

frain from asking for charity, but one which merely asks for the fairest treatment we can give. I hope the House will give the small measure of relief that is suggested by this Bill. I know of an old man who has been a pensioner for many years, but who, during the past few months contracted a disease, not contagious, of such a virulent nature that he could not live more than a few months longer. It was decreed by the department that he should be sent to Old Men's Home. There are very often certain cast-iron regulations which in themselves are necessary, but which in their administration mean unnecessary hardship in particular cases. This man was told to report to the Old Men's Home on the 14th of the month, and his pension was due on the following day. The case was brought before me by a neighbour, who desired that some help should be given to the old man. The one thing the old man was worrying about was the paying off of an old score to the local tobacconist or grocer of about 8s. The department would collect his pension and credit it towards his maintenance in the Old Men's Home. When I brought the matter before the late Colonial Secretary he acted quickly and effectively and the matter was adjusted. The old man went partly happy into what will probably be his last home. This serves to illustrate that there are in all departments certain regulations that are in the nature of cast-iron, and which debar people from rights that could readily be accorded to them. The spirit that these old pensioners display should be recognised by the House. Where there are cases of disability such as I have outlined the House should be ready to accord that help and relief which I feel the services of these men to the country have warranted. The Bill is quite an innocent measure, and is placed before the House as a compassionate one that I hope will be assented to. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by the Minister for Works, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 10.20 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 12th September, 1922.

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

BILL—PROPERTY.

Introduced by the Minister for Education, and read a first time.

MOTION—IMMIGRATION, STATE-WIDE SCHEME.

Hon. G. W. MILES (North) [4.36]: I move—

That in the opinion of this House the Government should at once enter into negotiations with the Imperial and Commonwealth authorities in order to arrange joint schemes of migration, which shall apply not only to the South-West division of the State, but also to the Eucla, Central, Eastern, North-West, and Kimberley divisions.

Hon. members will agree that in the best interests of this country it is essential that all portions of Western Australia should be developed and populated as speedily as possible. The migration scheme put before the public by the Premier I am entirely in accord with, and I consider that the South-West could not only absorb 25,000 people per year, as suggested by Sir James Mitchell, but 50,000 people per year, the question being merely one of proper organisation. This motion, therefore, is not in any way antagonistic to the South-West development scheme, in which I am as firm a believer as anybody. My own view is that the 25,000 people referred to by the Premier could be absorbed within 100 miles of Perth, growing currants and raisins, and also in the wheat belt and in the South-West. But provision should be made for developing the Esperance district, the goldfields country, the central and eastern portions of the State, and the North-West and the Kimberleys as well. The Migration Act passed by the Imperial Parliament is evidence that the Ministers and people of Great Britain have a better grip of this question than the people of Australia have. The people at Home realise the vital importance of populating this continent within a reasonable time. They realise that Northern Australia is the weakest link in the Empire, and that the only way we can have the right to hold it is by peopling it. There is no use talking about what we will do in 10 or 20 years' time, or in the next generation; unless a bold scheme is taken in hand at once, and a policy is evolved for peopling the whole of Australia, we shall stand a very fair chance of losing Australia. I now desire to read the Act passed by the Imperial Parliament:—

1.—(1) It shall be lawful for the Secretary of State, in association with the Government of any part of His Majesty's Dominions, or with approved private organisations either in the United Kingdom or in any part of such dominions, to formulate and co-operate in carrying out agreed schemes for affording joint assistance to suitable persons in the United Kingdom who intend to settle in any part

of His Majesty's Oversea Dominions. (2) An agreed scheme under this Act may be either (a) a development or a land settlement scheme; or (b) a scheme for facilitating settlement in or migration to any part of His Majesty's Oversea Dominions by assistance with passages, initial allowances, special training or otherwise; and shall make provision with respect to the contributions to be made, either by way of grant or by way of loan or otherwise, by the parties to the agreed scheme towards the expenses of the scheme. (3) The Secretary of State shall have all such powers as may be necessary for carrying out his obligations under any scheme made in pursuance of this Act. Provided that (a) the Secretary of State shall not agree to any scheme without the consent of the Treasury, who shall be satisfied that the contributions of the Government or organisation with whom the scheme is agreed towards the expenses of the scheme bear a proper relation to the contribution of the Secretary of State; and (b) the contribution of the Secretary of State shall not in any case exceed half the expenses of the scheme; and (c) the liability of the Secretary of State to make contributions under the scheme shall not extend beyond a period of fifteen years after the passing of this Act. (4) Any expenses of the Secretary of State under this Act shall be paid out of moneys provided by Parliament: Provided that the aggregate amount expended by the Secretary of State under any scheme or schemes under this Act shall not exceed £1,500,000 in the financial year current at the date of the passing of this Act, or £3,000,000 in any subsequent financial year.

From that Act it is evident that the Imperial Government are out to assist in every way possible towards the peopling not only of Australia but of any portion of the British Dominions. England is prepared to find £3,000,000 per annum for the next fourteen years under that Act. It means that the Dominions can spend £60,000,000 of capital for immigration purposes and development work, England paying the interest for 14 years. As I have previously pointed out here, during the war Australia spent £400,000,000 roughly, and the States and the Commonwealth to-day owe over £300,000,000 or roughly £150 per head of the population. I repeat what I have said here previously, that it is absolutely vital that another £200,000,000 should be spent in standardising our railways, putting an iron road around Australia, opening up our harbours, providing water supplies, and so doubling our population in 10 years. That scheme can be carried out if we have proper organisation in Australia. The scheme would only mean that the Commonwealth and the States would have to provide £160,000,000 in 10 years, in view of the amount which the British Government offer. In connection with the immigration scheme it is necessary to have a public works scheme as well as a land

settlement scheme. In Australia there has been too much party politics, too much interstate jealousy, and not sufficient thought for the Empire and Australia as a whole. If people will take a broader view, an Empire view, they will find that they have no option but to go forward with a bold scheme of this sort. The carrying out of such a scheme will mean the reduction of our debt from £150 per head to £100 per head. We shall reduce our taxation, and we shall open up our country to carry another 10 or 20 millions of people. It is just as much to the interest of Great Britain from a financial point of view to assist us, as it is for us to help ourselves. When in London I had the pleasure of luncheon with the late Lord Northcliffe, and on that occasion I thanked him for the article he published in Sydney last year. Hon. members will recollect that Lord Northcliffe, on coming to this country, was asked to give his opinion as to what the future policy of Australia should be. That article was the reply; and I propose to read the article at a later stage, because I think it should be placed on record, giving as it does the views of a man of the capacity of the late Lord Northcliffe, who was so admirably qualified to judge the position. In congratulating him in London on his Sydney article, I said that it contained matter we had been trying to put before the people of Australia for the past two years, put up by a master mind and a statesman. The last function attended by that gentleman in England was a luncheon given by the Australia and New Zealand Luncheon Club, at which Sir Newton Moore was chairman, and our Premier, Sir James Mitchell, was among the speakers. That was the luncheon at which I interjected "rosy checks." It was a thoroughly representative Australian function. Lord Northcliffe made a speech on the lines of his articles in Australia. He referred specially to the necessity for peopling Australia as soon as possible. He declared that in Australia an Englishman was called a "pommy," and said it was a term of contempt. I regret very much that our Premier did not see fit to correct the wrong impression left upon Lord Northcliffe's hearers. I have heard our Premier referred to as a man following in the steps of the late Lord Forrest. I say there is no comparison whatever between the two men. Just imagine the late Lord Forrest allowing a wrong impression like that to go forth to the people of England! Some five days later, at Nottingham, I took the first opportunity to reply to Lord Northcliffe. Five of us addressed a public meeting after a reception to the Parliamentary party. I was the last to speak. I said that my friend Mr. Jowett was a "pommy" and one of the best members of the Federal Parliament, that nobody appreciated more than I did the value of Lord Northcliffe's visit to the Dominions, but that he had drawn one wrong conclusion when he said that Australians referred to an Englishman as a "pommy" and used the term with contempt. I explained then, how at the luncheon I had

interjected "rosy cheeks" as being the explanation of the term, when he replied "Like yours." I went on to say I did not know whether he meant my rosy cheeks, or that it was like my cheek in interjecting. However, I went on to say that our fathers had all been "pommies," and that had it not been for them we would not have had Australia to-day. Australia, I said, belonged, not to the five million Australians, but to the British Empire. It was just as essential to have an Empire organisation for migration as it was to organise the Empire to win the war. That could not be left till next week or next year, nor could the fulfilment of the immigration policy. I followed it up by saying that in Australia I, being a Western Australian, was referred to as a "sandroper," that a resident of New South Wales was termed a "cornstalk," a resident of Victoria a "gum-sucker," and a resident of South Australia a "crow-eater." I said that a new-chum Englishman was called a "pommy" because of the resemblance of his rosy cheeks to a pomegranate, and that it was used as a term of endearment rather than of contempt. That is the reply which the Premier, had he had the interests of Australia at heart, should have made to Lord Northcliffe's statement in London.

Hon. J. Duffell: He didn't think about it.

Hon. G. W. MILES: He did think about it. I do not want to say why he did not do it. You can form your own opinion. He told me why. As to doubling Australia's population in ten years, it is not my own view alone. I have documentary evidence to support that view. I have said that England is prepared to assist us with men and money to people the country. The passage of the Migration Bill through the British Parliament proved that my arguments were correct. The credit is not due to the Premier that he brought about this feeling in the Old Country. Long before he left this State this feeling was abroad in England. For it a great deal of credit is due to the Northcliffe Press, to Sir James Connolly, and to British statesmen. At the Premier's send-off at the Palace Hotel I said there could be no doubt about the prospective success of his visit to the Old Country. I say that the Premier has not taken full advantage of the opportunities given him in the Old Country. He has gone along with the one scheme only and it is questionable whether he has that properly organised. He does not realise that he is the Premier of the whole State. In January last I told him he should call himself the Premier of the South-West. "Do you not know," I asked him, "that there is a North of the State? You should mention it, even if you have no policy for it." The same thing applies to the gold-fields area. The policy of the Government is a policy for the South-West division alone. I have just as great a confidence in the South-West as have the members for the South-West Province, and I want to see that country carrying millions of people; but I

want it to be recognised that there are other portions of the State to be attended to as well.

Hon. J. Cornell: We must make a beginning.

Hon. G. W. MILES: Have we not in the State any Australians big enough to see further than one particular corner of the State? Are the men governing the country capable of governing only one corner of it? We must have a beginning, certainly, and we require to make a success of the settlements in the South-West, but we cannot sit down and allow the Mitchell Government to go on with their tin-pot policy in one corner of the State alone. When this is a success, they are going to think about something else. This league I represent has put up schemes for the development of the pastoral lands; we have put them before the Government, but could not get a reply.

Hon. H. Stewart: You will, in a few years.

Hon. G. W. MILES: Yes, if in a few years we still own the country. It is about time the people knew of those propositions that are being put up. If they are worth entertaining, special legislation will have to be provided, and the interests of the people protected, so that companies cannot get hold of the pastoral lands for speculative purposes. What the league proposes is that companies shall be formed to take over big tracts of country for the purpose of closer settlement. A scheme was put up to the Government, who were notified that if they would assist and agree to pass legislation, money could be found privately. Practical men, pastoralists, were prepared to take the lands in hand and develop them for closer settlement. We are fortunate in having men capable of putting up such schemes. What consideration do we get from the Government? None whatever.

Hon. J. Duffell: Was not a company formed with British capital to develop the North?

Hon. G. W. MILES: No, there was some talk of a company being formed in the Kimberleys, but I do not know that they got any farther. They would have had to get special legislation before they could put up the proposition to the public, because the public require to be assured of their titles, and that cannot be done without special legislation. Let me read this extract from Dalgety's review of the 3rd February—

Sound settlement scheme. That is one of the closer settlement phases of the West Australian Government policy. Then comes the larger scheme, and one that deals with big areas. East from Carnarvon, just below the Tropic of Capricorn, is an area of some 32,000,000 acres, which is said to be great pastoral country. Although this tract is the same size as the whole of England, it takes but a very small slice out of the State of Western Australia, and throughout the whole of this area it is said that water can be found at a depth of from 6ft. to 50ft. It is suggested that this pastoral area should be developed as portions

of Canada were—the land should be cleared and fenced, and houses erected, the stations then being sold to desirable purchasers on terms. Taking 20,000,000 acres out of the area referred to, the company propose to divide it into 100 stations, each capable of carrying 10,000 sheep, making a total capacity for the whole area of 1,000,000 sheep, provided that this country was, as thought, capable of carrying a sheep to every 20 acres.

I want to give a few details of this proposition. The main object in view is the development of 32 million acres of pastoral-mineral country to the north of Meekatharra. We have prepared all plans. The league desires to have this country made available for the promotion of group settlement on this area by the following means—

(a) To classify and sub-divide this tract of land into areas large enough to take 10,000 sheep, each area to be approximately 200,000 acres or of such smaller or larger area as will safely carry 10,000 sheep or 2,000 cattle. (b) To fence on a large scale so that each outside fence will form the boundary fence of two areas or the equivalent thereto. (c) To construct dams, sink wells, and supply and erect mills and troughing, etcetera, so as to furnish a convenient and effective water supply to each holding. (d) To erect a homestead and/or other houses together with usual outbuildings, yards, etcetera, on each holding. (e) To erect shearing sheds, and, where practicable, each shearing shed to be arranged for the joint use of several holdings. (f) To stock each holding with sufficient sheep and/or cattle to make the holding profitable to the purchaser. (g) To establish a complete telephone system between all homesteads and the Government telegraph lines. (h) To assist in the establishment of schools and other public necessities and conveniences. (i) To sell the holdings as a going concern to persons willing to follow pastoral pursuits and particularly to new settlers and to create avenues of employment and bring about increased production and population in the country north of Meekatharra. (3) To enable the objects of the league to be carried out it will be necessary that sufficient capital be raised to improve this large area in a wholesale way for the purpose of providing self-contained and well equipped stations as going concerns for the new settlers. (4) The 32 million acres which have been selected for this initial scheme for group settlement of pastoral areas is all within carting distance of Meekatharra, and it will not be necessary to extend the railway unless the discovery of payable mines and the general traffic should warrant such extension. The area required to carry 10,000 sheep, calculated at 1 sheep to 20 acres, would be 200,000 acres, and if only 20,000,000 acres out of the 32 million are developed and stocked this would mean 100 stations with a total of 1,000,000

sheep. In connection with the development of each station it is estimated that £1,000 would be paid in railway freight on capital account, and thereafter £1,000 every year on working account. The railway to Meekatharra would therefore receive from the 100 stations the sum of £100,000 in connection with the development of the stations and £100,000 per annum after the stations are stocked.

Money is available if the Government are prepared to assist the enterprise and show their bona fides by making a small guarantee. Private enterprise is willing to finance the business on a limited profit. This will give members an idea of the way in which the scheme will be developed—

The total length of five-wire fencing, in the development of the 100 stations would be 16,500 miles, the total weight of wire 5,500 tons, the total number of wells 1,700, the total number of windmills 1,700, the total weight of galvanised iron and wood for building material, in respect of homesteads, shearing sheds, etc., would be 7,000 tons. Each station of 10,000 sheep will require an average of five men to work it, and it is estimated that when the settlement is completed there will be a population of not less than 2,000, including dependents resident therein. At the present time the total white population in the whole State, north of Meekatharra, is only 7,000.

Do hon. members realise what this means? We have a tract of country as big as that of Queensland with only 7,000 people in it. We have put up a scheme to the Government, but they will not say whether it is worth considering or not.

Hon. A. Lovekin: What is this to cost?

Hon. G. W. MILES: It will cost 2½ million pounds. A working capital of half a million will be sufficient. As the stations are sold, the money will be put back into the scheme—

Within and around the 32,000,000 acres of pastoral country proposed to be improved and stocked under this scheme, are large belts of mineralised country containing gold, silver, lead, copper, manganese, iron and other minerals. The greatest stimulant to bring about a large increase of population in the North will be the successful opening up of its vast mineral resources, and the scheme of work proposed by the league will facilitate and encourage prospecting operations on a large scale. The prospector must have convenient supplies of water and be able to purchase food and other necessaries, and by the systematic development of the pastoral resources of this area, supplies of water and places where food and other necessaries can be procured, will be made available to the prospector without any cost to the State. The sinking of 1,700 wells and more than 2½ million post holes for the fences may, of itself, lead to the discovery of payable mines. The discovery of important

mines in this region would bring about a large influx of population and increased traffic on the railways, in addition to the increased population and traffic caused by the group settlement scheme. To develop and stock 100 stations will mean an outlay of approximately two million pounds, but it is estimated that a capital of £500,000 will be sufficient to finance the undertaking in view of the money that will be derived from sales and periodical payments of instalments on account of sales.

Hon. H. Stewart: How many holdings will there be?

Hon. G. W. MILES: There will be 100 stations.

Hon. H. Stewart: Holding an average of five people per station?

Hon. G. W. MILES: It will work out at about 2,000 people with their dependants, not counting the population that may follow upon the discovery of minerals within the area.

Hon. J. Cornell: How many people does the area carry to-day?

Hon. G. W. MILES: Some of the country has been taken up but very little development has been done.

It is in the best interests of the State that so far as practicable all capital required for the development of the resources of the State should be supplied by private individuals rather than by Government loans. It is therefore proposed to form a company to carry out the object in view, and in order that the shares may be of the nature of an investment rather than a speculation it is proposed that the Commonwealth Government should guarantee interest on the capital employed at 5 per cent. per annum for the first five years, but that the dividends should not exceed 12½ per cent. per annum.

The point is whether the State and the Commonwealth will carry this 5 per cent. If they are prepared to do this, there is private money available in England to put into the scheme. Other schemes would follow in the North-West, in the Kimberleys, and in the Northern Territory of Queensland, for which money could be found on similar terms. The country east of Kalgoorlie could be developed on similar lines.

Hon. H. Stewart: Twelve and a half per cent. is rather high, is it not?

Hon. G. W. MILES: I think not. Capital must be allowed to make some profit. If people can get 6 or 7 per cent. free of taxation, as they can to-day, they will not put their money into Western Australia, where there is an absentee tax, unless they can get a reasonable return for it. They ask in England why people should put money into Western Australia owing to this absentee tax. We are crying out for money every day, but are doing our best to keep it out of the country. There is no absentee tax in Victoria, and a lot of capital is flowing into that State. It is for the House to say whether this is a

scheme which warrants the support of the Government. It is for Parliament to say whether we can offer these terms in order to induce capital to come into the enterprise. What a fine outlook it would be for this country if we had another £100,000 a year freight for our railways, which at present are so sadly in need of freight. Here is a scheme involving a big amount of capital which will develop and open up this country, and yet the Government will not say yea or nay regarding it.

Hon. A. Lovekin: How is the company to make its profits?

Hon. G. W. MILES: On the development of the land. The stations will be sold, and profits will be made on the sale of the stations. When a station is developed to carry 10,000 sheep, the buyer will pay £2,000 or £3,000 down, and an amount will be fixed to cover the working expenses and the payment of interest on the capital invested. It is necessary to limit the profits, so that the company cannot make a huge return out of the tract of land which Parliament may give the company the right to handle.

Of the total area of 32 million acres, about 12 million acres are at present held under pastoral leases and rent will continue to be paid on the occupied areas even if subsequently acquired for the purposes of this group settlement scheme, but in regard to the 20 million acres at present unoccupied it is proposed that no rent shall be charged for a period of 10 years conditional upon the expenditure of a certain amount on development and stocking.

This is something which should be embodied in the undertaking to prevent land being held for the unearned increment, and with the object of ensuring that the land is disposed of for closer settlement.

As a further inducement to the public to provide the large amount of capital required, it is proposed to grant the company the right during the first five years to take up, free of rent for the first five years, alternate blocks of 24 acres each in respect of any mineral discoveries which may be made on the 32 million acres referred to, conditional upon the due observance of the Mining Act and regulations in regard to labour and other conditions. In order to raise the capital it will be necessary to have sufficient security of tenure from the Government and the active co-operation by the Government, Parliament, and people of Western Australia. Definite assurances in regard to tenure and other conditions must be provided for, and it will therefore be necessary to submit a Bill to Parliament explaining the objects proposed, and providing that the country may be acquired for the purposes indicated under proper and adequate safeguards. The league as such seeks no profit, it wants new pastoral settlers from any part of Australia or overseas, and the successful development of the pastoral and mineral resources and the peopling of the North will be its reward.

This does not apply only to the country north of Meekatharra. If the scheme is sound and worthy of consideration it ought to be considered, and considered this session.

The PRESIDENT: Do I understand this is in connection with the Imperial Government?

Hon. G. W. MILES: I will come to that directly. I desire to quote extracts from letters I have received from Imperial Ministers.

The PRESIDENT: It seemed that you were speaking about a company.

Hon. G. W. MILES: The Imperial Government say it is the duty of the people of the Commonwealth, who are acclimatised to Australia, to develop the northern parts of this continent. They are prepared to assist us in that direction.

The PRESIDENT: I want to connect it with your motion.

Hon. G. W. MILES: This is undoubtedly a scheme that is worthy of consideration. I hope now that it has been ventilated here the Government will see their way to decide immediately whether it is worth going on with or not. If the Government are going to sit down and expect us to hold this country and do nothing with it, then the sooner they go out of office the better. I desire to quote some of the figures furnished by Mr. Neville Chamberlain, at Birmingham, in reference to the trade of the Empire. I saw this gentleman in England, and he is anxious to assist us from a financial point of view:—"In 1913 England's trade with the Dominions represented 90 million pounds, which is half as much again as the total trade done with Russia and Germany combined." Mr. Chamberlain says it is a solution of the Empire's problem to people the Dominions, apart from the restoration of Europe, which is necessary also. In 1921 the trade between England and Canada represented £2 4s. 4d. per head, with Australia £8 7s. 4d., with New Zealand £12 4s. 5d., and America only 8s. 2d. England did more trade with the five million people in Australia than she did with 100 million people in the United States. Mr. Chamberlain went on to say "What would it mean if we had 50 million people in the Dominions instead of only 15 millions?" It is obvious to anyone the benefit it would be to England. I sat next to the Minister for War at a luncheon given by the High Commissioner, Sir Joseph Cook, in London. In placing before him my views on Empire migration, I said amongst other things that England was spending 100 million pounds per annum in doles, but that this money could be used for an emigration scheme. England also has two million people more than she can absorb to-day and the numbers are increasing at the rate of half a million a year. Before we were anything in the world's affairs as a nation—I understand we are only one of the lost tribes of Israel—we annexed the best portions of the earth's surface, and unless we are prepared to develop them, we cannot hold them. There are millions

of Asiatics at our very doors and these are increasing at the rate of five millions a year. I have here an extract from a letter which I wrote to the chairman of the Oversea Settlement Committee in reference to the British Government assisting the company in this way. I put up a proposition asking if they would be prepared, in the event of the State and Commonwealth Governments guaranteeing 5 per cent., to in turn guarantee one-third of it, which they had power to do under the Empire Settlement Act of 1922. This is the letter I wrote—

Referring to our conversation relative to the formation of companies for the development and closer settlement of the northern portion of Australia. Should such companies be formed with the approval of both the State and Commonwealth Governments, these Governments being prepared to guarantee two-thirds of the interest for a term of five years, would your committee be prepared to recommend the Imperial Government to guarantee the remaining one-third, which they have power to do under the Empire Settlement Act, 1922.

I received the following reply:—

I have received your letter of the 23rd June, raising the question of the possibility of some form of assistance from the Government of this country for the companies to be formed for the development and closer settlement of the northern portion of Australia. This question has already been brought under the consideration of my committee and I again discussed it with Mr. Amery after receiving your letter. I am afraid I cannot give you an answer which will be in conformity with your wishes. The Oversea Settlement Committee are definitely of opinion that no form of assistance should be given by the Imperial Government at the present stage for any development of Northern Australia by settlers direct from this country. Any settlement which may take place should, in our opinion, be undertaken by persons already acclimatised to the more southern part of Australia. (Sg.) T. C. MacNaghton, Vice Chairman.

Hon. J. Duffell: That is sound advice.

Hon. G. W. MILES: It is very sound. This is a letter dated the 3rd July from the Right. Hon. J. S. Amery, Chairman of the Oversea Settlement Committee—

I much appreciated your note. I think we have made a really useful start with the Empire Settlement Act and it now remains for the Dominions to take the matter up and make effective use of our co-operation in developing their resources and strengthening their national life. I hope you have not thought my attitude with regard to North Australia too pessimistic. I am fully prepared to believe that you have a splendid territory there and one capable of closer settlement, only I feel that the first schemes under our Act should naturally be to those parts of the Empire which are the most fully proved and where

there is the least possibility of mischance. With every good wish for a pleasant voyage home and for the prospering of your plans, (sgd) J. S. Amery.

They are very anxious to see our plans prosper. This is a letter from the Minister for War—

I am very glad to have your letter of the 1st inst. but am sorry that I shall not be able to see you before you return to Australia. I was very much impressed by what you told me when I had the pleasure of seeing you the other day, and I hope from your end you will continue to press that Northern Australia should be made a field for immigration, and I at this end will do all I can to help forward any plans for doubling the population of Australia within a generation. (Sgd.) L. W. Evans.

There is another note from the Vice Chairman of the Overseas Committee. He says—

Very many thanks for the large map showing the flow of population from Europe, and also for the map of Western Australia, showing the principal sheep and cattle stations. It is most kind of you to send these to us and they will be very useful. Plant and I sent our heartiest good wishes for your journey. I hope we shall see you here again at a not very distant date and that the cause which we all have at heart will prosper. Good luck! Yours sincerely, T. C. MacNaghton.

I would like to read another letter to a resident in Perth from one of our late colleagues in this House, Mr. M. L. Moss. He had seen the correspondence that had passed between myself and the British Ministers and these are one or two of the conclusions he drew as a result of his perusal. Mr. Moss is a man known to most of us and he held the respect of members here. He says—

It seems to me obvious, therefore, that the Imperial authorities will only give aid for the development of Northern Australia if the State and Federal Governments inaugurate schemes of development—

That is what he concludes from these letters. Continuing he says—

We have at last aroused the authorities in this country to the importance of the peopling of the whole of Australia and no effort should be wanting on the part of the people in the Commonwealth to co-operate with the Imperial authorities in this important work of opening up our tropical areas. It is evident, however, that the North-West will only participate in schemes of development organised in Australia, and the golden opportunity should not be missed of taking full advantage of the Imperial policy in this connection.

There is yet another extract which I desire to read. This is from Sir Drummond Frazer, organiser of International Credits for the League of Nations and Chairman of the Banking Corporation of Manchester—a centre of 10,000,000 people, or twice the population of Australia—and it is written in reply to a letter I sent to him enclosing the plans pre-

pared in Western Australia for educational purposes. He said—

Allow me to thank you very warmly indeed for sending me the maps, which I shall make good use of. I am sure I shall find them of great value. Yes, indeed, I saw the "Times Supplement" of 24th May, and got a few extra copies to send to some of my friends. It amazed them. There are still people who do not fully realise the paramount importance of emigration, etc., and especially how necessary it is to send of our best and not of our failures. The supplement opened their eyes to the opportunities for men and women of good families and good education, which Australia offers.

These extracts will show that the people at Home, at any rate those who count, including statesmen and heads of financial institutions, realise the importance and necessity of doing something with this great heritage of ours. I want to place another reference to this matter on record. The House will agree that it is worth while putting on record the views of the late Lord Northcliffe. These were published in Sydney and were cabled throughout the world. The article is headed, "Perils of Australia," "Emptiness a Menace," "Warning by Lord Northcliffe." He said of Australia in the course of his article:—

With New Zealand it is the richest in promise, and at the same time weakest, of all nations. In its insularity, its pure Anglo-Saxon blood, its common speech and ideals, and its absence of land frontiers, it is a land unique and splendid. Far away from what has happened, but in the midst of what may happen, you know nothing of horrors of invasion. Other nations with aliens within and hereditary enemies on their land frontiers, look with envy upon the possessors of this happy Commonwealth. The people of Australia have before them an opportunity never given to any other race. To you is offered a continent which has never known war upon its own soil, and you may, perhaps, if you proceed wisely and quickly, and unselfishly, keep war for ever beyond your doors. But if you would do this, you must be awakened to a deeper consciousness than you show at present of the rare nature of your heritage. You must pay more attention to the repeated lessons of almost every generation in history and to the world of to-day in which you live.

Later on in the course of the same article, he wrote:—

This great empty continent is set in a world which science and engineering make every day smaller. We live in an age which, compared with other ages, is educated and informed. Australia's magnitude and riches, and the weakness of its garrison are known to all over-crowded and ambitious nations in the near north. Probably Governments, which circumstance may one day make hostile to the Commonwealth, know

more about the possibilities of this country as a home for scores of millions of people than is known by most Australians. Australians do not seem properly awake to the fact that they live in an age which has lately proved itself to be not distinguished by respect for international rights. To-day moral right to territory is in itself no right at all. Moral right must be based on capacity in arms. Among people of relatively equal individual fighting strength, capacity in arms is measured by numbers, and by this standard Australia's present position and her immediate future are precarious. I am deeply impressed with your magnificent natural riches, but I leave lovely Australia haunted and saddened by thoughts of your weakness. I have been struck by all you have done in a single century. It is a record of which any young country may be proud. But I am amazed at your indifference to the events and portents in the outside world and especially in Asia. One can almost smell the East on your northern winds, yet I have met scarcely a score of men and women in Australia with any sense of the imminent danger in which this country stands. Within a fortnight's steam of your Commonwealth, you have thousands of millions of people, all of whom are crowded and restless, and some of them are ambitious and powerful. Their yearly increase by birth is more than 5,000,000, yet you go about your work and play as if lust of territory had not all down the centuries been the cause of war, and as if the history of the world had not been a story of the overthrow of the weak by the strong.

The situation is disquieting. It is grave, but it is not beyond repair. If Australians could cease always to look inwards at themselves and their local politics, and look across seas more it would, if I may say so without impertinence, be the saving of the nation. The Commonwealth may still be saved for the Anglo-Saxon race, and your ideal of a white Australia realised. The key to your white Australia ideal—sure parent of all your ideals—is population. You must increase your slender garrison by the multiplication of your people. Only numbers will save you. The world will not tolerate an empty and idle Australia. This continent must, like other continents, carry its full quota of people, and do its full share of production. You must take immigrants—the right kind of immigrant; immigrants not for the towns, but for the empty spaces. You have no option. Tens of millions will come to you, whether you wish it or not. You cannot hold up a human flood by a restriction clause in an Act of Parliament. Acts of Parliament have little or no international force. Ambitions and passions are awake in this question of immigration.

The accident of James Cook's discovery has given you in Australia the fleeting chance to found a great nation in the

Pacific. Do not trifle with it. Do not allow selfishness and the foolish pursuit of trivialities to distract your attention from the one great subject which will alone give you security. Make your foundation safe, and play about with social reforms and State socialism and all the rest of your small Parliamentary stock-in-trade afterwards.

So it goes on. I will not weary the House by reading the whole of the article, although I think it is worthy of repetition on the present occasion. Dealing with outstanding facts Lord Northcliffe wrote:—

The outstanding facts are:—(1) Australia must have people; (2) The people are available. (3) Australia can absorb and prosper them and their coming will profit all classes already in the country. Australia is still in its pioneering stage. The pioneering spirit is still strong in the people. Australians will applaud great physical development schemes. Immigration can be made popular. Immigration on top of unemployment as is now being carried on in Australia, spells tragedy for the immigrant, unpopularity for the immigration movement, and disaster for any Government foolish enough to engage in it. But immigration on ambitious lines, with a clear goal in view, would mean prosperity for the immigrant and increase of prosperity, sure defence and a realisation of ideals for all Australians, and great credit to the Government undertaking it. Immigration in Australia is a nightmare to public men, only because it is being conducted both in Britain and here on tinkering, feeble lines—

We are still tinkering with it along feeble lines—

An annual inflow of 100,000 people would mean increased production from every primary and secondary industry, and more work for all classes of workers. It would mean a larger income to every business and professional man in Australia and an improved local market for every squatter and farmer. Immigration, in short, means wealth, as the United States and Canada and Argentina long ago discovered.

The article concludes with the following summary:—

For safety's sake, Australia must at the earliest possible moment increase her population to 15 or 20 millions. The people can be obtained, and Australia can carry them. Public opinion expressed at the polls, and public money would be strongly behind the scheme, provided that it is framed on a grand scale. Immigration offers the greatest opportunity for statesmanship since the Federation.

With these views of prominent leaders of the Empire before us, it is about time we woke up in Australia. We have to face a scheme for doubling our population. We cannot go on tinkering with this country as we have done in the past. I hope that when the Federal Gov-

ernment go to the country directly, they will come out with a policy for spending 200 million pounds to double the population of Australia within ten years, the standardisation of our railways, putting an iron road around the continent, and opening up harbours and water supplies to meet requirements. That should apply to the State as well as to the Commonwealth. I have here a memorandum covering the statements made by the late Lord Kitchener when he came to Australia some 12 years ago to report on the defence of the Commonwealth in relation to the defence of the Empire. I have quoted this matter before, but I wish to do so again. In paragraph 10 of his report he said:—

The danger of want of population and consequent ineffective occupation in many parts of the country is, in my opinion, a most serious existing condition in Australia, as it may greatly imperil the stability of the present state of affairs in the Commonwealth. I feel, however, that this is so well known and recognised that I need not emphasise it further.

This is 12 years ago, and yet we are now in the same position as we were then. Then in paragraph 11 Lord Kitchener wrote:—

I would also mention that railway construction has, while developing the country, resulted in lines that would appear to be more favourable to an enemy invading Australia than to the defence of the country. Different gauges in most of the States isolate each system, and the want of systematic interior connection makes the present lines running inland of little use for defence, though possibly of considerable value to an enemy who would have temporary command of the sea.

In paragraph 13 Lord Kitchener wrote:—

If plans and essential preparations have been deferred until an emergency arises, it will then be found too late to act, because the strain of passing from peace to war will entirely absorb the energies of all engaged, even when every possible contingency has been foreseen.

Still we go on living in a fool's paradise! Without the British Navy, we could not have held this country for ten minutes. There is another report to which I will refer. The Commonwealth Railway Engineer for Works and Ways, Mr. Hobler, was with us when we toured through the Kimberley country some time ago, and he subsequently submitted a report to his Government. He gave an opinion as to the quality of the land in that part of the country. This is a printed document and is available to hon. members to read. A perusal of it will demonstrate the value of some of the country in the northern parts of this State. The same gentleman, in giving evidence a few days ago in Melbourne before the Commonwealth Public Works Committee inquiring into the North-South railway said:—

The cost of constructing a line from Derby, W.A., to Camooweal, with a branch line to Wyndham, a distance of 1,623 miles would be approximately £13,097,156.

My opinion is that the line would go from Broome and thus avoid engineering difficulties.

In a reasonable time the revenue derived from all sources would result in the system becoming a payable proposition. This statement was made to-day by Mr. G. A. Hobler, Engineer for Ways and Works for the Commonwealth railways, in his evidence before the Commonwealth Public Works Committee, which is conducting investigations regarding the most suitable route for the North-South transcontinental railway. Mr. Hobler said that in the Kimberley division and Victoria River district 133,710 square miles of country was actually leased and carried 972,696 cattle and 188,804 sheep. If a main line were constructed from Derby to Emungalan, and a branch line to Wyndham, this country, aggregating 269,927 square miles, would carry about 1,590,088 head of cattle and 3,400,946 sheep. South Australia, with its area of 380,070 square miles was carrying 376,399 head of cattle, and 6,359,944 sheep, and it had 3,450 miles of railway. Mr. Hobler quoted figures in support of his contention that the eastern route would be more advantageous than the west to South Australia.

The Kimberleys comprise one of the richest portions of the State. When we went through there a few years ago, I wired the Premier to the effect that if he could only see the country he would pass Bills that very session for the construction of railways to serve it. I regret that the Premier has no vision whatever. I have told him that if he would only see the country for himself, he would very soon adopt a different policy for Western Australia.

Hon. F. E. S. Willmott: Question.

Hon. G. W. MILES: Last year when we induced the Premier to go to the North-West, he got only to the Pilbara district and he remarked to me, "All you have told me in the last ten years created no impression. I could not realise that we had such a wonderful asset until I had seen it for myself." I replied, "All you have seen is only the roughest edge of one district. You have not seen the Gascoyne, the Roebourne, or the Onslow districts yet, and the Kimberleys are twice as good as the rest." It is of no use putting up any scheme to the Premier, because it goes in one ear and out the other. He has no imagination whatever.

Hon. A. Lovekin: Is this a vote of censure?

Hon. G. W. MILES: The hon. member can take it as he likes.

Hon. H. Stewart: The Premier has the backing of the "West Australian," but their vision extends only as far as the railways go.

The PRESIDENT: I cannot see anything in the hon. member's motion to justify him in making personal reflections on the Premier. The hon. member must confine his remarks to the Government.

Hon. G. W. MILES: May I put it then that officials and Ministers right up to the head of the Government cannot sufficiently

visualise the opportunities that exist in the North, otherwise a scheme for its development would have been brought forward long ago. The Premier and his Government can see only that portion of the State in the South-West with which they are familiar. I dislike quoting unduly, but what I have read constitutes the opinions of men of great weight in the affairs of Empire. I would like to read a paragraph which appeared in our Press last October, reprinted from the Melbourne "Herald"—

The English visitor (Lord Northcliffe) was enthralled. But is it not possible that he realised more fully than most Australians just what it meant? Do we dwellers in this southern corner of a great continent realise the promise—and the menace—of the mighty North?

Hon. E. H. Harris: You want to use your persuasive eloquence on the Minister controlling the North.

Hon. G. W. MILES: He is listening to my remarks and I hope they will have some influence on him. I would like every member to read a book entitled "The Rising Tide of Colour," showing what a menace is this empty Australia and how near we shall be to losing this country unless we devise within a reasonable time some means for peopling our vast empty spaces.

Hon. A. Sanderson: Whom do you propose to introduce into the North, Australians, English or whom?

Hon. G. W. MILES: Australians. I have some literature regarding the Maltese. They are British subjects, and it has been suggested that they would make good settlers in the Northern portions of Australia. The area of Malta is very restricted; the capacity of the island is equal to only 220,000 people. Malta has a Minister for Migration, because it is absolutely necessary to get rid of the surplus population. The desire is to keep the people within the Empire. It will be just as necessary for England to have a Minister for migration in order to get rid of the surplus population there. England has a population of 2,000,000 people more than she can absorb and it is increasing at the rate of half a million a year. I put my views before the Premier of New South Wales and he agreed with me. I also put them before the Prime Minister, and the Governor of the Commonwealth Bank, Sir Denison Miller. The last-named had just returned from Queensland and he eased my mind considerably regarding the possibilities of cotton growing as a means of developing the North. I must pay a tribute to the good work of the member for Roebourne (Mr. Teesdale) in encouraging cotton growing in Australia. I could not understand how cotton growing could be made an economic success. This was a bone of contention between the Premier and myself when we were in England. The Premier talked of cotton growing in the North of Australia and I asked him why he did not content himself with advocating sheep, cattle, and pig raising, which he knew

could be successfully undertaken with white labour. "If you are going to urge people to engage in cotton growing," I said, "you had better tell them that they will have to pay from 20 to 25 per cent. more for white labour in the North than is paid in the South." The Premier's reply was "Not at all." I pointed out to him that employees on the railways in the North received 5s. a day for seven days in the week by way of tropical allowance and said that if the navy was entitled to it, the cotton picker also was. Sir Denison Miller told me that the only way in which cotton growing could be successfully undertaken in the North of Australia was by having small holdings and running it as a sideline to dairying and pig raising, the families picking their own cotton. This is a scheme which could be inaugurated in the Kimberleys—sheep, cattle, and pig raising combined with cotton growing. Whether other tropical products could be economically raised, I cannot say. The great point is that we should inaugurate those industries which we know can be successfully carried on by white labour. Australia as a whole is evidently intent on permitting no infringement of the white labour policy. Indentured labour would not be agreed to. If we maintain that the North is a white man's country, it is up to Australians to settle there and prove that it can be worked by white labour. To my argument that pig raising should be undertaken, the question might be raised "What about markets?" Java offers exceptionally good markets to say nothing of England, which annually imports £18,000,000 worth of pork and bacon. As an illustration of how suitable the Kimberleys are for pig raising, wild pigs have been killed there which turned the scales at 400 lbs.

Hon. J. Duffell: England would want bacon of only the very best quality.

Hon. G. W. MILES: Well, it could be grown in the Kimberleys and economically too, I think. The price ruling in England to-day for pork would be remunerative to the industry in the southern portions of the State.

Hon. J. Duffell: It was tried but growers received no encouragement.

Hon. G. W. MILES: The British market is there all the time.

Hon. H. Stewart: We do not yet supply our own requirements.

Hon. G. W. MILES: Quite so.

Hon. F. E. S. Willmott: In the South-West we are short of mutton and yet in the Kimberleys you are cutting the throats of sheep.

Hon. G. W. MILES: That is so, and if the hon. member would advocate the construction of the railways I have suggested, there would be a chance of getting them built and thus obviating the serious losses of stock which now occur. If we only realised it, we have one of the best countries on God's earth. The trouble is we have so many croakers who are continually running their own country down. I have a list—

Hon. J. Duffell: What, of the croakers?

Hon. G. W. MILES: No, the croakers in this House could be numbered on the fingers of one hand. In 1913 there were more cattle in the British Isles than in the whole of Australia. In England it is necessary to house and hand-feed stock for six months in the year, and yet people in Australia do not realise what an advantage our climate offers in this one respect alone. Mr. Willmott should come out and advocate the construction of these railways. I have just been reading a book entitled "White Australia," by Mr. MacIntyre, of Burketown, Queensland, who advocates the construction of these railways around Australia. He states that if these railways had been in existence during the last 42 years, it would have been possible during droughts to save stock of a value equivalent to the whole of our war debt. He estimates that during the 42 years the value of the stock lost represents £691,000,000. I think that is a high estimate, especially as it is based on the stock actually lost and the loss of the natural increase, but even if we take only one-fifth of the total he estimates, members will realise what an immense saving could be effected. At the present time, as Mr. Willmott pointed out, sheep are dying in one part of the State, while hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of feed is available in another part of the State. A similar condition of affairs prevails in the north of Queensland. Stock are dying from drought in New South Wales, while there are tons of feed in another part of the State, but not the facilities to shift the stock to the feed. Mr. Weaver, a member of the New South Wales Parliament, stated that if the railways could be standardised and the Murray lands were opened up, Victoria would gain the benefit. Have not we any big Australians who can see further than their own back yards? In Western Australia the Government can see only the South-West corner of the State. In New South Wales, where the stock are dying through drought, feed is held up on the Albury border. Again, the Victorian Railway Department are asking manufacturers not to send more cement to Victoria, with the result that the works in New South Wales are operating only two days a week instead of full time. The Government of Western Australia can do something to assist the State if only they have vision, but if they will continue to run the country on the rocks the sooner they get out the better.

Hon. J. Nicholson: And eliminate taxation?

Hon. G. W. MILES: The economic saving which would be effected by the gauge unification would benefit the country in no time. I had the pleasure of meeting one of the British members of the unification of gauge Commission, Mr. Blake. Mr. Blake told me that every year the standardising of the gauge was left over, the cost to Australia would be an extra million pounds. Is it not up to the Government to urge the Federal authorities to get on with the business? The

Premier of Western Australia stated at the conference of Premiers in Victoria that he was in favour of the unification of the gauges, and we have the spectacle of the Premier of South Australia declaring that the Prime Minister wants to use this question as an election dodge. Sir Henry Barwell would let the country go to Hong Kong. We will all be out of it if we follow on such lines. Let us look at it from an Empire and an Australian point of view, and if only that is done, even the tin-pot businesses of those who are now opposed to the proposal must go ahead with the progress of the country. The unification will mean the broadening of our line to Kalgoorlie and the reduction of the 5ft. 3in. gauge in South Australia and the whole of Victoria as well as a part of Queensland. The expenditure involved will be £21,600,000. The standardising of the whole of the lines in Australia including the 3ft. 6in. gauge of Queensland and Western Australia will cost £57,000,000. It is absolutely necessary to have this public work going on at the same time as our land settlement policy is advancing.

Hon. J. Ewing: What is the report you are quoting from?

Hon. G. W. MILES: The report on the uniform railway gauge issued by the Royal Commission. It is dated the 24th April, 1922.

Hon. H. Stewart: We are all supposed to have a copy of that.

Hon. G. W. MILES: There appears in the report a subdivision of the estimate giving the cost within each State and in Commonwealth territory. The cost of the work within our own State would be £5,030,000. Our quota would be £1,078,103. The Commonwealth cost would be £67,000 and their quota would be £4,320,000. The cost of the work to South Australia would be £4,674,000 and their quota £1,632,292. The cost to Victoria would be £8,224,000 and their quota £4,939,349. The cost to New South Wales would be £1,657,000 and their quota £7,094,388, and the cost to Queensland £1,848,000 and their quota £2,535,868. The scheme should be gone on with forthwith. Some of the people of New South Wales take exception to it, but those men who possess vision realise the economic saving it will mean to their State and to their industries, particularly to the steel industry. There can be no question so far as New South Wales is concerned that it will be to the interests of that State to have the scheme carried out at once. The figures are interesting. In 1897 to alter the permanent way in Victoria, Messrs. Mathieson, Oliver, and Penlleton, then Commissioners of Victoria, New South Wales, and South Australia respectively, estimated after careful deliberation that the cost of altering the gauge in the State would be £350,000. In 1913, the last estimate before the war period, the estimated cost of altering the permanent way had increased to £3,500,000—ten times greater. In 1922 to alter the permanent the estimated cost has risen to £5,240,000—fifteen times greater. If

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the growth of business and the intricacies of railway working increase in the coming year as in the past, what will be the bill if the work is postponed for say another 10 years? Each year of delay only adds to the cost. One thing the Government of this State should do and it is that in any future railway work there should be provision made that the cuttings and the sleepers used should be adaptable for the standard gauge. The country should be prepared to do this right away because there will be an economic saving. I think I have touched on pretty well the whole scheme and the extracts I have quoted show that the British Ministers and the Press are out to assist us in every possible way, and that so far as the North is concerned, it is our duty as well as that of the Commonwealth to put up schemes for the peopling of that part of Western Australia. England is prepared to assist us with schemes to settle people in the Esperance country, or even the goldfields country, but they say with regard to the North that it is people who are accustomed to similar climatic conditions who should be sent there. Therefore it is imperative that the Government of Western Australia should get busy at once and not wait for the completion of the South-West settlement scheme. The Government can go on perfecting their organisation, and I am sure that every member of the House and the community will be only too pleased to render every assistance possible. But we must not expect one man to take it on himself to do everything, and to say "I am the man; there is no one else who has any ideas." I am criticising our Premier with all due respect. I have no intention of being in any way offensive, but I say that he is trying to do too much and that he must listen to other people. Boards should be formed to assist in the organisation work so that new settlers may be readily absorbed. I have been told that a board was actually formed to deal with the immigrants on their arrival, but that as soon as the Premier returned from England that board was disbanded. Sir James Mitchell is not only Premier, but he is Treasurer, Minister for Lands, and Minister for Repatriation, and now he wants to carry out single-handed this great immigration scheme. The man is not born who can do it. He certainly does not exist in our Parliament to-day. If we got good organisations going, and appointed boards to assist in handling the new arrivals, it would be to the best interests of the immigrants themselves and the country generally. It is my wish to see the scheme extended to all parts of the State and the House should support the motion I have submitted.

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

BILL—BROOME HILL RACECOURSE.

Read a third time and passed.

House adjourned at 5.55 p.m.

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

QUESTION—CATTLE SHIPMENT FROM WYNDHAM.

Mr. DURACK asked the Minister for Agriculture: 1, Is it a fact that the motor ship "Kangaroo" is now on her way from Wyndham with a shipment of cattle from the Government-owned Moola Bulla Station, intended for sale on the metropolitan market? 2, Were any of the producers on the coast from Wyndham to Carnarvon notified that the "Kangaroo" was available to them for this trip; if so, who were notified, and when? 3, Is it the policy or intention of the Government to run the "Kangaroo" or any other State ship to their own advantage, irrespective of the producers? 4, Why did not the Government avail themselves of the market provided by the Government meatworks?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE replied: 1, Yes. 2, Probable dates State vessels would be available were discussed with all the usual shippers before the season commenced, and bookings fixed according to the applications received. 3, No. 4, Although primarily established for the maintenance and care of aborigines, the station is also a business undertaking, and the Aborigines Department is not restricted in its trading. The department decided to avail itself of the best market offering, as the cattle were not specially required at the meatworks.

QUESTION—ROAD MAKING, FEDERAL GRANT.

Mr. WILLCOCK asked the Minister for Works: 1, Of the amount allocated to Western Australia by the Federal Government for the relief of unemployment by road making, etc., how much has been authorised for expenditure? 2, In what districts has any of this money been spent or authorised to be spent? 3, In view of the fact that both the Geraldton Municipal Council and the Geraldton Road Board has been waited on by deputations of unemployed returned soldiers, will he authorise the expenditure of some money from this source in that district?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: The matter is still under consideration.