me that they were well satisfied with the treatment they received. It is so refreshing to find a department one can appreciate, that I wish to place my appreciation on record. In the secretary we have a very capable man. Indeed he goes out of his way to do everything possible for the smooth working of the department, and no man is more delighted than he is at being able to find openings for the unfortunates who have to go there in search of employment.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The Minister remarked by way of interjection that the bureau had started the system of going outside in order to provide work. But he has not told us what the system is.

The Colonial Secretary: I said we had agents in the country towns.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The various Government officers in the country have always been used to notify when work was offering.

The Colonial Secretary: The Government land agents.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: That has always been the practice. A few years ago there was a system in vogue on the lines of that suggested by the member for Perth (Mr. Mann). The Government had a man going about the country ascertaining where work was offering and, if I am not mistaken, he received a small salary and commission. I understand that the Ugly Men's Association is adopting a somewhat similar system. When I was in office I found that men were often sent to jobs and, after the agent had received his 5s., they found that no job was offering.

Mr. Mann: It could be done by the agricultural inspectors.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: This happened in several cases. When the men reached the places to which they had been sent they were told that some mistake had been made. Consequently, I cut out that system and instructed the secretary to again communicate with the Government officers in the country districts, who would be held responsible for notifying the bureau of situations. After that there were no complaints. At the present time persons are often sent to employment and, when they get there, they are told they are not wanted. An ex-soldier and his wife arrived in Western Australia a few weeks ago and were sent to the country, but when they inquired at the place, they were told that some mistake must have been made. They looked around the district and secured employment at 30s. a week between them. One can rely more upon a Government officer than upon an agent working on a commission basis.

Mr. Mann: The Agricultural Bank inspectors could do this work.

The Colonial Secretary: That is so.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I think it could be done in that way but it should not be done through an agent.

Mr. McCALLUM: I quite agree with the members for Perth and Roebourne. The officer in charge of this department is a very

capable man but the functions of the bureau are not wide enough.

Mr. Mann: That is the point.

Mr. McCALLUM: I urge the Government to extend its functions and not to be afraid of any agitation on the part of the owners of private registry offices.

Mr. Mann: Cut them out altogether.

Mr. McCALLUM: The International Conference, which met under the terms of the League of Nations, decided to recommend all the Governments associated with the League to completely wipe out all private registry offices.

Mrs. Cowan: Hear hear!

Mr. McCALLUM: They have proved a curse in every country where they exist.

Mr. Teesdale: Nothing else but ramps.

Mr. McCALLUM: The fees they charge and the impositions they levy on unfortunate people looking for means to earn a livelihood are daylight robbery.

Mr. Mann: A man took a contract to clear 500 acres of land and he paid 6d. an acre to the keeper of the registry office for having got him the job.

Mr. McCALLUM: These places are supposed to be regulated by law, but our law is quite obsolete. In view of the recommendation of the International Conference, I hope the Government will not hesitate to push the functions of the State Bureau, bringing it into direct competition with the private places and thus closing them up. The officers of the bureau do not look in the country districts for work for the men on their books as they should do. I was in the Nungarin district recently with the member for Perth and at the show we ascertained that 26 men were required. We had only just before left an unemployed meeting in Perth. Yet there was no inquiry through the Labour Bureau for men for this district. If the farmers at that show had been asked to get into touch with the Bureau they would not have known how to go about it. If the Agricultural Bank and land inspectors inquired on their rounds what labour was required in the country and communicated with the Labour Bureau, the efficiency of the bureau would be greatly increased and the institution would be brought into closer touch with those who required labour. The feeling is abroad that the Bureau only exists for those who are down and out, and that the genuine worker does not go near it.

The Colonial Secretary: I know of hundreds of men who have obtained employment through the bureau.

Mr. McCALLUM: That is so. There is no greater instance of the exploitation of girls than is afforded by their employment in hotels in country districts through the medium of private registry offices. The fees and conditions imposed in connection with the engagement of these girls are atrocious. Very few applications of that nature go through the bureau. Many people in the country districts think that the bureau only exists as a means of relieving unemployment, and I have tried



to dispel that idea as far as I could. When unemployment is acute, it would be a good thing if some of our Government officials were to canvass some of the country towns to find means of employment for these people, and to make it known that the bureau exists in order to supply labour where it is wanted. I hope the Government will take steps to increase the activities of the bureau. All the nations that are joined in the League of Nations have practically decided to do their best to wipe out private registry offices.

Mr. HARRISON: The vote in connection with this particular branch of the State's activities could well be increased, to the satisfaction of both the unemployed and those men in the country districts who want labour. The member for Perth suggested that the Agricultural Bank inspectors could assist in enlarging the scope of this bureau. These inspectors are generally I.A.B. inspectors, and spend two or three weeks in every month out in the country districts. I do not think the suggestion would work out in a satisfactory manner. Some people would say that the local storekeeper would be the best man to approach on this subject, but in the wheat belt I think the farmers' co-operative movement, which has a centre for wheat acquiring at every siding, would provide the best machinery for enabling the employer to get into touch with the employee. Some members may disagree with that proposition on the ground that this is a private co-operative movement, but, against that, we have the organisation which employers are using for their own benefit. It is also for the benefit of the employers that they should obtain suitable service when they want it. If they could communicate with the State bureau, it would go a long way towards dispelling the disabilities which have been referred to this evening. There have been instances of men being engaged to go to a certain district and who, when they arrive at their destination, find there is no employment awaiting them. The method I suggest would, I think, be the best one for dealing with the difficulty.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—Lunacy and Inebriates, £94,918.

Hon. P. COLLIER (Boulder) [S.20]: I have no intention of covering the wide range of subjects associated with the administration of the Lunacy Department, for the reason that a Royal Commission is at present engaged in inquiring into the matter. I should, however, like to deal with what is known as the Mable case, with which are associated the names of Thomas Mable and his wife, Mrs. Mable. All the circumstances surrounding that regrettable case will be well within the knowledge of members. Mr. and Mrs. Mable were arrested in 1915 and charged with being of unsound mind. After many struggles to secure justice, Mable was ultimately released early in the present year, after spending more than five years in the asylum. Mrs. Mable was released two or

three years before her husband. When Mable was arrested he was engaged in farming in the Ongerup district. His farm comprised 1,203 acres. It was well improved and was a good going concern. Had the property been sold at that time it would have realised £2 an acre in its then condition. When Mable and his family were taken from the farm the officials connected with the office of the Master in Lunacy, whose duty it was to protect the estate of anyone committed to the asylum, neglected to take any steps to protect the property. The farm was equipped with machinery and plant which cost £279. Ten horses were upon it and cost £176. There were also farm vehicles, tools, sheds, etc., and a good deal of other equipment. After spending five years in the asylum Mable is to-day unable to get any satisfaction in response to his inquiries as to what has become of his assets.

The Colonial Secretary: Have you seen the file dealing with the matter?

Hon. P. COLLIER: No.

The Colonial Secretary: If you had you would not blame the Master in Lunacy.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Someone is responsible for what has happened.

The Colonial Secretary: Mable's brother was responsible.

Hon. P. COLLIER: The Master in Lunacy should not have allowed Mable's brother to handle the estate. He was responsible for protecting it while Mable was in the asylum. I am informed there is practically nothing left and that the farm has gone back very largely to its natural state. It is overgrown and will require to be re-cleared. Mable is out of work and unable to maintain himself. That is the position which has arisen since the illegal arrest and detention of Mable and his wife. The Royal Commission which inquired into the case found that there had been an illegal arrest. The laws of the land governing the arrest and detention of persons in the asylum had not been observed. Had the House not taken the matter in hand, I have no doubt Mable would still have been in the asylum, and would have remained there until the end of his days. Seeing that he was illegally arrested and detained, the Government should give him some compensation. Surely they will not stand on their legal rights. I know that Governments can do illegal things without being held responsible and without being called upon to pay compensation.

The Minister for Agriculture: The Official Trustee Act will provide for those cases in future.

Hon. P. COLLIER: If that legislation gives the result we expect of it, I do not think there will be a recurrence of the Mable case. The very fact that we have passed it indicates that the law was defective, and that its administration was also defective when Mable was sent to the asylum. I hope the Government will give some consideration to Mable's claim for compensation.

The Colonial Secretary: When did he ask for any?

Hon. P. COLLIER: I do not know.

The Colonial Secretary: I have had no application for relief from him since he was released.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Or the Premier?

The Colonial Secretary: I think not.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I was under the impression that an application for compensation had been made to the Premier.

The Colonial Secretary: I do not know about it.

Mr. SIMONS: I am assured an application has been made.

Hon. P. COLLIER: It would eventually reach the Colonial Secretary. If no application has been sent in, I must have been misinformed. Mable was in the prime of life when arrested. He went on his property in 1911. To-day he is more advanced in years and finds it difficult to obtain employment. He has lost everything he possessed, and spent hundreds of pounds in an endeavour to prove his sanity and obtain his release. His farm has fallen to pieces, and someone whose duty it was to protect it has failed to carry out his duty. Mable should not be compelled to suffer at this juncture, and I hope the Government will favourably consider granting him some monetary consideration. I know it is an unusual thing for Governments to pay compensation for their mistakes, but in this case, if a request for assistance is made, I hope it will receive most favourable consideration.

Mr. SIMONS (East Perth) [8.27]: I endorse the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition. It may be arguable that according to the law there can be nothing done to relieve the position which an error made under the law has brought about; and yet I believe in this case there is a law higher than anything that has ever been written, and that is the moral obligation of the Government. I do not know of anything more fearful than that a man should be illegally taken away from his home, thrust into a hospital for the insane and kept there for six years, while the Government officers who have become the custodians of his property multiply the greatness of the error by neglecting the assets of which they should have been the faithful keepers.

The Colonial Secretary: It was not neglected; I have a distinct recollection of the case.

Mr. SIMONS: I could produce photographs of the farm buildings and the home both before and after the arrest of Mable. Before the arrest the farm had every appearance of being prosperous. After six years have gone, during which period it should have been cared for by the Government, it wears the appearance of having been invaded by a foe and devastated.

Mr. Money: Which officer was in charge of it?

Mr. SIMONS: The Master in Lunacy; he was responsible. It has always been the custom, when a person is taken away as insane, for his assets to be placed in charge of the Government officials concerned. It is the duty of the Government to see that the estates of these persons are not impaired in value during the detention in the asylum of their owners. In this case, enterprising neighbours have taken away all the stock, practically all the moveable machinery, and the galvanised iron from the buildings. I contend that the duty devolves upon the State to care for the estate of any individual who is placed in confinement in an asylum. After this man has spent years in wresting his farm from the wilderness, he is made a prisoner by the State for a period of six years, the stain of lunacy is cast upon him with all the consequences that follow upon such a position. At the end of that period, he is thrown upon the world a derelict and is called upon to battle against fearful odds, because of the wrongful actions of State officials at the outset. A man who has served six years in a Hospital for the Insane does not commend himself to employers in any part of the State. He is practically debarred from earning his living. The Government may say there is no law upon our Statute book empowering them to give such an unfortunate man some compensation to make up for the errors of the State's officers. I do not believe they would raise that contention, for there is a higher bar of justice and that is the moral obligations towards a man who has suffered as this particular individual. I believe that neither the Premier nor the Minister responsible for the department will deny there is moral obligation upon the State to see that some assistance is given to this unfortunate man to help lift him back to the road to prosperity. It is wrong; it is unjust; it is inhuman to allow a man to be ruined because some officers of State may have blundered. That is the position in this case, and I leave it to the sense of justice and humanity on the part of the Government to assist this man who has been so deeply and gravely wronged.

Mrs. COWAN (West Perth) [8.34]: I support the Leader of the Opposition in his references to the Mable case. It has always seemed extraordinary to me that while we have a Master in Lunacy, the estate of this unfortunate individual was not looked after more adequately. Whether a mistake was made or not at the outset, the estate was under the charge of the Master in Lunacy during the period of Mable's detention. It would have been in the interests of the State to see that the farm was kept properly during that time and that the profits made out of the property were set aside for the support of the children as well as of Mable and Mrs. Mable. I consider Mrs. Mable was kept in the asylum

for longer than she should have been detained and I have felt very sympathetic towards her in her troubles. I deprecate strongly the fact that no woman has been appointed to a position on the Royal Commission to investigate lunacy matters here. I asked the Minister a question on this point some time ago.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I will look after the women.

The CHAIRMAN: I am afraid I cannot allow the hon. member to discuss the Royal Commission on Lunacy at this stage.

Mrs. COWAN: If we could get those intimate questions which can only be put by a woman to women, it would probably help to secure savings in various directions. The fact that there are 333 women and so many children at an institution such as the Claremont Hospital for the Insane, should emphasise the necessity for a woman on such a Commission.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member cannot proceed to discuss that matter.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. T. Brown—Beverley) [8.37]: The Government have no desire to be unjust.

Hon. P. Collier: I do not think so.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The Leader of the Opposition would not infer that we would desire to do an injustice to these unfortunate individuals. It is some considerable time since this matter was brought under my notice. I have a faint recollection of going through the file at the time. I think it was on account of Mrs. Mable and her brother that the estate was not taken over by the Master in Lunacy. I agree that it is the duty of that official to look after the estates of these unfortunate individuals. That officer was appointed to look after the interests of these patients, and it would be desirable if the property of persons who have to be detained in the institution were kept in such a condition that, upon release, the owners would find their properties in a better condition than when they left them. I will call for the file again, and go into this matter very carefully to see whether an injustice has been done to Mable, and if I think such is the position I will put up a recommendation to Cabinet for certain action to be taken. Regarding the committal of these cases, I do not like discussing these matters because they come so frequently before the Chamber, the names of the unfortunate people are published and their troubles again go before the public. In the case of Mable, he was detained on the recommendation of two medical officers who declared, in accordance with the Lunacy Act, that he was insane.

Hon. P. Collier: He was committed to the institution but not in accordance with the law. The Royal Commission found that such was the case.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The Commissioner, Mr. Kidson, when recommending Mable's release, must have been somewhat doubtful.

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

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: At any rate, he released him under certain conditions.

Hon. P. Collier: He had to let the doctors down a bit lightly.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The Royal Commissioner advised Mable not to go back to his farm and made certain conditions relative to his release. I mention that aspect to show that the medical officers at the institution also had fears on that ground. It is because of this aspect that the board created last session is of benefit, in releasing persons they think fit to regain their liberty, without the medical officer having to determine the question. When there is some fear as to a patient doing himself some harm if he is released, naturally the medical officer would refrain from letting such a person out of the institution. As a result of the existing provision, patients such as paranoics are enabled to regain their liberty and in time may recover their health completely. I will go into the matter again and if an injustice has been done I will attempt to do something to rectify it.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—Observatory, £1,984—agreed to.

Vote—State Children and Outdoor Relief, £90,428:

Mrs. COWAN (West Perth) [8.42]: Reference is made to State children and outdoor relief. I asked the Minister recently to take into consideration the difficulty mothers experience at the present time in getting along on the allowance provided. I have come into contact with a number of these women and I know their difficulties are great. I have approached the department on more than one occasion and have been unable in some cases to get extra money allowed. The cost of living has not sufficiently declined to enable these women to care for their children and have anything over for themselves. Extra assistance has been declined in cases where women happen to have a little money on hand. In the event of a mother having £40 or £50 of her own, it has to be remembered that that is all she has to fall back on for her own requirements; she has nothing whatever for her children except what she can earn. A greater allowance should be provided to assist these women. In New Zealand the Government provide up to 15s. for each child over one year of age and where special circumstances arise, that amount can be increased. They also provide 17s. 6d. for children under one year of age and medical attention, medicine, and school facilities. It is hardly right that when the necessity for reduced expenditure arises, such allowances should be the first to be cut down. I do not know how the diffi-

culty is to be overcome. No one believes in education more than I do, but before we come to the question of education, we must consider whether a child is in a fit state of health to receive education. No child can profit from education when it is in a semi-starved state during the earlier years of its life. I ask the Government to give as much consideration as is possible to these people. I had a very hard case brought under my notice recently where a woman who was in bad health herself had to support two children and a husband who was suffering from tuberculosis.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Did the husband not have an invalid pension?

Mrs. COWAN: The extraordinary thing about it is that, although the invalid pension is 15s., this man only received 10s. That matter is being inquired into now.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: If the wife is working, half of her earnings go to him. That is the way it is worked.

Mrs. COWAN: We know what it means to keep a person who is suffering from tuberculosis in food alone, and despite that fact, because the woman was earning 30s. a week, the allowance for one child was withdrawn. Fortunately I have been able to get that allowance re-established temporarily, but it should be made permanent. Each case should be dealt with on its merits.

The Colonial Secretary: So it is.

Mrs. COWAN: In the case of the woman I have referred to, the doctor informed her that she might have to go into a hospital at any time owing to the wretched state of her health. I can give many other cases and I think this question should receive most sympathetic consideration.

Mr. SIMONS (East Perth) [8.47]: The vote should not be allowed to pass without reference being made to a factor which is multiplying the number of children regarded as State children; and that is the influence of the Children's Court. From close observation it is my opinion that the Children's Court sends to the reformatory a large number of children who never ought to be committed there. There has been too great a readiness to commit children, on a first offence, for 12 months to a reformatory. I remember seeing a child of seven years imprisoned in a cell at the Children's Court. I asked him what the crime was; and he said he did not know exactly, but it was something commencing with "In." I asked him was it "Incorrigible," and he said "Yes." He came from Fremantle, and I asked him who was sitting on the bench. He said, "Two ladies."

The Colonial Secretary: They were not two ladies.

Mr. SIMONS: Here was a case of a boy of seven being declared unmanageable and sentenced to nine years in a reformatory—which would mean a cost to the revenue of £500. That is only one of many cases. I remember another case, of a child nine years

old who broke into a school and defaced the blackboard. It was his first offence, and he was given 12 months in a reformatory.

The Minister for Works: How long is it since that case occurred?

Mr. SIMONS: Last February. A child nine years old should never be sentenced to detention in a reformatory for a first offence. Hasty action, lack of mature consideration, and an eagerness for vengeance on young life leads to the State being unnecessarily burdened.

Mrs. Cowan: Rubbish!

Mr. SIMONS: A regular magistrate should be appointed to preside over all the children's courts, so that we may get something like reasonable administration. In four cases I attempted to get commitments revoked. The Premier was humane, the Colonial Secretary was humane, and the Attorney General was humane; but the Children's Court absolutely shrieked for vengeance. The children had to be dragged from the court.

Mrs. Cowan: That is not true.

Mr. SIMONS: The four names could be given. The member for West Perth was present, although not a member of the bench. The argument put up to me by the members of the court was that the children had to be punished. There was a desire for vengeance, and the children had to go for a year into a reformatory. The Minister had the courage and strength to reverse the decision of the bench, and the children are now respectable members of society, and earning revenue for the State instead of drawing sustenance from the Treasury. When one is able to examine such individual cases, and make such discoveries, it is evidence how the machinery of the Children's Court is being used to multiply the number of children placed to the charge of the State. The court seemed to feel that they were losing victims whom they had a right to sacrifice. I do not say that is the spirit of all members of children's courts. Some of them are people of fine character. But other members of the Children's Court look for vengeance.

Hon. P. Collier: And publicity.

Mr. SIMONS: Yes. Unnecessary commitments for unnecessarily long periods show that it is necessary to have a regular magistrate presiding in the Children's Court. Such an appointment, although expensive in the first instance, would prove economical in the long run. For a first offence, no child between nine and 18 years of age should be committed to a reformatory; or perhaps even for a second offence. The bringing of a child before the court would probably prove a sufficient corrective. The associations of a reformatory are not conducive to a higher type of character or of thought. Boys and girls between nine and 18 years of age must commit themselves some time or other. We have had lamentations about growing depravity of juveniles in Western Australia, but I believe that view is held chiefly by idle people who busy themselves going about

looking for depravity. Many boys are sent to reformatories for doing things which in our case, when we were boys, would have led to our being corrected by a couple of feet of strap an inch wide. The magistrates of the Children's Court do not seem to understand that between nine years and 18 boys and girls go through a stressful period, passing from childhood to manhood or womanhood. No such boy or girl should be committed for a first offence.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: It is a stigma for life.

Mr. SIMONS: Yes. I speak in the interests of economy as much as in those of humanity.

Mrs. Cowan: Can I speak again, Mr. Chairman?

The CHAIRMAN: No; not now. But the hon. member can speak on the items.

Mr. MUNSIE (Hannans) [8.55]: I greatly regret the regulation recently issued having for its object economy in this department. The member for West Perth quoted one case, and said she could quote many others.

Hon. P. Collier: So could we.

Mr. MUNSIE: During the last three months I have had at least 50 applications coming from all parts of the State as to the cutting down of allowances. Into most of them I made inquiries. In some instances the State was justified in reducing the amount, but in many instances the reduction was not justified. I hope the Government will take a somewhat more lenient view than they have done during the past two or three months. I agree with the member for East Perth that where commitments can possibly be avoided, they should be avoided, but frequently a child is better off in an institution than under the care of those who have charge of him or her. That fact has a good deal to do with some of the commitments that are made. But in many instances the State is put to the expense of maintaining a child, when the parents should do it. Still, in the child's interests, the child must be taken away from the parents. With regard to reduction of allowances made by the Charities Department, an unfortunate case in Kalgoorlie was brought under my notice recently. The bread-winner died about 15 months ago, from miners' complaint. A family of four in number were getting 18s. a week in respect of two children under the age of 14. There were two children over 14; but one of them, a girl, was not in a fit state to work at all. I fear she never will be able to work. The reason for her deplorable condition is, in my opinion, that for the last eight or ten years she has not had sufficient food. One of the boys arrived at the age of 14 recently, and the 18s. allowance was immediately withdrawn, on account of his being able to work. I have been to the home of some people who have complained of reductions, and they have told me their story, but on going to the department I have found that they have not told me the truth. In other cases, however, I was surprised to find that the de-

partment had made reductions where a reduction should not have been made. I hope the Minister will ease up on the question of economy where children are concerned.

[Mr. Munsie took the Chair.]

Mr. UNDERWOOD (Pillbarn) [9.0]: I take exception to some of the remarks made. I do not altogether agree with the last speaker. I think the Minister should use all his power in preventing waste. Having administered this department, I know that there are unworthy people who impose upon their fellow citizens. I ask the Minister to keep his eye on those. I take exception to the remarks of the member for East Perth (Mr. Simons), who spoke of the court seeking vengeance. I know all the members of the Children's Court personally. Most of them are parents, and one who is a parent is not capable of seeking vengeance against a child. Anybody who would talk of seeking vengeance against a child is not himself a parent. I refer to the member for East Perth.

Mr. Lambert: Have you any proof of that?

Mr. UNDERWOOD: I should say we have ample proof by the very appearance of the hon. member. He does not appear to be competent.

Mr. Simons: I should not like to have spawn like you.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: You go to hell! We have heard a great deal about the responsibility of parents, and I have always tried to get people to realise their responsibilities. I suppose at least 80 per cent. of our citizens are responsible parents. Possibly there are 20 per cent. prepared to cast their children on to the rest of the community. That should not be allowed. Notwithstanding all that has been said about those on the Children's Court, I should think such a position better than earning a living by taking kids to America. I know there is waste in this department, and I ask the Minister to endeavour to cut it out and compel parents to look after their children. But I do not ask him to go too far in that direction, because it frequently happens that an unworthy parent produces a worthy child and, after all it is the interests of the child which the department should look after. Knowing the members of the Children's Court personally, I say again, that for the member for East Perth to talk of their seeking vengeance on a child is absolute rubbish.

Hon. P. COLLIER (Boulder) [9.5]: I wish to express appreciation of the sympathetic and humanitarian spirit which influences the administration of this department. I have found the secretary at all times actuated by a kindly desire to do the best he can with the available money. I can say the same for the Minister. Of course one placed in his position, with certain money allotted to him by the Treasurer, is often forced to refuse assistance when his feelings prompt him to grant it. I hope it will not be understood

that Western Australia is in any way behind hand in what it does for women and children requiring State assistance. I do not believe any other State or country in the world is doing more for women and children requiring assistance. Certainly not in any of the Eastern States is more money spent on assistance to women with children depending on them than in Western Australia. Last year we expended £34,000 on mothers of children, £16,000 in aid of orphanages and industrial schools, and £15,000 on the maintenance of children boarded out—a record to be proud of, in view of our comparatively small population. But, having said that, I join with the member for West Perth (Mrs. Cowan) in urging that the Minister should go to the limit of the available funds in granting assistance under this head. I have had experience similar to that related by the hon. member. I know numbers of instances where the allowance has been reduced at the earliest possible moment, immediately one child reached the age of 14, while, where there have been four or five in family, the tendency has been not to make the allowance for each child, but to reduce the aggregate by one. I hope the Minister will endeavour to make available every possible pound for the assistance of those women who are doing a noble work in maintaining children. Also, I do not think the department is sufficiently vigilant in bringing delinquent fathers to book for the maintenance of their children. I know of a woman who, with four children, was deserted by her husband. When the eldest child reached 14 and began to earn a few shillings per week, the department reduced the allowance. I made inquiries about the husband and found that he had a permanent job in the Railway Department. At that time there were hundreds of good fathers endeavouring to maintain homes what time they were walking the streets looking for employment, whilst the waster had a good Government job, and the State was maintaining his four children. The explanation given was that if action were taken against him he would only go to gaol, and so nothing would be accomplished.

Mr. MacCallum Smith: He went to gaol, and got his billet back when he came out again.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Wonderful are the ways of officials! They regarded it as long service leave, and kept his billet for him until he came back. The department should make every effort to trace these men and compel them to pay, or, alternatively, send them to gaol.

Mr. Teesdale: Or give them a bait.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Certainly it is wrong for the State to maintain a man's children while providing employment for the man. I hope the Minister will do all he possibly can for the assistance of women and children so much in need of it. Those women are doing good work for the State in rearing our future citizens, and we ought not to be niggardly in our treatment of them. Of course, when the Estimates are under discussion and additional

expenditure in all directions is being urged, the Treasurer wants to know where he is to effect the economies so frequently referred to; but wherever else we attempt the practice of economy, it should not be at the expense of women struggling to maintain their children.

Mr. LAMBERT (Coolgardie) [9.11]: I agree with the hon. member that the greatest care and sympathy are exercised by the officer in charge of this department. But it is not always judicious to refer matters of inquiry to the police in certain districts. I have in mind a goldfields case of a woman who may have misconducted herself—I mean in point of getting tight—once or twice. That woman has since married and again become a good citizen. As the result of personal inquiries made, I am convinced that she is a perfectly fit and proper person to resume possession of her child. Still, the department are hesitating to let her have the youngster, and are calling for reports. I do not blame the officer in charge, but, as I say, it is not always wise to refer matters of this kind to the local policeman. Because that woman was charged with drunkenness six or 12 months ago the policeman, in making a recommendation, cannot bring himself to understand that such a person is ever likely to reform. I hope that the Minister in dealing with these matters will see that only men in whom the greatest reliance can be placed will be detailed for such inquiries. There are police officers in my district in whom the greatest possible trust could be placed, but there are others who are irresponsible and unreliable, and to whom I would not refer the question of the health of an aborigine.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Would they be of the flat-footed variety?

Mr. LAMBERT: I cannot specify them, though I believe there is such a variety. If judicious inquiries are made, the Minister will find that the information I have given will be fortified. Whatever the need for economy might be, I hope that the administration of the department ministering to the distress of the women and children of Western Australia will be characterised by the utmost sympathy.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. T. Broun—Beverley) [9.16]: Nothing would give me greater pleasure than to have more money at my disposal for this department. The amount of 9s. per child fixed last year is still being paid, but there has been a certain tightening up of the conditions, not altogether on account of imposition. There have been a few cases in which the Government have been imposed upon. It is very difficult, however, for the Minister to treat everyone seeking State aid on the same basis. The member for West Perth (Mrs. Cowan) referred to a widow having £23 of her own and said we had refused her assistance. That is not true. My instructions to the department are definite and, if the department sticks to them, there is a basis on which to work. I have directed that wherever a mother or widow has under

£50, she shall be treated the same as a woman who has no money at all. We do not deny full assistance in such a case. In the case of a woman possessing £50 or over—some owning £400 or £500 worth of property have applied for assistance—we take the facts into consideration and treat the applicant accordingly. If a woman had £70, the allowance might be reduced to 6s. There is a basis on which I am working so that all shall be treated as nearly as possible alike. I am not responsible for the cutting down of amounts, but I can say that the officers of the department are absolutely sympathetic. It would be impossible for me to deal with all the cases, but I do attend to special cases. If I consider that the department has not been quite fair to an applicant, the matter is rectified. There are some people receiving assistance who should never have done so, due to the fact that they have not disclosed their true position to the department. In one case we found that a family were in receipt of two invalid pensions, and were drawing the subsidy as well. We investigate all cases and put them on a fair basis. As pointed out by the Leader of the Opposition, it is impossible for me to increase the amount unless the vote is largely exceeded. Although this vote shows an increase of over £2,000, the recent increased demands will necessitate the vote being exceeded. If an excess is not granted, the amounts will have to be cut down. I have mentioned the matter to the Treasurer and I think the excess will be available.

Mr. Clydesdale: If a woman goes out to work, what is the object in deducting the amount from her subsidy?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: When I married, I realised the responsibilities I had undertaken, and I expect other people to do the same. They must realise their responsibility to their children.

Mr. Clydesdale: A woman has six children and you deduct the amount or portion of the amount she earns!

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: If a mother had six children, she would not be going out to work, unless the children were over a certain age. If the children were so young as to need her attention, she would not be expected to go out to work. If she did go out to work I do not see how she could avoid employing someone to look after the children. In such a case no reduction would be made.

Mr. Clydesdale: What about a woman with three or four children?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: There is an allowance for mothers. If a mother is delicate and unable to work, and is paying a certain amount of rent, we allow an additional amount.

Mrs. Cowan: I am glad to hear that.

Mr. McCallum: You have been doing that for quite a time.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes.

Mr. O'Loughlen: There are not too many cases in which you are doing it.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: A good many.

Mr. O'Loughlen: I got it for three, but after a month it was cut off.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: That may have been temporary assistance for a special reason.

Mr. Clydesdale: We are assisting over 50 families at present.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: If a mother goes out to work while her children are attending school, it is only to be expected that she should devote a certain amount of her earnings towards the upkeep of the children.

Mr. Clydesdale: She would be getting 9s. a day to keep them on.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes, which amount is more liberal than that paid in any of the other States. If we increase the scale much higher than it is at present, it would be better to adopt a scheme of compulsory insurance and make everyone responsible for a certain amount for charities. Failing this, we might approach the Federal Government with a view to their waiving the Federal amusements tax in this State. If we could tax amusements for charity purposes only, we would raise every penny necessary for the upkeep of our charities, without having to call on the Treasury at all. Even if the Federal Government refused to withdraw their tax on amusements, I would go so far as to impose on amusements an additional tax to be used entirely for charitable purposes. It is probable that pressure would then be brought to bear on the Federal Government to waive their amusements tax. Complaints have been made regarding the administration of the Children's Court. The member for East Perth (Mr. Simons) mentioned that the court seemed inclined to send incorrigible children to institutions. In most cases children are not sent to an institution for a first offence if we consider that the parents are capable of looking after the children. Where there are no parents, or where those in control neglect the children, they are committed to an institution. When the court commit a child to an institution, they do so simply because they think it is in the interests of the child to do so. Whenever there is an opportunity to release a child, I avail myself of it, and I intend to do so in future. If anyone will undertake the responsibility of caring for a child, I make the welfare of the child the first consideration and release it. A child was committed to an institution two years ago, and, in ordinary circumstances, would have remained there several years longer. Since the committal, the parents' circumstances have altered, and I intend to let that child go back to its parents on their promising to be responsible and to care for it properly. In every case I intend to follow this course where it is in the interests of the child to do so, and the members of the Children's Court are working on the same lines. They are working well with the department. The department is doing good work in the placing out of children, and there have been quite a number of

adoptions. A little child was recently adopted by foster-parents who have an income of £900 a year. That child has quite a nice home to go to. We should feel proud that there are people of this description willing to take a little child off the State and make it their own. People who waste their money do not realise what it would be to give children a home. If they did realise it, many more people would adopt children. Numbers of children are now being adopted in the country, and efforts are being made to extend that principle as far as possible. The member for Coolgardie made some observations with regard to tracing various cases of maintenance. It is difficult to trace the people concerned in every instance. Perhaps there is no staff better suited for this purpose than the police. These officers keep in touch with various centres and are generally able to obtain the information required.

Item, Payment to women on whom children are dependent, £39,000:

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The policy of discharging the faithful services of old employees of the State in order to get positions for the mothers of children who are dependent upon the State is a wrong one. I put a case before the Minister recently in regard to two old servants.

The Colonial Secretary: They were given six months' notice and then another three months.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I admit they were given nine months in which to prepare for the termination of their services. They are now on the scrap heap. I am speaking of two old ladies who have acted as cleaners. One had a son who was killed at the war, and the other had four sons, one of whom was killed. One has been 19 years with the department, and another 17 years. One gets an invalid pension, and possibly an old age pension, and the other gets no pension at all. They were put out in order that the Charities Department might recoup itself by getting in two mothers of children who are dependent on the State.

The Colonial Secretary: The Charities Department had nothing to do with it.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: It all comes under the Minister. I object to the policy of "scraping" these faithful old servants in this way. No member has ever begrudged the expenditure for this department to the extent of prompting the Minister to take the action that has been taken in this case. The Minister may be sympathetic, but sympathy does not provide food and raiment for these old women. It would be much better to allow those mothers who have children dependent on the State to look after them and obtain the ordinary relief. The department should have a kindly regard for those who have worked for a couple of decades in the service of the State. They are conscientious, honest, and reliable women, and the only reason for putting them out was that they were growing old.

Item, Aid to orphanages and industrial schools subsidies, £16,733:

Mrs. COWAN: I regret that the Children's Court was attacked just now in regard to the number of children who were sent to these institutions, and the cost that it meant to the State. There is a good deal of truth in the saying "Bachelors' wives and old maids' children." I do not think the hon. member in question understood what he was talking about.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Do you mean me?

Mrs. COWAN: The attack was quite an unnecessary one. Apparently the hon. member does not understand that members of the court take a great interest in these children, and that the children are never taken from their parents unless it is in their interests to do so. The case mentioned by the hon. member is one in which he interested himself considerably—at election time.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: That is a generous observation to make.

Mrs. COWAN: Personally I know nothing about the case as I was not in the court at the time. I understand the view taken by the magistrates was that if the parents knew nothing about the doings of their children for months together, and did not know that they were out night after night without any supervision, the parents had no right to have the children in their charge. I am glad to hear that the boys have done so well since. If people would offer to help the court as honorary probation officers, it would be a splendid thing, and much good might come of it. The Government cannot be expected in these times to find all the probation officers required for this work. I do not know that the court was not right in refusing to allow people, who encourage children to take part in entertainments in which they are introduced to gambling of the worst type, to take over the charge of any children. Certainly no member of the Children's Court would think it right to do that. I would point out that associated with the Children's Court are people who are giving their time in an honorary capacity and who do their best to act in a true spirit of reform in regard to these children. I am glad to see that aid is being given to industrial schools and orphanages. We cannot do without them; and the Government must continue to subsidise them. I congratulate the Government upon the splendid reports that were sent in by Dr. Jull last year, particularly the report in regard to the Glendalough school.

Mr. Mann: That is closed now.

Mr. Simons: The hon. member does not know that.

Mrs. COWAN: I deprecate strongly the attitude of some people who do not know what they are talking about, but who for personal advertisement attack the Children's Court in order to gain publicity.



Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I am sorry that the member for West Perth in her closing words was ungenerous enough to suggest that certain action had been taken for electioneering purposes.

Mrs. Cowan: It was suggested by outsiders.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I hope the hon. member will bring her judgment to bear upon the question, and admit that people can be prompted to a good action at other times than at election time.

Mrs. Cowan: I will, but the action has not been repeated since.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The hon. member would take the same action next week or next month. I would suggest to the member of the Children's Court, who is present to-night, that some reform might be brought about in the matter of the publicity that is given to the cases heard in that court. There is a danger of impairing the future of a child when publicity is given to his case.

The Colonial Secretary: The names are not published.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The "Daily News" devotes a great deal of space to such matters, and the proprietor of that journal is a member of the court.

Mrs. Cowan: That is not the only journal: You must take "Truth" into consideration. The case which was published in "Truth" a week ago was a scandal. The "Daily News" has not published such cases so far as I know. We deprecate this being done.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The "Daily News" published what they considered to be some spicy matter about a case. It was of no special interest to the public, but must have a damning effect upon the future of the children.

Mrs. Cowan: Hear, hear!

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I hope the hon. member will bring her influence to bear upon this point, and that the proprietor of this journal will not use the privileged position he occupies to injure people who are perhaps unfortunate for the time being. That paper the other day made a somewhat sensational statement to the effect that about 800 books had been stolen from the Parliamentary library. It inferred that members of Parliament were dishonest. I hope that information was not given to this journal because the proprietor is a member of the library committee. I also trust that while he is sitting on the Children's Court he will remember that a boy or a girl may easily have his or her future marred in this country by having a serious handicap placed upon him or her as the result of the manner in which a case has been handled. I trust he will give these wayward children a fighting chance.

Mr. SIMONS: Some remarks have been made regarding the administration of certain persons connected with the Children's Court.

I very much regretted to hear such slighting references as those to "bachelor's wives and old maids' children." I should have thought that the advocate of the special cause of women would have refrained from slighting references to that section of the community known as "old maids." I do not think that the vaudeville method of introducing matters of that kind should be adopted in Parliament. It is especially regrettable when one standing as the supposed champion of women should hold this particular section of her own sex up to ridicule. I am reminded that it is possible for women to become wives and still retain that soured disposition which is supposed to be a monopoly of old maids.

Mrs. Cowan: It is not, you know.

Mr. SIMONS: I am also reminded of the old adage: "A woman's tongue for scandal and a man's tongue for wisdom." I do not like to hear male or female members repeating gossip and scandal emanating from someone else, the source of which information cannot be determined. I made reference to the fact that there was inhumanity in the Children's Court. I stick to that statement. I gave concrete instances. Those concrete instances have not been refuted. It is said that action was taken by me on behalf of four boys at election time. Similar actions to that taken on that occasion by me have been going on for fifteen years or fourteen years before the last elections.

Mr. Marshall: Quite right, J.J.

Mr. SIMONS: I was doing these things long before the member for West Perth knew that there was any such cause as that of humanity. I still say there are women and also men sitting on the bench of the Children's Court who are without the milk of human kindness in their composition. They do not know of some of those finest influences which make for humanity and justice. There are women members of that court who delight to discuss freely and openly that most horrible operation of emasculation. I cannot conceive of kindly disposed individuals, either male or female, discussing freely such a horrible thing as that. Kindness and a love of emasculation cannot live in the one being. I stand to everything I have said. I regret having to talk thus, and perhaps give rise to the suggestion that I am departing from the traditions of chivalry extended by men to women, but I will not sit in this House and be constantly taunted and met with interjections without making some reply. In doing this I am not forgetting that chivalry which is due to the other sex. If a member of the other sex chooses to come here and taunt and torment and tantalise other hon. members, she must expect retaliation. I regret that under these circumstances I am forced to say these things, although I have to express myself in what may seem very strong language. I adhere to what I said with regard to the wrong decisions, the expensive decisions, the uneconomic decisions and the unwise decisions de-

livered at the Children's Court by old women of both sexes.

The Minister for Works: By old women in brooches.

Mr. SIMONS: I regret the bitterness and sourness which has been shown to-night by the member for West Perth. I thought higher of her.

Mr. Lambert: It makes you wonder that there are not more bachelors.

Vote put and passed.

North-West Department (Hon. P. Colebatch, Minister). The Premier in charge of the vote.

Vote—North-West, £2,629:

Mr. ANGELO: I asked the Premier the other night if he would make a statement to the House regarding the policy of the Government in connection with the North-West and I understood he promised to make such a statement.

The PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [9.50]: The member for Gascoyne is anxious to learn what is the Government policy regarding the North-West. He recently delivered a speech on this subject and I have that speech here to let the House know what he suggests.

Mr. Angelo: I want to know what the Government policy is.

The PREMIER: I am paying the hon. member a compliment. What is he annoyed about? Naturally the policy of the Government regarding the north-western portion of the State is to secure its development. We want every part of the State to be fully developed. The member for Gascoyne is interested in bananas. That fruit can be grown satisfactorily in many parts of the North-West. Recently Mr. Easton travelled over a large portion of the Kimberley district, and his report was made available a few days ago. That indicates that there is a very extensive area of country available for pastoral and also agricultural purposes. We want the North-West to be developed as soon as possible, for the tropical products which can be grown there can be used to supply the markets in the south during the summer months. The high duties which have been imposed by the Federal authorities have drawn attention to the necessity of developing our resources. Apparently there are people who are willing to go into the North-West in order to engage in tropical agriculture. Mr. Easton's report is a most interesting document. The rainfall in that particular part of the State is very good and is the heaviest in the State. The country is well watered by many rivers of very considerable size. A great portion of the soil is always damp and suitable for intense production. If the development indicated in Mr. Easton's report takes place, it will be a very fine thing for Western Australia. Rice can be grown there and yields of 40 bushels to the acre have been produced. Naturally there are very few farms where rice is grown, but

it is already proved that it can be cultivated in the State. In addition to rice, there is an unlimited scope for the growth of bananas, pineapples, and other tropical fruits.

Mr. Pickering: And peanuts as well.

The PREMIER: Yes, a considerable quantity of peanuts is imported each year. The climate in the North-West is good. It is said that white people cannot live there. We have some very fine specimens of the manhood of the North-West, not only in this Chamber but in the Legislative Council as well. Those men, who have spent most of their lives in the North-West, do not seem any the worse for their experience. I do not know when it will be possible to have the freezing works at Wyndham in full swing, but I hope we shall be able to export meat from Western Australia very soon. Everyone knows that unless the cattle men can market their meat, they can get no income at all. There is also very little market for sheep. I believe the market for our meat will improve and when that comes about, I trust the Wyndham Works will once more be in operation. Vestey's and other meat works in Australia have been closed down for a year on account of the state of the market and the exorbitant shipping freights and high cost of handling. The present position in the North-West, so far as the meat works are concerned, is a serious matter for the people engaged in this industry, and it is due to them to get the works started as soon as it is possible. The works could not be operated at present except with considerable loss. It is to be hoped that the stocks of meat in cold stores throughout the world will soon be disposed of and that we shall be able to once more embark upon that trade.

Mr. Lambert: Russia could do with more than a pound of steak.

The PREMIER: The war left the different countries of the world in such a condition that they cannot pay for our meat. Central Europe could take all we have. We can only hope for the best in that direction. The North-West is rich in many directions. Owing to the state of the market, the pearling industry has not been flourishing. It is going ahead a little now and I hope many more boats will be operating in the near future. I believe there are great possibilities ahead of the whaling industry in the northern waters. This should be a very valuable industry as soon as some enterprising person or company will start operations.

Mr. Lambert: A company is getting ready to operate now. Two ships are already on the stocks.

The PREMIER: I hope they will soon get to work. If the industry is established it should be highly profitable to the State. When in the North-West recently, the member for Roebourne (Mr. Teesdale) was anxious that I should appreciate the importance and possibilities of this industry. In a voyage in a small boat, extending over a couple of days, we had an opportunity of looking into this matter. The fishing industry gen-

erally presents great possibilities in the North-West. People in Perth are paying high prices for fish which we are importing. From the waters of the North we could export very large quantities of fish after supplying our own requirements. Whether enterprising people will embark upon the industry, remains to be seen. We should make the position known through the Agent General's office and I am sure if we did so people would be encouraged to embark upon this industry. There is nothing speculative about it. It is not like gold mining or boring for oil or other speculative ventures. If properly established, there would be great profits from the industry. It is not necessary to say very much about the pastoral industry, since that is so very well known. Wool, fortunately for the north, is now at much better prices than for some time it has been. We ought to carry in that country twice as many sheep as we have there; a great deal of suitable country is still unoccupied there. It is to be hoped that in the future people will go out further from the coast, and stock the country inland. One cannot speak too highly of the people who pioneered that country and are pioneering it. The life of the pioneer in the North is not an easy or simple life. It involves great sacrifices, especially in the case of young men.

Mr. Underwood: Most people who have been there want to go back there.

The PREMIER: Were I a young man of 25 who had managed to get away from there, I would not want to go back. The other day it was pointed out that of all the taxpayers of the country the pastoralist is the most fortunate, because he pays the most. He deserves it. Recently some changes have been made in the control of matters in the North. A Commissioner for the North-West and an engineer for the North-West have been appointed, and matters which hitherto have been referred to Perth will be decided on the spot. There are some big works—not very many, it is true—to be done in the North. Such works as the designing of a jetty will be retained by the Public Works Department; but minor works will be designed by the engineer for the North on the spot. It will be the duty of the Commissioner to help as far as he can in marketing what is grown in the North, and to keep the Government advised as to what can be done in any way to promote the comfort and convenience of the residents of that part of Western Australia. Settlement there is, no doubt, extremely scattered. It is not quite so simple a matter to control that territory stretching from Carnarvon to Wyndham, as it is to control the closely settled regions of the South. We have the pastoral industry established. We now want men who will engage in tropical industries. Cotton exports should eventually help the North-West to bring considerable sums of money into the State annually. We have got to balance the ledger with outside people, and that can only be done by exports. With

regard to mining, the North produces diamonds as well as gold. I believe some shows are being worked up there, and one thing leads to another, and I hope to see that part of Western Australia an active mining field. There is, too, the chance of discovering oil in the Kimberleys; at any rate, the geologists say so. It would be a very fine thing and a very lucky day for Western Australia if oil was discovered in the North-West. Prospecting is now going on rapidly, and the result ought soon to be a discovery of an oil well. Probably that discovery would mean a profit of hundreds of thousands of pounds. But capital must be got in to help in the work of discovery. I am glad to find that some of the people of this State are putting their money into North-West enterprises. During my recent visit to the North-West I became convinced that the place ought to be peopled far more than it is. The pastoral areas are, of course, well patrolled, and I know that they are doing their duty by the State. Other industries still await development.

[Hon. G. Taylor took the Chair.]

Mr. LAMBERT (Coolgardie) [10.5]: We cannot pass the vote in a casual manner, without any observations being offered. No one doubts that it is great pioneering work that has been and is still being done by the people of the North, by people who are primarily engaged in endeavouring to establish secondary industries. But that fact, surely, is not sufficient for the requirements of Western Australia, or to meet the national obligations of Australia. If there was not an express obligation upon the Commonwealth Government to people, by means of financial assistance and otherwise, the North of Australia, there certainly was an implied obligation on the Federal Government to do those things. If there is one charge that can be successfully levelled against the Federal Government of to-day, it is their neglect of their obligation in that direction. At any rate, we are not prepared to surrender our North-West to the Federal Government in a similar manner to South Australia's surrender of her Northern Territory; we have witnessed the disgraceful administration of the Northern Territory. With regard to the development of our North-West—

The CHAIRMAN: I fail to see any item in this vote for the development of the North-West. The vote deals with salaries. I think the hon. member had better make his present speech on the Loan Estimates. I am not stopping the hon. member. If he wants to draw the Committee's attention to any matter, he has the right to do so.

Mr. LAMBERT: If this vote is not for the development of the North-West, it can only be a vote of the Charities Department. The members from the North-West all desire to see that part of the country progress. The greatest wrong being done by the Federal Government is the keeping of

the north of Australia unpeopled while still further peopling the big cities of the Eastern States. The indebtedness of this State is largely ascribable to the unbalanced condition of trade and commerce. This young State is being drained to the extent of approximately seven million pounds per annum by the Federal Government; and while they are imposing that heavy drain upon us they are neglecting their obligations to the north of Australia. The most vital question before the Commonwealth today is the peopling of the North. Of course the difficulties are great, but no greater than those overcome by California. The mere appointment by the State Government of a Commissioner and his assistant will not meet the position. Certain industries could be immediately established in the North. So much has been demonstrated by experiment in Northern Queensland. Every member of the House should be impatient until the Government evidence some progressive policy in this direction. It is not a party question, for it affects the very safety of Australia. It can be justly claimed by nations desiring expansion that they have a right to the unpeopled lands wherever they are to be found. If I were the Premier of this State, I would plant myself on the doorstep of the Prime Minister and stay there until he recognised in a practical way that he had to assist this State to people the North. Only the other day I had a letter from a Mr. Jones, late of Western Australia but now a technical expert in the cultivation of cotton under the Queensland Government. From the time when Lord Forrest was at the head of affairs in this State, has Mr. Jones pointed out the possibilities of growing cotton and tropical and sub-tropical plants and fruit in the North. But always his plea has been ignored. The proposed centre of activity was too far away; there was no kudos to be gained, and therefore this great territory still remains unoccupied. But surely now, when we have had the lessons of the Great War, when we realise the necessity for peopling the country with Anglo-Saxons, we can make an appeal to the Federal Government, feeling confident that if they fail us the Imperial Government, at all events, will recognise the necessity for peopling our unoccupied territory. If I appear to speak warmly on this subject it is only because I have deeply considered it ever since boyhood. Generally when the development of the North-West is voiced in this Chamber, it is voiced in the terms of a jetty to enable somebody to get a few bales of wool, or a few head of cattle, away. The Scaddan Government did provide facilities up there in the shape of freezing works, which unfortunately have not been successful.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Owing to the market.

Mr. LAMBERT: That is so. But that is by no means the only activity in which the

State Government could show their interest in the development of that big rich territory. I hope the new Commissioner, with his technical assistant, will be able to advise the Government on the question of commercially growing tropical and sub-tropical fruit and plants. I am afraid the Commissioner will not do very much good. His appointment was not justified. If, instead of appointing a Commissioner, the Government had called together the members from the North, a policy could have been formulated which would have given some tangible practical results. I hope the Government will realise the necessity for a more vigorous developmental policy for the North. The Federal Government ought to be notified that they are not to be allowed to go on draining this small State in order to bolster up the big cities of the East.

The CHAIRMAN: We cannot have the whole of the ramifications of Federation discussed under this vote.

Mr. LAMBERT: Very well. Recent geological disclosures point to the possibility of the occurrence of oil in the Kimberleys. That is the first portion of Australia to be tackled under a scheme of practical boring. As was pointed out by the Premier, in the flotation of oil companies, unless we can get market interests, we cannot get men who will provide sufficient working capital to properly try out the country. I hope the Government will ask the Imperial Government to send to Western Australia the best possible man for the purpose of testing that country. The preliminary geological examination, and the conclusions arrived at, are so important that it behoves the Government to get the best possible geological man to make a thorough survey of the North. Only a casual geological survey has been made. I hope the people of Australia will focus their attention upon the matter of the encouragement the Government are prepared to give for the location of oil in commercial quantities. I am not financially interested in any of the oil concerns, but the geological reports are of such great importance that the Government would be justified in immediately procuring the services of the best oil expert available.

Mr. Underwood: But all the country is held by two or three people.

Mr. LAMBERT: True, but I would not put any obstacle in the way of the development of this country.

Mr. Underwood: Why do not they bring a geologist here?

Mr. LAMBERT: The matter is of too great importance. These people hold their concessions rightly under license granted by the Crown, and should be given the fullest possible opportunity to enjoy the privileges they have rightly acquired.

Mr. Underwood: And the rest of the citizens should pay for the geologist's report?

Mr. LAMBERT: The hon. member should not permit his judgment to be warped by the fact that some individuals stand to make a

little money out of these concessions. This matter is of such importance to the State and Commonwealth that it behoves the Government to procure the best man without delay, so that these companies may be guided in the initial stages of their activities.

The Minister for Works: We are impressed with that, and will see to it. You need not argue it.

Mr. Underwood: But if two or three people have all the country, why not let them prospect for it themselves?

Mr. LAMBERT: The companies have rightly acquired their licenses.

Mr. Underwood: Rightly acquired the right to search for oil, but we should not search for it for them.

Mr. LAMBERT: All the people of Australia are interested in their activities, and it is only right that the Government should guide them in the initial stages when success or failure will mean so much probably to the State of Western Australia. The great question of the development of the North should be dealt with, not in an abstract way, but in a practical way. Members should focus their attention upon the obligations of the Federal Government to us. We should tell them that we as a State will not permit them to go on building up the big Eastern cities at our expense while the development of the North remains neglected.

Mr. ANGELO (Gascoyne) [10.35]: I very much regret to have to conclude from the Premier's introduction of these Estimates that he has entirely failed to realise his and the Government's responsibility for the development of the North. As the member for Coolgardie (Mr. Lambert) has pointed out, it is not a matter of responsibility to the North-West alone. It is not a matter of responsibility to this State only. It is a matter of responsibility to the Commonwealth and to the Empire. We are told that this department has been created for the development of the North. Therefore, I consider we are justly entitled to speak on the development of the North. The ordinary functions of government in the North are carried out by existing departments, and this department has been created for one purpose, that purpose being the development of the North. Therefore, I do not think it is out of place to speak of the necessity for developing the North.

The CHAIRMAN: I cannot permit a wide range of discussion on this vote. There must be a limit to it.

Mr. ANGELO: But this department has been created for one specific purpose.

The CHAIRMAN: The Estimates do not say so.

Mr. ANGELO: We were told that the department was created—

The CHAIRMAN: I do not know what you were told; the position is as I have explained it.

Mr. ANGELO: The Premier in introducing the Estimates spoke of the development

of the North, and other members who have addressed themselves to these Estimates have followed suit. The Government fail to realise that we have 2,000 miles of coast line with only 6,000 people inhabiting it. That alone shows the necessity for the peopling of the North being taken in hand immediately and in something like an earnest fashion. In the other States there is on foot a project of a million farms for a million people. The reason given for this is the necessity for populating the empty spaces. How much more necessary is it to adopt something of the kind for Western Australia? The Government tell us that they intend to spend large sums of money in the South-West for the purpose of defence and protection. We have heard that large sums of money are to be expended on the development of our wheat areas for the same purposes—defence and protection. Yet here we have 2,000 miles of coast line, the most vulnerable part of the country adjacent to lands containing millions of foreigners, and not a penny of expenditure is proposed for development. The Government have enunciated a policy to bring under occupation the unused land of the South-West. We are told that the vacant land adjacent to our railways must be utilised. What if other nations adopted the same attitude with regard to the North and said, "If you do not people and occupy it, you should give it up to those who will occupy it"? The Premier tells us we should produce bananas, peanuts and pineapples, and that we should catch fish. Experts in the Agricultural Department have told him that from the North we can produce a very large proportion of the commodities that are at present imported into the State—£3,700,000 worth last year.

The Minister for Works: Have you got them all classified?

Mr. ANGELO: Yes, and I am prepared to hand the list to the Minister. I have frequently heard the Minister for the North-West advocating those very things which the member for Coolgardie and others in this Chamber have advocated should be done in the North, but nothing has been done. In order to get population there facilities must be given to the settlers. The ships on the coast are so crowded that it is impossible to get a berth.

Mr. Mann: Get the traffic and you will get more ships.

Mr. ANGELO: The companies will not put on more ships while the Government are carrying on the State Steamship Service.

Mr. Marshall: Do you advise withdrawing that service?

Mr. ANGELO: The Government should have a State Steamship Service for the development of the North, but it should be properly run, not in the present haphazard manner. They say that their steamers are not paying. It is impossible to make the "Bambra" pay. She is larger than the "Minderoo" and yet she can only carry 3,000 sheep fully loaded, whereas the "Minderoo," a smaller boat, can carry 6,000 sheep.

The "Bambra" was not built for that coast, and has not been properly fitted. She is bound to be a losing proposition.

The Minister for Works: She is only a makeshift.

Mr. Mann: She cost us nothing.

Mr. ANGELO: Even a gift may prove to be a costly thing. I urge upon the Government to give travelling facilities along the coast and enable us to get our produce to market. If they cannot run the State Steamship Service properly they should let someone else do it. There are three steamers trading to Singapore which also trade along the coast, but we may lose those boats at any time.

Mr. Mann: They have been running for years.

Mr. ANGELO: The Navigation Act may yet compel these boats to carry white crews.

Mr. Mann: They have exemption.

Mr. ANGELO: The Prime Minister of the Commonwealth cannot guarantee that exemption. The seamen may threaten to strike unless white crews are put on these boats, and the Federal Government, who will not care what happens to the North-West coast, will give way in order to obviate a strike in the rest of Australia.

Mr. Marshall: We are giving you an aerial service.

Mr. ANGELO: We did not ask for it. We are glad to have mail facilities, but what will an aerial service do towards populating the North-West? The Federal Government will doubtless tell us that this is another advantage we derive from Federation, whereas it is merely an experiment in connection with defence.

Mr. Money: Is it not their responsibility to do many of the things you are speaking about?

Mr. ANGELO: Yes. The Premier said that the country should be carrying more sheep. I agree, but more sheep cannot be carried without railway facilities to take the wool to port. It is not a payable proposition to grow sheep if wool has to be carted more than 200 miles.

Mr. Mann: You do not suggest a 300-mile railway in the Gascogne.

[Mr. Stubbs resumed the Chair.]

Mr. ANGELO: I have suggested a railway of 105 miles in length from Carnarvon to the junction. I proved to the House that it would make a profit of £15,000 a year from the time it was opened.

The Minister for Works: On a capital of £700,000?

Mr. ANGELO: I feel sure that I could get a tender for less than £400,000. We do not want an elaborate railway such as is usually built by the Public Works Department. The railway could be utilised for the carrying of sheep. We should be able to double our carrying capacity if we had spur lines running inland from the coast. Thousands of acres were made available by the Marble Bar

railway; that country could not carry sheep profitably before.

Mr. Mann: The railway does not pay.

Mr. ANGELO: No. In my district pastoralists pay from 1s. 6d. to 2s. per ton per mile for the cartage of their wool, whereas the people farther north get their wool to port for 6d. per ton per mile by the railway.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: And the pastoralists in your district would soon want freight at the same rate, and it would be a repetition of the rabbit-proof fence affair.

Mr. ANGELO: The pastoralists are willing to pay 1s. per ton per mile if they can get the railway.

The Minister for Works: Would the traffic pay on the capital which would have to be expended, and on the wages which would have to be paid?

Mr. ANGELO: We are still awaiting the report which the Premier promised.

The Minister for Works: You do not want a report when you know the railways would cost £700,000.

Mr. ANGELO: How can that be? There is not a single culvert to be built or a cutting to be made.

The Minister for Works: That does not matter. Rails and fastenings would cost £300,000, the sleepers £107,000, and then you would have to do the work.

Mr. ANGELO: There are no engineering difficulties. I must have been erroneously advised by the engineers of the Minister's department. My figures were based on information supplied from that source.

The Minister for Works: Probably you did not understand it.

Mr. ANGELO: We will await that report with much interest. An hon. member by way of interjection asked what we wanted the Government to do in the North-West. We want the Government to provide steamer transport. I have already indicated why we want those facilities. The Government must provide a reliable service or else get out and induce someone else to engage in that trade. We want the hinterland opened up by spur lines from the coast. We want a certain amount of agricultural land cut up into smaller holdings. There have been people who endeavoured to secure land but have been turned down, in one instance, after waiting for a year.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Have you heard of Kitson Hunter?

Mr. ANGELO: No, but I know of Hollins, who was prepared to spend a lot of money in developing the land in the North-West. After waiting for over a year without getting land, he went back to Victoria. Five months ago, I took a syndicate of three or four men, all old inhabitants of Western Australia, to the Minister for the North-West. They were prepared to start a banana and pineapple plantation but, after five months, those men are still waiting for land.

The Premier: And we have no bananas yet!

Mr. ANGELO: Another gentleman came from Queensland. He represents a syndicate in that State and the Premier has given an assurance that if this man is satisfied with the land, he will facilitate his work in getting that land. I am convinced that the Premier will, in this instance, do all he can to assist in that direction.

The Premier: He is the best man you have brought in so far.

Mr. ANGELO: That is hardly fair to the others.

The Premier: Yes, it is.

Mr. ANGELO: The men I have mentioned would have gone on with their proposition if they had secured the land. Over a year ago I asked, on behalf of a number of workers at Carnarvon, that the workers' homes scheme should be extended to that centre. Nothing has been done yet. The extension of the scheme to places such as Carnarvon would encourage people to remain there and the present sparse populations would be increased, while it would tend also to absorb some of the surplus population in the larger centres throughout the State.

The Premier: You can get the money to build the homes, but you want us to build them for you.

Mr. ANGELO: I only want an officer to go up there to explain the operations of the scheme and approve of the building sites.

Mr. Mann: Is there no builder at Carnarvon?

Mr. ANGELO: Yes, there is one.

Mr. Mann: Then you only want the money.

Mr. ANGELO: The trouble is that the operation of the scheme has never been explained to the people there. A tremendous obligation rests on the Government of Western Australia in carrying out the governmental functions in so large an area as we possess. I do not think any set of men, though they be the cleverest men in the world, can possibly do that satisfactorily. After visiting the South-Western portion of the State and seeing the huge extent of wonderful country awaiting development there, I have come to the conclusion that it is not a fair thing to ask any Government to tackle the task of developing the whole of the State. The Government should spend all their time in developing the South-West and give us an opportunity of setting up our own State in the North-West and looking after our own affairs. The only way to develop the North-West is to set aside a large sum of money for that specific purpose. We should ask the Imperial Government or the Federal Government to share in the responsibility.

The Minister for Agriculture: What has the Federal Government done for the Northern Territory?

Mr. ANGELO: I do not want the Federal Government to do it; I want the Premier to secure a loan of two millions or so from them, for the development of the North. While that will not go very far it will give us a start. A million pounds would give us four new steamers. If we had adequate ship-

ping facilities half our trouble would be over. Before the war private shipping companies were able to make the business pay.

Mr. Money: Were you satisfied with their service?

Mr. ANGELO: We were, to a certain extent; but, unfortunately, the Adelaide Steamship Company and the Singapore boats practically created a monopoly. The result of this was that Forrest, Emanuel, and Co. secured the whole of the space. That, of course, was not satisfactory to the people of the North-West. I consider, however, that the provision of State steamers to develop the North-West is just as essential as railways are necessary in the South-West, although I do not believe in State enterprise, where the work can be done equally well by private enterprise.

The Minister for Works: Would these ships be able to get full cargoes each time they called at the various ports?

Mr. ANGELO: I am certain they would. At the present time, there are 200,000 sheep in the Gascoyne district alone which cannot be taken away because we have not the steamers to lift them.

Mr. Money: If you could get them away, you could not sell them.

Mr. ANGELO: We could send them to Singapore and Java.

Hon. W. G. Angwin: That would only be a temporary arrangement.

Mr. ANGELO: That is so, but as we develop the North-West, so the increased cargoes will be available.

The Premier: As soon as the freezing works are in operation, that position will be rectified.

Mr. ANGELO: When the works are in operation, we will be able to despatch case stuff and frozen cargo generally. I want the Government, however, to realise the possibilities of development in the North-West and their responsibility regarding that development. They have the responsibility in two ways: the responsibility of immediately developing the North, or the responsibility of saying that they are not able to do it. There are people prepared to go into industries in the North, providing facilities for transport are given them. There are people prepared to take up pastoral propositions in the North, providing the Government give them facilities for bringing their wool into port: at present it does not pay to cart wool more than, say, 250 miles. There are people prepared to undertake minor agricultural pursuits there when the Government have cut up the land. After being here for three years I was at last able to get a surveyor sent up to the Gascoyne. But the Gascoyne is only one district where closer settlement could take place in the North. Is the surveyor now at Carnarvon to come back to Perth after finishing his work on the Gascoyne, or is he to go on cutting up land, equally rich, on the rivers further north? We of the North want closer settlement, and some proper Government policy of

development for the North. Some of the lands of the North must be cut up for closer settlement, ready for the people.

The Minister for Works: No policy will develop the North if you have not got the people.

Mr. ANGELO: We will get the people, if only the North is opened up for them. I spoke of Mr. Hollins, who was prepared to bring £30,000 for the purpose of closer settlement on the Gascoyne.

The Premier: He was not prepared to bring £30,000.

Mr. ANGELO: The Premier is entirely wrong there.

The Premier: I say no. I say you are wrong.

Mr. ANGELO: The Premier sent this gentleman with me to Mr. Morris to make the necessary arrangements.

The Premier: I know all about it. There was no £30,000.

Mr. ANGELO: One of the conditions was that the land should be available immediately a sum of £250 had been paid for survey fees. Mr. Hollings offered his cheque straight away. But nothing was done. So the thing went on. The unfortunate part of it was that the Premier would have had to introduce a Bill into Parliament. I think that was really what blocked the matter. However, there is the case of other people, who waited for five months, who have not yet got a reply as to whether they can get land.

The Premier: It is no use talking like that. The land is being cut up now.

Mr. ANGELO: Only the other day I went to the office of the Minister for the North-West and said to the secretary of the department, "What about the applications from these people?" I could mention the names; they are people here. The reply I got was, "That matter is not finalised yet." It is five months since I introduced the deputation. It is all nonsense to say—

The Premier: You are quite right; it is all nonsense.

Mr. ANGELO: I can prove it to the Premier to-morrow morning.

The Premier: I will bet you can't.

Mr. ANGELO: Let the lands be surveyed and cut up. I believe a report came down yesterday by the "Gorgon" that a certain area of land had been cut up on the Gascoyne. Three weeks ago I handed to the Minister for the North-West a petition signed by 26 people who wish to take up garden blocks on the Gascoyne—30-acre blocks. That size of block is quite large enough for closer settlement. On the Gascoyne a man can make a good living on 30 acres under irrigation. The Premier tells us we should grow bananas and pine-apples there. We ought to have bigger lines in view. How is it that in Queensland, in the same latitude, the dairying industry has gone ahead so well. We ought to be dairying on the Gascoyne.

The Premier: Well, why aren't you?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Because they prefer to keep their land under sheep.

Mr. ANGELO: The trouble is that the Government do not realise the possibilities of the North, do not know the conditions existing there. I shall not detain the Committee further except to ask the Government again, whether they are going to take the question of the North seriously in hand, or whether they are going to be honest and say, "We cannot do it, but we will assist you northern people to form a State of your own, and then you can work out your own salvation"?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (North-East Fremantle) [11.8]: Having listened attentively to the last speaker, I am of opinion that the best thing for the hon. member to do is to send in his resignation as a Parliamentary representative.

Mr. Angelo: Why?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I shall tell the hon. member why in a few minutes. To-night he has been appealing to the Government to borrow and spend several millions of money for the opening up of the North-West, the necessity for which proceeding the hon. member has pointed out in detail. He says, "Start off by borrowing a million." That million is to buy ships. The hon. member says, "We can get four steamers for a million. Let the Government start off with that." Then the hon. member wants a railway, which the Minister for Works says will cost £700,000.

Mr. Angelo: The Minister is wrong.

The Minister for Works: No! The Minister is right.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The railway is guaranteed a return of so and so much from the carriage of wool. It was the same thing with the rabbit-proof fence in the North. The State spent £60,000 on that and, when the fence was finished, the pastoralists did not pay.

Mr. Angelo: That is wrong. I explained that matter the other night, and moreover to the satisfaction of your leader.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: That is all right. My leader knows all about it too.

Mr. Angelo: He does now.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: From the "West Australian" of the 2nd July last, which is not very long ago, I learned that the Primary Producers' Association had held a meeting and had passed a resolution declaring that in the opinion of the executive the continued financial drift of the State, and the failure of past Governments to cope with the yearly increasing deficit, rendered it obligatory on the Country Party to make every effort to comply with plank 11 of the party's platform, which plank provided for economical administration of Government departments and economical expenditure of public funds. The resolution further asserted that the absence of efforts by past Governments to bring their expenditure within their income had already prejudiced the credit of the State, and that as the Country Party were now carrying equal responsibilities in the administration of the State, it was incumbent upon the party to insist that the deplorably extravagant administration of the past should cease, and that every constitutional move must be made to place the finances of the State on a satisfactory basis.



Mr. Angelo: That resolution does not refer to loan moneys, you know!

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The resolution speaks of public funds, and loan moneys are public funds. That is one of the planks of the platform of the hon. member who just now has been asking the Government to raise money by the million. That hon. member stood at the last general election as an adherent of the Country Party.

Mr. Angelo: My friends want a million borrowed for the development of the South-West.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Only one member of the Country Party has demanded expenditure in the South-West, and that is the member for Sussex. The other members of the Country Party have been all for the wheat belt. As I have said here before, when it was a matter of providing potato storage for the South-West, the proposal was supported only by the member for Sussex and the member for Bunbury.

Hon. P. Collier: The Leader of the Country Party has no time for the South-West at all.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: There is no doubt that the North-West will have to be developed.

Mr. Angelo: Now we are on common ground.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: But the present time is not opportune for developing the North-West, by reason of the dearthness of money.

Mr. Angelo: You will lose the North-West if you do not develop it very quickly.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: We are in a very awkward position in respect of the development of the North-West, because by recent legislation we have blocked that very development for 40 years.

Mr. Angelo: It does not prevent closer settlement.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: To a large extent, it does. Of course if the agriculturist goes in there, closer settlement can be brought about, but there can be no closer pastoral settlement for the next 40 years. However, that does not absolve my friend from the pledge he has given to his party to support economy at all costs. To-night he has been voicing, not the views of the Country Party, to which he belongs, but the views of the electors of Gascoyne. When he joined the Country Party I told him he was making a mistake, but I scarcely thought he would ever demonstrate it so clearly as he has done to-night. If we were to spend every penny of our money on the development of the North-West it would be but a drop in the ocean. Recently a friend of mine got together a party of 17 or 18 soldiers prepared to take up land in the North. Many of them were trained in tropical agriculture. They went to the Minister for the North-West and also to the Lands Department, but they did not get any encouragement at all, and there is abroad a suspicion that the land they wanted is being held for some favoured applicant.

Mr. Angelo: Where is the land?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The hon. member ought to know, for I am under the impression that the representative of the party saw him in regard to the proposal.

Mr. Angelo: Is it land on the Gascoyne?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Yes, land in the Gascoyne district.

Mr. Angelo: The member for Kimberley (Mr. Durack) tells me it is in the Kimberley district.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I believe it is in the Gascoyne district. I advised my friends to see the member for Gascoyne, who, I hoped, would enthusiastically take up the matter. However, at the present time it is quite useless to think of indulging in any big scheme entailing the expenditure of enormous sums of money such as the hon. member has outlined to-night, especially when it is remembered that some of us have signed plank 11 of the platform of the Country Party.

Mr. DURACK (Kimberley) (11-16): The importance of this subject justifies me in asking the Premier to report progress so as to give opportunity for further consideration.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—Aborigines, £8,395—agreed to.

This concluded the general Estimates.

Public Utilities:

Vote—Aborigines Cattle Station (Moola Bulla), £11,563; Albany Cold Stores, £264; Avondale and Harvey Estate, £1,500—agreed to.

Vote—Butter factories, £34,259:

Mr. MONEY: I should like an explanation of the increase of £7,756.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: That is in relation to the Busselton factory.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I should like to know how many factories are covered by this vote. I understand it has nothing to do with subsidised factories.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Provision for subsidised factories comes under Loan Fund. They are run entirely by the respective companies.

Mr. McCallum: Where is the State factory?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: At Busselton. That is the only State factory.

Mr. McCallum: What about Denmark?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: That is non-existent.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: What about Albany?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: That is another subsidised company. This vote is entirely for the Busselton factory.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: What was the loss last year?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: There was a profit of £1,200 or £1,500.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: We have not seen the balance sheet.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: It is in the report of the Department of Agriculture. This is the first occasion on which I have known the member for North-East Fremantle to miss anything.

Mr. Money: Is it expected that the £7,756 excess will come back to the Government?

The Premier: Yes.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: We have to spend this money but will get it back.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I am surprised that the member for Sussex (Mr. Pickering) is not raising his voice in opposition to this butter factory. If I were opposed to the principle of Government trading, I would object to it wherever it existed. I would not object to it when an enterprise was located in some other electorate and remain silent when the undertaking was

in my own district. We should have had some information regarding the output of this factory and the interest, sinking fund, and depreciation charges.

The Premier: You established this factory.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: But the member for Sussex said all trading concerns should be closed down.

The Premier: I agree with him.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I do not. Members, after having been briefed by some outside body, come here and make untrue statements regarding the State trading concerns for the purpose of condemning them.

Mr. Pickering: That is not fair.

Hon. P. Collier: Well, influenced.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: But when it affects a trading concern in their own district, they say nothing about it.

Mr. Pickering: I spoke about it.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Here is a vote of £34,259, and the hon. member sits back quietly as if he thoroughly believed in State trading concerns. Presumably, he does, so long as they are in the Sussex electorate.

Mr. Pickering: I am not taking any exception to it.

Hon. P. Collier: Why not be consistent?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: If the Premier brings down a bill for the sale of the State trading concerns, will he include in it the Busselton butter factory?

The Premier: Yes.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Members on the Government side say that the principle of State trading is bad. I say it is good. If I had my way, I would start a few more concerns.

Mr. Money: It would be better to assist private enterprise. It has turned out all right at Bunbury.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Unfortunately for the people, a war occurred and the price of butter became very high. For many years the Bunbury company had great difficulty in meeting their engagements to the Government.

Mr. Money: They met them.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Yet members expect all other trading concerns to meet their engagements at once.

Mr. Money: The Bunbury factory is not a State trading concern.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: It was started with State money. What a row there is about the Wyndham Meat Works! The position there is due to the fact that the bottom has fallen out of the meat market.

Mr. Money: Would not it be better if that were a private enterprise assisted by the State?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The works would never have been constructed. The people of Wyndham were as anxious as anyone for the Government to start those meat works, and yet they objected to the proposal of the present Premier, when he was Minister for Lands some years ago, that there should be a stock tax. I hope the member for Sussex will be able to justify the Government in continuing this trading concern at Busselton. If the principle as applied to my electorate is bad, it is equally bad when applied to the Sussex electorate. The hon. member has continually condemned the principle of State trading concerns. If he intends to be politically honest, he

should tell the Government they have no right to continue these works, but should sell them.

Mr. Pickering: It would not do to be politically honest in that way.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: If the hon. member did take such action, I would oppose him. This trading concern appears under a new heading—"Public Utilities." The Busselton Butter Factory, the Wyndham Meat Works and the State Ferries are not public utilities but trading concerns.

Mr. Pickering: This factory is not in competition.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: It is in competition with the Bunbury factory and with Macfarlane's factory. So far as other State enterprises are concerned, everything is wrong in the eyes of the hon. member and he has stressed the detrimental effect he claims they have had upon the State.

Vote put and passed.

Votes—Goldfields Water Supply Undertaking £130,903; Government Refrigerating works, £7,450; Kalgoorlie Abattoirs, £3,813; Metropolitan Abattoirs and Saleyards, £15,103—agreed to.

Vote—Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage, £120,481:

Mr. McCALLUM: The Minister for Works made certain promises in reference to the Metropolitan water supply. I have always thought that a promise made by him would be kept. He stated in answer to a question of mine at the beginning of the session that there would be ample water to meet the summer requirements of Fremantle, and that there would be no further need to worry. The summer has scarcely started and yet, on three mornings this week, I have been unable to get a shower in my house. The supply is worse now than it was at this time last year?

The Minister for Works: I am making a note of the matter, and will go into it.

Mr. McCALLUM: I believe a reservoir has been built at East Fremantle but that does not affect the South Fremantle district.

The Minister for Works: What is the use of talking tommy rot?

Mr. McCALLUM: Does the Minister know more about the water supply in my home than I do myself? He should listen to reason. I am not going to be bullied or bounced by him. Let him keep his temper and not talk in that way.

The Minister for Works: You keep your temper. I am quite calm.

Mr. McCALLUM: I ask that the words "tommy rot" be withdrawn.

The Minister for Works: I withdraw "tommy rot" and will call it "Thomas rot" and I withdraw that, too.

Mr. McCALLUM: Fancy getting this kind of tomfoolery from a Minister of the Crown!

The Minister for Works: I object to the expression "tomfoolery." My name is not "Tom," and I am not a fool.

Mr. Lutey: The word "Thomas" should be withdrawn.

The Minister for Works: I do withdraw it, but I do not like "tomfoolery." All this

has happened because a man cannot get a shower. If he requires information he can get all he wants.

Mr. McCALLUM: I asked the question early in the session, because I knew how acute the position was last summer, and I accepted the Minister's word that there would be an improvement.

The Minister for Works: The Minister does not break his word.

Mr. McCALLUM: I gave him credit for not doing so.

The Minister for Works: I am not responsible, because you cannot get a shower.

Mr. McCALLUM: I am told I am talking Tommy rot when I tell the Minister what I know about my own house.

The CHAIRMAN: The Minister has withdrawn that; get on with your speech.

The Minister for Works: Why do you not come to the department instead of wasting our time like this?

Mr. McCALLUM: I shall take as much time as I like.

The Minister for Works: I will not listen to you.

Mr. McCALLUM: It does not trouble me what the Minister does.

The Minister for Works: Nor does it trouble me what you do.

Mr. McCALLUM: The Press have published certain information indicating that the Government were making certain improvements in the water supply, and that there would be no water famine again in the metropolitan area. We have to pay heavy rates for our water and people are paying for water they never get. There is a new house going up now in my electorate and a request has been made that water should be laid on by means of a pipe line running a few hundred yards down the street. The Minister refused to do this unless there was a guarantee that the cost would be met for the current year, notwithstanding that water rates have been paid for many years past for nothing. The administration of our water supply is undemocratic. It shows incompetency, and lack of imagination as to the requirements of the people. Public utterances have been made about an improvement in the position, and now, before the summer has fairly started, people are unable to get sufficient water for domestic requirements. When one asks for information from the Minister one is treated in an uncouth manner, and he leaves the Chamber and declines to answer questions. All we get is this spoilt child attitude on the part of the Minister who runs out because he feels hurt, just like the little boy who refused to play with another on account of an argument he has had with him. The whole thing is childish. He will not play in our back yard because he has had a row with the boy next door. Perhaps it is no wonder the people of the metropolitan area will have to go without an adequate water supply. They will not tolerate it, and will keep him busy with their complaints be-

fore the summer is out. I will see that all the complaints that come to me regarding water supply troubles in my district, are despatched to the Minister. I will see he is bombarded with them.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I am sorry the Premier did not agree to postpone consideration of this vote. There are many complaints voiced in my electorate regarding the water supply. Probably no district in the metropolitan area is progressing more than East Fremantle. People there have offered to pay a guarantee but the Government have not provided the necessary water supply, because they cannot find the money to put down the pipes. There is a very fine reservoir within a stone's throw of where these people require a service. That water is mostly needed for shipping purposes. For many years, the Fremantle water supply contributed handsomely to the revenue of the State. When the Fremantle scheme was linked up with the metropolitan scheme, the rates were doubled but the people have been suffering from greater disadvantages than they experienced previously. The people in the Fremantle district have now to pay their share in the big capitalisation of the whole metropolitan scheme. With rates doubled, the people naturally expect better supplies. I had anticipated that the Minister would have made a statement to the Committee dealing with the metropolitan water supply, regarding which the people are becoming rather uneasy. Certain provisions should be made to cope with the developments which will take place in the future.

Progress reported.

House adjourned at 11.45 p.m.

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Tuesday, 29th November, 1921.

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