

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: And the decision on that was made before this motion was debated.

The ACTING PREMIER: I have already said, and repeat with the greatest emphasis at my command, that this motion would not have been moved in this House had it not been for the desire to prevent further activity of this kind in regard to the Civil Service in this State and, in short, for the purpose of ensuring that the Civil Service is allowed to carry on its functions in the manner intended and provided by law. In those circumstances, there being no other reasons, I submit the motion.

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

Ayes	22
Noes	21
Majority for	1

**Ayes:**

Mr. Abbott	Mr. Manning
Mr. Brand	Mr. Nalder
Dame F. Cardell-Oliver	Mr. Nimmo
Mr. Cornell	Mr. Oldfield
Mr. Doney	Mr. Owen
Mr. Grayden	Mr. Perkins
Mr. Griffith	Mr. Thorn
Mr. Hearman	Mr. Watts
Mr. Hill	Mr. Wild
Mr. Hutchinson	Mr. Yates
Mr. Mann	Mr. Bovell

(Teller.)

**Noes.**

Mr. Brady	Mr. McCulloch
Mr. Butcher	Mr. Moir
Mr. Graham	Mr. Needham
Mr. Guthrie	Mr. Nulsen
Mr. Hawke	Mr. Rodoreda
Mr. J. Hegney	Mr. Sewell
Mr. W. Hegney	Mr. Sleeman
Mr. Hoar	Mr. Styants
Mr. Johnson	Mr. Tonkin
Mr. Lawrence	Mr. Kelly
Mr. May	

(Teller.)

**Pair.**

<b>Aye.</b>	<b>No.</b>
Mr. McLarty	Mr. Coverley

Question thus passed; the motion agreed to.

*House adjourned at 7.46 p.m.*

## JOINT SITTING.

### Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly.

Tuesday, 30th September, 1952.

#### CONTENTS.

Joint Sitting : Federal Senate vacancy, election	Page
.....	1140

#### FEDERAL SENATE VACANCY.

In accordance with the Standing Orders passed by both Houses of Parliament and approved by Executive Council, the members of the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly met in joint sitting in the Legislative Council Chamber to fill the vacancy in the representation of Western Australia in the Senate of the Federal Parliament caused by the death of Senator Edmund Stephen Roper Piesse.

The President of the Legislative Council (Hon. Sir Harold Seddon), in accordance with the Standing Orders, took the Chair at 4.41 p.m. He was accompanied by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly (Hon. C. F. J. North).

#### *Election.*

The PRESIDENT: This joint sitting has been called for the purpose of electing a senator to the Senate in place of the late Senator E. S. R. Piesse. I am now prepared to receive nominations.

The DEPUTY PREMIER (Hon. A. F. Watts-Stirling): I propose—

That William Charles Robinson, road board secretary, of Pingelly, be elected to fill the vacancy in the Federal Senate due to the death of Senator Edmund Stephen Roper Piesse.

I have Mr. Robinson's assurance that, if elected, he is prepared to act.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. D. Brand—Greenough): I second the motion.

The PRESIDENT. Are there any further nominations? Having ascertained that there are no further nominations, I declare Mr. William Charles Robinson duly elected. That concludes the Joint Sitting.

*The President left the Chair.*

# Legislative Council

Tuesday, 30th September, 1952.

## CONTENTS.

	Page
Federal Senate Vacancy :	
Message .....	1141
As to Joint Sitting .....	1141
Vacancy filled .....	1141
Questions : Sawn timber, as to Wundowie	
output, price and sale .....	1141
Lambs and sheep, as to slaughterings for	
export .....	1141
Fisheries, as to slipway, Denham .....	1141
Address-in-reply, fifteenth day .....	1142
Speaker on Address—	
The Minister for Agriculture (Hon. Sir	
Charles Latham) .....	1142

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

## FEDERAL SENATE VACANCY.

### Message.

The President reported the receipt of a Message from His Excellency the Governor transmitting a copy of a despatch from the President of the Senate notifying a vacancy in the Senate representation of Western Australia through the death of Senator E. S. R. Piesse.

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT: I move—

That with reference to the Message from His Excellency the Governor, the Hon. the President be requested to confer with Mr. Speaker in order to fix a day and place whereon and whereat the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly, sitting and voting together shall choose a person to hold the place of the senator whose place has become vacant.

Question put and passed.

*Sitting suspended from 4.35 to 4.37 p.m.*

### As to Joint Sitting.

The PRESIDENT: I have to announce that a joint sitting has been fixed to take place in the Legislative Council Chamber this day immediately.

*Sitting suspended during the joint sitting of both Houses to elect a Federal senator (vide report ante) from 4.38 to 4.44 p.m.*

### Vacancy Filled.

The PRESIDENT: I have to announce that, at a joint sitting of members of the two houses of Parliament this afternoon, William Charles Robinson, road board secretary, of Pingelly, was duly elected to fill the vacancy in the Federal Senate due to the death of Senator E. S. R. Piesse.

## QUESTIONS.

### SAWN TIMBER.

*As to Wundowie Output, Price and Sale.*  
Hon. J. MURRAY asked the Minister for Transport:

Will he inform the House—

(1) What is the total daily output of sawn timber at Wundowie sawmill?

(2) What price is charged for timber produced at Wundowie up to 6in. x 3in.?

(3) Is this timber sold through the State Saw Mills or direct to customers?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) Approximately 20 loads per day average.

(2) Timber from Wundowie is sold and delivered in the metropolitan area at the rates set out for various sizes in the Associated Sawmillers and Timber Merchants' price-lists from time to time less usual trade discounts to those entitled to them. At the present time the price for sizes up to 6in. x 3in. is 88s. 6d. per hundred super feet delivered at Perth.

(3) Direct to customers.

### LAMBS AND SHEEP.

#### *As to Slaughterings for Export.*

Hon. L. C. DIVER asked the Minister for Agriculture:

(1) On what date did killing for export of lambs and sheep commence for this season?

(2) What are the numbers for each week, and how do these figures compare with a similar period last year?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) On the 14 the August, 1952.

(2) The killing season commenced much earlier this year than last and weekly comparisons could therefore be made for only two weeks:—

Week ended the 18th September—  
Lambs: 1951, 2,325; 1952, 7,854. Sheep: 1951, 71; 1952, 6,473.

Week ended the 25th September—  
Lambs: 1951, 6,563; 1952, 8,710. Sheep: 1951, 150; 1952, 8,486.

Total number killed to 25/9/52—26,026 lambs and 27,147 sheep.

Total number killed to 29/9/51—8,888 lambs and 221 sheep.

### FISHERIES.

#### *As to Slipway, Denham.*

Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND asked the Minister for Transport:

When does the Government intend to commence work on the slipway for fishing boats at Denham, Shark Bay?

The MINISTER replied:

No decision has been made in this regard. The matter is under examination, and the engineer for the North-West has visited the locality and had discussions with interested people.

#### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

*Fifteenth Day.*

Debate resumed from the 25th September.

**THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE** (Hon. Sir Charles Latham—Central) [4.48]: I wish to thank members for their references during their speeches to the Department of Agriculture and more particularly those who informed the House of the prospects in the Esperance district. Many years ago I was chairman of a Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the light lands of the State and it was my pleasure to visit Esperance. Under the guidance of some of the old settlers, I was afforded an opportunity to see what had been done in the district and to form an opinion of future possibilities.

Anyone who cares to read the Commission's report will see what views I expressed at that time. I stated that the country could be developed to the point of carrying two sheep to the acre and that that might be regarded as quite a profitable venture for anyone who cared to engage in the industry. Since then a great many changes have taken place due not only to the more liberal use by land-owners of superphosphate, but also to the use of trace elements, which have proved of material assistance in the district. I believe that Esperance is quite a flourishing district and I hope to take the first opportunity of having a look at it, and seeing in what way the State can further help it.

The district is isolated, but I believe that in 40 or 50 years' time it will be very important because it has rainfall spread over a good many months of the year, which is very useful for farming. It has great possibilities, not only from the point of view of sheep, but also of cattle, and, in addition, quite a number of cereals can be grown there. The district has several problems confronting it, and the greatest is its remoteness from what I might term the only port suitable for the export of its goods. It has limited markets which it can supply, but looking at the large area still available, beyond what has already been selected, there is a possibility of a lot of stock and cereals being raised there.

At present there is a big oversea market for oats and barley. Looking a long way ahead, I believe there will be a large market for barley in various parts of the world. Japan has turned to Australia for a supply of this cereal at £1 per bushel.

It is to be used as a substitute for rice, which the world is short of, and will continue to be short of because of the outlook today of the people in the over-populated countries. In the past they have barely existed, but today it is the intention of those countries to see that their people are properly fed.

Australia will be able to make a great contribution in this regard, and Esperance will certainly play its part. I know it is extremely expensive to get super at Esperance. Super itself is costly, and when one adds the railway freight charges, one realises that a great deal of capital is required to make a start. In the future it may be possible to establish a superphosphate works in the Esperance districts, although I cannot visualise it now. Mr. Boylen mentioned this point, but I would suggest to him that it is anticipated an early start will be made on the manufacturing of superphosphate at Albany, and if there is a boat service between Albany and Esperance it will mean a considerable reduction in freight to the people at Esperance. I am holding that out as some inducement for them to look to the future with more certainty than they have in the past.

Although the country is light, it is not easy to bring it into production without a great deal of capital. Fencing posts are scarce. If the price of steel comes down to some reasonable figure. I suggest that steel posts will be used with concrete posts for strainers and corner posts, and so reduce the costs. But looking 40 or 50 years hence, I imagine this portion of Western Australia will play an important part in agricultural production. I say to the representatives of this area and to those who have extolled its possibilities, that the Government is fully behind them and is anxious to do everything possible for them.

This year Esperance has had a fairly good season. That is encouraging because some parts of the State are doing very badly. Mr. Baxter mentioned that a large area of land would be cleared in the agricultural areas, and wanted to know the possibility of having the clearing done by bulldozers. Certainly, in some parts of our agricultural districts considerable areas are uncleared, but not as much as the hon. gentleman thinks. In the north-east corner quite a lot of land is still not cleared, but if one travels through Western Australia from south to north one realises the terrific amount that has already been done by the small number of people involved.

The work that has been carried out is a monument to the pioneers. I venture to suggest that there are not many places where the same amount of energy, hard work and capital have been expended as in the wheatbelt. If we travel by plane from Katanning to Geraldton, there is

nothing but cleared squares as far as the eye can see; and this land has all been cleared by the axe. It requires a great heart and a lot of muscle to do that work. I believe that the axe in the wheat-belt is still a more profitable way of clearing than bulldozing.

Hon. N. E. Baxter: Not with today's labour charges.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: I do not think any bulldozing can be done under £3 an acre, and I have been informed of recent contracts for clearing heavily timbered country at £3 10s. an acre. The axe work gives greater value because the timber is felled and the fire destroys the stumps remarkably well. Then the ash is spread over the soil and helps to sweeten it. When a bulldozer pushes over the trees the ground is rooted up to a depth of a foot or 18 in. with the result that sour soil is frequently turned up; and then there is the work of filling in the holes afterwards.

Hon. H. L. Roche: Who can you get to swing an axe today?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: If the hon. member reads the newspapers he will have seen advertisements recently of people wanting to take on the work of clearing land. He will know what happened in about 1925 or 1928 when a lot of Slavs came here, and went out in gangs of 20 and 30 clearing land under the management of an old Australian, who had been here for some years.

Hon. L. C. Diver: Do you think that type will come again?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: I think so. This country wants leaders, and until we have them I am fearful that we will house our people only in the metropolitan area. After all, they have to go out into the country if the State is to be developed and it is most important to keep them there. This is one reason why members of this House and of another place are all the time talking about how we should extend amenities to people in the country. That is a sound policy, and it will have to be followed irrespective of what Governments assume power.

Members know that we cannot get the young folk to go into the country today because they have been brought up under conditions totally different from those of years ago. I suppose that in the history of Australia, there has not previously been—as has been apparent since the beginning of the last war—such a tendency towards socialisation, because we run to the Government for everything we want; and we have become, more or less, serfs who follow the instructions of Governments. We want to get away from that attitude because if we do not I am fearful that this country will not have the development it should or the people necessary to hold it. After some

years of experience, I have formed the opinion that the more we can encourage people with individuality and initiative—

Hon. H. Hearn: Hear, hear!

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE:—to go out into the country, or into business as self-supporting units—

Hon. H. Hearn: And not ask the Government to help them.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE:—the better it will be. If a person, immediately he comes up against a problem, wants Government finance or Government advice, that all tends towards socialisation.

Hon. N. E. Baxter: You could get bank finance in the early days but not today.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: I do not know whether that is so or not, but in recent times the banks have made large advances—quite a number of them. We will not have enough money at any time to meet every demand.

Hon. H. L. Roche: Perhaps Governments take too much away from the people these days.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Then let us see what they do with it. The money is circulated; it is not locked up.

Hon. C. W. D. Barker: That is so.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: The money is expended in some direction or other. Also the department, over which I have control, is a most important one. But I must remind members that it does not deal solely with the South-West, the wheatbelt, the North-West or the coastal areas. The department's activities extend from one end of the country to the other, and consequently its officers, in order to cope with all the requirements, are faced with a terrific amount of work. If the department had to find the money required to meet all the demands that are made by a population of 600,000 people, the State would be worse off financially than it is at the moment.

So I want members to go out into the country and encourage people by every means possible; do not ask them to be mendicants. Tell the people to think for themselves and not rush to the Government for assistance on every occasion they come up against obstacles. This country was not developed along those lines or under those conditions. While I have a great appreciation of what the people have done in the past, I want to extend the same compliment to the people who will do the work in the future. The people who pioneered this country did a wonderful job, and I hope to extend that compliment to the people who are carrying on their work. The hon. member also said that the people cannot get money to develop the wheatbelt area. A good deal of our land was developed for about £1 an acre.

Hon. N. E. Baxter: That was years ago.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: The hon. member does not appreciate that.

Hon. N. E. Baxter: I appreciate it, but it is a different proposition today.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: I mentioned previously the figure of £3 an acre because I realise that the value of our money has depreciated.

Hon. H. L. Roche: It is still wishful thinking.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: I do not want to find fault with anything that has been said in this House, but it is easy to sit back in an armchair and criticise from there. I ask members to go out into the country and try to point out to the people what they should do; members of this House are experienced; they have had business training and farming training and they should be prepared to go out and help the other fellow, especially the man who is finding difficulty in making a success of his farm. Many of those people think that if their troubles are taken to Parliament it is the beginning and end of it, because the Government can be made to do what they want. That is a false hope.

Hon. N. E. Baxter: It is not because of his troubles; it is because of food production.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Yes, but a great deal more food production could take place on our farms today. I am not afraid to go out to the wheat-belt area and state that fact from the public platform. After all, we have built up a system based on a 40-hour week and we cannot carry that burden on our shoulders and increase our production by doing less work. There is only one thing that counts in this world and that is work. We cannot sit down and manufacture an article unless we use our hands and brains. So if we have to handle this country, as I hope we will be able to handle it, we must encourage people to retain that initiative by which this country was developed. I have seen some of the country that has been bulldozed and I am hopeful of extending this method of clearing particularly in the hills country where that is possibly the best way to handle the timber. The Government is hoping to get sufficient money to do some developmental work in that area.

Hon. N. E. Baxter: It is a blessing to hear that.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Wholemilk production, of course, is scattered throughout the South-West but I would like to see it confined to one area so that it would not interfere with the production of butter, cheese, or processed milk. At the moment we are facing a situation which is causing me some alarm.

There is a processed milk factory down there which has rendered great service to the State. This question of supplying processed milk concerns not only the metropolitan area but also other parts of the State where it is not possible to supply fresh milk.

But, as I have said before in this House, there are many parts of the State, including the wheatbelt area, where farmers could profitably run cows for seven or eight months of the year. Those people should be able to provide themselves with milk instead of having to rely on processed milk from the South-West. At the moment the factory is giving serious consideration to its future prospects. If that factory is closed down, or removed from where it is, the people who are living in the back country of this State will have some difficulty in getting supplies of processed milk. I do not want to see us faced with a situation where we have to import from the Eastern States, or anywhere else, an article that we can supply ourselves. At the moment we have to import a number of things but fortunately milk is not included in the list.

In the course of his contribution to the debate, Dr. Hislop referred to the question of processing milk by the Hughes method. Recently, Mr. Hughes was in this State and gave a demonstration with his homogenisation plant. Personally, I do not think that that milk would be any better than the dried product. There are two kinds of dried milk, roller-dried milk and spray-dried milk. Of course, spray-dried milk will mix more easily and better than the other and, to my mind, that is the better method to use because the product is cheaper to transport and it does not have to be mixed except when it is required. I believe that to be the solution to our difficulties.

Under Mr. Hughes' method the dried separated milk is mixed with water in a machine and the idea is to have these machines in our country areas. I do not know who is to look after them; but if the schools are to be supplied with milk, some organisation will be necessary because we could not expect the teachers to wash the bottles or containers or to look after the machines. If we concentrated more on the spray-dried milk and placed it in suitable containers that would be the answer to the problem of supplying milk in the back country. I am hoping that greater quantities of milk will be produced in Mr. Baxter's territory, the hills country. That country, in recent years, has been developed by people who are prepared to work without Government assistance or money.

Hon. N. E. Baxter: Very small parts of it.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Yes, but everything has a small beginning. I have not seen many ventures start and blazon forth unless a great deal of capital has been expended, but the solid man is the one who starts with little and advances because he takes pride in what he is doing, knowing himself to be responsible for the growth of his property. That is what will happen in our hills country if we are able to encourage the people, and I think we can do something for them.

While talking of the hills country, I wish to point out that we are doing everything we can for the people engaged in fruit-growing. One or two canning factories are established here and they are prepared to take our fruit, provided it is suitable; and during the last year or two those factories have been providing us with a good deal of canned fruit. In these days we are faced with many obstacles. Last year we had an outbreak of peach moth which attacked the stone fruit and this year the Government has provided a sum of money which will be available to help eradicate this pest.

The fruit producers of this country have subscribed a substantial sum of money towards an insurance fund and this will greatly assist those producers who find themselves up against it. Recently we had an outbreak of codlin moth in this State, but I am pleased to advise the House that only 12 caterpillars were found last year. We anticipate that by the end of this season the area will be declared clean again. The people who are growing fruit in the area affected by the codlin moth have lost a good deal of their income, but the fruitgrowers themselves, with Government assistance, have been able to carry the loss. This self-help business is of considerable value in other industries as well.

I listened attentively to Mr. Roche and while I have no complaints to make about his remarks, he seemed to feel that the world was against the farmer. He said that times were difficult for the farmers, but I would remind him that they are difficult for everybody, not only in Western Australia, but everywhere else. It is not a bad Government that causes it here, and it is not a bad Government that causes it elsewhere; this condition has been brought about by a set of circumstances that started during the war period when the Government, more or less, took control of all of us and everything we had.

So far conditions have not returned to normal, but as soon as they do farmers, with the experience they have had, will be able to look to the future with a good deal more security than will be possible for people who are engaged in business or other trades and callings. It has not been

easy. Those who had received a great deal of money from wool clips were suddenly faced with the necessity of paying provisional tax. This was not imposed only against the farmers because the measure had been on the statute book for a number of years. The farmers had to pay their annual tax and a certain sum of money to meet future taxation that might be levied in the year ahead.

The point is that obstacles are being overcome and while we sometimes think that farmers are getting a great deal of money for their wheat and wool, when we analyse it and take into account the present-day value of the £, we realise that their incomes are not so large as they appear. Then again, Mr. Roche talked about incentives being required to encourage greater production. Of course, it is easy to talk about providing incentives. The Commonwealth Government knows the value of the farmers in the production of foodstuffs that are required and has granted a number of concessions that are not applicable to other sections of the community. They have received advantages with regard to taxation and they are allowed 20 per cent. rebates in respect of nearly everything that is required for work on their farms. In the old days, the farmers were not allowed any deductions of that sort. When Mr. Roche first went on his farm, he did not receive any concessions such as those enjoyed by the farmers of today.

Wirenetting is costly but the farmer today receives rebates in respect of purchases of that requirement. He can build a house valued at £2,000 to provide accommodation for his employees and he is able to deduct that amount from his taxable income, and that applies over a period of five years. All these incentives have been granted in the interests of men who are producing so much of what we require. Complaints have been voiced regarding the high cost of super, but there again expenditure under that heading can be deducted from the amount on which taxation is imposed. There are many ways in which assistance of this description has been rendered to the men on the land.

Hon. N. E. Baxter: That shows they realise the injustice that has been done to the farmers.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: I agree. I can still picture the hon. member when, as a boy, he was struggling on his farm and did not enjoy any of these amenities. He worked from daylight till dark, and then he was able to look back on the area he had cleared.

Hon. L. C. Diver: Look at what is done with your modern education!

Hon. H. Hearn: You want them to appreciate what has been done for them.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: I do. I know these men and how they have to work hard to get what they receive.

Hon. C. W. D. Barker: Like they have to do up North now.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: It applies not only to those in the North. It applies in other parts of the State, as I have suggested.

Hon. H. Hearn: And there is a silver lining.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: I have been in this State for more than 40 years and I have always noticed that, just when things appear most difficult, something turns up at the right time and helps us out. I hope early rains in the Kimberley areas will help the people there once more. As to Mr. Henning's remarks during the course of his contribution to the debate, one would have thought that there was only the dairying industry to consider. I look to that hon. member to make a definite contribution to the solution of the difficulty. He has had much experience.

I believe that for three years, or probably even longer, he was a member of one of the zone development committees, and he must have gained a lot of knowledge of the subject during that period. His knowledge should be very profitable to this House, if only he would tell us what is necessary and how it can be accomplished by the people concerned. He could indicate to us what was necessary as a function of government to help along those lines. He mentioned two gentlemen who visited this State, but I do not know who invited them.

Hon. C. H. Henning: The Federal Government—

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Just a minute! The hon. member should be sure of his facts. I have their names here. One was Mr. Allen and the other was—

Hon. C. H. Henning: Dr Frimzell.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: He is a cartographic expert and I understand he was brought here to carry out some planning in parts of the country. He had a great deal of experience in Germany before coming to Australia. He and Mr. Allen, who is the Deputy Director of the Regional Planning Department, came here under the national development scheme, and evidently they were invited by the South-West Zone Development Committee. That is the information given to me.

It would appear that a proposition was placed before the Premier, who at first said that he would give effect to the requests made to him. That was his attitude until he looked more closely at the proposal. Then he found that agreement

to carry out all that was suggested would mean that more than half the revenue of the country would be spent in one corner of the State and nothing would be left for the rest of Western Australia.

Hon. N. E. Baxter: Is not that largely the position now?

Hon. C. H. Henning: The scheme was to apply throughout the country.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: At any rate, very little good was derived from the report submitted as a result of the visit of these people. They secured information from local residents, just as we could get it. As I say, very little came out of the visit, and that was no fault of the Government. However, I did expect that Mr. Henning, with his knowledge and his acquaintance with the country ever since he was a young man—he still is a young man, for that matter—would have told this House what was required and that he would have indicated to the Minister for Agriculture and even to the Premier what could be done and how to do it. Of course, it is quite easy for these armchair critics to say what should be done. I assure Mr. Henning that the Government is doing all it can. He is perfectly aware that we have a lot of sub-standard farms, such as those which were taken up in the original group settlement areas. At no time has sufficient money been available to enable those farms to be converted into efficient properties.

Similar difficulties are experienced here as are noted in other parts of the world and I propose to quote an extract from a paper, for I think the remarks contained therein can be regarded as having general application. In adopting that course I shall follow in the footsteps of Mr. Henning himself, by making quotations to lend point to the argument. My object is to show that the scientists and specialists, these men who sit in armchairs and talk from the theoretical point of view, do not provide the solution. Let them show the Government how what they suggest can be done and where the money will come from to enable the Government to carry out such projects.

The Agricultural Department is endeavouring to build up a staff of scientists as quickly as possible. It is short of veterinary officers. The Government is providing for the education of six students who are at present in Sydney undergoing a course of training. One of the students will be back with us next year and the others will return in due course. Members know what happens all too frequently. We have the spectacle of men going round gulling the farmers with the story that they are veterinary experts. I think Mr. Henning will find out at the meeting that is to be held on the 2nd October what the position really is. He will find that ap-

plications are received from some people, and I suggest that he should ascertain what their respective qualifications are.

Hon. C. H. Henning: That is what we have always done.

**THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE:** I know that the hon. member has been doing a good job. I want to give him every encouragement; but in that respect I hope he will also offer some encouragement to the Minister for Agriculture. It was mentioned that Dr. Davies, in delivering his presidential address to members of the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science, said there were 39,000,000 acres in the State which could be used for agricultural purposes. I do not know where he expected to find that huge area, but possibly he included the forest country.

Hon. C. H. Henning: That statement was published in "The Leader."

**THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE:** The statement was made in the course of the address I have referred to. I think he must have had the Kimberley country in mind. Of course, if we could secure the requisite water supplies and could induce people to stay in that part of the State, it would prove very profitable. The country there consists of beautiful black soil, quite capable of producing great wealth some day. I would not be surprised if it should prove in the future to be capable of doing for Australia what has been accomplished in the Argentine with respect to the production of beef. The difficulty is that our population is so small. Naturally, 600,000 people cannot do all the work that is requisite, and after all, why should we do it? Should we not leave something for future generations to accomplish?

Hon. C. W. D. Barker: But the production of foodstuffs is an urgent matter now.

**THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE:** Of course it is, but Western Australia is outstanding in its accomplishments regarding the export trade. While we have our critics, they are forced to acknowledge that even today we are exporting more flour from this State than is despatched from any other part of Australia. Members have a full appreciation of the position, and while we may encounter troubles from time to time and methods may be criticised, still it must be acknowledged that the task is a very big one. It matters not who the Minister may be or who may be occupying various executive positions, the task is very great.

For my own part I can make a comparison between the work that I did formerly when I was in charge of the Lands Department and that which I have now to undertake as Minister for Agriculture. In these days I know that if I could work 16 or 18 hours at a stretch, I would still

find something to do. I am not expressing dissatisfaction respecting the task I have to undertake, but in due course a younger man will, perhaps shortly, take over the position and he will be able to do the work more effectively than I can. I am willing to learn even at my age, and I acknowledge that I cannot do everything. When I come to this House and appreciate that there are men here in a position to assist, I say to them, "Get behind the Minister for Agriculture and help in the task. Show him what can be done and how it can be done." If they adopt that attitude, we will roll along satisfactorily; we will get nowhere if there is merely criticism.

Hon. H. L. Roche: But will you follow their advice?

**THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE:** Anyone can disagree with another. If Mr. Roche were in my position for even one day, he would appreciate the conflict of advice that would be tendered to him.

Hon. C. H. Henning: So you go your own way?

**THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE:** That is not so. We investigate everything that is put before us and we take a little from here, a little from there and so build up the perfect machine. Obviously we do not accept all the advice that is tendered. I know that Mr. Henning's interjection was merely a catch-cry. He knows that if I had replied to his query in the affirmative, I would have to admit quite a lot more.

Hon. C. W. D. Barker: Anyhow, we will get together on the Kimberley business.

**THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE:** We will; I shall be glad to do so. I am afraid, however, that the trouble will be to get population there comprising people who will stay in that part of the State. While we provide all the amenities in the south-western corner of the State, so long will we attract population there. Many years ago a Jewish doctor named Steinberg visited this State and propounded a scheme for the settlement of the northern parts of the State, particularly the Kimberleys.

I think the migrants were to be Balts or people from some of the countries bordering on Germany and Russia. He informed me that he was in a position to obtain £6,000,000 for the scheme. Members will appreciate that money had some value in those days. I told him that, generally speaking, the people he had in mind were not agriculturists, but would be business people who would naturally turn to commerce and ordinary commercial avocations. He assured me that the people would stay in the North. However, I was not able to satisfy myself in that respect.

Hon. C. W. D. Barker: They did it in Palestine.



The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: But that is not quite the same thing. The country here is not so attractive. Think of the amenities in the South-West and the attractions there. Think of the rivers, the beautiful pastures and the great timber forests.

Hon. C. W. D. Barker: That is the trouble.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: That is what attracts people. If the Government had agreed to the scheme propounded by Dr. Steinberg, it would have been difficult to hold the people in the North. Until we are able to build up more attractions than we have at present, I think progress there will be slow. But let us help in any way we can. The hon. member spoke of how cheaply clearing was done by the Forests Department. Mr. Shedley has given us some information about that. I am always willing to learn, so I go to the people who have done the job and try to obtain information from them. I have here Mr. Shedley's notes on the subject. I presume that the hon. gentleman was referring to the same territory. Mr. Shedley says that a contract was let at Waroona for £9 10s. per acre.

Hon. C. H. Henning: I was referring to that on the Wonnerup-Nannup-road.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Oh!

Hon. C. H. Henning: I thought you would be on the wrong track.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Mr. Shedley says that the country is mainly banksia and jarrah. Except for a 4-chain strip on the outside of the 800 acres, from which the timber is completely removed with the bulldozer, the contract does not call for windrowing. The same contractor quoted an additional £9 10s. for heaping and burning. So that alone would have cost £19 an acre.

Hon. C. H. Henning: That is what I was trying to show—the high price the settler would have to pay.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: I did not know where it was. The country would be heavier further down. On the western side of Waroona, the country would not be so heavy as that further south.

Hon. C. W. D. Barker: What does it cost to knock down the timber with the ball and chain?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: It is too scattered. It would not be very profitable. I did not know the country Mr. Henning was referring to. When we look back on the early days of the pastoralists in the North and the North-West and then at the wheatbelt, and see the wealth that has been produced in this country by a handful of people, I do not think we should be too severely critical.

Hon. C. W. D. Barker: We have a lot to be proud of.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: There is still a lot to be done, but do not let us be downhearted. I myself am not a bit discouraged. I have unbounded confidence in the people, but I do not want them to be mollicoddled. I want them to appreciate that nothing but hard work, muscle and the will to labour count in this country. Mr. Henning referred to the reduction in the number of dairy cattle in the State. No doubt he read in this morning's paper the figures given by the Government Statistician. For the benefit of members, I propose to quote them. Last year there were 222,875 head of cattle at the 31st March. This year at the 31st March there were 230,469. So there has been an increase, and that is what we want. Members in the agricultural areas should do as I do: go out and tell the people to have one or two cows on their farms and keep themselves supplied with milk all the year round.

Hon. H. L. Roche. Why should they?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Because they have no right to draw on the labour of people who have to work seven days a week to provide this commodity but should themselves make a contribution. Whether it is in the processing of milk, or in the manufacture of butter or cheese, those employed have to work seven days a week, but people in the agricultural areas can milk their own cows. After all, the most successful farmer is the man who takes products from the soil to feed his own home. When I travel round and see people fending for themselves in that way and when I see good samples of butter being produced and exhibited at the agricultural shows, I give the women a pat on the back because they are prepared to show what can be done.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: Did you say a pat of butter?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: No, a trophy. I used to give one for cookery. On this occasion I am providing it for people who milk cows and make butter and provide cream. I want to tell members of one or two things I hope we will be able to do. I am trying to interest folk in setting up apprenticeships for farmers. I do not see why we should not train young men to be farmers the same as we train them to be plumbers or electricians. Let us make a selection of farms where they can learn all there is to learn under good conditions, and where they can receive a thorough training. I do not see why we should not have apprentices in farming.

Hon. C. W. D. Barker: Do not the agricultural colleges do that?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: No, they do not. The hon. member would not say that in order to become a good

plumber a youth should attend a plumbing school. He would not qualify there. He does not qualify at the technical college for a plumbing certificate.

Hon. H. Hearn: The technical college supplements his training.

**The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE:** That is so. The college gives him academic training. I propose to discuss this plan with the authorities to see whether we cannot, in the next few months, try to formulate a scheme along the lines I have suggested. I am sure men and women would be glad if they thought their sons had a chance to learn farming as it should be learned.

Hon. H. Hearn: What about a training scheme for migrants?

**The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE:** I want to consider our own boys first.

Hon. C. W. D. Barker: Hear, hear!

**The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE:** Migrants can come in afterwards and their boys and girls can be taught the same thing. I think the plan is a wise one and I propose to explore it. Many men say they wish their boys could go on the land, but at present they do so without any knowledge. I could mention a number of farmers I know who are efficient men. They started in a small way and can be regarded as ideal men to train young lads. I think we shall be able to give effect to this scheme. Then there is the matter of soil erosion. Western Australia has not suffered very severely from this menace yet; but if we continue as we are, we will feel the ill effects.

Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: We will do so if we keep bulldozing the best timber off the country.

**The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE:** We will never do that; at least I hope not. We are using the agricultural colleges and all the high schools in the agricultural areas to give young fellows some idea of how to go about contouring their country. It has been agreed by the Education Department and by our own people that some of the agricultural advisers shall show how this can be done. I was at Wickopin recently and I was shown work that had been done there by the members of the local junior farmers' club. I think Mr. Roche was there, and we both saw what had been achieved. What can be done there can be done generally.

I want to see men running farms able to do the work for themselves, or at least lay it out. I think that with regard to water erosion what is proposed will be of help. As far as wind erosion is concerned, there is a difficulty, in that it is hard to persuade farmers to change their methods. In days gone by, the custom was constantly to fallow light country. When that is done, a terrific drift occurs when

the wind blows. One has only to look at the wire-netting fences alongside farms to see what happens.

In my opinion, with the advantage of present-day machinery, there is no need to fallow light country: I consider it will hold the moisture well enough. I have been through a good many miles of farming country this year and found that the better crops are on the light land. In many instances no fallowing had been undertaken. I hope that wherever possible men on light land will extend their pastures to include subterranean clover such as is being grown in the wheat-belt, right up to Cunderdin and beyond. That is the best soil improver of which I know.

Those are some of the ways in which we are trying to do something towards helping to train farmers, and they are responding extraordinarily well. Trace elements have done for the soil exactly what the anti-biotics have done for human beings and animals. There have been complaints from farmers who have said that the sulphuric acid tests of their super had not come up to standard. If 20lb. of blue-stone is added, there will not be as high a standard. But if pure super is used, it has been guaranteed that the proper test will result.

Hon. L. C. Diver: Have analyses been taken?

**The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE:** Yes. In order to satisfy some members and also outsiders, we are taking them more frequently. One person suggested that they should be taken at the sidings, but we cannot afford to send men from siding to siding to make these tests. If we make them now and again at the works, when the superphosphate is going out, that will be satisfactory to most farmers. To the men on the land, I would say that they are not making sufficient provision for dry periods, not only in the agricultural areas, but also in the South-West. A little while ago we received an urgent telegram from a portion of the South-West saying that cattle were dying from some unknown disease. When investigations were made, it was found that the cattle were dying from starvation. That can be remedied by no other means than feeding.

Hon. C. H. Henning: By developing the holdings.

**The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE:** Yes, and by not overstocking them. There must be more conservation of fodder. In the wheat belt in the old days when we carried haystacks over from year to year, we did not have the same trouble, but that is seldom done now. Like Mr. Henning I intend to indulge in quotations. I have here a cutting from the "Belfast Weekly Telegraph" of the 11th July, 1952. The Minister for Agriculture in Northern Ireland says—

Hon. H. L. Roche: Does he know anything about agriculture?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: The hon. member may question that, but I ask him not to question me in that regard. The cutting reads as follows:—

The Minister of Agriculture, Rev. Robert Moore, replied to critics of the agricultural situation in Northern Ireland when he spoke at the Greenmount Agricultural College Prize Day at the College at Muckamore.

The Minister said: "I notice that quite recently some people, whose hands are itching to grasp a pen and deliver themselves of public pronouncements through the Press, have been saying that agriculture in Northern Island is passing through very grave difficulties.

"Perhaps some of them have their ear nearer to the ground than I have mine."

It has been said that some farmers—a certain proportion of them—have had to curtail their cropping activities this year because they cannot afford to buy the necessary fertilisers, seeds and other requirements.

#### Misfits.

Said the Minister: "There are always unfortunate people in any industry, and you will find, here and there, a family that through some particular stroke of misfortune perhaps are up against temporary difficulties, and you will always find in any industry or trade a certain number of misfits.

"You will get them in the grocery business or any business. These people are in difficulties because they are what they are, but leaving out the few such as these, I do not accept a statement of that sort about the general agricultural conditions here at all."

The Minister admitted that everything was not just like paradise. He was convinced that, where those engaged in the agricultural industry were prepared to give their best, mentally as well as physically, to the work, there was still a reasonable profit in agriculture.

He added that it might be that in the course of the next two or three years they would see a general reduction in prices of all commodities.

The general level of prices might come down, but he did not think that they would fall to the 1939 level. Farm prices were bound to be influenced by the general trend.

#### Optimism.

He could not help thinking that they could look into the future, even with this possibility of somewhat lower prices, with a good degree of optimism so long as they had almost countless millions of people scattered throughout the world who were undernourished and underfed and to whom life was a misery.

There was going to be a demand for their produce provided they could produce at the most economic rate.

He did not think there was a future in farming for people who were always crying out for more assistance from the Government and more assistance from some quarter outside themselves.

I think that might be taken to heart and I would like the farming community of this country to feel that it could rely on itself instead of trying to socialise the industry as is being done in so many other fields. Again I will quote, and this time I will read what Winston Churchill said—

We must beware of trying to build a society in which nobody counts for anything except a politician or an official; a society where enterprise gains no reward and thrift no privileges.

I think that is sound advice, not only to the people to whom it was given, but also to all of us. If we take it to heart I believe this country will be quickly developed and that there will be even less cause for criticism than has been evidenced by the few complaints I have heard during this debate.

On motion by Hon. H. Hearn, debate adjourned.

*House adjourned at 5.50 p.m.*