

Undoubtedly the contact which they would make with some of the people who are coming to this convention would be very valuable to men who have not had much opportunity, by virtue of the somewhat insular position of Western Australia, to contact the prominent people attending. We have one of the Lords of the Privy Council coming here, and he will deliver addresses and lectures. We have other very distinguished jurists and judges also coming.

While Parliament is sitting, and always with the expectation that legislation may be proceeded with, the officers of the Crown Law Department are reasonably aware of some obligation to be at their posts. In consequence they would find difficulty in attending some of the functions at the convention. I agreed with them that in all the circumstances of the case, and in view of the rarity of the opportunity, their attendance at the law convention would be of great value to them. They were pleased that this opportunity was likely to be given to them, and they expressed their pleasure to me if it could be arranged.

Accordingly I put the matter before Cabinet. At the same time there were Ministers of the Crown not connected with the legal part of the convention's operations who were anxious to fulfil some engagements in the country during the coming week. Those two things combined—particularly the former, as I mentioned to the Leader of the Opposition as being the major reason—are the reasons why the Government seeks an adjournment over next week. I do not think under those circumstances that it is unreasonable, especially when one bears in mind that it is very rare for this Assembly to meet before the last week in July to transact any business at all, in most years. There have been few occasions when there has been an assembly of Parliament before the last week in July.

On this occasion Parliament was assembled on the 30th June, mainly for the transaction of business which has already been transacted. Those are the circumstances in which this adjournment is asked for. I suggest again that it is not unreasonable that the adjournment be granted. I do not suppose that in the next 20 years a similar opportunity will present itself to the people to whom I have referred. In the net result, their participation in the convention will be a contribution towards the more successful carrying on of the Crown Law Department by those associated with it. I need say no more because that is a full explanation of the matter. I trust that the House will agree to the motion.

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

Ayes—25.

Mr. Bovell	Sir Ross McLarty
Mr. Brand	Mr. Nalder
Mr. Burt	Mr. Nimmo
Mr. Cornell	Mr. O'Connor
Mr. Court	Mr. Oldfield
Mr. Craig	Mr. O'Neill
Mr. Crommeijn	Mr. Owen
Mr. Grayden	Mr. Perkins
Mr. Guthrie	Mr. Roberts
Dr. Henn	Mr. Watts
Mr. Hutchinson	Mr. Wild
Mr. Lewis	Mr. I. W. Manning
Mr. Mann	(Teller.)

Noes—18.

Mr. Bickerton	Mr. Lawrence
Mr. Brady	Mr. Moir
Mr. Fletcher	Mr. Norton
Mr. Hawke	Mr. Rhatigan
Mr. Heal	Mr. Rowberry
Mr. J. Hegney	Mr. Sewell
Mr. W. Hegney	Mr. Toms
Mr. Jamieson	Mr. Tonkin
Mr. Kelly	Mr. May
	(Teller.)

Majority for—7.

Question thus passed.

House adjourned at 7.43 p.m.

Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 21st July, 1959

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

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

MATRON ANSTEY

Arbitration Court Evidence

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP asked the Minister for Mines:

Would the Minister procure, and make available to the House, a copy of the evidence given recently by Matron Anstey before the Arbitration Court?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

All I can say is that I will make inquiries to see whether the evidence is available; and if it is, whether it can be tabled.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

WAR SERVICE LAND SETTLEMENT

Work Done by and Amount Paid to S. Caratti

1. The Hon. A. L. LOTON asked the Minister for Local Government:

(1) What is the total amount paid to S. Caratti, for work done for or on behalf of war service land settlement for the period ended the 30th June, 1959?

(2) Were tenders called for any of the work performed by S. Caratti?

(3) Is the work at present being carried out or completed at Bokerup being done by the same operator; if not—

(a) by whom is the work being done; and

(b) what are the conditions for payment?

(4) Is the cost for this present clearing up of individual holdings a further charge to each settler or is it a general charge to war service land settlement?

(5) Does the Minister for Agriculture agree that the clearing up and levelling should have been done at an earlier date, thus enabling settlers to conserve fodder, make it easier to work the properties, and also increase the carrying capacity of each holding, as well as saving heavy depreciation on settlers' machinery?

(6) What is the rate of depreciation allowed on—

(a) tractors;

(b) mowers;

(c) hay rakes;

(d) plows,

that have been used by individual settlers since they went on to their holdings?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN replied:

(1) £78,510 7s. 6d.

(2) Generally tenders were not called. Other contractors have taken similar contracts but some have been unable to carry on at the price being paid to S. Caratti. Other private contractors are still on similar work on a similar basis to S. Caratti.

(3) Three private contractors are working in the Bokerup area; in addition to S. Caratti the others are—

(a) P. F. Tuckett operating a D6 at 70s. per hour.

(b) J. McGregor operating a D6 at 70s. per hour.

(4) The cost of the present work is a normal developmental charge. Any actual write-off will be determined at the time of final valuation under clause 5 (5) of the Commonwealth conditions of settlement.

(5) Yes.

(6) The depreciation on some items of farm machinery is intended as compensation where machinery was used on new land, the nature of which had caused more than average depreciation, and therefore would vary with each individual property. The maximum rates of depreciation would be—

	Dairy Grazing Area Area per acre per acre	
(a) Tractors	6s. 6d.	6s. 2d.
(b) Mowers	1s.	Nil
(c) Hay Rakes	Nil	Nil
(d) Plows	2s.	2s.

Bulldozing in Project Areas

2. The Hon. L. C. DIVER (for the Hon. H. L. Roche) asked the Minister for Mines:

(1) Is it a fact that a number of bulldozers have been working in the Bokerup project area in the last few months?

(2) Were they departmental, or privately-owned machines; if privately owned, who were the owners?

(3) What was the cost per hour and per day for each machine with any attendant labour?

(4) What work have they been engaged on?

(5) Was this work authorised by the Minister for Agriculture as a result of his visit to the area on the 21st April, 1959?

(6) Is this work designed to anticipate the survey of the quantity and quality of the clearing the Minister for Agriculture states he has authorised in some project areas?

(7) Will the Minister for Agriculture advise what is the nature of the work and its costs, and when were instructions issued for it to be done?

(8) On what other project areas since the 30th April, 1959, has similar work been done?

(9) What are the names of the settlers on the various properties concerned, and the cost of this particular work done on each property?

(10) When the survey authorised by the Minister for Agriculture is made of these properties, will he

direct the officer concerned to make a special note of any work done on the clearing since the 30th April, 1959.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Privately owned—S. Caratti; P. F. Tuckett; J. McGregor.
- (3) S. Caratti, operating a D7 at £5 per hour. P. F. Tuckett, operating a D6 at 70s. per hour. J. McGregor, operating a D6 at 70s. per hour.
- (4) Restacking burnt timber and levelling dirt.
- (5) No. The work was authorised by the Land Settlement Board at its meeting on the 27th January, 1959, following exhaustive investigation of means of quickly increasing the productivity on existing farms.
- (6) No, see No. (5).
- (7) Answered by Nos. (3), (4), and (5).
- (8) Rocky Gully project, both before and after the 30th April, 1959.
- (9)

Date Contract Commenced	Farm No.	Name	Amount
ROCKY GULLY			
			£ s. d.
20/2/59	A872	C. M. Cooper	1,075 0 0
	A873	D. Holliehead	502 0 0
	A874	G. Dowling	642 0 0
	A865	C. T. M. Campbell	910 0 0
	A884	R. H. Carter	360 0 0
15/4/59	A881	J. Kitchen	300 15 0
	A946	R. C. Smith	393 0 0
	A955	H. Cooksey	425 0 0
	A876	B. Powell	537 10 0
	A875	W. E. Chaplyn	590 0 0
	A872	C. M. Cooper	257 10 0
	A863	W. G. McQuat	105 0 0
	A867	L. A. Foster	352 10 0
	A907	B. A. Merfield	422 10 0
	A869	R. Lamb	450 0 0
1/5/59	A884	R. H. Carter	470 0 0
	A882	M. J. Pover (Mrs.)	100 0 0
	A879	R. S. Bearley	570 0 0
21/5/59	A896	A. V. Schuts	612 0 0
HADLEY'S ESTATE			
12/3/59	A546c	D. G. Watts (Mrs.)	126 0 0
	A546d	A. W. James	28 0 0
	A546g	A. Morrison	213 10 0
	A546h	A. Ettridge	49 0 0
	A546i	J. J. Trappitt	252 0 0
D. G. R. SCOTT ESTATE			
13/5/59	A651a	W. C. Riebe	585 0 0
	A651b	J. Brynshaw	187 10 0
	A651c	W. Winscom	222 10 0
	A651d	W. L. Waddell	222 10 0
	A651e	J. H. O'Neill	280 0 0
	A651h	F. A. Butler	267 10 0
	A651j	R. C. Eggeling	292 10 0
	A651l	J. R. Jenkins	245 0 0
	A651m	J. B. Clifford	207 10 0

- (10) All works carried out on properties is detailed as to date and amount as in answer to question No. (9).

LIGHTING OF BICYCLES

Compulsory Reflectors

3. The Hon. A. L. LOTON asked the Minister for Mines:

Will the Minister for Police give immediate attention to having lighting of bicycles made more efficient by making

it compulsory to fix reflectors of approved size and design on both front and back axle forks?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

The regulations governing the lighting of push cycles in this State are in conformity with Australian Motor Vehicle Standards, and are adequate during the hours of darkness, as they require the equipment of a white light to the front, and a red light and effective reflector showing to the rear.

WAR SERVICE LAND SETTLEMENT

Complaints from Settlers

4. The Hon. A. R. JONES asked the Minister for Mines:
 - (1) Has the War Service Land Settlement Board had any complaints from settlers established in the undermentioned estates—
 - (a) Tootra;
 - (b) Liebe;
 - (c) Wirrilda;
 - (d) Glentromie?
 - (2) If the answer is "Yes," in any instance, what are the complaints and whence do they emanate?
 - (3) When will settlers on the Tootra estate be entitled to freehold their properties?
 - (4) Have settlers on Tootra estate received their final valuations?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) Yes. One only.
- (2) The complaint referred to valuation matters and emanated from the lessee concerned.
- (3) Ten years from the date their respective leases commenced. In the majority of cases the 10 years expires in March, 1960.
- (4) Yes. All lessees received these valuations in August, 1954.

Eneabba Project

5. The Hon. A. R. JONES asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) When will settlers be established on the Eneabba war service land settlement project?
- (2) Is it the policy of the Board to establish suitable lupin country to lupins on Eneabba?
- (3) Has the Board received prices for plowing on Eneabba in answer to tenders called recently?
- (4) If the answer to No. (3) is "Yes," what price or prices were tendered, and who received the contract?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) Twenty-five farms advertised in brochure No. 53 closed on Friday, the 10th July, 1959. It is anticipated that these farms will be occupied in the spring of 1959.

- (2) Areas of lupins have been sown on farms in the northern section of the project.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) Sixteen tenderers put in prices ranging from 10s. per acre to 22s. 6d. per acre. The successful tenderer was Mr. O. Lloyd-Woods at 10s. per acre.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Sixth Day

Debate resumed from the 8th July.

THE HON. J. MURRAY (South-West) [4.43] At the outset I would like to join with those members who have already spoken and have congratulated those in this Chamber who have recently received new appointments. As it is approximately 10 days since we last met I suppose it would be competent to take those congratulations as read, as it were.

I expect all members realise that this debate is one which enables them to receive fairly prompt answers to any points which they wish to bring forward. If a member desires to have a question answered he can raise it during the Address-in-reply debate, and the Minister can obtain an authoritative answer; this is better for the member himself, for his electors, and also for the general conduct of the business of the House because it enables that business to be expedited. As far as I know at the moment there is one other member who wishes to speak after I sit down, and probably there will be a lot of others who want to speak either tomorrow or the next day; however, I suggest to them in a kindly way that they make up their minds fairly quickly if they wish the debate to continue.

Dealing now with general matters, I desire to discuss some points in the Governor's Speech which have not already been referred to. I think it is probably true to say, as indeed some members have already said, that the Governor's Speech does pinpoint certain achievements of the previous Administration, and where the work of the previous Government is in the interests of the State it will be carried on by the present Government, and probably, to some degree, improved on. But, of course, there are other matters in the Governor's Speech about which I would like to make some comment. On page 4 we find these words—

The demand for land is being maintained and great interest it still being shown by applicants from the Eastern States who desire to settle in this State. Additional areas are being classified and designed for subdivision.

I congratulate the Government on that particular item in the Governor's Speech, especially when one couples it with this item—

Consideration is being given to appointment of an impartial tribunal to inquire into the question of releasing sparsely timbered Crown lands for agricultural production.

Nobody could say that that is taking a leaf out of the book of the previous Government; because when we who are now sitting behind the Government raised this question last year it was bitterly opposed by the then Leader of the Government in this House. If any member wishes to read the full details—I do not propose to weary the House by doing so—he can read them in Volume 1 of *Hansard*, 1958, from page 526 onwards. There was a lengthy discussion on the subject on that occasion, and the then Minister brought into the debate several other matters in a most scathing manner—I would say the word "scathing" is a mild one to use. He quoted figures supplied to him by the Forests Department in relation to the intake and output of the sawmills for the previous year. He said that 22½ per cent. of the intake of the sawmilling industry during that year had come from private property.

The Hon. F. D. Willmott: So what!

The Hon. J. MURRAY: Without pulling any punches I should say that the ex-Minister, and the Government of that day, should have been proud to think that the settlers in the South-West portion of the State who had obtained their land prior to 1918—before the Forests Act came into being—were able to provide 22½ per cent. of the necessary intake for the sawmills of this State. I know that the ex-Minister and the Conservator will say, "We got nothing by way of royalty on that timber." Of course they got nothing by way of royalty on the timber, but it did not cost the State one penny to preserve it and keep it for 40 years before it was taken over for the production of sawmilling. It did not cost the State one penny, and yet for the remaining 77½ per cent. it cost us £800,000 per annum to maintain that forest.

Surely instead of the Minister making such scathing criticism of what he was pleased to call "private foresters," the State should feel proud that they protected the forests sufficiently to enable the raw material to be used for our timber industry, instead of permitting what has been done, and what is still being done in many cases, namely, clearing by burning; and it cannot be stopped so long as the Forests Department wishes to continue that policy. In that article, or I should say volume of *Hansard*—I hope I will be forgiven for calling it an article, because that is what it was, provided mostly by the Conservator of Forests for the then Minister to read—the Minister also scathingly questioned the ethics of the people who had taken up land in that portion of the State.

If we looked at some of it today we would consider it to be impossible country to take up; but it was taken up many years before the Forests Act came into being; and the children of today, possibly because they are not as tough as their fathers and grandfathers, found it was not

an economic proposition to farm that type of land in competition with other land that was available. Accordingly, they decided to sell it. They advertised the land on the open market. The Minister said by way of illustration that if there were people who wanted to settle in the South-West portion of the State, they could have bought that land; land which had been settled, cultivated and maintained over the years, but which was not considered to be an economic proposition.

The ex-Minister suggested that these people should purchase that land and go on with its development. After the land was advertised—and as the Minister correctly said, they could not get a buyer—the Forests Department bought the land. I have had questions asked in the South-West as to whether it was right that the department should buy that land. Was it right that that should be allowed to happen? Was it right that land used for the production of milk and other things should be allowed to be put back into forests?

The Minister drew attention to the fact that in many cases once the timber on those farms was sold it would far out-weigh the costs to the Forests Department. That again is true, but as long as the farmer was on that land he was content, and prepared, to do what many other holders of private property have done in the South-West portion of the State; he was prepared to conserve the timber interests on the holding; and he certainly did so. I would go further and say it was an uneconomic proposition for that farmer. A sawmiller faces all sorts of difficulties when he applies to the Forests Department to cut on private property. First he has to surrender his permit. He must surrender his permit rights before he can cut timber on private property. So it is not an economic proposition for a person to supply a sawmill with only £2,000 worth of timber in the log. There are innumerable difficulties. He must convince the Forests Department that it should upset its working plan in order to allow him to cut timber on private property for a certain period. Immediately that country is cut out he has to get his permit back. That is quite reasonable. I do not object to the principle of the thing so much, as to the scathing remarks passed about these land-holders.

Once the Forests Department bought that land with the timber on it, the department was not only in the position of being able to sell it straight out to the sawmiller on a royalty basis, but, because of the peculiarities of the Forests Act, it could compel him to cut out that particular timber first before he directed his attention elsewhere. Accordingly the department is sitting on a very good proposition.

In my view it is very nice to know that the people who sold the land to the Forests Department were not tempted to place an enhanced value on it knowing the full circumstances of the case; knowing that

there was a large amount of marketable timber on the property which would be taken off immediately the Forests Department got control. Because this is still a controversial subject in the South-West, I want to say straightaway that the land is far more valuable to this State, and to the Forests Department, for pine-growing than it ever will be for farming purposes. A lot of people will question that statement and say, "Why develop that property; why don't you take a similar class of land in the rough, develop it and plant your pines there?" To those people who think along those lines I would say that, in the first place, to clear the land and make it suitable for pine-planting, or similar work, would cost at least £20 per acre.

That is what it would cost to bring the soil up to the sweet condition which is important for the class of pine which it is intended to plant and which is being planted. In case members have omitted to see it, this headline was in *The West Australian* of the 15th July, "Millionth Pine Tree at Nannup." It is *pinus radiata*. In Western Australia that particular type of pine is the only one that has proved it has a satisfactory timber content under good conditions. We have other kinds, such as *pinus pinasta*, which will grow quite prolifically in various places. Many experiments are still being made, but at the moment I would say—and I think the Forests Department would agree with me—the best that can be done with that class of timber is to make cases with it, pulp it, or use it for some other such products of timber.

Pinus radiata is the only species that has provided sufficient clean timber to be worth the expenditure necessary for pine plantations in Western Australia. Whether, in the future, we can overcome the difficulties in regard to other types of pine trees is hard to say. At the moment we are faced with that position. For that particular pine the soil has to be good, and cleared sufficiently to allow the tree to grow very rapidly.

The limbs should not have to be removed by man's hands. This is still being done, unfortunately, but in its natural habitat the tree brushes off the lower limbs during the process of growing. Therefore the tree ultimately has a barrel which is free from knotholes. That is the land which the Minister was so upset about. People had selected it long before 1918, and surrendered it to the State at a minimum price so that it could be put to better use.

I turn now to page 5 of the Governor's Speech. I will deal with other matters at a later stage. One of the items mentioned on page 5 of the Speech highlights an activity of the previous Government. It is as follows:—

Construction of the Serpentine Main Dam is proceeding rapidly with a view to completion early in 1961.

I only refer to that item to say this: I hope the present Government, in carrying on this necessary work from the State's point of view and also, so far as water is concerned, from the point of view of the metropolitan area, will not reflect the attitude of the previous Government with regard to the settlers who, in the past, had a right to the surplus water from the Serpentine River.

Farms have been developed along that river but the people concerned received a poor showing from the Government last year when, because of unseasonable conditions, the river below the dam dried up.

On page 6 of the Governor's Speech there is another reference to the activities of the previous Government; but I have no objection to giving kudos for the things which it has done in a major way and which are essential for the development of our State. The Speech reads as follows:—

A second unit at the Bunbury power station has been completed and is having trial runs. The work on the third and fourth units at the station is proceeding satisfactorily.

Here again we have progressive thinking with regard to electricity supplies in this State; and we also have progressive thinking with regard to water conservation—thank God for it!—but it is no good producing electricity and conserving water unless these things can be given to the people who need them. It is unfortunate that, despite all that was said, before the South-West power scheme came into existence, about what it was going to do for the settlers in the South-West—that they would have amenities similar to the people of the metropolitan area—this work is being done purely and simply with a profit motive.

When we supply necessities or amenities by using the profit motive completely as a yardstick—I say completely—we are not being fair to the community. If this service has to be subsidised from the public purse in order to put electricity into the small corners of Western Australia so that these people can receive the benefits which are a necessity—electricity is not an amenity, it is a necessity—then it must be subsidised; and the sooner we realise that that is what the public purse is for; the better. It is more important to do that than to provide many other social services which will not return any benefit in the long run.

The supply of electricity to people in the country will return the expenditure fivefold in the long run. At this stage, I will leave the items mentioned in the Governor's Speech, but will return to them later. I want to stress one particular subject about which, at this stage, I find myself more or less confused. Perhaps some of the people who are going to speak later

on the Address-in-reply, may be able to supply me with information which will remove some of my present confusion.

Before I came into this House I was closely associated with industry. I said then and say it now—after several years in the House—that the Australian workman, given sufficient encouragement, is second to none anywhere. Yet we find, at this point of time, that union leaders, Labour leaders and Labour members of Parliament make public speeches, and speeches in Parliament, suggesting that these tradesmen are not capable. That is all I can gather from what they are saying. They are stating that these tradesmen will not be able to take their place in competition with those employed in free enterprise.

Surely that is not the right attitude to be taken by union leaders! However, that is the story they are telling. They say that the men who have been employed by the Government for a number of years in its building organisation at the Public Works Department are going to be thrown out holus-bolus on to the labour market, and that in the years they have been so employed, their workmanship has deteriorated below the standard of Australian workmen and they will no longer be capable of taking their place in the hurly-burly of free enterprise. Surely that viewpoint is wrong.

This is a complete repetition of what occurred in two election campaigns; the Warren by-election and the general election. At the Warren by-election it was clearly stated by the Opposition that if people voted Liberal, that party would close the mills down. That story was not accepted, so the Opposition changed its tune. They now say that the Liberals will sell the State trading concerns. I would advocate selling them tomorrow, but I doubt very much if we would get a buyer for them. As part of its propaganda, the Opposition stated, "If you vote Liberal and the mills are sold, you are voting yourselves out of a job."

Surely these men have not deteriorated to that extent; just because they have been employed by the State Building Supplies! Surely they have not deteriorated to such an extent that anyone visiting this country with a view to buying the State Saw Mills would cut off his nose to spite his face and say, to these men, "No, we do not want a bar of you fellows. You cannot work!" It is just too ridiculous. I suggest that our friends of the Opposition and the leaders of the Labour Party outside Parliament are doing a disservice to the men they are supposed to represent, in thus writing down their capability of standing up to the conditions in ordinary commerce.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: We are not writing them down. It is the Liberals.

The Hon. J. D. Teahan: Has she put you off your speech?

The Hon. J. MURRAY: That hon. member's interjections would not put me off my speech because I have learned, over a period, that the best way of dealing with such interjections is to ignore them altogether. I suggest that the problem of the State Building Supplies is one of the hardest facing the present Government, as it must face up to the true position, which I have repeatedly outlined in this Chamber. Because of the fact that previous Governments—

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: A good Government.

The Hon. J. MURRAY: I said "previous Governments"; not "Government." Previous Governments would not plan forward; but accepted the situation which was badly planned for them during the war years, inasmuch as the Commonwealth Government, instead of releasing men from camps in Australia in the last two years of the war—I refer to building tradesmen, sawmilling personnel and various others—to help in rehabilitating the country and rehousing the remainder of the personnel who were to be discharged from the army, generously said that if anyone wanted to get out of the forces he could apply for a discharge, providing he had a job to go back to.

The Commonwealth should not have asked any member of the forces whether he wanted to get out, but should rather have discharged the men who could have done for the country a job which they could not do whilst just wearing uniforms. That, as I say, was faulty planning at the Commonwealth level; and subsequently State Governments have had to reap the cereals which were badly sown, if I may use that expression. When the forces were disbanded everyone wanted houses, schools and so on. There was a popular and a legitimate cry for all those things—a cry with a measure of justice in it, and successive Governments responded to it.

One of the effects of the circumstances I have outlined was that the timber industry and also—I think—the brickmaking industry, were vastly expanded; with the result that we have the present headache; and all those who knew the true position could see this coming. Never before, except in the early 1920's, have the sawmills produced more timber than they have in the last five years; but there is now no market for the product. As I say, successive Governments did what they could to house the people; and they scrapped certain regulations which the Forests Department had to control the establishment of mills and so on. By this means we have built up our sawmilling industry to a state of over-production, and very little has been done about it up to date.

When we examine the report of the General Manager of the State Building Supplies, as mentioned here by the Minister who brought before this House a Bill to amalgamate brick production and sawmilling and place them under the one heading of "State Building Supplies," we find that 24.9 per cent. of the total employees of the State Building Supplies are engaged in distribution, and in the head office. That is nearly 25 per cent., which means that one in four of the employees is not engaged in production. When introducing that legislation the Minister said it would save several thousand pounds per annum in accounting costs and in various other ways, and I saw no objection to that, but we certainly did not expect the result we now find.

I venture to suggest that although the private sawmillers are sending individuals overseas to seek or beg for orders, in an endeavour to maintain full production in the industry, the State Building Supplies have not considered sending one of their 25 per cent. non-productive personnel overseas on such a visit. We have, as I have said, a condition of over-production in the timber industry. Production is far in excess of requirements, and the product is one which in many cases will not keep, being almost as perishable as apples; but no-one is bestirring himself to sell it where markets might be found overseas.

I do not suggest that there is any market for our timber in the Eastern States, because the competition from other timbers there is so keen that, with the high cost of shipping freight, this State cannot find a profitable market there. In other words, we have priced ourselves out of the Eastern States market so far as our hardwoods are concerned.

The final subject with which I wish to deal is one in connection with which I must express some regret at the action of the Government. I do so, inasmuch as a Royal Commission has been appointed to investigate all aspects of betting and to make recommendations on the future conduct of racing in this State. I express my regret on the score that a Government, coming into office with a full knowledge of what has gone on in this industry—a Government sufficiently courageous to make big decisions on certain matters—in this instance has not made a decision for itself.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: The Government will make its decision in due course.

The Hon. J. MURRAY: Yes, after the Royal Commission has published his findings. When Sir Ross McLarty was Leader of the Opposition he went to the country, after betting control was introduced, and made two mistakes, which cost his party quite a few seats. One of those mistakes was that he suggested instituting an inquiry into betting after the present system had already been established. At

that stage a pamphlet was issued in contradiction of the claims made by Sir Ross. It asked "Why waste public money to the extent of £30,000 or £40,000 on an unnecessary referendum?"

That pamphlet was authorised by R. Z. J. Humphreys, President of the Licensed Bookmakers' Association of W.A. The pamphlet further asked, "Is there need for a referendum as suggested by the Liberal Party? The answer is No." Those who are able to see the writing on the wall know exactly what is happening in regard to betting in this State today. It wanted only courage from the Government to tell those who authorised that pamphlet exactly what would happen on the termination of the present legislation.

I hope the Government will not wait until the Royal Commissioner has brought down his findings, before amending this legislation, so as to make those who can afford to do so pay a little more towards the revenue of the State and of the turf clubs. I support the motion.

THE HON. J. D. TEAHAN (North-East) [5.30]: Firstly, as previous speakers have done, I congratulate the two members of this House who, last session, were members of the Opposition, but who have now been elevated to ministerial rank. It is certainly an honour for them to occupy those positions in this House.

At the outset I wish to refer to the gold-mining industry which concerns the electors of my province a great deal. As no doubt all members are aware from reading the Press and from discussion, for some time it was considered that we could perhaps expect a rise in the price of gold as a result of the increasing rate of the outflow of gold from the United States of America. Many people were, from day to day, hopefully expecting an early announcement that the price of gold would be increased. It was rather disturbing, therefore, when, only recently, a person who was in the position to make such a statement reported that, from his observations, we could not expect a rise in the price of gold in the near future.

Such a report highlights the action of the Commonwealth Government only a short time ago because, in response to many requests, it decided to grant some assistance to the goldmining industry. This assistance is to be rendered by way of subsidy; but, unfortunately, as with all subsidies, it is not enough. It is also a pity that the Commonwealth Government did not see fit to increase its assistance to enable advances to be made to better grade mines for further development.

It is an accepted fact that the goldmines on the Golden Mile are in an excellent position today because they are well managed. The mining companies are fortunate in selecting capable men as managers

and, what is more pleasing to us as West Australians, those managers are nearly all Goldfields-trained. They have acquired their various diplomas as a result of taking courses at the Kalgoorlie School of Mines, and these diplomas would be accepted by any mining company in any part of the world.

It is also a fact that the President of the Chamber of Mines, Mr. Agnew, has led that Organisation in an extremely capable manner. He also was trained on the Goldfields. On the various occasions he appears on public platforms in Kalgoorlie and Boulder it is almost a tonic to hear his utterances because he never strikes a pessimistic note. His words, I am sure, give great encouragement to the men who are working small mines and to the prospectors in the various fields. I therefore hope that our mining industry will continue to be led by men as capable as those who are now in leading positions in the industry.

Small prospectors are always battling against great odds, and unfortunately their numbers are dwindling. Such a trend shows that prospectors are in great need of further governmental assistance. Although they received some help only recently from the Government they could, perhaps, be encouraged to greater efforts if the State batteries were kept up to date and efficient by using the latest production methods. If this were done the prospector would get the best results possible for his hard work.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Do you know what it costs to crush a ton of ore?

The Hon. J. D. TEAHAN: Yes, and I realise that the Mines Department is doing, and has done, an excellent job. However, all that glitters is not gold. I use that expression because only recently when I was in Menzies some prospectors asked me to hold the gold they had won from the ground. I said to them, "That is a nice piece of gold," because, to me, it appeared to be worth quite a lot of money. The prospector told me that there was approximately 116 oz. of gold in the piece they showed me. I said to one of them, "That will keep you happy;" but he replied, "Yes, but that is the result of several months of hard work and three of us have to divide the proceeds." Taking gold at £15 an oz. and assessing the value of that piece of gold, which weighed 116 oz., each man would earn only the basic wage over the full period he had worked. Therefore, in my opinion, such men are badly in need of further assistance.

I hope the Mines Department will continue with its diamond drilling programme and, if possible, install some additional small plants in the outback centres. This will at least assure the prospector that the Government is still behind him and that if there is any gold to be found he will be given every assistance to unearth

it. Some result was seen from the recent encouragement given to prospectors by way of added assistance when a patch of gold was found by Mr. Jock Walls in an area which had been practically untouched. That prospector has acquired an excellent knowledge of mining and everyday geology as a result of experience; and, fortunately, his wife is nearly as capable as he is.

Another important item I wish to raise is the subject of rail freights. Only this morning there was a suggestion made in the Press that there would be an increase in rail fares. I only hope and trust that when that day does arrive, the Government will keep in mind the mining companies and exempt them from any increase in rail freight charges on mining requisites. That will be one way the Government can render those companies assistance when it decides to increase freight rates.

In my province there is a large area of pastoral country and some pastoralists are in need of assistance from the Government. Fortunately, good rains have fallen in the Leonora district and the pasture growth is good. The pastoralists there have no complaints. However, those in the Murchison areas are having an anxious time and if hydrological surveys could be carried out in those parts the problem of water shortage might one day be solved. If this were achieved, the soil which is now barren could be irrigated and successfully cultivated.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: Wiluna could be included in that scheme.

The Hon. J. D. TEAHAN: Yes. Wiluna has already effected many improvements. When dealing with goldmining, I mentioned that we had an excellent School of Mines on the Goldfields. We also have many other fine educational institutions in Kalgoorlie and Boulder. In fact, our whole educational set-up is splendid. Our primary and secondary schools, both private and State, set a high standard; and the Goldfields technical school has earned itself an excellent reputation. The field of education offers another means by which the Government might assist the people on the Goldfields.

It is a well-known fact that the Goldfields' residents have always been desirous of giving their children the best education possible. Many parents keep their children at school well beyond the school-leaving age. Yet, although there is an excellent high school and secondary school in Kalgoorlie, these educational facilities cannot be enjoyed by the children of those people who live in outback centres such as Menzies, Leonora and Laverton because no suitable accommodation can be found for them whilst they are attending such schools. The Government could, therefore,

assist those children by providing suitable hostels for them. They could then continue their education to the Junior and Leaving standard, and perhaps to University level.

As the position is at present, most parents in outback parts cannot afford to pay for their children to be boarded in Kalgoorlie or Boulder. Their only alternative is for the family to transfer to the metropolitan area so that the children can receive the education they seek. Often have I seen families who have been an acquisition to the district, and to the State as a whole, transferring their domiciles to the metropolitan area, their sole reason being their desire to educate their children properly. The only way to stop that trend is for the Government to provide hostels for such school children, and thus enable them to continue with their secondary education.

On a round trip of the North-East Province, I suppose there would be only about 22 miles of sealed road. That strip runs from Kalgoorlie to Broad Arrow, and even then there are some bumpy patches. To the credit of the various local governing bodies, a splendid job has been done by them wherever possible. A grader can do quite a good job on some roads, but there are many bad patches of road where a grader would be useless. I refer to the Mt. Magnet-Meekatharra section in the Lake Austin area. By no stretch of imagination could that be called a good road. In fact, parts of it could be termed extremely bad. No grading would improve it, and attempts at patching it would be a waste of time. That road needs a good foundation and a bitumen surface.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: When they finish the Esperance road they might be able to get up there.

The Hon. J. D. TEAHAN: The Esperance road has had plenty of attention compared to the roads I have mentioned. One way of improving them immediately would be to make grants to the various local governing bodies so that they could do a better job than they are doing now. No road is any good unless it is bituminised. The road from Cue to Meekatharra is almost the lifeline of Port Hedland, and the work on it is considerable. When one is in Meekatharra, one cannot but be impressed with the constant traffic travelling north carrying mail and passengers. Cattle and sheep are also constantly on the move along that road. Such a volume of traffic warrants something better than the stony road which now exists in that area.

I now wish to mention traffic, which is closely linked with the subject of roads. All of us, without exception, will agree that the time is rapidly at hand when the police should take control of all traffic throughout the State.

I was a member of a local government for quite a while. In that position one can see the angle of the local government. One can also take a State-wide view of this matter, and that discloses that the Police Department should take over the control of traffic. Local authority traffic inspectors, like those employed by the Kalgoorlie Municipal Council, the Kalgoorlie Road Board and the Boulder Municipal Council, do a good job; however, no one can expect those three officers to be working 24 hours of the day.

I was present at a few accidents recently, one of which was quite serious and could have been more serious. Everyone else concerned seemed to arrive before the traffic inspector. The ambulance was there before him, but it was not wanted. In all probability the traffic inspector was away from his office doing another job. A crowd gathered at the scene of that accident, and a pool of petrol formed near the vehicle. I heard a remark made by one of the onlookers that if a match was dropped, there would be a conflagration. Three or four minutes later someone did drop a match and there was a conflagration.

If the Police Department had been in control of traffic, an officer would have been on the scene very quickly, because the accident happened about a quarter of a mile from the police station in Hannan Street. The correct procedure in such cases of accident is to notify the traffic inspector first, unless someone is injured. It is probable that the police officers have been told that control of traffic is not their job.

It will be seen how difficult it is for three traffic inspectors to cover the area of the three local authorities I mentioned. In that same area at least 20 police officers are stationed, and I suppose at any time six are on duty. Surely one of them could always be made available for traffic control.

I am aware that local governing bodies will oppose this suggestion, because, if it is adopted, they will lose revenue. Some arrangement can be made so that they will not lose any revenue when traffic control is handed over to the police. It costs each of the local governing bodies I mentioned between £1,500 and £2,000 a year for providing the traffic inspectors with vehicles and for payment of the traffic inspectors. It would not cost the Police Department a great deal to take over the control of traffic in the district. This change is needed urgently, and it should not be delayed.

In regard to the matter of crosswalks, I register my protest by saying that a mistake has been made. If accidents are to occur on crosswalks, they will lead to endless litigation.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Who made the mistake?

The Hon. J. D. TEAHAN: I do not know, but I consider one has been made. The Police Courts will have to untangle a lot of litigation in determining whether a motorist should have stopped at a crosswalk. If a motorist were to pass over a crosswalk and thereby cause a serious accident, he could say, "I did not think I would collide with the pedestrian." If the regulation now in force is to continue, the authorities should make it a heavy penalty for a motorist to pass a motorist stationary at the crosswalk. How often does one see a motorist passing a stationary motorist at a crosswalk, and causing an accident! When a motorist stops at a crosswalk he must have seen some pedestrian walking on it, and it should be a serious offence for another motorist to pass over the crosswalk at that time. It has been said that it is better that a motorist be held up for five minutes than that he should be the cause of some pedestrian's death.

A promise was recently given to the Goldfields that the police van patrolling the district would be equipped with a two-way radio. It is to be hoped that that will be more than a mere promise, and become an accomplished fact. If, in the last few weeks, that van had been so equipped a lot of expense and time would have been saved when a man became lost in the bush. This chap was slightly demented. He was noticed walking in the bush, and a message by slow means was sent to Kalgoorlie. It has since been revealed that the police van was, at the time, only a few miles from the spot. Had it been equipped with a two-way radio, a message could have been relayed to it, and two long laborious days would not have been spent in the search. Surely a district the size of Kalgoorlie should have a police van so equipped.

I now refer to native welfare. A move was made recently to improve the conditions of the natives at Kalgoorlie. Many complaints have been made that these natives do not use the reserve, which is located 25 miles from Kalgoorlie. It is claimed that they camp nearer Kalgoorlie than that. One complaint was that they were noisy, and another was about the unsanitary conditions created by them. They camp away from their reserve because insufficient shelter is provided, and the means to make a fire are not adequate.

Anyone who has lived in the bush and has become acquainted with the habits of natives, as I have during the years I spent in Menzies and Kalgoorlie, will be aware that the native is never happier than when he is sitting around a fire. If more wood and shelter were provided at the reserve, the natives would be more likely to camp there; in fact, some wood is provided at the reserve.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: They do not stay at the reserve because there is no attraction.

The Hon. J. D. TEAHAN: There is no attraction for them to remain on the reserve. On the subject of the provision of houses for natives, I would like to see more being built in the Murchison area. Very little, if any, housing accommodation is provided for them. In this regard I would point out that housing accommodation is provided for natives in the southern and northern portions of the State; therefore, some attention should be given to the question of providing houses for natives on the Goldfields.

Finally I want to touch on the subject of the railways, particularly the services in my province. For many years it has been recognised that the railway station at Kalgoorlie should be improved, but it has been left in its original state. The station is like a number of rabbit warrens badly sited. It has been promised that today or tomorrow something worth while will be done to improve the station, and that after the expenditure of a few thousand pounds there will be a glorious station in Kalgoorlie.

That promise has not been fulfilled, but it should be. The Kalgoorlie railway station will be there, irrespective of how gold-mining progresses. It will always be the first point of entry into, and the last point of departure from, the State for passengers travelling by train. That being the position the station should be an impressive point of entry.

At present, passengers on the Kalgoorlie express, stepping from air-conditioned coaches on to the platform in hot and dusty weather, feel the intense heat. They appreciate the cool drinks which can be obtained at the bar, but they should be able to partake of these refreshments in greater comfort. The bar should be equal to the best in the State. Most of the hotels and bars on the Goldfields have been improved in recent years, and are equal to the best in the metropolitan area. Why could not the railway station and bar be improved to the same extent? One day an attempt is made to install better lighting, but before it is completed an attempt is made to carry out some painting, but again, before the painting can be completed, an attempt is made to place some chromium-plated fittings in the bar. It seems that half-measures are taken in that respect.

Some time ago a new manager of the refreshment rooms at the Kalgoorlie station was appointed. His wife wanted to put up curtains to improve the appearance of the place; and she did so. However, when she and her husband left, the curtains went with them, because they belonged to her and not to the Railway Department. That seems to be the set-up. The facilities in the refreshment rooms and in the bar should be equal to the best so that train passengers may be given a good impression of the State.

Those of us who travel home to the Goldfields each week on the train are aware of the impressions of the passengers and what they desire at the Kalgoorlie railway station. I am certain that the impressions at the first point of entry to a State count a lot, and Kalgoorlie is the first point of entry. For those returning to the Eastern States it is their last impression, and that impression should be a good one. Many of them on returning to the East will be asked their impressions of the long train journey. We would like them to say, "We sat down in a beautiful refreshment room, and we were served with cool drinks in nice surroundings."

I ask that urgent attention be given to this matter by the Government. One simple way to give the visitor a good impression is to provide good facilities at Kalgoorlie, although there are a thousand other ways. Improvements at Kalgoorlie are a necessity and they should be carried out.

On motion by the Hon. F. J. S. Wise, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 5.57 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 21st July, 1959

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