

available to these settlers. Increases have been granted to workers on the basic wage, but a man who does not participate in the basic wage is lost sight of. The small monthly amounts made available to settlers are utterly insufficient. The member for North Perth (Mr. Abbott) spoke about a holiday. He said it was better for a man to have a sprat a day extra because every person was entitled to a holiday in the year. The people in the wheat growing areas have not had a holiday for 10 years. The member for Subiaco (Mrs. Cardell-Oliver) has met a number of women from my electorate down for several weeks, with assistance from a fund for the purpose, and she knows about the position. If the member for North Perth (Mr. Abbott) believes this, why does not every other member on that side believe it too? I appeal on behalf of the people in the farming districts. On many occasions we have read that the volunteers from the country excel the volunteers from the cities. The pride in people from our bush has been sung by the bush poets of the past. They describe the man living in a free and happy way on the land. The last years, however, have been so hard that one is surprised to find our soldiers from the bush displaying the physique they do possess.

I do sincerely trust that the Minister for Lands and the Minister for Education will use their persuasive powers to effect some alteration in favour of these men on the land. Especially should those Ministers urge that Agricultural Bank clients should receive more than the pittance granted to them now. I do not assert that all the farmers in my district are in that position. Some of them are in a fair position. But the number in a happy position will not be great as long as they know that other farmers have the same hard work and are living in misery.

Another note I would like to strike is this. I believe that the large majority of wheat-growers in the wheat belt, when employing labour, would love to see a union of farm labourers entailing a reasonable wage so long as a reasonable return is given for it. There are very few men in the country who care to see a man work for less than a living wage, but they fail to see how they can pay a living wage when they are unable to obtain sufficient food for themselves and their fami-

lies. The point about the allowances from the Agricultural Bank is that these do not represent a free gift, but are moneys advanced to carry on. An allowance is only a loan which bears, I believe, full Agricultural Bank interest. That makes the position harder. I plead with the Minister for Lands to see whether something cannot be done in the near future to enable those settlers to carry on.

There are many other things I would like to touch on this evening, but will not detain the House, as I can deal with them when the Annual Estimates come before the Chamber. So I content myself with these remarks and leave my plea with the Minister for Lands.

On motion by Mr. W. Hegney, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 9.18 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Thursday, 14th August, 1941.

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

QUESTION—PRICES FIXING COMMISSIONER.

Hon. J. A. DIMMITT asked the Chief Secretary: 1, What salary or allowance is attached to the office of Prices Fixing Commissioner under the Profiteering Prevention Act, 1939? 2, What salary or allowance was paid out of State funds to the late Prices Fixing Commissioner during the year 1940-41?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied: 1, The Profiteering Prevention Act, 1939, provides that the Governor may fix the remuneration of the Commissioner of Prices. Pay-

ment in addition to classified salary has been made by way of an allowance. 2, The amount of allowance paid from State funds to the late Prices Fixing Commissioner during the year 1940-41 was £200.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Sixth Day.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

HON. W. J. MANN (South-West) [4.33]: I have been interested during this debate to hear the views of hon. members on the present world situation. It is right that they should record those views and this is the place where they should do so. I shall not occupy much time this afternoon, nor do I intend to make pointed reference to the subject I have just mentioned. There are, however, one or two phases of it that apply particularly to Australians and to which I desire to refer. We in this State Parliament would be remiss in our duty if we did not protest against what is taking place in some of the other States. Although we may be told that it is not our concern, I contend that the taking of the law into their hands by a section of the people—particularly in New South Wales—is of vital importance. We, as good Australians, should protest against the shameful series of strikes, stop-work meetings, hold-ups, and all the stupid interferences which in most countries would be called straight-out sabotage. It is galling in times like these, when the Mother Country and the other Dominions are doing their utmost for the war effort, to find a section of the people—fortunately not over-strong—with so little regard for the true position and the great principles for which the nation is fighting, that they indulge in such disturbances. Recently we had the spectacle of two misguided persons setting out on a hunger-strike in order to defeat the ends of justice, as the result of one of these interferences. I make no apology for saying that if those misguided persons want to sever their connection with this world by starving themselves to death, I have not the slightest objection. They can go as long as they like and as soon as they like.

Members: Hear, Hear!

Hon. W. J. MANN: I say that because thousands of better men are dying on the battlefield today. Those are the men we

should stand by. I feel ashamed when I pick up the paper and read that thousands are making demonstrations in Sydney because those two men are not being pampered, spoonfed and given all sorts of luxuries not deserved by criminals. It is disgraceful. I repeat that if they want to shuffle off this mortal coil, let them do so; I would not raise my hand to prevent them. Some unionists, I regret to say, are not upholding the true principles of unionism, as I understand them, in supporting this kind of thing. I would like to see unionists, particularly those in this State who stand for the high ideals of unionism, take up this matter and make plain to the world where they stand. It is but fair to say we can thank God that we have in this State a Labour Party for which we have the highest respect.

Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. W. J. MANN: That party does not always do what we want it to do and I shall refer to one or two items later. But the party comprises a body of men who have the true viewpoint and they form a section of the community that we hold in the highest regard. The record of the industrialists in this State is one of which we should be proud. When it is contrasted with the record of the other States, I sometimes wonder why the Labour Party here does not say, "I think we had better cut ourselves adrift; we do not want to have anything more to do with you." I think it but right that one should express just what one feels in this regard, and that is the way I feel.

Turning to local matters, I desire to refer to our friend the Government. While we give it credit for having expended much energy in dealing with the political position, the Government has unhappily been remiss in other matters. I am disappointed that it has not taken a courageous stand regarding the contempt in which the law is held in this State. There are two phases, one of which affects betting. To me it is nothing less than a travesty to think that should any man feel so disposed he can rent a shop in the heart of the city, dress the window and at times make a display as though he were a tobacconist, and then proceed to convert the premises into a betting shop, thereby acting contrary to the law. I am by no means a Puritan. I have been known to have a bet now and again at race meetings; but what I do is in a manner that is lawful.

Hon. J. Cornell: Even though foolish.

Hon. W. J. MANN: Yes, very foolish sometimes, and most often unprofitable.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: It is not lawful, wherever it is done.

Hon. W. J. MANN: I shall not argue that aspect. Here we have in the Government of Western Australia a body of men for whom we have the highest regard; yet, as a Ministry, those men are content to sit down and allow the law to be flouted in such a manner. Members will agree that it is a dangerous course to pursue. The younger generation is growing up with the idea that the law is all right if it suits them, but if it does not, they need not bother about it. Even if the Government tried to cope with the situation and failed, it would be better than if nothing were done at all. No one would dare to suggest that any such action would be a hundred per cent. effective. What would happen if a dozen people rented shops in various parts of the city and established wine saloons? The law would be down on them in one moment, and those people would be charged in the police court, and heavily fined.

Hon. J. Cornell: The poor old Chink cannot even play fan-tan.

Hon. W. J. MANN: I mentioned wine saloons on the spur of the moment. It might be suggested that in establishing such businesses, people would be achieving some good, because they would sell a commodity, the production of which provides much work and enables a number of people to maintain vineyards. The point is that we are drifting dangerously if we allow the law to be flouted in the manner I have indicated. Reference has been made to the disparity between the fines inflicted in Perth and Fremantle respectively. That is certainly a scandal, and the Government must have full knowledge of what is going on.

Hon. G. W. Miles: We should amend the Justices Act.

Hon. W. J. MANN: Whatever is necessary should be done, for the existing state of affairs is a reproach to our social system. Leaving the Government alone for a moment or two, I shall make reference to one or two other matters that I regard as of interest.

In the haste to establish industries that are essential because of war conditions, I am afraid Western Australia is being left in the lurch. On many occasions members of this Chamber have declared that vested

interests in the Eastern States always prevailed because their representatives were on the spot and could gain access to the Federal Government, whereas we in Western Australia did not seem to have a voice in the inner councils and had no advocates ready and willing to push the claims of this State. In making that statement, I do not condemn the State Government because I have already paid a tribute to the energy with which Ministers have advocated the claims of this State, and I trust they will continue their efforts. Some time ago I was attracted by bauxite deposits a few miles north of Merredin, in the Lake Brown and Lake Campion districts. Before deciding to become interested in them, I set out to learn something of the history of the show. With others, I proceeded to view the property, mainly in order to ascertain what really was there. As a result of what I saw, I agreed to make representations to some people with whom I was associated, in order to promote the exploitation of the bauxite. About a fortnight ago a newspaper published in the Eastern States was sent to me, and I found it contained a marked article which was headed "Manufacture of Aluminium." The article is brief and reads as follows:—

Providing Government consent is obtained, it is proposed to form a £1,500,000 company in Australia for the manufacture of aluminium.

The managing director of Sulphates Pty., Ltd. (Mr. M. J. Martin) said to-day that the company's supplies would come from recently discovered bauxite deposits at Sutton Forest, near Bundanoon (N.S.W.) and the Boolarra district (Gippsland, Victoria). Bauxite is the main component of aluminium, and the Australian deposits are stated to be of very high quality. Mr. Martin added that the bauxite would be treated at Port Kembla (S.A.) and the alumina obtained there would be reduced to metallic aluminium in Tasmania.

The public will be asked to contribute £1,000,000 to the company. Arrangements have already been made for a Sydney stockbroking firm to underwrite the issue, and the shares will be listed on the Melbourne Stock Exchange.

No aluminium is at present manufactured in Australia, although the Australian Aluminium Company of Granville (N.S.W.) and Messrs. G. E. Crane and Sons at their Sydney works have been engaged for many years in rolling sheets from imported ingot aluminium.

Seemingly, pressure is being brought to bear upon the Government in the Eastern States, the effect of which is likely to be detrimental to Western Australia. I have collected some opinions that I think will be

readily accepted as emanating from men who know what they are talking about. My object is to indicate what is thought of the bauxite deposits here. These will show that the deposits are superior in quality to any other known deposit in Australia. Although I do not know anything about the Sutton Forest deposit, I have an idea of the type of country there, and I feel certain the deposits here are superior to any known to exist elsewhere.

Hon. L. Craig: Are you talking about the alunite deposit at Lake Campion?

Hon. W. J. MANN: Yes. Interest has been taken in it for a long time by some important people. In 1929, Sir Douglas Mawson acquired a three-years option over the property, and this was extended for a period of twelve months. As a result of that option, and of the efforts of Sir Douglas, parcels of 20 tons of material were sent to England and to America. It is known that the parcels arrived at their destinations, but no record or information has been received here, although persistent efforts were made to discover what the results were. No information whatever has been vouchsafed.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: The stuff must have been consigned to agents.

Hon. W. J. MANN: Yes. In each case there was an agent to deliver the material to whom it was consigned; and he, it was expected, would send back a report on it. On the best authority I am told that at that time the world's aluminium supply was controlled by three huge organisations. It appears that the information, of whatever nature, was not sent out. Had the material been useless, I feel sure we should speedily have been told of it. My contention is that the recipients of the material were convinced that the samples were of high value, but quietly suppressed the fact. I know, because it is not long ago since I lunched with Sir Douglas Mawson at the Adelaide University and we discussed this matter. I can state that his interest, at that time anyhow, was still in this regard with us in the West, and that he was perfectly sanguine that the material would establish a highly remunerative and highly successful industry if our deposits were opened up. I believe that on one occasion Sir Douglas Mawson went so far as to make a tentative agreement

with the New Zealand Hydraulic Power Company to have material sent to that company for treatment by cheap electric power. That, of course, is evidence of his faith in the deposits. Later the Western Mining Corporation took an option, and after numerous investigations became very enthusiastic; but later the corporation allowed its option to lapse, advancing as the reason that a market could not be secured. Again, I understand the corporation was faced with the position that the competition of the huge organisation was such that the project could not pay. This particular deposit is comparatively close to a railway, in fact within five miles of a siding; the locality has a rainfall of 10 or 11 inches, and there is plenty of timber available.

Hon. J. Cornell: Not too much timber there!

Hon. W. J. MANN: Adequate timber for all the initial needs of the industry! Everything is in favour of the proposal. During the time I was interested I wrote at length on the matter to a friend of mine. There is no harm in my disclosing the name. It was Sir Herbert Gepp, for whom I have a great deal of admiration. He is a man who, when he takes a thing up and gets his hands on it, does not let go too easily. I received Sir Herbert's reply in February, 1936, and I quote from it as follows:—

Replying to your letter; during the latter part of the war, when I was in Tasmania as general manager of the Electrolytic Zinc Co., we made a fairly exhaustive search for deposits of alunite, the main purpose at that time being the production of potash compounds. You will remember that owing to the war there was a serious scarcity of potash in Australia.

Subsequently I had my research staff make an economic study of the possibilities of the production of aluminium, for which cheap power, such as is available in Tasmania, is an essential.

The answers to the questions in your letter would require my undivided attention for some months, as I have neither the most up-to-date information nor the specially skilled staff.

At the time we were investigating the possibility of the manufacture of aluminium in Tasmania, the consumption in Australia was too small and the market overseas was too speculative to enable a decision to be made as to the possibility of Australia competing. The aluminium world production is under strong cartel control, or at least was.

For some time past I have been of opinion that the production of metallic aluminium and of metallic magnesium called for a close economic survey.

Possibly the proved existence of a large

source of raw material for the production of aluminium might give the necessary impetus to this study. In Australia, particularly in Tasmania, large potential amounts of electricity at cheap rates are available.

Then Sir Herbert proceeded to suggest various men with whom I might get in touch and who might be able to further the project—including Sir Colin Fraser and Senator Lachlan. The story is too long to detail now. I took across with me a sugar bag full of material for tests to be made in the East, and I was told that the results of the tests were quite high—indeed excellent—but that it was impossible to establish the industry there. I have here a table showing the results of the tests made in a laboratory in Western Australia. Those results, too, are outstanding as regards high grade. If any member would care to see them, I shall be happy to show them to him.

The point I wish to make is that there is at present a tremendous demand for aluminium, and there is likely to be the same demand after the war. Mr. Fernie, who has been referred to in this Chamber during last week as a most excellent officer, said a few weeks ago at the Waroona meeting of the South-West Development Committee that there was enough bauxite in this Western Australian deposit to supply all the requirements of Australia and New Zealand for many years to come. These authorities are unanimous that we have a highly valuable deposit. I urge the Government to do its utmost to see that this deposit is not pushed aside in favour of one of lesser value but closer to vested interests. It would be an excellent thing if the industry could be established here.

Last September, when I was in the East, a delegation from the United States touring Australia was at Fishermen's Bend on the day I was there, and I was informed that this was the first occasion on which the delegation had learnt that aeroplane engines were being cast of aluminium in Australia. Prior to that some interested people were told that when Australia could make its own aeroplane engines it would be "on the rainbow," meaning presumably that it would then have attained its greatest height. It was only then that they found that we in Australia were using aluminium just as effectively as they could in the United States. The only trouble was we had to import it. I hope

the Government will give renewed interest and attention to this matter and see whether it is not possible for us to have yet another industry established in this State.

Hon. J. Cornell: The same line of reasoning applies to copper in the Phillips River district.

Hon. W. J. MANN: I also desire to say a few words about power alcohol. One member made reference to the production of power alcohol and to the advantages of a certain site in the province he represents. I propose to refer to a site in the province my colleagues and I have the pleasure of representing, and I believe that we have an unanswerable case.

Hon. J. Cornell: I could refer to a site which I do not represent!

Hon. W. J. MANN: I believe that, if we take into consideration the factors governing the selection of a site as laid down by Senator McLeay, the Federal Supply Minister, it must be admitted that there is no other place in Western Australia to compare with the Collie district as a centre for the establishment of a distillery. Senator McLeay pointed out that the factors governing the selection of a site would include the defence aspect—vulnerability to attack and reduction of railway transportation in an emergency; availability of 200,000 gallons of fresh water every 24 hours; availability of 1,000,000 gallons of cooling water every 24 hours; electric power; railway sidings; silo facilities, and effluent disposal. I have jotted down a dozen advantages that Collie possesses and which make it such an admirable site for a distillery. It is outside the range of bombardment from the sea, which is most essential. Not too much of this world's area is outside the range of bombardment from an air power, but Collie is at least outside the range of sea bombardment. It is in hilly country, particularly suited to defence requirements. It is in close proximity to wheat-producing centres, and is convenient to shipping facilities at Bunbury. By reason of its central position only minimum rail freights would be necessary. Further, it has unlimited fresh water at all seasons of the year for all purposes and has cheap electric current without limit. There is also unlimited coal on the spot and suitable timber is obtainable at mills in the district for buildings and for

houses for employees. A most important factor is that it is surrounded by dairying districts which would provide a ready market for cattle feed by-products. There is unlimited land for all buildings, storage and incidental purposes, and finally there is an extensive town and country population from which the necessary labour could be drawn. I challenge any other district to produce a better list of facilities. I have written to the Minister for Industrial Development and he has kindly replied that the final decision as to a site will rest with the Federal authorities. I presume that is correct. I wish also to say a few words about the building of ships. If we have to continue shipbuilding in Australia I think Western Australia should have a hand in that industry, and in this respect no portion of the State can compare with the South-West Province.

Hon. H. L. Roche: It has quite a lot of advantages, has it not?

Hon. W. J. MANN: I do not propose to stipulate any particular centre, but there are at least four outstanding places at which shipbuilding could be undertaken. Peel Inlet at Mandurah would be a splendid location. Bunbury is also worth consideration and it goes without saying that Busselton has a sound claim. Fourthly, there is Flinders Bay.

Hon. J. Cornell: What about Nornalup? Has not that a chance?

Hon. W. J. MANN: Unfortunately it is a long way off.

Hon. H. V. Piesse: It is closer to us.

Hon. W. J. MANN: It may be closer. I will include Nornalup if Mr. Cornell would like. Timber is growing alongside deep water in each of those centres.

Hon. G. W. Miles: There is deep water at Mandurah.

Hon. W. J. MANN: Yes. I desire to pay a tribute to the magnificent courage and the undaunted efforts made by the people of Great Britain in the great struggle in which the Empire is engaged. In that tribute should be included the men who, from the Mother Country and the Dominions, are rendering wonderful service on the sea, on the land and in the air. In addition to them are those who are expending every ounce of energy in contingent services. I read the other day that at least seven men are required for contingent services for every man who goes on the field of battle. That means we need a tremendous number of people

successfully to defeat the enemy. Today a large body of men, women and girls are doing a wonderful job throughout Australia in this connection. I pay tribute to the nation's leaders, men who are bearing a heavy responsibility and are imbued with the highest of motives and the most worthy resolution. Those men are unfortunately being unduly criticised. There are no perfect men; there never was but one perfect Man and there is not likely to be another. Rather than indulge in pettifogging criticism of our leaders we should stand behind them and give them our moral support to the last degree.

HON. H. TUCKEY (South-West) [5.10]:

First of all I desire to congratulate Mr. Fraser on his decision to serve his country and Empire oversea. I understand he expects to be absent from the House for the duration of the war. I wish him good luck and express the hope that the war may end sooner than we think. A young country like Western Australia must of necessity have its problems, but they are infinitesimal when we consider the gravity of the war position. It is a year since we discussed the war and the end of hostilities appears to be just as far away.

Hon. G. W. Miles: We are better off now than we were a year ago.

Hon. H. TUCKEY: Damaging criticism has been made by some individuals in regard to Australia's war effort, and I venture to suggest that that criticism is doing very grave harm. It is to be hoped that wiser counsels will prevail and that the great deeds performed by our soldiers oversea will not be overshadowed by mischief-mongers who either do not care about the final result of the war or lack the necessary brains to appreciate the dangerous position with which the Empire is faced. I feel that there is a lack of co-operation in war matters between the Government and Parliament and between Parliament and local governing bodies. All of us except Ministers are drifting along with very little opportunity to help in matters that may have a vital bearing on the war. I have often thought that the Premier may have been greatly assisted if he had summoned a conference of members of Parliament with a view to obtaining their full co-operation in his effort to help the Federal Government. Should any matter of sufficient importance be discussed at such a conference, the Government could pass on the

findings of the conference with the backing of the State, whereas an individual cannot do that. Criticism by firing questions across the Chamber, only in many instances to receive unsatisfactory replies, is in no way helpful. The suggestion is sometimes made that matters of a Federal nature should not be dealt with here, but surely any business that concerns the conduct of the war could be dealt with somewhere for the common good.

I had at least one experience where it appeared that an alteration in the defence system was desirable, and I took the opportunity to express my views privately to the authorities. I did so several times, feeling that my views were reasonable and sound. I met with no success. Had the Government acted in my place, the result would have been different. I cannot believe that my recommendations received the least consideration, but I have the satisfaction of knowing that I was right because, after a period of several months, the Federal Government adopted a policy which coincided with what I had suggested. It was an important matter and much valuable time was lost. I mention this to show that we members who travel about the country a good deal might get ideas from coming into contact with the people, and if we can suggest anything that will assist the war effort, we should have some opportunity to make it known. I sometimes feel that we as members are not pulling our weight. Often we hear people say that they would be willing to do more if only they knew what to do. We have between 140 and 150 local governing bodies throughout the State and they are doing little or nothing apart from Red Cross work and efforts of that kind. I think full use should be made of the services of every public man, and if we were given an opportunity, the Premier could rest assured that he would be wholeheartedly supported.

Mention has been made of the Home Guard. I would favour compulsory enrolment in the Home Guard for all men up to 60 years of age. I consider that in the circumstances at present prevailing, this is demanded at once. Many men are exempt from service in the Militia and in some centres men in that category are not coming forward to join the Home Guard. Yet their services in that capacity would be very useful. The people who come forward are often those who would be least expected to offer their services. A lot of those who are hanging back could be trained to some ex-

tent and made ready to assist in the event of an emergency.

The statement recently made by the Minister for Works regarding the traffic fees has been very well received throughout the county districts. A few of the local governing bodies were strongly opposed to any cut, feeling that a drastic reduction of their revenue would hamper their plans and operations too much, but a majority of the local authorities favour a reduction. Complaints have been made in this Chamber about the long delay in announcing the reduction. I know that the delay was unavoidable. The question was not entirely one for the Government. There are 148 local governing authorities in the State and as this matter seriously affected all those bodies, it was only natural that the Minister should not care to take the responsibility of making a decision without getting into touch with them. After calling a conference of delegates representing most of the local bodies, the Minister got in touch with those in outlying districts and finally came to a decision, but he was confronted by considerable difficulty and that was the reason for the delay complained of.

In the matter of petrol rationing, the Liquid Fuel Board has had a big job to carry out, and I have sympathised with the chairman because I knew at the beginning that he had been set an almost impossible task. The fair and honest man was the man who fared worst, while the man who did not disclose the truth of his position got off very well indeed and in some instances secured twice as much petrol as he was really entitled to receive. These matters are difficult, because there is no way in which the board can deal with such people and it has taken a long time to secure efficient control. Owing to complaints and criticism, the board has now decided to have committees appointed throughout the country to assist, and has circularised various local bodies. Great difficulty has been experienced in getting men to sit on these committees. It was suggested that where there was an Agricultural Bank inspector or a police constable, he might sit on the committee with members and the secretary of the road board and thus constitute a satisfactory committee. But many of those people will not act.

Hon. J. Cornell: Quite right, too!

Hon. H. TUCKEY: The general manager of the Agricultural Bank said that clients would be applicants for fuel and therefore he would not agree to his inspectors acting on the committees. The Police Department leaves matters of this kind to the decision of its officers and some of the constables also are unwilling to act. Although these committees would be very helpful to the board, there will be some difficulty in getting them to operate. I appeal to the people in the country to assist the board because this would be a means of dealing in a fairer way with applicants in their centres. They would be in a position to give reliable information which would be very helpful to the board. If country residents do not face this responsibility, they should not complain of what the board is doing.

I draw attention to the need for amending the Electric Lighting Act. No remedy is provided in the Act for a person who notifies a fault to a supply authority and whose complaint is not attended to, except that he may forward a complaint to the Minister. There was a case recently where a man found a broken wire belonging to the local supply authority lying on his roof. He reported the matter to the supply authority early in the morning. As his complaint had not been attended to by evening, he picked up the broken end and tied it to a post, thereby committing a technical offence. The supply authorities took action against him under Section 45A, and the bench had no option to finding him guilty of a technical offence. In this case the supply authority is the local inspector, and he passes his own work. This would appear to defeat the sole object of appointing inspectors. The Act should be amended by adding a penalty clause making it incumbent upon the supply authority to attend to such complaints promptly. I have a broken electric wire leading to an out-building at my residence. It was reported to the supply authority over a week ago and I could repair it in a few minutes. This sort of thing would not continue if the Act contained a provision along the lines I have suggested. Perhaps the Chief Secretary will express an opinion when replying to the debate.

The Minister for Industrial Development deserves commendation for his endeavour to encourage local industry, but I agree

that it would be wiser to assist existing industries and place them on a sound basis before encouraging a lot of new ones to start. I have wondered whether the Industrial Development Council advises the Minister on the granting of subsidies to new industries. I feel that no new industry should be assisted by public funds if there is any doubt about its proving successful. I have reason for making this statement because failures have occurred, and it has been easy for people to start a new industry at someone else's expense.

We are frequently reminded that we should prepare for post-war problems. This, of course, is necessary, but cannot we deal with some of the problems that are with us today so as to clear the way for the future? I understand there are some 2,000 men on relief work, and yet there is a shortage of labour in many places. Admittedly the situation is a very difficult one to handle and I am not blaming the Government for the existing state of affairs. Still, we should work together with a view to employing some of the people who are able to do other work and who sometimes refuse to take jobs that are offered to them. After two years of war and in a country like this, where defence preparations are being made and so much work has been put in hand by Federal and State Governments, we should not have 2,000 men on sustenance work. Surely we have works big enough to absorb those men. There seems to be a screw loose somewhere when better use is not made of those men.

A friend of mine told me last week—and I have reason to believe what he said—that the manager of one of the sawmills had asked him to find six men to work on the mill. As my friend was living in a place where relief men were employed, he called on them and told them about this work. It was only 20 miles from where they were living, but the men said they were doing well and did not want anything better. I do not know whether those jobs are still available, but it seems entirely wrong that the Government should be called upon to find relief work in a place like that when work is offering at good wages and they refuse to accept it. Of the large number of men still on relief work, some would probably be unable to engage in a job on a mill. I should like to be assured that that is the position. The reason that these six men did not accept the jobs was not that the work was unsuit-

able for them. The men said they were doing well and did not want anything better. This is a state of affairs that should not be allowed to continue.

Last session I opposed a Bill relating to oil storage at North Fremantle. I think I was the only member who spoke against it. I did so as a protest against the oil being stored along the ocean beach. If I had the authority, I would employ a fair number of relief men to construct underground storage accommodation for the petrol, thereby ensuring the safety of stocks in the event of our trade routes being cut by enemy action. This is a most important matter because oil stores are the first places to be attacked by an enemy. An enemy always looks for a vital spot, and the oil stores at North Fremantle are one of our very vital spots. The construction of underground storage accommodation would create a lot of work and would be of everlasting benefit to the State and the Commonwealth.

The Nestle's milk factory at Waroona is treating approximately 4,500 gallons of milk daily. For some time past the company has been endeavouring to obtain more milk for its factory, and I am informed that it can take up to 12,000 gallons per day. It is prepared to double its plant if it can only get the milk. I understand that position has endured for a considerable period. The industry is of great advantage to Western Australia and is exporting its products oversea. As we know, most of the goods manufactured in Australia have to remain in the country, because they cannot be manufactured at a cost that will compete with the outside world. The Nestle's milk factory, however, is able to manufacture at a cost that enables it to export its products. It seems to me to be due to lack of organisation somewhere, or lack of interest on the part of someone, that advantage is not taken of the opportunity offering.

To make matters worse in the Waroona district, I understand that some of the dairy land has been taken up by foreigners who are engaged in growing potatoes, in preference to milking cows. It is very wrong that potatoes should be grown alongside pastures that are carrying cows, when such a large factory as this has been established in the district, and cannot get all the milk it could consume. It is difficult to understand the situation, seeing that there are so many

men who are dependent on the Government for employment. Surely some of those men could be engaged on farms and could assist in the production of milk. One of the difficulties of dairy farmers is to secure enough labour. If I were employed on relief work, I would ask the Government to assist me to get on to a dairy farm so that I might be in a position to earn my own living. I think the Government might be prepared to go as far as that. It should be willing to give assistance in that direction rather than for years to have a large number of men on the unemployed list.

I wish to refer to some of the weighing machines that one finds in various places throughout the State. They are frauds. No two machines return the same weight. In some instances—as in the case of fortune-telling machines—a person does not even get a ticket for his money. It is wrong that machines of that description should be posted in public places, and take people down in the way they do. There must be money in them, otherwise they would not be erected. They are placed in conspicuous spots and are in constant use. Some action should be taken against the people who put them there, and they should be compelled to make their machines accurate and give the results claimed for them. I hope some steps will be taken in the matter. It was with regret I heard the remarks passed concerning school accommodation, reference having been made in particular to the Boddington school. We in the South-West province have been well treated, and I should like to express to the Government my appreciation of the assistance that has been given us in the matter of school and hospital accommodation. Although we have not received all we asked for, generally speaking we have had a good deal of money. Very few requests have been refused, and on the whole we have done very well. I feel there has been an oversight in connection with the Boddington case, or the trouble that has been mentioned would not have existed.

It is satisfactory to know that members representing wheat provinces have come to the conclusion that the only thing the farmers can do is to cut down their acreage. More good than harm will result from such action, as we know all about the difficulties of securing shipping freights and getting our wheat to market. I agree with Mr. Wood that our farmers will have to be assisted, and that they

are in their present position through no fault of their own. I trust the Federal Government will see its way clear to assist them to carry on until better times approach. In some instances, the farmers would be well advised to take a wheat-growing holiday and get out of the industry altogether. I heard over the air this morning that in Canada there was likely to be a 480,000,000-bushel carry-over this year. Evidently there will be no shortage of wheat when the war is over, and for a while there will be a large surplus to deal with. If we continue to grow wheat now and the war lasts for four or five years, half of it will not be fit to market when the time comes to dispose of it.

Hon. J. Cornell: Under the bulk handling system it is possible to store wheat.

Hon. H. TUCKEY: But not possible to keep the weevils out of it, no matter where and how it is stored. The more wheat we grow now, the worse off we shall be. The suggestion of members representing wheat-growing provinces is a good one.

I now wish to refer to potatoes, but do not intend to say much on the subject because the ground has already been covered by Mr. Piesse.

Hon. J. Cornell: That is his kingdom.

Hon. H. TUCKEY: The South-West province grows more potatoes than are grown in any other province, and the subject is therefore of importance to the people I represent. I ask the Chief Secretary to request the Minister for Agriculture to point out to the Federal Department of Commerce that the use of potatoes might be advocated in the message that is sent over the air on behalf of "Eat More Lambs and More Apples." If a message concerning potatoes were embodied in the slogan, the growers would derive considerable advantage.

Hon. L. Craig: What about including green peas?

Hon. H. TUCKEY: My suggestion should certainly result in the achievement of some good. If the Minister will carry it out, I think all concerned in the industry will be pleased. Mr. Piesse said that 25 tons of potatoes had been grown in Grasmere and the Young's Siding district. I point out that is not the average. In other districts not so favourably situated, the average is about three tons per acre. There is of course a great difference between one district and another. I support Mr. Piesse in his request that the Government should

bring down a growers' licensing Bill, but would suggest that the definition of "grower" should exclude any unnaturalised subject. Many people today are growing produce who are not naturalised British subjects, and they should be excluded from any licensing measure of that kind. At the moment, marketing questions need not be considered, but as Mr. Piesse pointed out the suggested legislation would be a step in the right direction and would afford an opportunity to those concerned to carry on, and prepare for marketing legislation. I thank the hon. member for paying a visit to my province. He was able to clarify many matters that were in doubt. When he brought down his Bill in 1939, I had not time in which to submit it to the growers in my province; hence I opposed the measure. I hope on the next occasion to give my support to such a Bill, which I understand the Government is now prepared to bring down. From time to time tributes are paid to members of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force. I take the opportunity to include also members of the Mercantile Marine.

Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. H. TUCKEY: When the history of this war is written, the part that has been played by the commanders, officers and seamen of that wonderful shipping fleet, will go down as one of the most successful parts in the prosecution of the conflict. I have pleasure in supporting the motion.

HON. L. CRAIG (South West) [5.40]: This appears to be a day out for the South-West. We have not attracted a large audience, but we are all putting on our act together in the hope that it will have some influence with the Government.

Hon. G. Fraser: The other night it was the goldfields' turn.

Hon. L. CRAIG: I join with members in congratulating Mr. Fraser upon having offered his services to the armed forces. I hope he will come back smothered in medals and with a whole skin. The new world order has been referred to. I have read all the evidence I could obtain from England on this subject. A big movement is on foot there concerning this post-war adjustment. Many prominent authorities are talking about it. Some of them have extraordinary views with which I am sure we would not agree. One is the suggestion

for the abolition of all private property, etc. One group is working strongly in that direction. I have endeavoured to ascertain what is meant by "the new world order." If it refers to a system whereby power is taken away from the people, I think that is already in vogue. When we speak of order, we think it refers to obedience to the laws and to discipline. If that is so, I am all for it, as we are not getting that obedience today. There is no real obedience to our laws. We all agree that everyone else should obey the law.

With one or two other members, I am disgusted at the behaviour of certain justices of the peace. When men accept such high office and swear to carry out certain duties in regard to the laws of the country, it is disgusting to see them lower and degrade themselves, as we have seen them do. They sit on the bench for the sole purpose of flouting the laws and setting aside sentences or punishments that are laid down by our laws. Greater care and more inquiry should be made before members of the community are appointed to the high office of justice of the peace. If our laws are opposed to the will of the majority of the people, I am willing that they should be amended. It may be found impossible and undesirable to put a stop to betting. Betting is all right in its way, but if we are to have laws to stop betting, they should be evenly administered. As things are, the law is not evenly administered. We hear what the public has to say about the present system of government, and the dreadful things that are said about Parliament. People say dreadful things about the police and about some of our Ministers, I am sorry to say. On many occasions I have endeavoured to induce some of those people to put their statements in writing. When a man comes to me with a tale of what is going on, and says dreadful things, I reply, "If you will put that in writing and sign it, I will bring it before Parliament." Never yet has anyone been willing to put his statement in writing so that this course could be followed.

Hon. J. Cornell: What would you do if a man asked you for a loan?

Hon. L. CRAIG: People do not ask me for loans. It is a bad thing for the country that these things should be said and

that Governments should be so spoken of. The effect on the community is bad. I do not say that the statements are true, but these impressions are abroad. I have not heard these things said so much during the last year or two, but many things have been said about the lack of obedience to our laws. I am glad Mr. Mann touched on the question of producing power alcohol from wheat and establishing necessary works at Collie. I am now becoming parochial, but Collie has an outstanding claim if the scheme is to be proceeded with. A large surplus of wheat is available in this State, but the capital required for a power alcohol plant is very large. We should not erect such a plant merely to use up our present surplus of one year's wheat, and then find that the wheat produced afterwards will be required for other purposes.

Hon. L. B. Bolton: More wheat could be grown.

Hon. L. CRAIG: At what price? The estimated price for wheat for power alcohol is about 1s. a bushel. Our production costs have certainly come down with the use of modern plant, but we have not yet reached the stage when we can produce wheat at 1s. per bushel. A point that was missed by Mr. Mann—and it is one of the most important—is that Collie is a centre where huge numbers of trucks are arriving daily from all parts of the State. Those trucks, which are hauled empty to Collie, could be used to transport the wheat for power alcohol purposes. That is another point in favour of Collie. I feel sure the Government will make all necessary inquiries and select the most suitable site.

While dealing with the question of wheat, Mr. Wood advocated a curtailment of production as outlined in Mr. Teasdale's scheme. He suggested a reduction of 25 per cent. in acreage and a Government bounty of 12s. per acre for land not sown. What would Mr. Moore say to such a proposal? Wheat-growers on sand plains put in from 1,000 to 2,000 acres of wheat. It is put in roughly and produces a crop of eight to ten bushels per acre. Growers like Mr. Moore may sow only 200 or 300 acres, but they pay the greatest attention to cultivation and produce 25, 35 and even 40 bushels per acre. He would be delighted, I am sure, if he had to curtail his small area by 25 per cent. and get the same remuneration as would

other farmers who produce only eight or nine bushels per acre in sandplain country. The scheme needs careful consideration; it is not sufficient in itself. I have no doubt some curtailment will be necessary, but protection must be afforded to growers like Mr. Moore or disastrous results will follow.

Hon. L. B. Bolton: You have made a good point.

Hon. L. CRAIG: Another matter I wish to deal with is taxation. I am not referring to the rate of taxation. One hears few complaints from people now called upon to pay the present heavy taxation. What astounds me are the few complaints made about the tremendous increase in taxation. My complaint, however, is about the method of taxation and the lack of co-ordination between the Commonwealth and the States. I am aware that conferences have been held between the various taxation authorities, but many anomalies exist in the returns required by the authorities. The demands of the Taxation Department in regard to the preparation of returns are so onerous that they are adding materially to the cost of industry. Most business firms have been compelled to employ extra staff solely for the purpose of preparing returns for the Taxation Department. I myself know of one or two firms that have had to employ two additional men who do nothing else but work for the Taxation Department.

I have some instances of anomalies which could easily be avoided, to which I desire to direct the attention of members. One is the question of sustenance for employees, whether in the rural or other industries. For Federal and State income tax purposes, sustenance is valued at 15s. per week and lodgings or quarters at 5s. per week, making a total of 20s. For hospital tax purposes sustenance is valued at 13s. per week and lodgings at 7s. per week. Is not that stupid? The total is £1 in each case. All this makes it extremely difficult to keep books conforming to taxation requirements, which is what all business people try to do, with the object of facilitating the preparation of income tax returns. That is not all, however. When deducting income at the source, sustenance must be assessed at 20s. per week. If a man is paid £3 a week, £1 must be added for his keep; the necessary deduction, 2s. per week, or whatever it may be, is then made from the £3. When the

employee receives his assessment, however, he finds the Taxation Department has assessed his sustenance at 25s. per week.

Hon. L. B. Bolton: That is ridiculous.

Hon. L. CRAIG: It is stupid. The employee finds that he is taxed on another 5s. per week, or £13 per year.

Hon. V. Hamersley: Yet there is talk about profiteering.

Hon. L. CRAIG: This is not profiteering. The worker imagines that his tax has been paid by the deductions made from his wages, and then he finds he has an additional amount to pay.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: He does not know where he is.

Hon. L. CRAIG: Surely the employee should be charged only on the 20s. per week, but that is not so.

Hon. W. J. Mann: Have you received any explanation from the department on that point?

Hon. L. CRAIG: These figures have been checked. The secretary of a company in the North in which I am interested told me that, under the child endowment scheme, we would have to pay a considerable sum. I replied that that was not so, because our wages bill would not be high enough. He replied, "But we are compelled to make a return for all natives, men and women, and must account for 15s. per week for each man and woman working on the station." We have 20 natives, Alec, Joe, Mary and Martha—all the names must be supplied. Their sustenance does not cost anything approaching 15s. per week. They get flour, tea, sugar and meat, but half the meat they consume they get themselves. They hunt kangaroos. I said to the secretary, "Very well, if that is the law we must obey it." Now, if we claim 15s. a week as a deduction when sending in the income tax return, what does the department say? "Not on your life." The taxation people raise their hands in horror at the suggestion and say, "You can only claim as a deduction the actual cost of feeding the natives." Is not that inequitable?

Hon. L. B. Bolton: It is ridiculous.

Hon. L. CRAIG: Surely we should be able to claim the 15s. per week. These intricate matters ought to be adjusted. Referring to the alunite deposits mentioned by Mr. Mann, the Government is fully informed of the deposits at Lake Campion. I am not replying on behalf of the Minister, who

I am sure will give an effective answer. A private concern has spent a large sum of money on boring the deposits and inquiries have been made from America for the alunite. Apparently, something has come of the samples that were sent there. It would appear that some effort is being made to stop the production of alunite here. Possibly a factory could be established at Collie, because the production of aluminium involves a plentiful and cheap supply of power. I support the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-reply.

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

House adjourned at 5.57 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 14th August, 1941.

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

QUESTION—RAILWAYS.

Surcharge on Bulk Wheat.

Mr. SEWARD asked the Minister for Railways: 1, In view of the fact that the Midland Railway Company has abolished the surcharge of 1s. 6d. per ton on bulk wheat, will the Government Railways also discontinue charging 9d. per ton on bulk wheat carried over the Government Railways? 2, If not, why not?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, No. 2, The additional rate per ton does not reimburse the department for the extra cost involved in transporting bulk wheat as compared with bagged wheat.

QUESTION—WATER SUPPLIES.

Capacity of Reservoirs.

Mr. WILSON asked the Minister for Water Supplies: What is the holding capacity, to overflowing, of:—Mundaring Weir, Canning Dam, and Wellington Dam?

The MINISTER FOR WATER SUPPLIES replied: Mundaring, 4,650 million gallons; Canning, 20,550 million gallons; Wellington (Collie River), 7,555 million gallons.

QUESTION—DROUGHT RELIEF.

Mr. SEWARD asked the Minister for Lands: As he stated in reply to a question asked by me on the 12th inst., that Agricultural Bank clients who are holders of wheat certificates for the 1940-41 season, and who received assistance from Drought Relief Funds are not compelled to hand over those certificates, will he instruct the Agricultural Bank Commissioners accordingly, and to refund to the Bank clients any wheat dividends already collected?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS replied: The answer to the original question is "No." The procedure adopted when reviewing settlers' accounts for carry-on purposes is that full finance is arranged mainly from drought relief funds, stock account and cash in hand. The value of the wheat scrip is not known at time of review, but when known it is used to replace drought relief approved to the value of the sum received.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

On motions by Mr. Wilson, leave of absence granted to Mr. Styants (Kalgoorlie) for one month on the ground of military service; to Mr. Marshall (Murchison) for two weeks on the ground of urgent public business; and to Hon. P. Collier (Boulder) for two weeks on the ground of ill-health.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Seventh Day.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

MR. W. HEGNEY (Pilbara) [4.35]: I think it was Shakespeare who said, "Be checked for silence but never be taxed for speech." I shall endeavour to strike a happy medium. It is not my intention to deal with