

and Jugo-Slavs. Our right to exclude these people is accepted, at least on the surface, by most of the countries concerned. The Japanese Consul in Sydney in 1901, when the first immigration law was brought into operation, while protesting against it, said that Japan was prepared to concede the right of the Government of Australia to limit the number of persons who might be allowed to land here. The Indian delegate to the Imperial Conference as late as 1918 moved a resolution to the effect that all countries should have the right to control the composition of the population of their respective countries, and it is interesting also to realise that it was not until 1922 that British Indians were permitted to vote at a Commonwealth election in Australia. I think though it is recognised on the surface by the rulers of these countries that we have the right to exclude people we do not want, our White Australia policy is generally regarded as one of selfishness, and it will be our job to show the League of Nations or F.N.O., or any other authority set up internationally to keep the peace of the world, that that policy is not an arrogant claim to race superiority but is due mainly to our desire to preserve our Australian way of life.

There is one thing that can be said to our credit, though I have heard it suggested it should be otherwise, and that is that up to date we have not brought out any coolies to do our hard work. While it is said by many that Australians have ridden into prosperity on the sheep's back, I hope it will never be said that we rode on the backs of coolies and coloured races in order to develop the Northern portion of our continent. We should demonstrate to the people of those countries that we are prepared to act as good neighbours to them in a world order; that we are prepared to trade freely with them; that they can have our surpluses, and we are prepared to take theirs. At all times, however, we should tell them carefully and politely, but nevertheless emphatically, that we are going to reserve for ourselves for all time the right to decide what the composition of the population of this country is going to be.

On motion by Mr. Read, debate adjourned.

## BILL—SUPPLY (No. 1), £2,700,000.

Returned from the Council without amendment.

*House adjourned at 5.58 p.m.*

## Legislative Council.

*Tuesday, 6th August, 1946.*

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

### QUESTIONS.

#### HOUSING.

*As to Commonwealth-State Rental Scheme.*

Hon. J. A. DIMMITT asked the Chief Secretary:

1, What types of houses are being built by the Housing Division of the Public Works Department under the Commonwealth-State Rental Housing Scheme?

2, How many of each type were completed during the year ended the 30th June, 1946?

3, How many of each type were under construction as at the 30th June, 1946?

4, Of those completed during the year ended the 30th June, 1946, what was the average cost of each type?

5, When quoting the average cost of each type, will the Minister advise if those costs include any provision for administrative and other overhead costs?

6, What is the average of administrative and other overhead costs for each type?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied:

As the reply to the question is altogether too long for me to read and is really in the form a return, I shall place it on the Table of the House.

Return presented.

## POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION.

*As to Service Training and Land Settlement Schemes.*

Hon. A. THOMSON asked the Chief Secretary:

1, Is the Chief Secretary aware of the dissatisfaction existing among Service personnel at the failure of the Reconstruction Training Scheme and the Land Settlement Scheme to measure up to what members of the Forces were led to expect?

2, Is he aware that, at the end of June, out of 4,306 applications for full time vocational training only 1,223 were receiving training?

3, Can he inform the House what is the cause of the delay and slow rate of intake of accepted trainees?

4, Has any intimation been conveyed by this Government to the Commonwealth Government of the dissatisfaction existing in Western Australia?

5, If so, what has been the result?

6, If not, why not?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied:

1, I am aware that a degree of dissatisfaction has been expressed.

2, Yes. The statistics were presented by the Deputy Director of Post-War Reconstruction to a recent meeting of the W.A. Regional Re-establishment Committee, of which the Deputy Director is Chairman.

3, The Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Scheme is the responsibility of the Commonwealth Government. The State is co-operating with the Commonwealth by placing its technical education facilities at the disposal of the Commonwealth. It is not responsible for the determination of training rates or quotas. I understand that the scheme provides that as far as possible training for skilled occupations shall not be in excess of the capacity of industry to absorb the trainees into full-time employment in the various occupations after training. Training quotas are recommended to the Regional Reconstruction Training Committees by appropriate Industrial Training Committees composed of representatives of employers' and employees' organisations. In general the training rate for any one skilled occupation is such that

by training in four successive relays the ultimate training target will be met in two years. The figures quoted are in conformity with that policy.

4, The W.A. Regional Reconstruction Training Committee is responsible for the administration of the Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Scheme in accordance with the policy determined by the Central Reconstruction Training Committee, and to ensure the closest collaboration between the Commonwealth and State Governments, the W.A. Committee consists of the Superintendent of Technical Education in his capacity of Deputy Director of Industrial Training, an officer of the Agricultural Department as Deputy Co-ordinator of Rural Training, the Vice Chancellor of the University representing the Universities Commission, and the Deputy Commissioner, representing the Repatriation Commission, together with representatives of employers, employees and ex-servicemen's associations, together with the Deputy Director of Post-War Reconstruction, the latter being chairman. This committee is in constant communication with the Commonwealth authorities.

5, There has been a considerable increase during the past few months in the number of ex-servicemen who have commenced training of a vocational and professional type and it is anticipated that the numbers will continue to increase.

6, Answered by 5.

## RED CROSS BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE.

*As to Accommodation and Financial Control.*

Hon. J. G. HISLOP asked the Chief Secretary:

1, Is the Minister aware that the Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service is faced with the necessity of finding new quarters?

2, If so, is it the intention of the Government to assist in the provision of necessary quarters so that this essential service can continue?

3, If so, is it possible to advise as to what steps are being taken?

4, Is the task of continuing this service to be undertaken entirely by the Red Cross?

5, If not, what part is to be played by the Red Cross, and under what financial and administrative control will the service be maintained?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied:

1, Yes, but new temporary quarters are, I understand, being negotiated.

2, Yes. Permanent premises should be close to the Perth Hospital and the Government is negotiating with the Perth City Council for a site on the land in Wellington street opposite the hospital, owned by the Perth City Council.

3, Answered by No. 2.

4 and 5, Future policy has not been decided yet, and the Government is awaiting a declaration of policy by the Red Cross Central Executive.

### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

#### *Fourth Day.*

Debate resumed from the 1st August.

**HON. E. H. H. HALL** (Central) [4.37]: I desire, with other members, to offer you, Sir, my heartiest congratulations on your elevation to the very honourable position of President of the Legislative Council of Western Australia. I feel that you will worthily uphold the traditions of the position. When I came here some 18 years ago I gave voice to thoughts which I considered should be expressed. Without wishing to give offence to any member of this old and august Chamber, I considered, when I came here, that it was my duty to say just what I thought, and I am afraid that in doing so I gave some of the older members, of whom I think you, Mr. President, were one, cause to feel offended. But time has led me to believe—I may be wrong—that the more members got to know me, the better they understood me, and that even if their fondness for me did not increase they realised that it was due to something in me.

So I want to hark back to a much earlier period than when I entered this Chamber. I shall allude to something that occurred during the 1914-18 war when the conscription issue arose. I hope I will be forgiven for referring to the part that you, Sir, played in that momentous question, and how you were dealt with for having the courage to stand up and say just what you thought. A fellow feeling makes us

wondrous kind! Having gone through a similar experience I want to assure you, Sir, that I have some small idea of just what it cost you to express your opinion, and I honour you for it. I wish to welcome the new members to the Chamber. I do not feel that I am old enough to offer them advice, but I do say to them that if they have anything to say, the sooner they do so the better because this place sort of grows on one so that after having been here for a while one feels that one does not want to say anything out of the ordinary for fear of hurting the feelings of other members.

While I am referring to members generally, I hope you, Mr. President, will pardon me if I take up a few minutes in order to say something that I consider somebody should say. Let that somebody be me. The people quite rightly expect something from the representatives they send to Parliament to make the laws that they are compelled to obey. While the people expect something from their parliamentary representatives, they also should expect something from their teachers. We have teachers from whom the people expect something, whether those men be teachers in infant schools, secondary schools, high schools or the University. Quite recently I was rather pained to read something from the pen of an ex-professor, who continually indulges in ridiculing and belittling parliamentary representatives. That gentleman is entitled to say what he thinks, but I do not know that he will achieve any good by continuing his belittling of, and casting aspersions upon, members elected to Parliament.

The ex-professor has had the advantage of a really good education. He is gifted; let us frankly recognise that fact. The parliamentary library contains upwards of a dozen of his books. What good does he expect to do by continuing along the lines he has adopted with regard to members of Parliament? Last night I listened to an address over the air by Mr. Makin, who is to represent Australia as the first ambassador from this country to America. He broadcast a message to the people of the Commonwealth. I have not the pleasure of his acquaintance, and Mr. Makin belongs to the Labour Party, to which I am opposed. In my opinion Mr. Makin made a wonderful speech.

Hon. L. B. Bolton: I think he did, too.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: I wish the ex-professor, to whom I am referring, could have heard Mr. Makin's speech. The gentleman has much more experience of parliamentary members than has the ex-professor. In fact, what does this former professor of the University, who must be something of a recluse, know about the ordinary man in the street, or even about members of Parliament? I certainly wish Mr. Makin's message could be printed and circulated among the people. It must be recognised that there are good and bad in all sorts of assemblies. There are good and bad policemen; good and bad civil servants; good and bad teachers, and possibly good and bad members of Parliament.

Hon. C. B. Williams: And the same applies to the churches.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: I myself have been critical of members of Parliament, but in the main I think we are no better and no worse than any other section of society. The majority of us who came here did not buy our way in. I can declare on all that is sacred that I certainly did not; in fact, I had not the money with which to buy my way into this Chamber. The ex-professor talked about donations to bowling clubs. In my opinion, the bowling clubs should take this matter up. I do not see how this ex-professor expects to do any good by his attitude, and I do not know what effect his comments will have on the coming generation in consequence of his continued aspersions on members of Parliament. It cannot do any good at all. As Mr. Makin said last night, let us keep and hold fast to our parliamentary institution. Here we have in the former professor a man who should know better. I think he can do better than emulate the gentleman who lived a long time ago—I refer to Charles Dickens—who grew satirical at the expense of what we would refer to as road board members by describing them as "bumbles."

That sort of talk may have suited the times, but I think it is opportune now for this gentleman to whom I am alluding to rise above himself and just consider whether he is doing any good by adopting his present attitude, whether he will achieve anything by continuing to ridicule and throw bricks at members of Parliament. In referring to him I speak more in sorrow than in anger.

As I have mentioned before, I recognise that he is a gifted man, and I think he could employ his talents to much better purpose.

I am glad that Mr. Williams is in the Chamber. That hon. member rose in his seat a few years ago and dealt with a subject that did not seem to meet with the pleasure of your good self, Mr. President. As an old established member you seemed to object, as it were, to his reflecting upon the manner in which the committees of this Chamber were elected. It did not take long, however, before this old and conservative body, as it is described by some people, embraced the ideas Mr. Williams enunciated and the other day we saw that hon. member himself elected to a committee.

Hon. C. B. Williams: After four or five years of fight.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: I congratulate Mr. Williams on his appointment to the House Committee, and I feel sure he will pull his full weight in the deliberations of that body. As a result of the action taken by Mr. Williams, we had circulated amongst us some months ago a document that I think members are entitled to receive, not only from the House Committee but from the other committees as well. Why should not Parliament conduct its business in an up-to-date manner? In the first speech I made in Parliament I expressed somewhat similar sentiments to those uttered by Mr. Williams. When a committee is elected as the standing committees are, I think that, as a matter of courtesy, those bodies should supply members of Parliament, when they re-assemble each year, with a summary of what the committees have done during the preceding 12 months.

Hon. W. R. Hall: There is no reason why it should not have been done.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: We have received from the House Committee a report giving members some idea of what progress is being made by that body. It provides us with information that will be useful when we are told by people from time to time that we belong to the most exclusive club in Perth where we get everything free, including bed and bedding. We can now show that we are attempting to pay our way.

Hon. C. B. Williams: Not only attempting it but doing it wonderfully well.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: Members will agree that there is one most pressing need facing us in this State. It confronts the Commonwealth and faces the rest of the world as well. Just how it will be dealt with I do not know, but we have a responsibility in Western Australia that we must accept. I refer to the failure to supply homes for those fine young fellows who have returned from oversea after fighting against our foes. In common with other members, every week I receive letters from, or have interviews with, returned soldiers who want to know whether I can do anything that will enable them to get homes for their young wives and families. I know it is quite easy to criticise the Government in a hostile manner, but this trouble is world-wide. I am not a practical builder like Mr. Thomson. At Katanning I saw him quite recently doing a little bit of practical work in an endeavour to get homes erected for a couple of returned men.

I think that the State Government could perhaps have taken a more active interest in seeing that many of the buildings located throughout the State that belong to the Commonwealth Government and were formerly used by the military authorities, were availed of, or the materials with which they were constructed used, for the benefit of returned men who are so sadly in need of homes. As is well known, we have at Geraldton an Air Force camp which is practically deserted. A number of buildings there could be well applied to the purpose I have mentioned. They are still empty, while I know of a number of young returned men who are living anywhere and everywhere in Geraldton, as are returned men in other places, some of them with their "in-laws." Something has been done to bring home to the headquarters of the R.A.A.F. in Melbourne the necessity of doing something, but I do not know how far the negotiations have progressed. If the State Government has not taken action to expedite a final decision in the matter, I sincerely hope it will do so as quickly as possible.

Then we have the regrettable fact that we have been unable to place one single returned soldier on the land up to date. I understand that to be so. As I said in this Chamber last year, and I do not think anybody will disagree with the statement, we have in Mr. Fyfe an excellent gentleman

who is in charge of returned soldier land settlement in this State. I am sure the fault is not his, but there is something that is hanging the matter up between the two Governments. We heard the Chief Secretary say in reply to a question just now that it is not the fault or the omission of the State Government; that the matter is purely a Commonwealth one. Whatever the difference is, it should be smoothed out, because the two Governments represent exactly the same people and yet they are at variance on important matters. Last year the Mingenew Road Board wrote to me a letter which I quoted last session. I propose to repeat it, because there is a very large area of land close to the railway out from Mingenew at present lying practically unused. The secretary says in his letter—

Twenty-three landowners hold 317,517 acres of land, of which 132,137 acres is first-class land within 16 miles of the railway, served with good roads and telephone.

I have no doubt that Mr. Fyfe has inspected this land which, as the secretary of the road board says, is first-class, and I would like to know whether Mr. Fyfe intends to settle any soldiers on it. The secretary continues—

Of these landholders, 17 hold 122,000 acres of first-class land, and on this area resides a population of approximately 54 persons. My board has suggested that a maximum of 3,000 acres should be the ownership of one person and the balance used for the purpose of closer settlement.

The Mingenew Road Board comprises men of practical experience who know what they are talking about, and I sincerely hope that something will be done to make this land, and also other land, available for our returned soldiers. It may be asked why we should want to place men on land belonging to the Midland Railway Co. If anybody said that to me, I should reply, "We want to take a broader outlook than that. We want to obtain the best land possible, situated as close to a railway line as possible, for our returned men."

Most members will no doubt be surprised that at the commencement of the session we have had laid on the Table of the House the report of the Auditor General. I think this is an excellent innovation, and I hope it will become the practice in future. I have during previous sessions referred to the fact that the report is usually presented towards the close of the session and this, I

maintain, is quite wrong. I am aware that during the war years there was a shortage of clerks and consequently some excuse for the delay. Now, however, we have evidently got back to normal and Mr. Nicholas, our new Auditor General, is to be commended for the promptness with which he has made his report available. Recurring to the last session, we had at times heated debate on the increase in harbour charges which the farmers are called upon to pay. Those of us representing farmers said that the latter had enough charges to meet without an attempt being made to increase them.

Hon. A. Thomson: The charge was increased, too.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: Many members pointed out that the Fremantle Harbour Trust was by no means hard up, and that is proved by the Auditor General's report. We find that the Trust made a profit of £328,929, which probably has been paid into Consolidated Revenue. To raise the charges to men who are continually complaining—and with justification—that they are not getting a payable price for their product, which is true, is not the way to encourage them, and they need all the encouragement we can give them. The statement that farmers are not getting a payable price for their wheat was not made by any farmers' representative in Parliament or by any organisation connected with farmers. It has been proved as the result of inquiries made by Royal Commissions which have been held from time to time to inquire into the cost of production.

Even now we are threatened by Mr. Scully, the Federal Minister for Agriculture, with yet another Royal Commission to inquire into the cost of production of wheat. I admit that the task is difficult. One farmer can produce at a profit at much less cost than another farmer. All we ask for is a fair average price that will enable the farmer at least to remain on his holding and pay his way. I am struck by the Auditor General's reference to State hotels. He says on page 21—

Nothing was added to the reserve for repairs and renewals in 1944-45, and allowing for the amount of £1,000 added in 1943-44 and the increase of £1,712 in expenditure on such repairs charged to the profit and loss account in 1944-45, it will be seen that the net results for the two years were approximately the same.

Nothing is allowed for depreciation! Surely, the small profit of £2,941 in 1943-44 and £2,179 in 1944-45 vanishes if depreciation is taken into account. That does not seem to me to be a very sound way to conduct a utility which should be a great revenue producer. I would like to refer to our harbours. At page 11 of the Auditor General's report we find this—

The expenditure for the year included £7,544 6s. 7d. on the canteen, £1,326 4s. 5d. for rest rooms, and £8,621 5s. 4d. on North Wharf.

As to the canteen and the rest rooms, I think it but right that in a Government utility of this kind we should provide such amenities for the men, as they have to work all times of the day and night; but I also consider that if the Fremantle Harbour Trust is doing its best to provide the men at some cost with these amenities, the men should reciprocate and endeavour to play the game with the people whose property they handle. We frequently see reports in the Press indicating that waterside workers have appeared before the court on a charge of pillaging—I could have used the word "stealing." If the union desires to exercise that discipline which is necessary with all large bodies of men, it is time it said, "We are not going to be branded as a lot of pillagers—not to use a harsher word—but are going to take action against those men who have no regard for the honour of the organisation." That would not be asking too much of the union. Perhaps drastic steps might be withheld for the first offence, but steps should be taken to prevent these people from indulging repeatedly in this business of pillaging, and the union in its own interests should take action to see that it does not occur again. It is becoming altogether too rife. There seems to be a wave of it.

I am sorry to see that the State Brickworks showed a loss £3,750. Perhaps that can be satisfactorily accounted for. The total net loss on the State Shipping Service was £1,383,000. I suppose that was only to be expected. Reference is also made to the Wyndham Freezing Works, that old hardy annual. I commend the Auditor General for allowing Parliament to have his report so early in the session.

Amongst the matters that are fully controlled by the Government is education.

We know there has been an awakening in connection with educational matters in Australia during the last 12 or 18 months. I do not know whether this is generally known to members, but the Teachers' Union itself regards this question as of such importance that it appointed an organiser to tell the people what they are missing by not taking sufficient interest in education and demanding from the Government equal educational opportunities for the children of this State, comparable with the opportunities offered in the other States of Australia and elsewhere in the world. The union is paying this organiser £12 a week and travelling expenses. That speaks volumes for the great and sincere interest that is being taken by the school-teachers in the endeavour to bring home to the Government the absolute necessity of doing more than it is at present.

As I said last session, owing to the many disabilities under which the State Government labours because of the sparsely populated areas of Western Australia it is perhaps natural to say "How much further can we go?" Possibly the Minister for Education is asking himself that question now. If we were all prepared to pay more taxation no doubt the Government would gladly spend the money on education. It seems to me, from the mass of material I have here and the letters I have received from Parents and Citizens' Associations in my province, that the people are going to demand that more money shall be spent in providing better education for our children than they have received in the past. Not only do they want better tuition but they want better and more up-to-date buildings and a better environment for the children. I have letters from all sorts of people in all sorts of places. I think I obtained this information from the Auditor General's report—if not, I obtained it from some other authentic source—namely, that in 1944-45 the Vote for Education stood at £889,302, and the Director and his staff spent £888,934, leaving a credit balance of £358. I do not know why the balance was not spent; that must have been an oversight.

The Government realises the need for more money being spent and proposes this year, I understand, to spend £915,708, an increase of £26,406. From this we gather that the

Government will endeavour to spend all the money it can get on this important matter. Millions can be found for what is regarded as essential work such as the new electricity supply at Fremantle, the alunite works, and others. I do not say that that money should not be spent, but when we meet people in the country and say, "There must be a limit to expenditure on schools," we are quickly reminded that money can be found for trading purposes. There is certainly justification for the statement that we cannot find money for any better purpose than for the education of our children.

In the Minister for Education we have a gentleman who has had experience as a teacher. When a man has had practical experience of a calling we have a right to expect something better from him than from a man who has not had that practical experience. I know that the Minister, the Director, and the senior officials are wedded to the bus service. That is all right in its proper place, but I maintain that it is not a fit service for or a proper method of taking younger children to school. Members of other provinces than mine know that many of these buses are nothing more nor less than glorified lorries, ordinary lorries with a few seats placed in them.

Hon. L. B. Bolton: A decent bus has been adopted now; there is no more of that sort of thing.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: I believe that is so. The war may have been the cause of the other buses being brought into use. When young children are transported long distances they have to get up early in the morning and generally do not return home until late at night. I believe in the doctrine, "Everything in its place." I know the disadvantages both for the teachers and for the children in a small school. This bus service for young children also has its disadvantages. I have here a letter from Miss Hooten, the general secretary of the Parents and Citizens' Association, supporting this view. I have also clippings from which I could quote showing that the president of the Country Teachers' Association supports the statement I have just made.

I have ascertained the amounts spent by the other States on education. The latest figures I have are for 1943. In that year New South Wales spent £8.47 per head; Victoria 9.2; Queensland £7.8; South Aus-

tralia £7.6; Western Australia £6.9; and Tasmania £14.7. Since then the Premier of New South Wales, Mr. McKell, the Leader of the Labour Government, has determined that his State should not take second place to any other state. I am credibly informed that last year the Government of New South Wales decided to increase teachers' salaries in order to attract and retain the services of the best teachers available, the increase being £1,000,000. That seems incredible but I am assured it is correct. In 1943 a major change was agreed to by the New South Wales Government, the change being in connection with the classification of teachers and the introduction of the teachers' certificate, leading to an expenditure of £250,000. The salaries agreement, dated the 26th April, 1946, will increase the Government expenditure in New South Wales on salaries by approximately £1,000,000. The leaving age was also raised to 15 years some three years ago.

There was a reference in the Speech to the school-leaving age in this State. The Minister for Education expects next year to raise the age. I would not like to say that was a pious wish on his part. I believe the Government is just as anxious as is anybody else to raise the school-leaving age on the ground that it is necessary to fall into line with the other States. While we are in our present position with regard to building operations, I ask how we can raise the school-leaving age. We must provide the necessary accommodation for the children; that will be the first thing to do. I hope that accommodation will be found next year but I see little chance of that coming about.

A matter upon which I have been approached by various parents and citizens' associations is in connection with providing hostel accommodation for school children. The Victoria District and other districts contribute many children for Geraldton but the young people have to find accommodation where they can. I see no use in providing a high school curriculum and saying to the children, "It is your parents' job to billet you where they can." It is generally admitted to be impossible for children to do justice to themselves either in the Junior or Leaving examinations without a considerable amount of night study. The provision of suitable accommodation for them should be taken into consideration. I have here a

letter dated the 14th March, 1946, signed by Mr. O'Mahony, the secretary to the Director of Education. It is as follows:—

May I reply to your letter of the 11th March to which you attached a request from the Yandanooka Parents and Citizens' Association that the Government establish a hostel at Geraldton for the accommodation of high school students?

As you have stated, it is not the policy of the Government to provide such hostels though recognising the necessity for them. It would prefer to encourage local groups to establish and maintain hostels rather than to assume full responsibility for them. Quite recently the Methodist Church opened a hostel at Albany and the indications are that organisations are desirous of providing hostel facilities in other places. The Government has, at present, under consideration the question of paying a "living-away-from-home" allowance for all children who are obliged to leave home for the purpose of obtaining their education whether at the primary or post-primary level. If the Government can manage to make these payments, the provision of hostels by local groups should be greatly facilitated.

That may be so, but I think the Government should take a more active part than just paying the away-from-home allowance, and should assist in the establishment of hostels for the children. I have a cutting from "The West Australian" of the 24th July, showing that Mr. Leslie, the member for Mt. Marshall, who was attending the opening of a hostel at Koorda, is reported to have said—

Because the Koorda district is the pioneer in providing, without Government assistance of any kind, this essential educational facility for country children, I suggest that similar primary school children's hostels when provided elsewhere—as must eventually be done—should be called "Koorda hostels."

The Government will have to find the money to provide hostels if we wish country children to receive the education to which they are entitled. Unless parents can have the assurance that their children are not going to suffer such disabilities, we will continue to have that drift to the city, about which I have heard our parliamentary representatives complaining for many years. I can understand the Government's representatives in this Chamber being tired of the subject, but we have to deal with these things as we find them. Although I have had some hard things to say at times, I desire to be fair.



I attended a meeting convened by some people who called themselves "The Committee for the Defence of Native Rights." An estimable gentleman, the Very Rev. Dean Moore, is patron. The president is Dr. A. T. H. Jolley, the vice-presidents are Mr. D. W. McLeod and Mr. G. Foxcroft and the treasurer is Padre H. P. V. Hodge. One of the three trustees is Mrs. Vallance, a lady who stands high in the esteem of many people and who has done a lot of splendid work. As far as I could see, I was the only member of Parliament at that meeting. I do not think people should be allowed to defame the name of the State as these people did. I stand for free speech and free assemblies, but to blame the State for the things for which these people blamed it is wrong. If the Minister refused to meet them, as they said, I think that was a grave error of judgment. A Minister is a public servant and when a deputation wishes to wait on him he should receive it; then people have no excuse for making mis-statements such as these people indulged in. I understand they have communicated with the United Nations Organisation, to bring the State of Western Australia up before it.

There are men here who have had a lot of experience of our natives and half-castes, over many years, and I have had some experience of them at Wiluna and Mount Sir Samuel. I was on a deputation that went to the Minister, and on that occasion Mrs. Vallance made a certain statement, but, on going through the files, I found that not only did the department get hold of the girl in question and act as both father and mother to her until she was about to be married, but it secured the services of a minister and had her married, and provided her with pocket money. I told Mrs. Vallance to go through the file and said that if she could find anything to substantiate her statement that the girl had been robbed, I would bring the matter before Parliament. Last year I read some correspondence about the conduct of certain people employed by the State in their dealings with aborigines and half-castes, but I think it is wrong for a group of people to hire the Town Hall and defame the name of the State.

We hear a lot about Mr. Moseley, and only last week I was with a body of people

who should have known better, but who said that if the Government would only give effect to Mr. Moseley's report there would be a big improvement. I have here a copy of a broadcast given by Mr. Moseley, which was made available to me by the A.B.C. In it Mr. Moseley says that the Government has given effect to a good many of his recommendations. In common with other members, I have a sheaf of correspondence from road boards all over the State, as the result of resolutions passed by the Murchison Road Boards Association. I was there when the resolution was passed in 1945 and I have here a letter dated the 14th October, 1945.

For the sake of one member I would say that the first meeting convened by the Committee for the Defence of Native Rights was held on the 4th June, 1946, so that the people of the Murchison have nothing to do with those who met in the Perth Town Hall. Mr. Marshall is the member for Murchison, and I wrote back, telling these people that it would not be the slightest use my complying with their request to move for a Select Committee to inquire into this matter, on which there have already been Royal Commissions and Select Committees, because, even supposing the House carried the motion, the Government could, and might, ignore the recommendation as it has done before. The Government might say, "We are doing our level best to deal with a difficult problem and do not want any more Royal Commissions or Select Committees. We know what to do and the only thing that prevents us doing it is want of money." I would not like the people of the Murchison to defeat Mr. Marshall, who I think is proving his worth as a Minister. He has the courage of his convictions and is proving himself a good Minister. The Meekatharra and Murchison people, pastoralists as well as goldminers, would say, "We will try to fix this thing up in some other way, but we do not want to lose Billy Marshall."

The Committee for the Defence of Native Rights has circularised all the road boards in the State, and even my own road board could not write quickly enough to ask me to move for a Select Committee, but I cannot do anything of the kind. Until the State Government can get from the Commonwealth Government the finance it should

have, I cannot see us making much headway in this matter. The fact that we compel aboriginal and half-caste children to go to school until they are 14 years of age does not matter; they should be taught to use their hands and to be of some use to the State. The policy of feeding natives without requiring them to work is deplorable. I have here a letter which reads—

I have been directed by my board to advise you that it wholeheartedly supports the sentiments expressed by the Meekatharra Parents and Citizens' Association in their letter to you of October 14th last dealing with native questions. I am enclosing a copy of the association's correspondence of November 11 last, and which was dealt with at my board's ordinary meeting held on November 16th. It will appreciate any valuable assistance that you will be able to render this association.

The parents and citizens' associations are also taking the matter up. Twenty-five per cent. of the children attending the Meekatharra school are aborigines, and I have the greatest sympathy for the Meekatharra parents and citizens. It is all very fine to say, in Perth, that we cannot go in for segregation, but the mother in Perth who keeps her children sweet and clean does not have to see them sitting alongside these unfortunate children who are anything but sweet and clean. The Education Department says that the teacher has authority to send a child home. The teacher can send a white child home if the child is not clean, and I certainly sympathise with the Meekatharra parents and citizens in the attitude they take. The Minister has given the matter thought and has written a letter stating that he is totally against the segregation of the children. At the Geraldton primary school, with an attendance of 500 or 600 children, there are some 10 or 12 native children, but where we have a goldfields school, with 25 per cent. of the children natives, I do not think members would like their children to attend classes there. I spoke on this matter at one time and Mr. Albany Bell wrote a letter to "The West Australian" and suggested that I should be ashamed to say that aboriginal and half-caste children should be taken from their parents, yet we do the same thing when the parents of white children are not looking after them.

Hon. A. Thomson: That is correct.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: I could show members three half-caste families living within a few miles of Geraldton, and they are not

the outcome of a white man's association with a black woman. As is well known, half-caste men are marrying half-caste women, and they are breeding like rabbits. These three families that I have mentioned are living in their natural surroundings with only very rough sanitary conveniences, if any, and there is no chance for them to get a bath, as there is little or no water. When these children live in camps there are no means of keeping them clean. Habits of cleanliness do not come to children naturally. Those of us who have brought up families know that it is necessary morning, noon and night to insist upon children cleaning their teeth and keeping their bodies clean. What chance have the unfortunates in these native camps to bring up their children as they should be and so that they might associate with white children? It is all very well to say that God made us all black, white and yellow, but circumstances alter cases. A lot of the people down here who talk in that way ought to go to the Goldfields and see the conditions prevailing there. To give an instance, I quote the following letter from the Minister for Education dated the 25th October, 1945:—

I have for acknowledgment your letter of the 4th instant submitting certain recommendations and requests in connection with the education of native children.

The Director of Education, whom you addressed in the same terms, has shown me his reply with which I am in complete agreement. I do not propose, therefore, to do other than say I have given much thought over a very long period to the matter of education of native children with the result that I am most definitely against segregation. Recently I attended a school sports meeting at Dowerin where a number of coloured children competed and I was struck by the evidence of friendliness, amounting almost to affection, existing between the native and white children who were scholars at the same schools. The condition and behaviour of the native children left nothing to be desired.

That is all right, but when children are brought up in camps amongst dogs and other unsavoury features that I shall not mention, it is of no use talking of their associating with white children.

Some couple of years ago I moved for the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into juvenile delinquency. I did not feel that I had had sufficient experience to take the chairmanship, and so I asked Sir Hal Colebatch to act in that capacity.

reasoned that he had had a long political experience and that, with him as chairman, we could put up a report in reasonable language that would perhaps have some effect. After I had pleaded with him to undertake this duty, he consented. But what was the result? The Government put into force only one of the recommendations of the Select Committee. To be perfectly fair, the Government had half decided before the committee met upon taking this course, but some difference of opinion between two sets of officials prevented the contemplated action being taken, namely; the erection of a more suitable detention room. There is no doubt about the accuracy of the committee's report. The place of detention for boys on remand—boys awaiting trial—was absolutely disgraceful to any civilised community. The committee viewed the premises, and I consider that we were justified in using fairly strong language in recommending that the Government at once provide a building which would not be an offence to our civilisation.

This morning I asked permission of the Commissioner of Police to see the new building, and arrangements were made accordingly. Well, it certainly is a big improvement, but the pity is that the building was erected in a yard. The room is by no means large enough and it is jammed up between stables and an office where some of the police have to work. The place was somewhat smelly and the room was certainly not very creditable for a Government building. In my opinion, the whole place should be pulled down. In fact, it would be a good idea to carry the demolition right along Roe-street and clean up the whole of that section of the city. It is time that the City Council condemned the whole of those houses and got rid of them.

The Select Committee also recommended that a council be appointed in order to obtain co-ordination between departments. We found that the various departments, including the Child Welfare Department, had been acting almost as separate units; one did not know what the other was doing. For instance, a boy might be ordered six months in an institution and in three weeks' time a policeman would see him in the street. We asked how that could happen, and were told, "Someone came along and told us that if we released Tommy Jones, he would be

looked after, and that it was a pity for him to be stuck away in an institution." So he would be released, but the other Government departments responsible would not be advised, and thus there was an entire lack of co-ordination. The Select Committee, following the lead of South Australia, recommended the constitution of a council consisting of the principal Government officers dealing with youths. I think I am right in saying that the only recommendation of the Select Committee that was adopted was the one for the building of a new detention room. Let me quote a passage from a report in "The West Australian" of the 4th April, 1946, as follows:—

Mr. Schroeder: I am sending you boys to different institutions not under Section 20, because power has been given to the secretary of the Child Welfare Department to alter my recommendations—

That does not seem to be right. The secretary of the Child Welfare Department is a very fine gentleman, but Mr. Schroeder made this complaint. He continued—

—but under Section 25 where the Governor's approval is necessary to make any alterations to my recommendations. I have had bitter experiences of boys in institutions putting their heads together and absconding to commit further offences. In one year 15 boys committed 212 offences. I don't want to give you boys the opportunity of getting together again.

The Select Committee dealt with that specific point, but apparently this sort of thing is still going on. I hold no brief for Mr. Schroeder; with some of the things he does, I do not agree, but he heard the case and passed sentence and I do not think that the secretary of the Child Welfare Department or anyone else should be allowed to alter the magistrate's decision without first consulting him. I am wondering whether the Government could not appoint a psychologist to act in conjunction with Mr. Schroeder. Boys are being brought before the magistrate continually, and mostly for all sorts of petty offences, without having previously been psychologically examined, so far as I know. I do not say that it is not done, but I do not think we have an officer devoting all his time to this duty. I believe that these boys are brought before Mr. Schroeder without being first examined by a psychologist. In order that Mr. Schroeder might have a proper appreciation of an offender's weaknesses, I think he should be informed how

the boy had reacted to psychological examination, and without that I do not think anybody could make the punishment fit the crime.

I congratulate the Commissioner of Police on the establishment of the police boys' clubs, which are doing excellent work. There is also the idea of his sergeants visiting the schools and talking to the children so that they might understand that the police are there to care for them and not to hunt them down and put them inside. In addition, the Commissioner has arranged for some of his men to give talks about the frightful accident rate on the roads and the safety measures to be adopted. This is all to the good.

Members are aware of the accident that happened on the Midland line recently. Fortunately for me, I was on the train before that one. My state of health has not been of the best lately and I consider myself fortunate that I was not in the accident. I have before me a copy of the Act dealing with the Midland Railway Company, and am wondering whether the conditions laid down by law are being complied with. I would hate to think that they are not. I understand it is the duty of the Commissioner of Railways to make a personal inspection of the Midland Company's line at least once a year and satisfy himself that the track is in order. I should like an assurance from the Minister that this is being done. I do not want to say anything about the actual accident; there had been a heavy fall of rain and accidents will happen. Many rumours are in circulation, however, and I should like, for the satisfaction of the people who use the line, to know that the Commissioner of Railways or his chief engineer makes a thorough examination of the Midland rail-road every year.

I received a letter from a gentleman in Tasmania some time ago which I sent to Mr. Fernie. This man was not seeking a position but was drawing my attention to the waste which occurs in our forests. He wrote as follows:—

Some weeks ago I met Mr. R. Coath at the Burnie Club, Tasmania, when we discussed your State and its possibilities in respect to sawmill waste for manufacture into pulp and paper. He told me that he would write you reference our talks. As I am unknown to you, I may say that in 1945 I left Russia, where I had for four years been consulting engineer

to the Soviet Government. I arrived in England and was invited to come to Australia to consider the manufacture of pulp and paper from eucalyptus hardwood. The result was that I designed, built and operated as general superintendent Burnie Mills for Associated Pulp and Paper Mills Ltd. At present I am technical adviser to Tasmanian Paper and Timber Mills Ltd., Launceston, Tasmania where we propose to erect a pulp and paper plant with a capital of £3,000,000, using slabs, or "cut offs," from 20 sawmills which we control, and the quantity of wood required above the available waste will be cut from Crown lands. The Tasmanian Paper and Timber Mills Bill, 1946, passed the second reading in the House last week.

Before going to Russia, I spent 25 years in America and Canada designing and operating pulp and paper mills.

Mr. Coath suggested I write this letter as you were very interested in the industrial development of your State. If you are considering any development along these lines, I shall be happy to offer you any assistance I can provided it does not interfere with my associations here in Tasmania.

I am at present discussing a project in Queensland having for its object the manufacture of fine papers from bajusse (sugar cane waste). I do not mean wall boards, but white and coloured printing papers, etc.

Hope to receive a reply in due course.

I replied to him, thanking him for his interest, and passed the letter to Mr. Fernie. I am sorry that he is in the North-West, and when I called at his office he was not there and those in attendance were not able to give me any information as to whether he had done as he had promised and communicated with this gentleman. I have here a cutting which deals with what has been done in America. It reads as follows:—

Inseparably connected with a sawmill is the sawdust heap. On our local mills elaborate carrying plants have been installed to carry the sawdust to a great distance from the mill, so that it can be burned in safety. Up to date no useful purpose has been found for it that did not entail more cost than the finished article was worth.

Now comes word from America that they are turning the dust heaps in that country into alcohol, and that it can be produced to sell at about tenpence per gallon.

The article goes on to show that in other countries something is being done with this waste material and I shall be interested to learn from Mr. Fernie whether he has been able to get to work on it. I suppose it is a question of finance, but we should be able to get some assistance from the Common-

wealth Government. I have a clipping about co-operative hospitals. That is something I should like to see. In the Central Province, at Carnamah, there has been only one hotel and that has been turned into a community hotel. The same thing has been done at Cunderdin. I commend that practice to the Government. I understand that the Government has State hotels. In some centres there is only one hotel and I have been told by a well-informed man—and I am going to try to find out whether what he says is true—that there is 'one such hotel which, although it is the only establishment of its kind in the place, is being run at a loss. If the Government is conducting any hotel at a loss, it would be well advised to interest the local people and turn the establishment into a community hotel. I cannot understand why a hotel in any centre should be run at a loss.

Reverting to hospitals, the paragraph which I have here speaks of co-operative hospitals, in the management and control of which the people of the district take an active interest. In our old settled towns, such as Geraldton, Albany and Bunbury, we have what are known as Government hospitals, which are controlled by the Government. In my own town for a number of years there has been a tendency for people not to take much interest in the hospital, the contention being that it is the Government's job. When I returned from the Goldfields 20 years ago, I inaugurated a hospital comforts fund, so that we might be able to provide patients with some little amenities: and that fund is still in operation. Two primary producers of Geraldton—Mr. Archibald McKellar, and Mr. Charles Rush—bequeathed a fair amount of money to the fund and we now have £3,500, the interest of which—about £180—is spent in buying comforts for the hospital patients. Apart from that, nobody takes much interest in the institution; and I think that the Government would be well advised, in a democratic country such as this, to endeavour, by hook or by crook, to persuade the people to take an interest in hospitals. The way to do it would be by appointing local committees that would be responsible in some way for the management. In that manner interest would be created and the hospitals would not be looked upon as being purely Government institutions.

I would like to know how the Perth Hospital is being conducted in these days. We used to have a committee, headed by Mr. Panton, who is now a Minister of the Crown. Mr. Needham, a member of the Labour Party, was also on the committee. They could not get what they wanted from the Government in the way of finance, and withdrew. Since then, I think the hospital has been run as a Government institution. And what about the Children's Hospital? Who elects the committee? I attended an annual meeting one year. I had subscribed to the hospital and I went to what I thought was a public meeting, but I found that it was nothing of the sort. Who elects the gentlemen comprising that committee? There is a fine body of men running it—I have nothing to say against them—but who elects them? These hospitals should have elected committees, but I think that in a democratic community—

Hon. H. Tuckey: The public elects them.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: I would like the hon. member to have a talk to me. I can easily prove to him that that is not so.

Hon. H. Tuckey: They elect the committees in the country.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: I do not propose to address the House on the subject of betting, because that subject will come up for discussion in due course; but we heard something about this matter the other night from Sir Hal Colebatch, a gentleman who is well fitted to talk to us on account of his vast political experience.

Hon. L. B. Bolton: Is he a punter?

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: I do not know, but he has the position worked out to a very fine point when it gets down to 1½d. I am one of those who buy charities tickets, but I do not believe in the Lotteries Commission. I think we could have men working in an honorary capacity and could make the venture more in the nature of a charity than it is. That, however, is by the way. If men must bet, I think it is preferable that they should be made to contribute to the revenue of the country.

Take the poker player and the bridge player. I do not play either game, and what I am going to say is only hearsay—and rumour is a lying jade. But I am told that these people play for high stakes from which the revenue of the country does not benefit

at all. But the man who pays half-a-crown for a lottery ticket or bets on the race-course contributes to the revenue; and that is where the Government should tackle starting-price betting. There is something to be said to the credit of the Australian, who is acknowledged to be a confirmed gambler. I have here some figures from the Commonwealth Statistician relating to the savings of the people during the war years. In that period, Australians saved £1,442,000,000, representing an annual saving of £240,000,000. So, if the Australian likes his little flutter, at least he is saving some money; and I think that is something of which we can be proud.

Although those figures were reached during the war period, when trading was restricted, they indicate what can be achieved in a planned economy, which, if wisely administered, could easily be of great benefit to the majority of people with little if any serious inconvenience to the minority. I heard some *sotto voce* comments about this planned economy. I do not want to be ordered all over the place myself, but that does go to show what can be done when people are not allowed to fritter money away on all sorts of geegaws.

I turn now to the question of shipping. We have been unable to ship our tomatoes to Singapore where there is a promising market. We also make beer in Geraldton, for which we have a market in Singapore. We also have thousands of cases of apples and thousands of cases of oranges which cannot be shipped. I have a statement here from the secretary of the Chamber of Commerce saying that it has been impossible to get supplies to Darwin. The Blue Funnel line, which had been enabling us to trade with Singapore for many years, lost about half or three-quarters of its fleet during the war. I was thinking of trying to obtain a combined request to the Commonwealth Government for another ship, because most of the space in the existing Blue Funnel steamers is taken up by the military authorities, and private exporters are cut out. However, I am assured by the company that in September a 10,000-ton ship will visit us and it will not be a question of shutting cargo out but of obtaining enough cargo to take away.

In New South Wales there is an ambitious scheme afoot to aid pensioners. I know that here with so much to do

and so little money with which to do it, Ministers must be hard-pressed to meet the daily requirements of their departments. Even private members receive a good many requests and a man is pretty well on his toes most of the time; but here is something that a civilised community might well give some attention to. Have any hon. members any association with those people who have reached the time when they can claim the old age pension and who—it does not matter whether they are married or single—are renting a room somewhere in a locality which is not very nice? I have received a letter from an old friend of mine who has been notified that she has to vacate her premises, and I have been wondering whether the Government could do something to provide a place for pensioners like the Silver Chain Home; whether there could not be an attempt to provide homes for aged people so that they will not have to live in one room and cook their meals on a primus stove. That sort of thing does not say much for us.

Many of them are not only aged, but infirm. These people have been worthy citizens—some of them may not have been, but we cannot separate them—and the Government should consider doing something along the lines I have suggested, now that the war is over and we are getting back to normal times. In this State we have an excellent body, and I have recently been invited to join its executive. I refer to the Children's Protection Society. If members do not know of them, I will tell them something of its activities. Many women who have babies—whether these women have husbands or not—go out to work during the day so as to keep their children rather than send them to an institution. Well, what do they do with their children during the day? They leave them at the Home in Stirling-street, run by the Society. I was there this morning and I would like to take members there to see the kiddies who are as happy and contented as possible. They are cared for and looked after by the staff while their mothers are at work. I ask the Government to increase its subsidy to this worthy movement. At present the Government grants £100 per annum to the Children's Protection Society.

Hon. L. B. Bolton: Does the Charities Commission assist?

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: I have only just joined the executive and have not yet attended a meeting. Mr. Latham is president of the Society and I would be surprised to learn that the Charities Commission does not assist. We talk about our home life and the necessity to do all we can to assist mothers to look after their children, and I think that women who battle like that for their children should have their efforts substantially assisted by the State. I have a letter from the Upper Chapman Road Board telling me of the work it has done with its Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, and asking me to bring to the notice of the Government the necessity for a subsidy. That also is a necessary work and I commend the appeal to the Government. I am sorry if my remarks have been lengthy, but I felt that I had to say what I have. It is with pleasure that I support the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-reply.

On motion by Hon. C. H. Simpson, debate adjourned.

*House adjourned at 6.4 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly.

*Tuesday, 6th August, 1946.*

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

## QUESTIONS.

### PERTH HOSPITAL.

#### *As to Estimated and Actual Costs.*

Mr. McDONALD asked the Minister for Health:

1, What was the estimate of the cost of the new Perth Public Hospital, furniture and equipment at the time the Government authorised its construction?

2, What is the expenditure to date on the hospital?

3, What is now estimated to be the total cost of the hospital building and equipment when completed and ready for use?

The MINISTER replied:

1, £765,000.

2, £505,594.

3, Since the estimate was prepared in 1938, numerous changes have occurred in medical practice and hospital administration, policy and requirements, which will necessitate the complete re-casting of proposals for those sections of the hospital on which construction has not yet commenced, in the light of requirements at the time the buildings are to be constructed.

Reductions in working hours have resulted in a considerable increase in nursing staff, and quarters will now have to be far larger than originally proposed. The extent of quarters which will ultimately be required cannot be computed until it is known what nurses will be required for the unconstructed sections of the hospital referred to above.

Since the estimate was prepared in 1938, the area of the main hospital building has been increased approximately one-third to provide for an intermediate ward section, and additional accommodation in some sections.

These facts make it impossible to assess the ultimate cost of the hospital.

All that can be said at the moment is that due to the items set out above, and the fact that building costs have increased very materially since 1938, the final cost of the hospital must obviously be considerably in excess of the original estimate.