

itself in a difficult position; and I would not be one, as a member of that Party, to get on the hustings and tell the people that we will solve the housing problem within a very short period. I do not think that would be fair to the people. They should be told the truth; and the more responsible Ministers and members of Parliament keep to the truth, the better it will be for the Government, for Parliament, and for the people generally.

I hope there will be no more misleading statements by any member of the Government, or any advertisements designed to hoodwink the people. If these controls are maintained, it will have the effect of enabling the Government to build as many homes for the people as possible, and also any essential Government jobs they desire, such as schools and hospitals. It will prevent hotels and theatres and other comparatively non-essential establishments from being erected. Therefore I hope the Government will not throw controls overboard for some time to come. This is a very serious social problem. I think every one of us comes in contact with people living in congested and sometimes primitive conditions. Many young people are growing up without the benefit of a proper home life and that is bound to react detrimentally to the State in the future, unless we quickly minimise the problem which is so pronounced today.

In my dealings with the officers of the department, I have found them obliging and courteous. I pay the Minister this compliment: He puts forward his case on behalf of the Government, which I do not take hook, line and sinker, but I think he has applied himself to the task of managing this department to the best of his ability. I fully realise the difficult position in which he has been placed.

Progress reported.

#### ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL

**THE PREMIER** (Hon. D. R. McLarty—Murray-Wellington): I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn till 2.30 p.m. tomorrow.

Question put and passed.

*House adjourned at 11.25 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly

Friday, 16th September, 1949.

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The **SPEAKER** took the Chair at 2.30 p.m., and read prayers.

### MOTION—STANDING ORDERS SUSPENSION.

*As to Rescinding Resolution.*

**HON. F. J. S. WISE** (Gaseoyne) [12.32]: I move—

That Standing Order 181 be suspended to enable a motion to be considered forthwith to rescind the motion moved by the Premier at the sitting on Wednesday, the 7th September, 1949, which deals with the cessation of debates at certain times on dates specified.

I shall endeavour to make my remarks as brief as the House will permit. It is obvious, from what has happened since the moving of the Premier's motion, that it was quite unnecessary, and time has shown how impracticable it was for sufficient time to be given to Ministers to give even a sketchy introduction of the Estimates of their departments which still have to be considered by the Chamber. At the time of moving the motion, had business proceeded forthwith, that would have been the

case; there would not have been time for Ministers, in as brief a manner as they might care to adopt, to have explained the Estimates of their departments without any comment—and certainly without any criticism—from either side of the House. The motion permitted no chance to debate matters of vital public interest.

At that time the Minister for Housing had not introduced the Estimates of his department, and it is unnecessary for me to recapitulate the details of the departments still to be considered, and which were outlined in the course of debate last week. The debate then clearly showed that considerable feeling was engendered by the Premier's motion, and the Opposition took a course, quite properly, to defend the position. Indeed, in addition to the feeling engendered then, it is not a good thing for politics, nor for the parliamentary conduct in this Chamber, to throw away the traditional relationships that have always existed here. At the time of the moving of the motion there were three normal sitting days left in which to listen to Ministers give details of their departments and making the claims we feel they would make in defence of their administration, without any consideration at all being possible by members. The purpose of the motion was not to get the business of the House or the legislation finished; it was not to deal expeditiously with matters appertaining to the House, but was simply in the interests of the Government and the two members who intend to contest Federal seats. That was, and still is the position, and I would like to know whether the Government denies it.

The Premier: I did not deny it.

Hon. F. J. S. WISE: Since the Premier did not and does not deny it, let us test the bona fides of whether Parliament should conduct its business in this way. It will be known, I take it, by the members concerned when they anticipate they will resign. I assume the Government has an idea, too, when that will be necessary, so without introducing haste, and without forcing Parliament to attend to its work in an unseemly manner, I would like to test the bona fides of the Government in this way: Let us carry my motion to enable me to move a second one to rescind the Premier's motion. Let us adjourn Parliament next week, for a reason I shall outline

later, and let us on the following Tuesday pass a Supply Bill—without any comment if the Premier likes—and then adjourn the House for a couple of months to enable the members to whom I have referred, to resign, and to permit of the by-elections necessary to fill their seats, to take place. The House could then consider, well before the normal Christmas vacation, the Estimates now presented to Parliament, and whatever legislation was still on the notice paper. That would be the fair approach to the matter.

Let us see whether we can conclude the business of this House with due decorum and without the rush that is being forced upon all members. In addition, let us get away from the humbug that is being presented to the public as to which Party is to blame in this matter. Let us seriously contemplate what I have suggested and adjourn, when this House adjourns today, for all next week, and pass a Supply Bill necessary to carry the Government over until the Appropriation Bill is passed after we resume following the resignations of members, and the filling of their seats. That, too, would enable something very important, in my view, to take place, without any misunderstanding, and that is the recognition by this Government and this Parliament, of the proper standing of the King's representative in this community. It would mean that the Premier could then accompany the Governor General—or any of his Ministers could—and the members of the districts visited by the Governor General could be present.

If a selfish thought is provoked, I, too, could accept the many invitations I have received from the Mayors of cities and towns of this State to be present at their functions for the Governor General. That is an important angle which this House should consider. I take this opportunity of clarifying the position with regard to pairs, which have been the subject of very much misunderstanding and some misrepresentation. There has been much talk about the Leader of the Opposition not granting pairs, and I will show, without any chance of challenge, just how fair I have been in this matter. I invite members to look at "Hansard" of the 6th August, 1947. On that day, on the first occasion when I was

on my feet in this House in the life of the present Government, with reference to pairs I said—

Although my comments may be considered to be more appropriate on the Address-in-reply than on the Supply Bill, I wish to make the position clear in case the Address-in-reply debate is not continued today, so that the Premier will understand my desires. The Premier may rest assured of this, that in the case of Commonwealth-called conferences, it will be my pleasing duty to arrange that he and the Minister accompanying him will be granted pairs. In addition, in cases of valid sickness there will be no reluctance on our part to see that the members so affected are granted pairs. I want to make the position quite clear, so that the Premier will have no worry whatever in arranging the absence of himself and Ministers where conferences are concerned.

Not only have I honoured that in both word and spirit, but I have also gone very much further than that. There are private members on the other side of the House who know how their desires have been met on many occasions, but I insist upon this point, that it is not the responsibility of the Opposition to grant pairs willy nilly to members who may wish to pursue their own pleasures or desires away from Parliament. What is the attitude of the Premier on that matter? It is the proper one, that the place of members is in this Chamber, whether they be anxious to go to military camps or elsewhere. In all those cases it has been by personal desire and anxiety to give to any member, if I could not properly grant him a pair, a personal assurance that in his absence I would raise nothing to warrant his presence. I can see four members on the Government side of the House, now, to whom I gave that assurance—that I would raise nothing to warrant their presence in the Chamber if they wished to pursue their own desires and be absent.

I am afraid that on occasions I have been far too generous, in the light of the unfair and unhealthy comment that has been made in connection with my attitude. What is the position regarding the Premier or his Minister who must attend the petrol conference? There has never been any doubt about those things, and so I hope we shall not have any further misconception or misunderstanding. I would ask members on the Government side of the House how many times they have been granted pairs by the two Independents who sit on this side of the House? If they do not know, I can tell them. Since the first

time those two Independents sat in this Chamber—quite properly they make their own decisions in that regard—how many times have members on the Government side asked them for pairs, and what is the reason? The reason why the Independents are not asked for pairs is that the Government feels that they are its majority. Let us see who have been playing fair in this business and who have been almost misleading themselves in that regard. A list of pairs taken out for the period since 1946 shows just what has happened.

The Independents, quite properly, if it suits them, pair with each other. They might have different views on a subject that the House is to decide, and so they pair with each other, but we do find that on two occasions the member for Maylands has given a live pair, once in connection with a child welfare Bill and once in connection with a Crown Suits Bill. But what have members opposite attempted to do? I have spoken to the Whip of the Government Parties many times on this point and have said, "Why do not your members seek pairs from the Independents?"

Mr. Brand: Because they are Independent.

Hon. F. J. S. WISE: Because they sit on this side of the House and are anti-Government so far as the forms of Parliament are concerned, and there is a perfect right for any member to seek a pair from them and for them to give it. But it is obvious that if the Government wanted to have a live pair from this side of the House, whether it could be given in the valid absence of another or in giving a live pair, it could be granted. I take up the same attitude as the Premier on this point, which is that the responsibility of members is to this Parliament and to be in this Parliament. That is the Premier's attitude, and it is my own. Do not let us have any more misunderstanding on this point. I am not going to take up a lot of time on this motion.

I try at all times not to waste the time of this Chamber. I spoke in critical vein in reply to the Premier's speech on his Budget and, as is not unusual from a Treasurer, received no comment in reply, but it raises this point, that although it was my intention to speak in very critical vein on the Housing Estimates, with this guillotine hanging over

us I must surely give a chance to many members on both sides of the House, and especially on the Government side, who used the plea that they were going to speak on the departmental Estimates. I can name half a dozen who said that to me—that they were not going to speak on the general debate but would speak on the departmental Votes. Are they going to? Of course not. They will not have opportunity of doing so, and that is the important point. What chance have they? Is it that the Government fears them also in criticism? They are certainly muzzled, not necessarily by a decision of Party or Government within the Party room, but by a decision of Parliament expressed in the motion of the Premier last week.

Could it not be—to revert for one moment to the question of the petrol conference that is to be held on the 28th September in another State, and to which I understand the Minister for Railways will go—that as an outcome of that conference, legislation by this Chamber will be necessary? Are we to ignore that possibility? Are we wilfully to say that we can do nothing because this Parliament has risen, and are we therefore pretending, so far as this Government is concerned, that it is going to co-operate and collaborate? The public of this State might well be left high and dry with regard to the petrol situation if this House is to be adjourned, as it will adjourn according to the Premier's motion, leaving such matters as the vital legislation now on the notice paper and perhaps legislation affecting the petrol situation unattended to. I refer members to Standing Order No. 181 which provides for the rescission of motions and, it will be noticed, provides for seven days notice to be given. What is the use of seven days notice in this case? Therefore my object is to suspend that Standing Order to permit of my moving a subsequent motion to rescind the Premier's motion of the 7th September, to enable a reasonable period for the consideration of the remaining portion of the Estimates, the State Trading Concern Estimates, Loan Estimates and the Appropriation Bill.

I care not whether the Minister for Housing takes five minutes or five hours in replying to his Estimates but I invite him to tell this House when he does so just what chance have we had of fully discussing the housing Estimates. It does not matter how late we sit tonight, we will not have had a chance

of fully considering all of the Estimates unless we sit tomorrow, Sunday and Monday as well. If the Premier wants to finish the Estimates on Tuesday night then I say that we have not had sufficient time to consider them. Then, at 9 p.m. on Tuesday the General Estimates are taken en bloc. On Thursday it is provided, without any chance of discussing the State Trading Concerns and their Estimates, that they shall be decided in one day's sitting.

The Loan Estimates are to be discussed between those times and if we discuss the State Trading Concerns Estimates between 9 p.m. next Tuesday and 9 p.m. on the Thursday it means that we have one day only to discuss the Loan Estimates or to give a complete analysis of them. Then, they must be passed. So, although we are passing a £20,000,000 Budget and a £12,000,000 Loan programme, this is what the Government expects of us. It is neither fair to Parliament nor to the community as a whole. It will avoid the criticism which certain departments must receive. But, what chance will we have of dealing with the Attorney General's Department which controls prices? None whatever!

The Attorney General: You have had one opportunity already.

Hon. F. J. S. WISE: Of course we do not know at any time what the Attorney General might say, but we certainly know that on this occasion his Estimates for that department will not have to be introduced and he will not be forced to say anything in justification of his administration.

The Attorney General: You have had one full debate on prices already.

Hon. F. J. S. WISE: We had a debate on prices which was nothing to do with the Estimates for that department. The Attorney General knows full well that he will not have to introduce his Estimates for the Prices Branch.

Hon. J. B.-Sleeman: He doesn't want to do it, either.

Hon. F. J. S. WISE: Of course he does not, and that goes for several other Ministers as well. So, I hope that the Government can see its way clear to accepting this motion which will enable us to avoid the odium attaching to the Government and its two members who must resign if they wish to contest Federal seats. By all means allow

them to resign, but let us stand adjourned while they do so and let us have the by-elections as quickly as possible. After that we can reassemble fully to discuss the Estimates. While those by-elections are being carried out Parliament could still be in session and if that were done we could deal with all the items that are on the notice paper and might be added to it.

**THE PREMIER** (Hon. D. R. McLarty—Murray-Wellington) [2.55]: There has been 17½ hours debate on this particular motion already.

Mr. Rodoreda: We have heard all that before.

The PREMIER: I am going to say what I want to say and not what is intended to please members.

Mr. Yates: Give the Premier a go. We gave you a go.

The PREMIER: I can look after myself. I intend to read once again a few figures for the benefit of the Leader of the Opposition who was not present the other evening when I moved the motion. I am not going to admit that members have not had an opportunity to discuss the Estimates, nor am I going to admit that the Government has had co-operation in getting its business through this session.

Mr. Rodoreda: You have not had any business.

The PREMIER: On the general debate 47 hours were taken. On the items dealing with the departments which I control, nine hours were taken. A record; never anything approaching it before!

Mr. Fox: With 44 members and nine hours, how much would that give each member? It would not be very many minutes.

The PREMIER: I have not worked that out.

Mr. Fox: It would be about 10 minutes for each member.

The PREMIER: On the motion which the Leader of the Opposition now wants rescinded members took 17½ hours, and a great deal of that time was taken up in dealing with Estimates.

Hon. A. H. Panton: That is a reflection on the Chair.

The PREMIER: I do not want to reflect upon you, Mr. Speaker, but members know that a very wide range was covered when dealing with the motion the other evening.

Mr. Yates: Stone-wallling.

The PREMIER: Since then another 20 hours have been taken which makes a total of 93½ hours so far for discussion on the Estimates.

Mr. Hoar: What is wrong with that?

The PREMIER: Nothing is wrong with that.

Mr. Hoar: Then what are you growling about?

The PREMIER: And in order to give members a further opportunity I decided that Parliament should meet today. This gives them the fullest opportunity to discuss the Estimates, and by that time we will have had something like 100 hours or more for discussion of them. Then, we will have Tuesday as well.

Hon. E. H. H. Hall: Will that be an all-time record?

Hon. A. A. M. Coverley: Here's the crayfish again.

The PREMIER: I think it must be fairly close to an all-time record.

Mr. Marshall: So is the £20,000,000 expenditure.

Mr. Hegney: There is £25,000,000 involved.

The PREMIER: The member for Pūbara reminds me of the speech he made. It was of great length. That speech was made on the Estimates and almost a record time was taken up with it.

Hon. A. A. M. Coverley: Good speech.

The Minister for Lands: Nothing but newspaper extracts.

The PREMIER: Was that speech made with the idea of really doing something constructive? Was it made with the idea of co-operating with the Government?

Hon. A. H. Panton: Sure.

The PREMIER: Of course it was not. No wonder the hon. member has a pained look on his face.

Mr. Hegney: No he hasn't.

The Minister for Lands: He even sang a song.

The PREMIER: Let us be honest about it. It was done with the idea of holding up business.

Mr. Fox: No.

The PREMIER: The Leader of the Opposition talks about the traditional relationships of this House. Has there ever been a man who has occupied the position I occupy today and who, has more than I have endeavoured to carry out the traditional relationships of this House —

Hon. F. J. S. Wise: What about the moving of the motion?

The PREMIER: —and look after the friendly relationship between members? I have always striven towards that end.

Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Go on from there.

The PREMIER: The Leader of the Opposition has given his version and I have just given mine.

Hon. F. J. S. Wise: I will give you some more in a minute.

The PREMIER: I can take anything the Leader of the Opposition can give me, or likes to give me.

Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Good!

The PREMIER: The Leader of the Opposition also suggested that we should adjourn because of the visit of His Excellency, the Governor General. His Excellency knows that Parliament is in session and the position has already been explained to him. When he heard of the illness of the Honorary Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Wood, we received a telegram from him saying that he appreciated the position. For many years the Governor General was a member of Parliament and a Premier. He has a full appreciation of the difficulties which confront Ministers, especially at a time when Parliament is sitting. I give the House this assurance: That this Government will not show any discourtesy to His Excellency; it will go out of its way to do everything it can to show him every courtesy and make his visit to Western Australia as pleasant and enjoyable as possible.

Mr. May: Even to the extent of adjourning?

The PREMIER: I am just trying to indicate that it is not necessary for Parliament to adjourn; neither is it desirable in the circumstances.

Mr. Yates: Has it ever been done before?

The PREMIER: The Leader of the Opposition made some reference to pairs. If I remember rightly it has been traditional, at least during my time in this House, that not much difficulty has been experienced in obtaining pairs. I know when members on the Government side have wished to get away for some particular reason and have approached me for a pair I have not hesitated to grant them one. Before I would refuse a pair to a member I would require to have a very good and solid reason indeed. The Leader of the Opposition said that certain urgent legislation may be necessary before this House rises. The Government is not unmindful of that and we are taking steps to see that such legislation is prepared and brought before Parliament. As to the particular matters already mentioned, such as prices and housing, and many others, all of them I think have been well discussed this session.

Mr. Hoar: They have not.

The PREMIER: We have had special motions dealing with them on which there has been extremely full discussion. And do not forget, Mr. Speaker, that we have had hundreds of questions this session from members seeking information from every department.

Hon. A. A. M. Coverley: Half of them were postponed.

The PREMIER: No wonder they were postponed! Their volume was such that they disrupted the work of many departments. I believe that on one day there were so many questions asked, including those that were on the notice paper and those without notice, that they equalled the number asked in one session of Parliament. The Leader of the Opposition complains that he has been prevented from obtaining information and from speaking, but the figures I have given to the House clearly indicate that there has been a tremendous amount of talk on these Estimates, and if the opposition has lost some opportunities of speaking it cannot blame the Government because of the extremely long and unnecessary speeches that have been made.

The Minister for Lands: Quoting from newspapers on the Liberal Party!

The PREMIER: So I will oppose this motion because, as I say, we have already had 17½ hours debate on the Estimates and surely that is sufficient time for members to make up their minds.

**HON. A. R. G. HAWKE** (Northam) [3.5]: The Premier has been exceptionally careful to avoid the real issue involved in this matter. The issue was not whether members spoke so many hours on the general debate on the Estimates or whether they spoke for so many hours on the detailed Estimates of the departments administered by the Premier himself. Neither is it a question as to how many hours members spoke on the Premier's "gag" motion. When speaking the other evening I said that if there existed any justification whatsoever for restricting the rights of members on free discussion of public business in this Chamber it should have been tried with the general debate and not with the departmental Estimates. Surely the Premier did not expect his "gag" motion to go through Parliament without a good deal of opposition?

Hon. F. J. S. Wise: He did.

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: Surely he did not expect that every member likely to suffer from the passing of the motion would refrain from putting forward such protest as he thought necessary!

Mr. Hoar: That is what he calls "lack of co-operation."

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: If the Premier were frank with us he would tell us that the debate on the "gag" motion did not take as long as he feared it would. If the Premier and his Ministers choose to be provocative in challenging the rights of members and bring down motions to take away such rights then they must expect, as I have no doubt they did, a great deal of opposition in the debate upon the motion and the taking up, of course, of a great deal of time. Even if we examine the figures put forward by the Premier as to the time taken on the General Estimates, we find that it did not average one hour per member in this House. As to that, it has to be remembered that we had no Address-in-reply debate this year, that right having been taken away from us by a political trick which the Government made use of at the beginning of the sitting this

year. Therefore, can anyone say that an average of less than one hour per member of the time taken on the debate on the General Estimates was too much?

The Minister for Lands: We have never had an average like that previously.

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: Have we ever had a year before when members were robbed of their rights on the Address-in-reply debate? When we are trying to work out the average time taken by members on the general debate on the Estimates this year we have to take into consideration that there was no Address-in-reply debate. If we divide the amount of time, namely, 47 hours, equally between the Budget debate and what should have been the Address-in-reply debate we cut the time down from 47 hours to 23½, which gives an average time per member for discussion on the general debate on the Estimates of less than half an hour.

The Premier: That is much more than they would get in the Commonwealth Parliament.

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: The Premier must have an extremely weak case this afternoon, and the Minister for Lands recognised that a moment ago when he said that the average this year was longer than in previous years. Everybody knows the situation in the Commonwealth Parliament. It is a situation which has existed for years and is provided for in the Standing Orders of that Parliament. So there is no effective comparison to be made in favour of the Premier's case by dragging in what happens in the Commonwealth Parliament. It is weird to note how the Premier, when he has a weak case or is in a difficult position, drags the Commonwealth Parliament into the discussion as an example of what should not be done. When it suits his politics he holds the Commonwealth Parliament up as an institution that indulges in actions that should not be followed in this State. He also makes use of it when it suits him to condemn the present Commonwealth Government. We have to remember that the total amount involved in the Budget this year is ever so much greater than hitherto.

We must recognise, too, that Governments are doing more in connection with the life and activities of the community as the years go by, with the result that there are many

more phases affecting the life of the people to be discussed by members of Parliament. I am not saying at the moment whether this modern development is good or bad. It is an established fact, and therefore there is every reason why members of this House should devote more time in discussing the Estimates and particularly the details for the several Government departments. Take the position we have reached this afternoon as a result of the "gag" motion brought forward and carried by the Government, in consequence of which the consideration of the detailed Estimates must be concluded at 9 p.m. on Tuesday next.

Mr. Fox: Who is going to let the guillotine go?

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: We have not yet finished the debate upon the housing Estimates. Would the Premier, the Minister for Housing or the Minister for Lands say there is not every justification for each member of the House to engage upon a much more detailed discussion of the housing Estimates than has been apparent to date?

The Premier: We have had two motions during the session dealing with the subject and here is a special sitting today to enable you to say what you desire.

Hon. F. J. S. Wise: That is a funny one! It is just a pretext.

The Premier: No.

Hon. F. J. S. Wise: You are not going to get away with it in that way.

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: The discussion so far has been on the basis of a general debate and has been on broad lines. Now that the detailed Estimates for the Housing Commission are before us, we are bound, as the representatives of the various constituencies, to get down as much as possible to tints in connection with the whole subject. We must do what we can to induce the Minister to make available to us the fullest possible information not only in respect of the broad outline of the Government's housing policy, but also with regard to the thousand and one details associated with the administration of that policy by the Minister and his officers. If you will permit me to mention it by way of illustration, Mr. Speaker, I will tell the House that only this week a man showed me a letter written to

him on the 8th September, 1947, by the secretary of the State Housing Commission informing him that he had been granted a No. 1 priority with regard to the allocation of a rental home. That was over two years ago. Today this man, his wife and their seven children, all of whom are under 14 years of age, are living in a shed and have the use of part of a verandah of a house in the Welshpool district.

There may be some answer to a case of that kind, although on the surface there appears to be no possible answer at all. I know of dozens of rental homes completed since September, 1947, that are occupied by two-unit families, by people who have no children at all. Here is an instance of a nine-unit family being granted a No. 1 priority in September, 1947, and no house has yet been made available to them—although from time to time, I understand, they have been offered a military hut at South Guildford, which type of accommodation is totally inadequate for a family of this size. These are the details that members are bound to discuss in the fullest possible manner when the Housing Commission's detailed Estimates are under review.

Government supporters will be extremely unwise if they are to allow the housing Estimates to go through without a full and proper discussion. Then again, they would be very foolish if they assisted the Government to prevent any discussion in connection with prices or in respect of several other vital Government activities to which I could make reference. In addition, we have yet to discuss the Estimates for the Forests Department, which is one of growing importance. Then there is the Department of Native Affairs about which we heard a tremendous lot before the last election. I recollect members of the present Government and their supporters, whose hearts were bleeding continually—

The Premier: We have heard a lot about that this session.

Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Your hearts are still bleeding!

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: We heard from them of all the things that ought to have been done in the interests of the natives, but, so far as I can judge from what I see in my own electorate, the position is much



the same as it was two and a half years ago. Nothing more is being done for the natives than previously. It could very well be that many members would desire to discuss in an intensive fashion the detailed Estimates of that department. Then we come to the Estimates for the Lands Department and these cover soldier settlement, about which there should be a great deal of discussion before that Vote is finally disposed of. Next there is the Department of Agriculture, which, in a primary producing State like Western Australia, should justify a great deal of detailed debate.

Mr. Reynolds: We should hear from members of the Country Party on that topic.

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: Yes; we should hear from members representing country constituencies and more particularly from those associated with the Country Party. Next there is the Department of Labour, which is a vital one in connection with the industrial affairs of Western Australia. That is followed by the Chief Secretary's Department, which covers a number of governmental activities, including those relating to the North-West. The Mines Department should also demand a very full discussion when its detailed Estimates covering gold and coalmining are under review. There is also the Police Department which controls, or should control, S.P. betting, which we were told prior to the last election was to be effectively dealt with and cleaned up in a short period, but in connection with which since that time nothing of an effective character has been attempted, let alone accomplished.

Then we have the extremely important detailed Estimates of the Public Works Department and Water Supply Department—extremely important from the point of view of the development of the State—and we have under the heading of Public Works Department the local government section. Have members of this House forgotten that the Government appointed a Royal Commission many months ago to investigate the question of amalgamating local authorities such as Busselton, Collie, Bunbury, Northam and Kalgoorlie? The Royal Commissioner presented his report to the Government some time ago, but nothing has been done nor has anything been heard of it since. Is this to be another Royal Commission like so many others appointed by

the Government at considerable expense—or at least at some expense? A great deal of time is occupied by the Royal Commissioner in examining witnesses who give evidence before him, a report is then made to the Government, some Minister reads it and I suppose brings it to the notice of Cabinet and then it is pigeon-holed, so that the spiders can spin cobwebs all over and around it.

There is another important organisation, among many others, working under the jurisdiction of the Public Works Department. The one I have in mind is the organisation which is building houses for the State Housing Commission under a day-labour scheme. We have heard nothing about it in recent weeks, although some time ago private enterprise, represented by the building industry, was pushing the Government very hard to disband the organisation in order that the skilled tradesmen working for it might be made available to private builders and contractors. The spokesman for the Government at the time said, if I remember rightly, that the organisation would be decreased in size and strength as time passed. I want to know what has happened. I have an idea that there has been no decrease in the strength of the organisation numerically or otherwise, and I hope there has not. I want information from the Government as to the number of homes this organisation has built since it commenced its work.

I want information as to the average cost of each house built by it, in order that we might judge how successful or otherwise this social enterprise has really been. There are many other matters under the jurisdiction of the Public Works Department and the Water Supply Department about which I require information. Then we come to the Attorney General's Department, which controls many activities, included among which is prices control. That matter stands out. I doubt whether there is any other question, including housing, which is more important and I want to discuss it in detail, as it is my desire to press the Minister to give us much more information than we have been able to obtain up to date. It is all very well for the Premier to say that many questions have been asked by members this year.

All members of Parliament know what happens to the majority of parliamentary questions. Most Governments regard them

as hostile, no matter how they are worded, except when asked by their own supporters. Consequently, Ministers try to give us as little information as possible in their replies. The only way private members of Parliament have of standing a Minister up against a wall, as it were, for the purpose of extracting from him the fullest amount of correct information, is to do it in this House when the detailed Estimates of the various departments are before us for consideration and discussion. I have a motion on the notice paper which calls upon the House to declare itself in favour of appointing a prices commission which should consist of three members, a chairman appointed by the Government, one person representing the business and commercial interests and another directly representing the consumers. What is to happen about that?

Hon. J. B. Sleeman: They should put a housewife on it.

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: If the motion is ever finally dealt with by Parliament and passed, does the Government propose to do anything about it? Has it considered the matter? Has it reached a decision whether, in the event of the House approving of the motion, it will introduce legislation to amend the Act in such a way as to appoint this proposed commission? Of course it has not. The Government has both its eyes and all its attention on one objective, and that objective is to close this Parliament at the earliest possible date. That is the essence of the whole thing. That is the only reason the Premier is complaining about the time taken up on this debate, that debate and the other debate. It would be of no particular concern to the Premier in ordinary circumstances if members occupied 40 hours on the general debate on the Budget and nine hours on the discussion of the Premier's own departments. That would not mean anything to the Premier.

Hon. A. H. Panton: It is really a compliment to his departments.

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: It only upsets him at present because he is anxious to close Parliament. Why does he want to do so?

The Premier: For the good of the country.

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: For the good of the country?

The Premier: Yes, certainly.

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: Mr. Speaker, there is a confession! There is a confession which should cause all private members of the House to ponder deeply. The Premier wants to close Parliament for the good of the country!

Hon. J. T. Tonkin: He means the Country Party.

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: There is an implied insult to every member of the House and a grave reflection upon Parliament as an institution!

The Premier: It all depends on the work that Parliament is doing, whether it is getting on with something constructive or not. If it is obstructive, then close up Parliament as quickly as possible.

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: Well, Mr. Speaker, what has the Government given us of a constructive character? What has the Government produced this year for our consideration or beneficial to the country as a whole?

The Premier: What do you want, a long list of legislation?

Hon. J. T. Tonkin: We expected a Vermin Bill.

Hon. F. J. S. Wise: What did you give us?

The Minister for Lands. You gave a discourse on the Country and Liberal Parties.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: It is completely obvious that everything done this year in Parliament, including all of the legislation, has been made subservient to the Government's anxiety to get through the sittings as quickly as possible and close Parliament as early as possible. That has been the measure—

Mr. Ackland: What has been prompting the Opposition to waste so much time?

The Minister for Lands: That will take some time to answer.

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: The anxiety of members of the Opposition has been to keep Parliament open for a period of time sufficient to enable not only members of the Opposition but private members on the Government side, who were prepared to do so, even to the extent of incurring the displeasure of Ministers, the opportunity of

discussing fully all the vital matters which the Government cared to bring before the House and all the vital matters which any private member cared to submit. The Government's programme has been such that for many weeks early this year during the sittings of the House we had nothing before us worthy of consideration or any serious discussion. I know the Government's plans misfired shockingly in that regard, because it pinned all its hopes and faith for discussion for several weeks on the Local Government Bill.

Mr. Rodoreda: What happened to that?

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: When that fell to pieces because of the widespread hostility that developed among local governing authorities, the Government was left stranded.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The motion is to suspend Standing Order 181. The hon. member is getting a bit away from it.

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: I think so, too.

The Premier: It is getting a bit like the debate the other night.

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: I would say that the Premier's own speech this afternoon was a bit outside the motion.

The Premier: Just a reply to the Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: However, I do not take exception to that, and I am not a bit disturbed now that the Speaker has brought me back to the motion. But I do say that the Government has not brought before us for consideration the vital matters of this year's sittings until recently. Recently it brought these Estimates before us which, in my opinion, are vital because they provide for financing the many activities carried out by the Government in the interests of the community. If there is one thing more than any other in connection with which we should have ample time for discussion, it is the financial Estimates, as affecting both the Consolidated Revenue Fund and the Loan Fund. However, now that we are at this stage, the Government decides we shall be restricted very severely in our consideration of these detailed Estimates. There has been plenty of time earlier in the sittings this year for discussion and what-not but, because of the Government's programme, or lack of programme, we have

had nothing very serious to discuss previously. Now, when the Government brings down something worthy of serious and long discussion by members, it introduces concurrently a "gag" motion and forces it through this House.

The Premier: In your last year of office the Estimates took 30 hours.

Several members interjected.

The Premier: It was a reasonable Opposition; that is why.

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: It is amusing how the Premier grabs at any old straw, even the very weak and broken straw of the Opposition which existed in 1946. What does it matter whether in 1946 the Estimates took 30 hours or 60 hours?

Mr. Bovell: It might have been weak in Opposition but it is good in government.

Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Sez you!

Hon. J. T. Tonkin: But its members take no longer now than then.

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: What bearing has that on the present situation? None at all.

The Minister for Lands: Your stonewalling has some bearing, and you cannot deny it.

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: I am not stonewalling at all.

The Premier: They tell me that this debate is going on for some hours today, though the sitting was called to deal with the Estimates.

Hon. J. T. Tonkin: Who told the Premier that?

The Premier: Oh, just rumour!

Hon. J. T. Tonkin: The Premier has been badly informed.

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: I am not concerned with what someone has whispered to the Premier. It is probably grossly exaggerated. Whether it is or not does not matter. Surely the Premier does not expect he can gag the Opposition—

The Premier: No.

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: —in connection with the motion he introduced.

The Minister for Lands: There is no hope of doing that!

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: And that thereafter everything will go along smoothly and swimmingly. If someone kicked the

Premier on the shins and more or less laid him out, would the Premier treat that fellow with absolute friendliness and co-operation subsequently?

Hon. A. H. Panton: I believe he would; he would ask him to have a drink.

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: Of course he would not! The Premier would wait for a suitable opportunity to get his own back; and I have enough faith in him to believe he would try to get his own back by kicks or blows aimed at least above the belt.

The Honorary Minister for Supply and Shipping: No, he would not; he is a good Christian.

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: The Honorary Minister for Supply and Shipping has suggested that the Premier being a good Christian, if he had been kicked on both shins, would turn so that the same bloke could give him another kick on the back of the legs as well. I do not believe it. I was very intrigued by the contention the Premier put forward about the visit of the Governor General. He said there was no need to adjourn Parliament because of that visit in the near future because the Governor General knows already that Parliament is in session and he would not want Parliament to be adjourned, and would not raise the slightest question or objection if it were not adjourned during his visit. I agree with all that. Yet the Premier is falling over himself, and so are all the other Ministers of the Government, to adjourn Parliament completely at the end of this month. They are falling over themselves to close it down. There is not the slightest necessity to restrict the debate on the detailed departmental Estimates to the extent proposed by the Government. There is no necessity to restrict it at all.

So we come again to the fact that the Government is gagging members, is preventing a proper discussion of these detailed Estimates, and is doing everything within its power—and a lot of things really outside its power—to close Parliament down finally by the end of this month in order to save it from the possible embarrassment that would come to it if Parliament were still sitting after the member for Middle Swan and the member for Mt. Marshall had resigned to enable them to nominate constitutionally for the

Federal seats they intend to contest. That is the reason why the Government introduced and passed this motion to gag members on the Estimates; that is why the Premier and his colleagues are trying to close Parliament completely in the near future. So, I think the Government should not be allowed to get away with its plan; certainly it should not be allowed to get away with it easily. It has no right to close Parliament hurriedly for the purpose of serving the fancies or desires of two of its supporters, or even to save the Government itself from possible embarrassment in the House.

The Leader of the Opposition made a fair offer this afternoon. He said that if the Government was afraid of being embarrassed during the time that two of its members were not here, owing to their having resigned, the House could adjourn until the by-elections had been held for the electorates concerned, and new members returned therefrom. I hope the motion to suspend the Standing Order in question will be carried.

Mr. Reynolds: What is the Standing Order?

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: It is No. 181. I am sure the hon. member thought I did not know what the motion was. I am disappointed to think he should try to embarrass me. The motion as you, Mr. Speaker, know only too well is to suspend Standing Order No. 181 for the purpose of enabling the House to reconsider the "gag" motion which the Premier and his supporters forced through Parliament the other night. I hope the motion will be carried to enable us to reconsider the gag motion and to rescind it.

MR. STYANTS (Kalgoorlie) [3.42]: I shall not be very long. I think I can claim that I have spoken on fewer subjects this session, and for a shorter time than is customary for me in an ordinary session, but I cannot let the Premier get away with his fallacious reasoning as to why the "gag" motion should be persisted in, or his specious reasoning as to why the Opposition, in his opinion, has been endeavouring to obstruct the work of Parliament. He said the Opposition had not given the Government any co-operation. I think that charge could very rightly be laid at the door of the Pre-

mier and his Party. If he saw difficulties confronting his Party—particularly because he wishes to have the session terminated early to allow two of its supporters to contest a Federal Parliamentary election—and he required the co-operation of the Opposition, he signally failed in any approach to it for that purpose. As a matter of fact I do not think the Premier himself decided upon the procedure that has been adopted.

Mr. Rodoreda: Of course he did not.

Mr. STYANTS: I believe that some smart Aleo gave him the advice. At a rough guess I should say it was the members of the brains trust in the war office of his Party in St. George's-terrace. Those people do not know as much about parliamentary procedure as the Premier probably does himself. But being a good natured fellow, of an easy-going disposition, as we have found him to be in the last fortnight, I should say that he acquiesced and took their advice, which has not turned out very well for him.

What I object to is that there is definitely no chance being given to members of the Opposition, or those on the Government side, to discuss important Estimates. The Government decided to start the session six weeks earlier, but it is endeavouring to terminate it 10 weeks earlier. Consequently we have not sufficient time to get through the business. I suggest it was never intended during the last month or six weeks that members should have an opportunity to discuss the Estimates. If it were so, why are the reports of the Mines Department and the Commissioner of Railways not before the House? Why was it that the Minister for Railways yesterday, with only one ordinary sitting day of Parliament left before the "gag" motion was to be applied, did not know whether or not members were going to be in possession of the report of the Commissioner of Railways?

*Sitting suspended from 3.45 till 4 p.m.*

Mr. STYANTS: I have expressed the opinion that for at least the last month it has not been the intention of the Government to permit members on this side of the House to discuss the departmental Estimates. I base that opinion on the fact that no apparent attempt has been made to have the annual reports from the departments made available to the House.

The Premier: Are you forgetting the power breakdown and the coal strike?

Mr. STYANTS: There is always some reason trotted out.

The Premier: There is a very good reason, on this occasion.

Mr. STYANTS: There is always some reason that the Premier and the Ministry are prepared to put up. When we are dealing with the Railway Department, upon which the Government intends to spend some millions of pounds, as provided for in the Loan Estimates, we find specious reasons put forward for the indifferent service that that department is rendering to the people of the State, in spite of the fact that it is one of the most important departments and one the Estimates for which should be fully discussed.

With only one clear day in which to discuss the whole of the departmental Estimates that had not already been disposed of, I asked the Minister for Railways yesterday if he could assure the House that the report of the Commissioner of Railways would be available if and when the railway Estimates were discussed. Despite the fact that there was only one more sitting day available, he advised me that I should put the question on the notice paper and that he would give the answer to it at some future date. That, in itself, is an indication that no interest is being taken by the Minister for Railways in the discussion of the Annual Estimates.

The Minister for Railways: I said I would endeavour to find it for you.

Mr. STYANTS: Yes, and the Minister asked me to put the question on the notice paper. As one with close on a quarter of a century's experience of work in the Railway Department, I say there are many specious reasons being put forward, particularly in this House, as to why the department is not giving the people of the State good service, and that, in itself, is sufficient to warrant these Estimates being discussed so that the fallacies may be exposed.

The Minister for Railways: I will be disappointed if they are not.

Mr. STYANTS: The report of the Department of Mines particularly affects the Goldfields, but it looks as though we will not have that report in time to discuss it.

The goldmining industry is of great importance to the State and the Premier has been most solicitous about its welfare in all things with the exception of giving any practical assistance to it. He has been particularly vigorous in advocating that the Commonwealth Government should do something. We are becoming accustomed to the Premier's endeavouring to pass the buck to the Commonwealth Government, and it does not come as any great surprise that he is still persisting in endeavouring to do so as far as the welfare of the goldmining industry in this State is concerned.

It was stated by the Premier that there has been such a deluge of questions placed on the notice paper that they have, in some instances, disrupted the working of departments. I have asked more questions than I usually do, but I found that was the only means by which I could get any information. If I wrote to the Minister concerned, almost invariably it took a month to get an answer. I found that if I asked questions per medium of the notice paper —

Hon. F. J. S. Wise: I have outstanding letters with Ministers and they date back as far as three months ago.

Mr. STYANTS: —I could get answers and the information required in a matter of one or two days. When I realised that the report of the Commissioner of Railways was not to be made available in sufficient time for any debate that may take place on the railway Estimates, I endeavoured, by way of questions on the notice paper, to get the information which would otherwise have been presented to me, in the ordinary course of events, some two or three weeks prior to the debate on those Estimates. If there has been a greater number of questions asked this session then I submit that I have given the reason for it. They are the only means by which private members can obtain the information they require. I notice that the report of the Department of Agriculture has been distributed but of course we expected that because I consider this Government has been a primary producers' Government. It is particularly significant that that report is before us, but the two most important departments from a Goldfields member's point of view—the Departments of Mines and Railways—

The Premier: You are on the wrong track.

Mr. STYANTS: —appear to be left out of it and it does not look as though we will have an opportunity to peruse the reports. Also, it seems certain that we will not have an opportunity to discuss the Estimates for those two departments. The Premier claims that he has given members enough time to make up their minds. I do not consider that we have had much time, and I think it is only three or four sitting days since it was decided that we were to have a limited time in which to discuss all of the Estimates. The Premier knew just as well as we know that even if we restricted ourselves, and each member took 15 or 20 minutes for every department, we would not get through all of the Estimates in the time available. Therefore, I do not think it was so much a matter of giving members time to make up their minds as it was an ultimatum to them that they had to go quiet to suit the purposes of the Government.

I have no objection to co-operating with the Government at all times and I believe that the Opposition, as a whole, would have co-operated to the fullest extent if its members had been taken into the confidence of the Government in respect of an unprecedented departure from the usual custom of calling Parliament together. Members of the Opposition were not taken into the Government's confidence in that matter, so I hope that the Premier, even at this late stage, will grant us another week or a fortnight to discuss the Estimates of some most important departments still remaining.

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

|      |    |    |    |    |
|------|----|----|----|----|
| Ayes | .. | .. | .. | 22 |
| Noes | .. | .. | .. | 23 |

|                  |    |    |   |
|------------------|----|----|---|
| Majority against | .. | .. | 1 |
|------------------|----|----|---|

#### AYES.

|               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| Mr. Brady     | Mr. Needham  |
| Mr. Coverley  | Mr. Nulsen   |
| Mr. Fox       | Mr. Panton   |
| Mr. Graham    | Mr. Reynolds |
| Mr. Hawke     | Mr. Sleeman  |
| Mr. Hegney    | Mr. Smith    |
| Mr. Hoar      | Mr. Styanis  |
| Mr. Kelly     | Mr. Tonkin   |
| Mr. Marshall  | Mr. Triat    |
| Mr. May       | Mr. Wise     |
| Mr. McCulloch | Mr. Rodoreda |

(To Res.)

## Noms.

Mr. Abbott  
Mr. Ackland  
Mr. Bovell  
Mrs. Cardell-Oliver  
Mr. Cornell  
Mr. Doney  
Mr. Hall  
Mr. Hill  
Sir N. Keenan,  
Mr. Leslie  
Mr. McDonald  
Mr. McLarty

Mr. Murray  
Mr. Nalder  
Mr. Nimmo  
Mr. Read  
Mr. Seward  
Mr. Shearn  
Mr. Thorn  
Mr. Watts  
Mr. Wild  
Mr. Yates  
Mr. Brand

(Teller.)

## PAIR.

AYE. No.  
Mr. Oliver Mr. Perkins

Question thus negatived; the motion defeated.

## QUESTIONS.

## NATIVE AFFAIRS.

*As to Appeal of Inspector O'Neill.*

Hon. A. A. M. COVERLEY asked the Minister for Native Affairs:

(1) What was the recommendation of the Appeal Board appointed to hear an appeal lodged by Inspector O'Neill of the Native Affairs Department?

(2) Was this recommendation signed by His Excellency the Governor?

(3) If so, what action has been taken by the Government to put this recommendation into operation?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) The Public Service Appeal Board met to hear an appeal by Lawrence O'Neill against the title, classification and salary of Item 2276 in the Public Service in the Native Affairs Department.

The new title is "District Officer, Pilbara District," and the classification G-II-4. The old title was "Travelling Inspector," with the classification G-II-3/4. The salary range of the new classification is £678-704. The salary range of the old classification is £678-£756.

The Board is of the opinion that the reclassification of G-II-4 should stand, but that the title of "District Officer, Pilbara District," should be altered to "Travelling Inspector, Pilbara District," to comply with the Native Affairs Act, until such time as the Act is altered to make provision for district officers.

In conclusion, the Board recommends that so long as Mr. O'Neill occupies this position, having regard to his long years of experience in the North with natives, and no

question having been raised as to his efficient discharge of the duties assigned to him, he should be paid an allowance from the date of reclassification to bring him up to his previous maximum salary of £756.

(2) No. It was forwarded by the Deputy Chairman of the Public Service Appeal Board to His Excellency the Governor, who, in turn, forwarded it on to the Public Service Commissioner.

(3) The decision of the Board was adopted, but the recommendation in the final paragraph was rejected by the Public Service Commissioner.

Hon. A. A. M. Coverley: That is a high-handed attitude.

## GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.

*As to Number, Salaries and Wages.*

Hon. F. J. S. WISE asked the Premier:

(1) What increased number of persons in Government employment, whether on the permanent staff, temporary staff, or as casual workers, are at present employed by the Government compared with the figure as at the 31st March, 1947?

(2) What is the cost per annum of salaries and wages of such employees of the State?

The PREMIER replied:

(1) 4,000. Owing to the 40-hour week it has been necessary to increase the staffs of many major departments. The increased public works programme has also required more men.

(2) For 1948-49—For all employees £13,750,000, an average of £437 each.

Hon. F. J. S. WISE (without notice) asked the Premier:

In fairness to the Premier, I would draw his attention to his answer to my question and ask him if he realises that he suggests the 4,000 additional persons employed by the Government cost £13,000,000 per annum?

The PREMIER replied:

That is the amount covering the whole of the persons employed by the Government.

The Minister for Education: And that is how I regarded the question asked by the hon. member.

Hon. F. J. S. WISE: That is possibly the explanation, but I did not want it to go forth as though the Premier said that the 4,000 additional employees cost the State £13,000,000.

### HOUSING.

#### (a) *As to Week-end Shacks.*

Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Housing:

(1) Is he aware, as reported in the week-end Press, that about 40 week-end shacks are being erected at Naval Base?

(2) Is he aware, further, that there are proposals for the erection of hundreds of holiday shacks at Point Peron?

(3) Does he consider that the erection of holiday quarters should be undertaken at present in view of the 22,688 outstanding applications for dwellings which were in the hands of the State Housing Commission on the 31st July last?

(4) Does he consider building materials should be devoted to more essential housing requirements than those referred to above?

(5) If not, why not?

(6) If so, what steps does he propose?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) Yes.

(3) No.

(4) Yes.

(5) See No. (4).

(6) Inspections are being made with a view to legal proceedings being taken where warranted as a deterrent to the erection of such buildings. The respective local authorities have been advised of the position and their co-operation sought to prevent the issue of further licenses to build by such local authorities.

#### (b) *As to Rental Home, Baker's Hill.*

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE asked the Minister for Housing:

When is a contract likely to be let for the construction of the six rental houses proposed to be erected at Baker's Hill?

The MINISTER replied:

Arrangements have been finalised for the purchase of a number of prefabricated houses, some of which are intended for erection at Baker's Hill. The Commission is now endeavouring to arrange the necessary labour for erection.

### SERVICEMEN'S LAND SETTLEMENT.

#### *As to Allotment of Farms, etc.*

Hon. A. H. PANTON asked the Minister for Lands:

(1) Is it a fact that a farm situated half a mile from Karridale school with a newly erected 4-roomed house was allotted to a single man?

(2) Is it a fact that applicants with four children in the same group of allotments were allotted farms where no habitable accommodation was available?

(3) Is he aware that whilst labour costs up to £2 per chain for fencing were incurred, a person who was willing to do the work for 9s. 6d. per chain was written to by Mr. Castleton of the War Service Land Settlement Scheme and told that they would consider his offer at 7s. 6d.

(4) Does he know that £1 per acre is being paid for discing ploughed land when the ruling rate is less than 10s.?

(5) Does he know that cattle which were purchased primarily for distribution after agistment to land settlers were sold at high prices to private buyers whilst land settlers had to pay high prices on the open market?

(6) What profit has been made in the matter of agistment of heifers since the inception of the scheme?

(7) Would he consider returning these profits as rebates to those who, under the scheme, have bought heifers or put such credits to keeping down prices to settlers in the future?

(8) Is he aware that a £1,000 house erected on a block in Karridale district was built in a swamp, and the occupant is unable to take his motor vehicle within a quarter of a mile of it, owing to the boggy nature of the country?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) Yes, house being erected when property advertised.

(2) Yes. Material on property ready for erection.

(3) No. More specific information requested.

(4) No. More specific information requested.

(5) No. Culled stock only were sold by the Land Settlement Board.



(6) and (7) No profit. The Board values heifers offered to farmers at a price estimated to cover cost.

(8) No. More specific information requested.

## DAIRYING INDUSTRY.

*As to Herds, Facilities, etc.*

Hon. A. H. PANTON asked the Minister for Lands:

(1) How many settlers in the dairying districts are milking 10 to 15 cows; 15 to 20 cows; 20 to 25 cows; 25 to 30 cows; 30 to 35 cows; 35 to 40 cows; and over 40 cows?

(2) How many farms have the milking shed and calf-feeding facilities complete?

(3) How many of those who have been farming for one to two years, respectively, have the facilities abovementioned complete?

(4) How many dairy farmers have habitable accommodation on their properties?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) 5; 7; 10; 16; 11; 10; 8.

(2) Milking shed, dairy and yard—94.

(3) One year—49; two years on 16/9/49—10.

(4) 107.

## LIVING COSTS AND WAGES.

*As to Advertisement by Liberal Party.*

Mr. HEGNEY asked the Attorney General:

(1) Is he aware that on page 17 of "The West Australian" of the 9th September, 1949, there appears a large-scale advertisement—almost a half page—inserted by the Liberal Party, which indicates (a) that the cost of living must be reduced; and (b) that the Liberal Party will reduce living costs and increase real wages?

(2) In view of the fact that, due to increased living costs, the basic wage has increased by 17s. 5d. per week since the State took over control of prices, will he give an indication how he proposes to give effect to the objects mentioned in (a) and (b) above?

(3) If he is unable to reduce living costs, will he publicly repudiate the statements in the advertisement referred to?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL replied:

(1), (2) and (3) The advertisement in question points out that socialistic government slows up production and so keeps essential goods in short supply and at exorbitant prices. In my opinion, the Liberal Party is fully justified in calling attention to this fact and to any means by which the position can be improved.

## MIDLAND JUNCTION WORKSHOPS.

*As to Locomotive Repairs and Construction.*

Mr. STYANTS asked the Minister for Railways:

(1) How many boilers passed through the Midland Junction Workshops during the financial years 1947-48 and 1948-49, respectively?

(2) How many were thoroughly overhauled?

(3) How many new units were constructed?

(4) How many locomotives passed through the abovementioned shops for the same periods?

(5) How many received—(a) complete overhauls; (b) heavy repairs?

(6) How many new engines were constructed?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) 1947-48—201; 1948-49—210.

(2) 1947-48—41; 1948-49—52.

(3) 1947-48—36; 1948-49—31.

(4) 1947-48—232; 1948-49—279.

(5) (a) 1947-48—64; 1948-49—76; (b) 1947-48—55; 1948-49—71.

(6) 1947-48—5; 1948-49—Nil.

## NAILS.

*As to Supply.*

Hon. F. J. S. WISE asked the Honorary Minister for Supply and Shipping:

What efforts of any practical kind, likely to bring results, are being made to ensure the requisite supply of case nails so vitally needed and which are in desperately short supply in Western Australia?

The HONORARY MINISTER replied:

Nail wire has been offered to the nail manufacturers by a Belgium firm, but local manufacturers intimate that the price is too

high. The local market is incapable of supplying the present exorbitant demands made upon it, due mainly to incessant stoppages caused by industrial troubles in the East and subsequent loss of experienced personnel who get other employment and do not return to the industry.

If local consumers are urgently in need of nails, they must be prepared to pay higher prices for them oversea.

Last year 600 tons of nails were made in Western Australia and 250 tons imported from the East, nearly 300 tons more than was used before the war, and still it is impossible to meet the demand, except from oversea markets.

Another source of supply is India, and at present we are awaiting information as regards prices and conditions of sale.

When this information is to hand, Government Departments and merchants interested will be informed.

#### GRASSHOPPER PEST.

##### *As to Report on Aerial Spraying.*

Mr. BRAND (without notice) asked the Minister for Lands:

(1) Has he perused the report of the Government Entomologist on the aerial baiting of grasshoppers experiment, which was held at Mingenew recently?

(2) As some publicity has been given to the views of local residents will he consider making the official report available to the Press?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) No.

(2) This will be given consideration on receipt of the report and the hon. member will be advised.

#### TROLLEYBUS SERVICE.

##### *As to Projected Mt. Hawthorn Route.*

Mr. HEGNEY (without notice) asked the Minister for Railways:

(1) Has he reconsidered his reply to me on the 17th August last to the effect that he did not propose to inquire into the advisability of making the proposed Mt. Hawthorn trolleybus terminus at the junction of The Boulevard and Dover-street with Scarborough Beach-road, instead of at the intersection of Oxford-street and Scarborough Beach-road?

(2) If the reply to the foregoing question is in the affirmative, can he indicate that the first-mentioned location has been adopted or some point west thereof?

The MINISTER replied:

Speaking from memory, the present terminus was arrived at after consultation between the Tramway Department and the Transport Board, and consequently I have not reconsidered it.

#### BILL—LOAN (No. 2), £11,720,000.

Introduced by the Premier and read a first time.

##### *As to Second Reading.*

The PREMIER: I move—

That the second reading of the Bill be made an Order of the Day for the next sitting of the House.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: I do not think it is reasonable for the Premier to ask the House to agree to his motion that the second reading of the Bill be made an Order of the Day for the next sitting of the House. The measure seeks to authorise the raising of a loan of over £11,000,000. Although the Premier on Tuesday, with the aid of a majority of members, decided to gag us so that we must finish the consideration of the General Estimates by 9 p.m. on Tuesday next, he now introduces a Bill dealing with a matter of £11,000,000 and asks that it be made an Order of the Day for the next sitting. We have the Estimates for about 20 departments to consider between this and 9 p.m. on Tuesday. It is ridiculous.

The Premier: You have till Tuesday week.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: No, till Tuesday next. Notice of four Bills appears on the notice paper for today, and I heard Ministers give notice of some more at this sitting. We should ensure that no other business is discussed until we have had an opportunity to deal with the Estimates. I move an amendment—

That the words "at the next sitting of the House" be struck out with a view to inserting other words.

Amendment put and negatived.

Question put and passed.

## **BILL—FOOTWEAR REGULATION ACT AMENDMENT.**

Introduced by the Minister for Lands and read a first time.

*As to Second Reading.*

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I move—

That the second reading of the Bill be made an Order of the Day for the next sitting of the House.

Hon J. B. SLEEMAN: This Bill, which deals with footwear, is certainly putting the boots in. Here is another measure, the second reading of which is to be made an Order of the Day for the next sitting of the House. We should have an assurance from the Minister that he will not bring this legislation before the House on Tuesday next when the Estimates must be discussed and their consideration concluded by 9 p.m. If the Minister will give me an assurance to that effect, I will not move an amendment similar to that which I submitted with respect to the Loan Bill.

The PREMIER: I understand this is the usual procedure. When notice has been given regarding a Bill and it is introduced and read a first time, it is customary to move that the second reading be made an Order of the Day for the next sitting of the House. I will give the hon. member an assurance that the measure will not be gone on with on Tuesday next, although I do propose to move the second reading of the Loan Bill then.

Hon. J. B. Sleeman: You are going to do that on Tuesday next?

The PREMIER: Yes.

Question put and passed.

## **BILLS (2)—FIRST READING.**

1, Road Closure (No. 2).

2, Reserves (No. 2).

Introduced by the Minister for Lands.

## **ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1949-50.**

*In Committee of Supply.*

Resumed from the previous day; Mr. Hill in the Chair.

*Vote—The State Housing Commission, £24,416 (partly considered):*

MR. FOX (South Fremantle) [4.31]: I noticed that when the member for Pilbara was speaking of some of the promises made by the Government during the last election campaign members on the front benches opposite hung their heads in shame.

Member: They ought to.

Mr. FOX: I presume they now realise, after the ignominious results of office, that the public are awake to the emptiness of those promises and are also aware how far they are away from the fulfilment of them. The Government promised to build houses for two-unit families, but I do not know of any such houses having been built in the Fremantle district—not one—despite the fact that even when the previous Government was in power I made repeated requests to it to grant permits to young couples who had been married five to six years and who, because of lack of housing accommodation, had had no children up to that time and had intimated that there was little possibility of their having any children until they secured better housing accommodation.

The present Government made lavish promises. Even accepting the statement by the member for Middle Swan that two-unit homes have been erected in his electorate, I say that no other two-unit homes have been erected elsewhere. Of course, the Government lays the blame for the shortage of houses on the previous Labour Government, notwithstanding that the war had then just concluded and that men were returning from the front. These conditions continued for a period of 12 or 18 months, in which time the Government had to make preparations to lay the foundation of a big housing scheme. An anti-Labour Commonwealth Government had been in office for 25 years and thoroughly understood the housing position in Australia, because Commissions had been appointed to inquire into the matter. That Government did not hold out any hope of new houses, as thousands of sub-standard homes had to be demolished and rebuilt. Even in this State the anti-Labour Parties put all the obstructions they possibly could in the way of the Workers' Homes Board in order to prevent that board from building houses. Large sums of trust funds could have been made available for the purpose, but

another place would not give the board power to borrow those funds and thus retarded the building of homes.

The member for Pilbara told the Committee about a speech made at Harvey to a returned soldiers' meeting, I think, when the Premier promised that consideration would be given to returned soldiers. I do not know that that is the case, either; in fact, I am sure it is not. I shall read a letter that was sent to a couple who had reared nine children and who had made application for a home for themselves and two sons, aged 23 and 14. Of their other children, one son was killed at the war, one is almost a cripple through war injuries, one is in the Air Force, but is expected home at any time and another son of 18 years is working at Busselton.

These people had had three eviction orders made against them. I wish to make it perfectly clear that I am not blaming the Housing Commission in any way. My relations with the Commission have been most cordial; the officers have given me every possible help when I have applied to them for assistance. I am therefore not reflecting in any way upon the staff and I wish that to be clearly understood, as they can only give houses to the people as these become available. The letter reads—

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of the 22nd ultimo and I regret that my Commission finds that it will not be possible to assist you in the way of rental premises.

I can appreciate your unfortunate circumstances, but the Commission has directed that, when deciding who amongst all families under the threat of eviction should be granted rental premises, preference should be given to families with young children. In your case, it is noted that there are two children aged 23 and 14 years.

That is the letter which was sent to a lady and her husband who have had several sons in the war. One was killed. Despite the promises made by the present Government that they would provide homes even for two-unit families, these people were unable to obtain one. I could quote dozens of such instances. What the Government complained about during the election campaign of 1947 still prevails; in fact, the position is worse but it ought to be better, as this Administration has been in office for nearly three years. As time goes on, more labour and materials should be available. I think

the Government has adopted a wrong principle. Instead of permitting the export of timber to South Africa and Irak, it should have been kept in the State. The Government permitted the export of timber too soon. Five thousand tons of timber were exported to Irak and 8,000 tons to South Africa early in 1948. That was all jarrah.

I understand the Government and the timber merchants are most anxious to retain their oversea markets, but I think the people oversea should be compelled to take karri. A market can be found at any time for jarrah because of its excellence. What does it matter if the oversea people have to take karri for a year or two until our housing lag is made up? They would be just as anxious in three, four or five years again to take jarrah. As I said, we will have no difficulty in getting a market for jarrah because of its superior quality. Karri is not of such good quality, although it is an excellent timber, but it is unsuitable for housing in Western Australia because of its liability to attack by white ants. We all know that if a piece of karri is put into a house the white ants will find it out and destroy it; but jarrah is ant-resistant and we should keep all of it we possibly can in this State. If people oversea want timber they should be prepared to take what we are willing to give them, and we should not supply them with our best jarrah.

One reason why the day labour system did not go ahead too well for a time in Western Australia, according to Mr. White, of the Building Trades Union, was that timber was given to private firms in preference to the State Housing Commission for building homes for rental purposes. We can quite understand that, and I am not complaining about it, because it is the policy of the Government and members opposite not to assist Government enterprises in any way but to give private firms all the preference possible. Another factor which made for dearer homes was the lifting of price control on houses at the instance of the building trades. They were insistent that Mr. Chifley should lift price control but he was not prepared to do so for a long time because it meant an increase in the price of properties by a couple of hundred pounds.

We all know that there has been a great shortage of bricks and that has not all been due to the strike. Production was a long

way in arrears before the strike began. Mr. Davies, the chairman of the Housing Committee of the R.S.L., said that the shortage of bricks was due in no small measure to the failure of the Government to implement its promises to establish brickyards, and that not one modern up-to-date brickworks had been provided by the Government since it took office. That was stated in May, 1949. At the same meeting at which Mr. Davies made those comments, Mr. E. S. Watt, who is not a rabid Labourite, as everybody here would know, said that private people were buying bricks from the yards and storing them with a view to selling them later on and making a profit. The Government should have been awake to and prevented that kind of trafficking in bricks.

Several speakers have stressed the importance of preventing the erection of non-essential buildings. I have spoken previously about several large structures that are being put up in Fremantle, when the parties concerned could very well carry on with their existing premises. I have mentioned Fowler's, a firm well known to the Minister for Lands. That company has very commodious premises which have been suitable for its purposes for longer than I can remember. The building has been there for 50 years and perhaps longer. But across the road they are erecting a big brick place and they have closed up two brick houses into which they have put empty cases. The Government should be able to do something about that. It is not fair for any firm to close up a couple of homes suitable for renting and at the same time erect premises alongside. If it is at all possible, the firm should be refused materials. I know another very big building with a very ornate front for which there was no necessity. The man concerned is not far from me and is building a factory near me. He is engaged in the building of caravans. It is not fair that he should be given the number of bricks that he has received when we are so short of houses. Many other types of buildings are being put up, together with such things as brick fences, which could have been delayed till a more opportune time; and it is the duty of the Government to look into these matters and to see whether the maximum quantity of building materials cannot be diverted for the erection of homes.

I have here quite a number of cases of people who have been evicted from their homes; but it is so clear from the evidence we have had from the Housing Commission and elsewhere that large numbers of people are affected in this way, that there is no use labouring the point. We can all admit that the housing position is in a bigger muddle now than it has ever been so far as the number of homes provided is concerned. The Government has discriminated in favour of some of the districts represented by members opposite. Certain types of houses have been erected in those electorates, whereas hardly any have been provided in large industrial districts in the metropolitan area. I have here a list of 238 houses some of which are under construction and some of which are completed. We need not go into the number that have been completed. These buildings have been started and preference has been given to certain districts. Here are some of the figures:—

| District          | Expansible homes. | Duplex homes. | Flats. |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|--------|
| South Perth ..    | 47                | 36            | 14     |
| Belmont ..        | 30                | 2             | —      |
| Manning Estate .. | 70                | 28            | —      |
| Claremont ..      | 6                 | 22            | —      |
| Bayswater ..      | 4                 | —             | —      |
| Hilton Park ..    | 2                 | —             | —      |
| White Gum Valley  | 3                 | 4             | —      |
| Collie ..         | 4                 | —             | —      |
| Bunbury ..        | 4                 | —             | —      |

I suppose the Fremantle area has a bigger population than any of those places, yet out of those 238 homes it has been allotted only five expansible homes—two at Hilton Park and three at White Gum Valley. I do not consider that is anywhere near the number it should obtain. The district has an expanding population and many people are living in very bad circumstances. Some houses are badly overcrowded with 12 people living in a house. In passing, I might mention one small three-roomed house in Fremantle which is in the centre of the town and has 11 people living in it of different sexes, some of them being 16 years of age. That is an awful state of affairs. The families concerned have been endeavouring to secure homes for a considerable period, but unfortunately the Housing Commission is not in a position to supply them. It provides as many as it can, but there is an ever-increasing number of people seeking accommodation.

Only yesterday I had a visit from a fellow living at the smelters. That is a place also known to the Minister for Lands. This man is living in a camp owned by a bachelor and measures 10 x 12. The owner went for a trip to the Old Country and allowed the other man to have the camp for six months. He has now returned and wants his camp back, and the man has been endeavouring to obtain a home. He has two children. There is no water at the camp, no washing facilities and no electricity—nothing at all. He and his children are living in conditions like that. We recently had a deputation to the Minister for Lands about cutting up an estate at Hamilton Hill. I hope the Minister will agree to that subdivision. It is good land. I understand the Town Planning Commissioner wants the blocks to be larger than is proposed, but I hope they will go through as quarter-acre blocks.

The Minister for Lands: The matter has been resubmitted to the Town Planning Board for further consideration.

Mr. FOX: I think a quarter-acre block is large enough for a man who has to go out and do his 40 hours a week.

Hon. A. H. Panton: It is much too large.

Mr. FOX: Yes, it is too large for one man to work properly, although I believe we should not make the blocks less than a quarter-acre because we want a little breathing space. I wish to say a word or two about the construction of flats. One or two members have said they favour their construction. I hope we shall never have flats built in Western Australia, because they are the start of slums. If they are erected I hope they will be built in the districts of the members who are in favour of them. I know the Honorary Minister for Supply and Shipping said that flats should be built.

The Honorary Minister for Supply and Shipping: There is no more building space in Subiaco; there are no more quarter-acre blocks for sale.

Mr. FOX: That might be one of the reasons why the Honorary Minister for Supply and Shipping suggested the building of flats. We do not want them because they develop into slums. I came up on the bus today with people newly arrived from England, and I asked them if they knew anything about flats there and their

reply was that in Manchester thousands of people were living in flats and they were pleased to see the type of buildings in Western Australia. They wished there were similar buildings in England as flats were no good to anyone. They said that the neighbours annoyed each other, and that if vermin got into one flat it rapidly spread through the lot; that there was no room for the children to play; that it was objectionable to have to use community kitchens, wash-houses and bathrooms.

It is all very well to speak of flats in Mount's Bay-road and other places. It is very nice for a man and his wife to have a flat with all modern appliances. If we could supply the people with self-contained flats together with the amenities that are to be found in the Mount's Bay-road flats, that would be all right, but I hope that flats will never be built in Western Australia and people herded into them like a lot of cattle. There is any amount of space in Western Australia; there is no shortage of building lots. We should not build flats. We have gone backwards enough by erecting tents. I understand there are a couple at the Melville camp.

The Minister for Housing: There is a total of four.

Mr. FOX: It is a start. I hope that no people will go into them. They may be all right in the summertime.

Mr. Grayden: You would rather see them sitting on the footpath.

Mr. FOX: The hon. member ought not to talk about anybody sitting on the footpath. He was born with a silver spoon in his mouth and knows nothing of the situation. He was not brought up among working people.

Mr. Grayden: I have been out with a truck to pick them up. You should talk.

Mr. FOX: The member for Middle Swan knows nothing about the trials and tribulations of the working people.

Mr. Grayden: What a hypocrite you are! You ask the member for Fremantle about it. Ask him about the 16-roomed home with two people in it. What a hypocrite!

Mr. FOX: You dirty skunk; that is all you are.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. FOX: I ask the member for Middle Swan to withdraw his remark.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The member for Middle Swan has been asked to withdraw the term "hypocrite," which is unparliamentary.

Mr. Grayden: If you, Mr. Chairman, insist, I naturally have to withdraw.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! It must be an unqualified withdrawal.

Mr. Grayden: I have withdrawn.

Hon. J. B. Sleeman: He did not apologise.

Mr. FOX: I did not want him to.

The CHAIRMAN: The member for Middle Swan has withdrawn. I ask the member for South Fremantle to continue.

Mr. FOX: I have the greatest contempt for him. Another matter I wish to deal with is in connection with the statement made by the member for East Perth about a number of shacks that were erected at Rockingham. I have made inquiries and I understand that no shacks have been erected at Rockingham. The only camps that are there are a few fishermen's shacks that have been there for the last 50 years. They are not in a very good state of repair. One has been constructed to house a man who was doing some work for the Commonwealth and it was necessary for him to have a home in the district. No doubt the Minister for Housing would be able to tell us that no shacks have been built at Rockingham. The road board secretary told me there have been none.

The Minister for Lands: That is so.

Mr. FOX: The last matter I wish to talk about is in connection with the sale of workers' homes. I know the Government has not decided on its policy in this respect. I think the homes should be sold at cost, and not at the present valuation. It is unfair, if a house was built for £1,200, that the Government should have it valued now and sell it for £1,500 or £1,600, and so make a profit on the deal. Even though house-building costs are rising at present, they may come down later. The only reasonable way to sell these homes is at cost, and so give the people who have been living in them

every possible benefit. Quite a number of the tenants have been in the homes for some time and have taken particular care of them by making gardens and properly looking after their places.

MR. WILD (Swan) [4.49]: Last evening the member for Pilbara made reference to the fact that the question of housing had been made a political football. If that is so, it has been done by members of the Opposition. I have a vivid recollection, not so long ago, of a member on the other side rising to his feet and making startling allegations in this connection, and then not having sufficiently the courage of his convictions to go before the subsequent Royal Commission. All members know that the solving of the housing problem has not been and will not be easy but, in the interests of all the people at present suffering through the housing shortage, I feel that any comments on housing that we make in this Chamber should be of a constructive nature. We should tackle the problem realistically. It is no use saying what happened in 1938 or 1939; let us get down to the position as it is in 1949, and decide how we are to overcome the difficulties.

Mr. Graham: With 22,000 outstanding applications?

Mr. WILD: There was no house building during the war years and subsequent to the war we find that 27,500 people have been added to the population of this State. Last evening, in answer to a question, the Minister for Housing said that something over 6,000 migrants had been brought to Western Australia in the past 12 months. Apart from that, there are many who have come here under their own steam from Burma, India and even from the Old Country. We know that since 1945 the building rate has been steadily increasing. I realise that it has not kept pace with the number of new arrivals in the State, but I do not see what good we are doing our long-suffering people by coming here and endeavouring to make a mountain out of a mole-hill. That will not help them. When we rise to speak on housing in this Chamber we should try to be constructive in order to afford our people some help. During this year there have been stoppages unprecedented in the history of Western Australia and they have seriously curtailed production of all those things required for the house building programme

Mr. Rodoreda: It was nearly as bad as the war.

Mr. WILD: We had a stoppage of no less than eight weeks due to the power house breakdown, and then there was the coal strike which meant a loss of 11 weeks production out of 32 weeks. Is it any wonder that the housing position has deteriorated in the past three or four months?

Mr. Rodoreda: But that sort of thing was considered to be only incidental at the last election. You did not think of things like that.

Mr. WILD: Members of the Housing Commission have been faced with a terrific problem and I do not think any member in this House would like to be placed in the same position. The Housing Commission has only a limited number of houses to hand out among those needing them and when we consider that there are 80 members of Parliament who make representations on behalf of their constituents, we can realise that the officials of the Housing Commission find themselves in a very difficult position. There are bound to be mistakes in the best regulated of families and I have seen glaring mistakes in my own electorate, but frequently when one goes into the matter one finds there is a real basis for some individual having been given a house in preference to somebody else. I believe that during the past 12 months the Housing Commission could have further assisted the building programme in two directions. I feel they have not investigated the self-help building system as much as they should have. As I said about this time last year, when we were dealing with the same Estimates, both the Gosnells and Armadale-Kelmscott Road Boards have adopted a humane attitude towards the man who is without a house.

In my electorate, and particularly round Gosnells, the number of £50 permits granted has been enormous. I think that £50 permits should be raised to at least £150 or £200, as I feel certain that, by using every available week-end and with the help of their friends, those needing houses would be able to build hundreds more dwellings in my district. I also believe that the use of cement bricks and concrete walls has not been availed of to a sufficiently great extent. About 12 months ago I and three

or four other members had opportunity of seeing a company—I cannot remember its name—pouring cement walls at Queen's Park. After some delay the Housing Commission gave that company a permit to build six houses. If the Commission considered the standard was good enough for six houses, I submit it should have been good enough for a thousand and six, but instead of that, permission was given for only six of these houses to be built. Following that, while the Commission was trying to make up its mind to allow the building of some more of these houses, the company lost most of its tradesmen, and no more of those dwellings were built. After a long delay it has now been decided to allow some more of those houses to be constructed and permission has been given for the erection of a further 15.

A member, a colleague of mine, went out a few days ago and had a look at the "Monocrete" brick works. There, there are sufficient bricks for the walls of 40 or 50 houses. I feel that the Housing Commission has had its head in the clouds and should now come down to earth. Last week-end I was at Geraldton and took the opportunity of examining a number of houses round Dongara that had been built of cement bricks 50 years ago. They are still standing and will apparently stand for another 50 years, yet one or two gentlemen on the Housing Commission have consistently adopted the idea that we must have a standard of housing that one would expect for an area such as Nedlands. I do not think any member would be ashamed to live in a house walled with cement. Those dwellings have stood the test of time in Western Australia and members know that all over the State there can be seen houses built with cement walls 50 or even 70 years ago, which today are as good as ever they were. A more realistic approach must now be made to this problem and when we have people willing to help themselves we should help them and should also assist the companies that are willing to make cement bricks or pour cement walls. They should be encouraged to produce as many bricks and build as many houses as they possibly can.

I was pleased to see, at long last, a full-time chairman of the Housing Commission appointed some three or four months ago.



No-one had anything against Mr. Reid, but I suggest that no human being could be Under Treasurer, Chairman of the Housing Commission, and a member of four or five boards and give any one of them his full attention, let alone all of them. With the appointment of the full-time chairman to the Commission and the arrival of more machinery for cement production, the position should improve. With increased production of bricks and timber and the arrival of more labour from overseas, I feel certain that we can in the not too distant future look forward to a considerable increase in our house building rate.

**HON. E. H. H. HALL** (Geraldton) [5.10]: I think I am safe in saying that nearly everyone who has spoken on the housing Estimates has had nothing but good to say about the staff employed by the State Housing Commission. That at least is something we can be thankful for. In the main, the staff have endeavoured to give faithful, conscientious and efficient service. But where do we go from there? That the position is one of extreme difficulty, every fair-minded person must admit. There is a well known saying from the Old Book that, "You cannot make bricks without straw." Therefore, we cannot build houses without the necessary materials and the necessary materials consist of many articles other than bricks. Take my own town of Geraldton! We have had a brickworks there for many years and the proprietor has been unable to make bricks because he could not obtain the necessary staff to assist him. I understand that the labour required could not be classified as skilled labour. Some few months ago he was able to obtain six Balts and, although they are unaccustomed to the work—which I am given to understand is fairly heavy and heavier for men unaccustomed to it—he has recommenced operations. I mention that fact as an indication of one of the things that hold up the erection of houses.

There are many materials required before a house can be completed and the tenant gains possession. I well remember that some couple of years ago there were no less than six or seven houses in Geraldton, all fully completed with the exception of certain fittings in connection with the water, but the tenants were not permitted to occupy those houses until the fittings were supplied and

installed. So, if we desire to be fair to the Commission, we must realise the many difficulties that have faced it over the last few years. Last but not least I would refer to the many stoppages that have taken place, not only in this State but also in the Eastern States. We are dependent on the other States for many articles which are used for the completion of houses.

After making due allowances for the many difficulties which have to be accounted for we must ask ourselves, are we entirely satisfied? I will correct that question, because we can never be entirely satisfied with many things. But are we able to say that we are in some way coping with this problem commensurate with the requirements? We heard from the member for East Perth last night, what we have been hearing during the whole of this session. I think he said that the number of people requiring homes was some 22,000. Let us halve that number and call it 11,000. Let us bring it down to half that number and call it 5,000.

Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Still too many.

Mr. Graham: The Minister says 8,000.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: If there are 8,000 homeless people—

Mr. Graham: No, 8,000 applicants.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: I take it that it would be too drastic to say that they are homeless but if, according to the Minister, there are 8,000 applicants, then are we stepping out to meet this abnormal situation? It is not much use getting up and saying that this is not a Party question. In the name of all that is right, true and decent surely it should not be necessary to keep on saying that it is not a Party question. Surely we can all come together in providing homes for our people! I frequently disagree with the member for East Perth, frequently and violently, but I am, with him, and every other member of this Chamber, irrespective of what seat in the House he occupies, in endeavouring to have something done to meet the terrible situation confronting us.

When we are speaking on a serious matter such as this we must be especially careful that we do not, in any way, exaggerate. Therefore, when the member for East Perth—I think I am correct as to his remarks—said that it took as long as 12 months to build a house, I suggest to him that he was exaggerating.

Mr. Graham: Definitely not.

Mr. Styabys: He is not exaggerating. There is a house within a stone's throw of my place. It has been under construction for ten months and is nowhere nearly finished.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: I must accept the hon. member's statement.

Hon. A. A. M. Coverley: Will you apologise to him?

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: As both the member for Kalgoorlie and the member for East Perth state that it is no exaggeration, then I accept the statement.

Hon. A. A. M. Coverley: You had better present him with a dozen crayfish tails as a peace offering.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: If it takes that long to finish houses, then something should be done to increase the supply of materials. I am glad the member for Guildford-Midland is in his seat, because last night he spoke about something that happened in Geraldton and I wish to correct his statement. I know from personal knowledge that the hon. member was making a mistake. I think he said he had lived in what he called beach flats. That is the first time I have heard them referred to as flats. I do not know the real meaning of the word "flat," but we have always referred to them as beach camps.

Hon. A. A. M. Coverley: No. The correct term is beach cottages.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: In 1945, the Health Department took action. The camps were erected for housing country people during the summer months. These people spent their holidays in Geraldton but eventually, owing to the housing situation, other people occupied these camps and lived there permanently and were only too glad to get them. In November, 1944, the Health Department issued notices that each of these camps should be fitted with a septic tank. Although there may not have been any bathrooms, they were all fitted with showers. The member for Guildford-Midland said that he had lived in one of these so-called flats. I would tell the hon. member that I have done so too, and I know that when I corrected him I did so with personal knowledge of the facts. When the hon. member lived in the camps these facilities

may not have been provided, but since 1944 each of them has been fitted with a septic system and water and electric light had been available from the time of erection. As an indication of the difficulties associated with this problem, I would remind the Chamber of the violent disagreement between two members of the Labour Party—the member for East Perth and the member for South Fremantle—on the necessity or advisability of building flats.

Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Where do you stand on that question?

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for that interjection, because I am inclined to be on the side of the member for South Fremantle. In a country such as this, where we have ample space, we should construct places on the lines of the beach camps in Geraldton rather than erect huge blocks of flats. If we do that, we will be down on Mother Earth, and the kiddies, referred to by the member for South Fremantle, can get about on the ground and have sufficient space to play. Also, the people themselves would have more privacy than would be available in huge blocks of flats.

Mr. Graham: I was expressing the preference for flats as against fowl houses.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: I agree with the hon. member there. He quoted an instance last night of a man who had been living with his wife in one room for 10 years and when I asked him if this man had been in constant employment he assured me he had. If he has been living under those circumstances for such a long period surely there is something wrong with the man.

Mr. Graham: He was in the Forces for half of the time, as I pointed out.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: When I take my family around the metropolitan area at week-ends I cannot help but notice the hundreds of houses that have been constructed and are in the process of construction.

Hon. F. J. S. Wise: That was the same in 1947.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: They are all extremely desirable residences and of a very fine type. There are thousands of people waiting to be granted any sort of accommodation and when one thinks that we have the timber supplies and fibrolite manufacturing works, one cannot but wonder, a

the member for Swan said just now, why homes cannot be constructed more rapidly. Instead of building the type of house that it is, why is not the Commission a little more realistic, and as the member for East Perth said last night, why does it not get away from the departmental methods, and do something to meet the position? I forget for a moment just how many people are on this Commission—some seven or nine members I believe—but I think there is a representative of the trade unions on it.

Hon. F. J. S. Wise: There is a woman.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: I do not know Mr. Coram, who is a member of the Commission, and if I did I do not know whether it would be the correct thing for me to approach him, or for any other member to do so, to ask why his Commission has not got on with the job with a little more expedition than it has. When I have listened to the member for East Perth giving his experience of these matters I have often wondered why he has not approached Mr. Coram and asked him for his opinion on them. Take the instance of this medical man whose case was featured in the Press. I think his name was Gild—

The Minister for Housing: It is Gild. Be careful with that because there has been some confusion with the name.

Hon. F. J. S. Wise: It is not a case of gilding Gild.

The Minister for Housing: It is gilding the lily.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: What answer has the Housing Commission to offer for granting a permit for a building such as that whilst these thousands of people who have been waiting for far longer periods for any sort of habitation have not been housed? Whilst we have a Commission composed as it is of many people representing all walks of life I cannot understand why it should grant a permit to build a house of this nature to Dr. Gild.

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: Did not the Minister also approve of the granting of the permit?

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: I am asking him.

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: That is right; ask him!

The Minister for Housing: The Minister did not even see the application.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: Unfortunately there have been too many instances of this kind. We cannot expect 100 per cent. efficiency with the staff such as is in the offices of the Housing Commission and, whilst it is faced with so many complex problems, it would be unreasonable not to expect some of the happenings such as are occurring now. But in too many instances do these glaring breaches occur. In "The Sunday Times" we read—

Hundreds of one-room holiday shacks will be built at Pt. Peron—if the Department of Interior agrees to a Rockingham Road Board proposal.

That is something they say is going to be done, but further on they state—

At Naval Base—near Rockingham boundary—Fremantle Road Board secured 98 blocks from the Commonwealth. On this rising ground overlooking the sea 40 small week-end shacks are now being erected.

Most of these shacks should be completed well before Christmas.

I think if I heard correctly, in answer to the member for East Perth, the Minister today admitted that this is so. How much longer is this kind of thing to go on? I think the Committee is entitled to some explanation. As the member for Swan has said, this matter should be dealt with in a realistic manner. That could mean anything. However, I should say it means the giving to these people, who have been waiting for accommodation for so long, some sort of habitation which they and their families so greatly desire. We are spending huge sums of money bringing people to our shores and I have nothing against that, but it has been recognised down through the ages that it is better to increase our population from those who are already within our shores.

The Minister for Housing: I think I will appoint you the next Minister.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: The Minister has said a mouthful!

Mr. Graham: The member for Geraldton accepts the Minister's offer.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: No-one acknowledges the courtesy that is shown by the present Minister for Housing more than I do. If it is possible, he is too courteous. I understand, from a statement in "The Sunday Times" that he is resigning his portfolio; also that he is resigning his seat as

soon as Parliament closes and that will mean the appointment of some other Minister. Although it might be impertinent for me to say so, I think that in the interests of the State, and in the interests of those people who are waiting for homes he should at least make it his duty to serve his term of office to the full, because he must necessarily know more about this job than any new man possibly could.

Mr. Graham: This will make the member for Swan wild.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: If he is to—

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: He is "Wild" already.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL:—foist on the Commission and its staff the added burden of instructing a new Minister in his duties I do not think it will be fair. That is what will have to be done because Ministers must necessarily undergo a certain amount of training by their staffs.

Hon. F. J. S. Wise: That is right; they are not born.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: No, they are not born. The Minister has gained a great deal of experience and knowledge in the few years he has had this portfolio, and I think that he should continue to give the people of this State the benefit of that until his term as a member for West Perth expires at the next election. The situation is bad enough, goodness knows, without our having to put up with a brand new Minister. He might be—I do not know; who does?—only able to hold his job until next April.

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: That will be the position.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: And yet the present Minister is running away! This evening he said facetiously—I take it it was a facetious remark—that the member for Geraldton should be appointed as the new Minister.

Mr. Graham: What nonsense!

Mr. Hoar: It was not facetious at all.

Hon. F. J. S. Wise: At any rate, you could not do any worse, could you?

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: I could not hope to do nearly as well as the present Minister for Housing. I could not stand the strain of it.

Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Do not be so modest!

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: I have told the Chamber before that I do not know how the secretary of the State Housing Commission—against whom from time to time I have had to voice some complaints—has been able to stand up to his job. I mentioned one very unsatisfactory case in this House and I did not get an acceptable answer. I went to the Premier and I told him about something that had happened that should not have occurred. As a matter of fact, there was never any satisfactory explanation advanced in that case, but I realise that there must be mistakes. How some of the officers concerned are able to carry on and still remain outside the walls of the Claremont lunatic asylum I do not know, for a terrible strain is imposed upon them. I do not want the impression gained that I regard the job as an easy one. Anyone who has a desire to be fair will never suggest it is an easy task.

Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Hear, hear!

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: But there is this job to do, and I know that my people in Geraldton have not received the service from the State Housing Commission that they are entitled to. If I did not draw attention to the fact, I would be worse than the member for Kimberley implied when he has interjected from time to time during my remarks.

Hon. A. H. Panton: What did he say?

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: I will leave that to the hon. member. While I am a supporter of the present Government I have a duty to perform, and I must say that I am entirely dissatisfied with what has been done by the State Housing Commission—and when I say that, I do not refer to the staff. As a matter of fact, we have never been told what are the duties and activities of this body that consists, I understand, of a number of men and one lady. Do they have the final word in allocations?

Hon. J. T. Tonkin: Yes.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: Do they take any action to satisfy themselves that reports they receive from their officers are somewhere near the mark?

Hon. F. J. S. Wise: I think they do.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: If that is so, they make far too many mistakes. Irrespective of whether the Government will take any notice of what I say—

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: Ministers will not.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: —I strongly urge the Premier and his colleagues to take heed of the utterances of members and to give the matter their most earnest consideration in the interests of the people of this State and the thousands who are awaiting homes. In all earnestness, I pleaded with the Government to make a full-time appointment respecting the chairmanship of the Commission. Now that the present Minister is understood to be vacating his portfolio shortly, I trust that the Government will see to it that whoever follows him will have the housing problem only to deal with and that matters affecting native affairs will be transferred to some other Minister.

Hon. A. A. M. Coverley: To someone who will stand up to it.

Hon. F. J. S. Wise: And what about Forests?

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: Let us see to it that whoever is appointed to Cabinet is given the full-time job of looking after housing matters and does not flit away to the North-West or to the Eastern States—important though the matters may be that he intends to deal with. Let him give all his attention to the housing problem, and make a job of it. Some driving force is necessary, and the new Minister should put everything into his task. The Commission should devote considerable time and thought to planning so that some sort of shelter shall be provided for people who now have to live in one room.

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: It is a pity that the Country Party members do not have more influence in the present Administration.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: I do not forget that the Government is up against the building bylaws of local authorities.

Hon. A. H. Pantou: We have broken that down.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: And so we should. If Parliament is supreme, we should see that action is taken. We are facing a time of crisis. As the member for East Perth said the other night, something out of the ordinary has to be done or we shall never catch up with the leeway, especially with the migrants coming here in such numbers. While that phase must be attended to, we must see to it that, though we want to encourage these newcomers to settle here and

become good Australians, our own people who are now here are not overlooked. I have people writing to me, and some of them have gone to Geraldton, and they tell me of their position when they have their wives scattered in several places throughout the State.

Hon. F. J. S. Wise: How many wives have they?

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: They are scattered about, and a long way from where they reside. How can we expect people to populate the State if we cannot give them homes?

The Minister for Housing: We can hardly be expected to cope with that.

Mr. Graham: They certainly must be nearer than 100 miles apart.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: That is the position.

Mr. Graham: It cannot be done by correspondence.

Mr. Styants: Or by co-respondents?

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: It is well said that a little nonsense now and then is relished by the wisest of men.

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: And so you quit relish it!

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: This subject is far too serious to be treated with levity. Without doubt we will get nowhere unless we deal with the problem adequately. I could burst into tears when I think of it.

Hon. A. A. M. Coverley: That would not be something new for you.

Mr. Hoar: You have nearly got me there, too.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: I realise that long speeches will not get us anywhere.

Mr. Bovell: You quoted a rhyme on a previous occasion and perhaps it is appropriate to remind you that—

A wise old owl sat in an oak,  
The more he saw, the less he spoke;  
The less he spoke, the more he heard,  
Why can't we all be like that bird?

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: I have heard that before.

Hon. F. J. S. Wise: So it is not original.

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: There is a story about another bird, too.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

**Hon. E. H. H. HALL:** Quoting long extracts from the daily newspapers of what happened long ago between certain political parties will not assist in the solution of this problem.

**Hon. F. J. S. Wise:** At any rate, I think you are on the right track with regard to the local authorities.

**Hon. E. H. H. HALL:** I am pleased to hear that from the Leader of the Opposition who has had such a lengthy experience.

**Hon. A. H. Panton:** Bull-dust!

**Hon. E. H. H. HALL:** Anything he says, I shall take notice of. In this matter, it is up to the Government to take the necessary action to provide shelter and accommodation for our people. I could speak for two hours on the subject but possibly it would be of no avail. I hope the new Minister when he is appointed, will be required to devote the whole of his attention to housing matters so that he could give it his undivided attention, because I think the situation is so serious that it necessitates the full and undivided attention of the most able man we can secure. I will not have any opportunity to vote for the member who is to hold the position. Members know that, but I am most anxious—as I take it we all are—that the utmost drive should be put into this job. I desire to conclude on this note: As long as we have thousands of people who are denied housing accommodation for themselves, their wives and families, are we not in danger of doing what all members are trying to prevent? Are we not in danger of breeding that discontent which in my opinion makes it easy for a man to say, as William Shakespeare put it, “A plague on both their houses”? Are we not inviting them to deride our democratic way of life? We are driving men to the extremes of communism by denying them a home. No Minister could devote his time and energies to anything more praiseworthy than the housing of the people.

**Members:** Hear, hear!

**MR. ACKLAND (Irwin-Moore) [5.42]:** I do not intend to follow what has been a popular pastime throughout this session, that of criticising and abusing the Minister for Housing and the Housing Commission, but I want to make some suggestions with

reference to the policy of the Commission. Before doing so I wish to say that I have every appreciation of what the Minister and the Commission are trying to do. They certainly have increased the building rate. A greater quantity of building material is becoming available.

**Mr. Graham:** And a greater number of people are waiting for it.

**Mr. ACKLAND:** I think that if some members of the Opposition would devote as much attention to speeding up production as they do to abusing the Minister, we might get somewhere.

**Hon. A. H. Panton:** He is too nice to abuse.

**Mr. ACKLAND:** I think I am right when I say that in 1945, at the end of the war, we had practically 500,000 less men in production than we have now, and I think I would also be right in saying that we are producing less today than we did then. What is the cause of the slowness of providing houses not only here but throughout Australia? It is because no-one is giving of his best. I think the members of the Opposition could give very considerable help.

**Hon. F. J. S. Wise:** That is nonsense.

**Mr. ACKLAND:** I do not intend to follow that line of thought very far, but when I came into this Chamber—

**Mr. Needham:** You are on dangerous ground.

**Mr. ACKLAND:**—I tried to help in giving effect to a policy of decentralisation and it is to that point I wish to address myself. I believe building materials came under control about 1945. From that day to this, only two rental homes have been built in my electorate, Irwin-Moore. For those associated with the electorate that is nothing to be proud of. Since this Government assumed office two houses have been built at Moora.

A little over 12 months ago I approached the Premier and the Minister for Housing and informed them of the housing position in my electorate, and some 12 months ago a promise was made that 18 houses would be built there, six at Dalwallinu, six at Moora and six at Wongan Hills. I have done all in my power to press for even this small programme. Today when visiting the Housing Commission I ascertained that a con-

tract had been let for three houses at Worgan Hills, that land had been purchased at Dalwallinu and that the Commission was still trying to secure sufficient suitable land at Moora on which to erect six houses.

Mr. Graham: Have you any swamps there?

Mr. ACKLAND: In my opinion, if the Housing Commission had been really serious in this matter it could have done better than that.

Mr. Reynolds: I thought you were not going to criticise the Commission.

Mr. ACKLAND: I care not where one goes in the metropolitan area, whether to Claremont, Greylands, Osborne Park, Floreat Park—

Hon. A. H. Panton: Do not mention Leederville.

Mr. ACKLAND: —Midland Junction or any other suburb, one will see rows of new houses.

The Premier: Hundreds! Thousands!

Mr. ACKLAND: Streets of them, yet in the country we are very short of houses.

Hon. A. H. Panton: Not one house has been built in Leederville for 10 years.

Mr. ACKLAND: I do not know about Leederville.

Hon. A. H. Panton: You just said "all the suburbs." That is the way you talk. You do not know.

Mr. ACKLAND: That is the position as I see it. I do not know of a township in any country district that is not languishing because of lack of new houses. Every country store, garage or business could employ more people if there were accommodation for them.

Mr. Hoar: Whose fault is it?

Mr. ACKLAND: Almost every country hotel—at least in my electorate—is devoting accommodation intended for travellers to young married people who would be much better off attending to their own homes than spending their spare time in hotels. The statement has been made that people will not seek work in the country. If members will forgive me for introducing a personal matter, I would like to do so by way of illustration. A few months ago I advertised

for a general farm labourer and was fortunate enough to be able to state in the advertisement that a comfortable home would go with the position. I received 57 applications for the job. They came from all walks of life, men who in many instances would not know one machine from another or a fine Merino sheep from a coarse English wool sheep. Many of them said they did not. They were not interested in anything but getting a home. They said that in order to get a home they would do their best in the job for which they applied.

The only inquiries made were those relating to living quarters, none at all about the terms of their engagement. If we are prepared to build houses in the country we will not have any difficulty in getting people to go there. Not a local authority in Western Australia with which I have come into contact has been able to get sufficient road board workers. People in the country cannot get contractors, whether for shearing, carting or anything else, because there is nowhere for them to live in the townships. I believe a double service will be done to Western Australia, if, instead of our being so anxious to build up this octopus of the metropolitan area, where already more than half the people are living, folk were encouraged to go into the country. If I had to live on a back verandah, or in some room or something of that sort, I would certainly live in the metropolitan area where amenities are obtainable that do not exist in the country. But if we give people the opportunity of living under decent conditions in the country they will go there and will thus not only relieve the labour position in the country, but will improve the general economy of the State. Even the position of the railways would be relieved. Members who have read the report of Mr. Duplessis will remember he mentioned the fact that traffic is all one way in this country and quite different from what it was in other places he had visited.

I would most earnestly ask the Minister for Housing to give greater consideration to country townships. There are about seven in my electorate, and that is only one part of the State. Every one of the small country towns badly needs houses. The three places I have mentioned, instead of six each could take more than 12 houses,

and there are four or five other towns where six or seven are very badly needed. I have no complaint to find with the Housing Commission for what it has done in regard to building. All things considered, it has done a good job and increased the building rate. There is also more material becoming available. When we consider the strikes and the power break-downs and things of that description, what has been achieved is very much to its credit. But the policy of building all these houses in and around the metropolitan area to the exclusion of the country districts is one that does not reflect credit on the Commission, or the Government, or this Parliament.

**HON. F. J. S. WISE** (Gaseoyne) [5.53]:

I thought several members were going to rise or I would not have been so tardy in doing so. I intended originally to speak at considerable length in this debate, but there are so many other vital Estimates to be considered that I will curtail my remarks to a few moments. I was very interested to hear the member for Swan pleading that this subject cease to be political and stating that it was the Opposition which was making it a political matter. I deny that emphatically. I would like to remind the hon. member of the tactics adopted by his Party particularly in connection with housing, and the statements made in the policy speeches, in advertising, and in public pronouncements during February, March and April of 1947. To the present Government I attach no serious criticism nor do I complain about the difficulties associated with the obtaining of materials; that is, if the Government is exerting its best endeavour. But I do seriously criticise and condemn the Government for wilfully misrepresenting the position in 1947, when it made so many cruel and untrue statements and so many pious promises which have never been fulfilled.

If members have any doubt of that, I have a complete list of those promises, which I would not take up the time of the Committee this afternoon in relating with a view to showing how desperate it must have been in failing to present an accurate assessment of the position or wilfully misrepresenting it. The advertisements of those days will not bear examination. It would be cruel on my part, so far as embarrassment of the Government is con-

cerned, to analyse them in the course of this debate. In some instances they were personal to me, because I was Minister for Housing at that time. But I had a keen appreciation of the difficulties and not at any stage that I can remember was I afraid of work. I attempted to face up in a realistic way to the problems presented not only in the preparation of plans—which this Government has in a great measure enjoyed—not alone in that respect, or in the purchase of thousands of desirable building blocks in many suburbs, but in actually constructing, through the Housing Commission, hundreds and hundreds of homes in new suburbs, which have since been added to.

So if any member from that side wishes that this cease to be a political subject, because it is a difficult one and because the criticism of the Government will have to be very pointed and direct insofar as its incapacity to carry out its promises is concerned, that is the point I will focus attention upon rather than the plight—the desperate plight—of thousands of people who have been unable to obtain homes in spite of what was promised to two-unit families, quite apart from the sufferings of five-unit families who are still not housed. It is a dismal story, no matter how attempts are made to colour it. We have heard this afternoon from two or three members on the other side of the House statements of their experiences, which certainly show how distressing the whole housing position is and must continue to be unless some other approach is made to the subject, and some of those earlier promises are retracted in fairness and honesty of purpose, and the disillusioned people given some greater hope than they have at present. Some of those promises should be retracted to avoid further heartburnings and disappointments.

I have been trying to get houses for my district and have had the utmost co-operation from the Commission under the difficult circumstances obtaining in all distant centres. No-one has a greater appreciation of the difficulties in connection with materials than have country members. It does not matter when one gets a permit; that is not the worry. The question is: When can one get materials? Months, and in fact years in connection with some commodities, are passing by without their being available in a



fair proportion to country districts. Those on the spot, unless their member is very active, are, to use common parlance, not in the race to get materials so vitally needed for the erection of dwellings in the country. As for such commodities as galvanised iron, piping and other things that we have heard so much about as being likely to come to us from other parts of the world, what assurance is there that the country will get a fair and reasonable proportion in the scramble, even under the permit system?

Hon. A. H. Panton: The Honorary Minister for Supply and Shipping will see to that.

Hon. F. J. S. WISE: She will not. I have no faith in the Honorary Minister for Supply and Shipping in connection with making available and increasing the supply of commodities which normally would come to this State. That lack of faith is founded on my personal experience and direct attempts in approaching other States to get those commodities supplied. In connection with the 4,000 tons and more of galvanised iron that is at present urgently needed—

The Minister for Housing: Steel products, I think. It is not all galvanised iron.

Hon. F. J. S. WISE: In the country districts alone, 2,000 tons of galvanised iron could be placed.

The Minister for Housing: Yes, but you cannot buy it.

Hon. F. J. S. WISE: Plain iron is unprocurable for building tanks. Members this afternoon heard the reply given to me in regard to the position of piping, fencing wire and nails. It was a most unsatisfactory reply. I am certain it was not edited by the Premier. That state of affairs must become intensified. The position with regard to cement and other products is extremely difficult. The cementing of tanks for the securing of water supplies on pastoral and farming properties, situated 200 miles and more from a railway, is affected as a result. Even with the co-operation of the firms concerned it is hard to have any progress made in that direction.

Speaking for a moment on costs the position is almost desperate because of the almost impossible price that housing has reached. This matter was featured by members on the Government side when they said that prices had risen with Wise to £86 a

square. That statement was contained in advertisements calculated to affect the public mind. I submit, however, that, side by side with what was stated in those advertisements, facts could be produced today to show how impossible it is for home ownership to be contemplated. Prices under private contract—not Government contract—have reached £160 and more per square. But do we not recall how the Deputy Premier stated almost savagely to the public that the Government would commence building for home ownership; that two-unit families, where hardship was proved, would be given a permit to build; and that housing was a muddle? Let us be fair about this if we can. So far as I am concerned we can take this matter right away from politics.

If the Government would be fair in this connection and acknowledge not only the inaccuracies but the unfairness in its campaign on this subject, and say that this is such a vital social matter that no claims or disclaims need be made about it in the political arena, I would be prepared to agree. There has been something suppressed in this connection. Every effort to get specific information as to the cost of day-labour houses has been fruitless. I understand there was a report in connection with it. Early in the second part of this session I asked a question and from memory I think the answer was that there were some differences in the manner of assembling the costs incurred, which did not satisfy the official inquiry—

The Minister for Housing: A satisfactory comparison could not be made, on account of the many factors.

Hon. F. J. S. WISE: That is a dragnet statement that could be applied to any set of houses built under any set of conditions. It could apply equally to all the contracts being let by the Housing Commission and to private contracts where certain extras are added under all sorts of guises and on all sorts of pretexts. Let us have a direct statement in that connection. Let us have the information that the Minister has and let us decide whether we are comparing like with like or whether there is something missing from the information. We know the policy of the Government is such that it would hope for day labour to be a dismal failure, but it has not been so and that is troubling the Government.

We know pressure has been exerted on the Government to have the day labour system discontinued, for reasons that must be obvious. If the figures given are anything like correct and there are still 22,680 applications with the Housing Commission, in view of the fact that the number is increasing by 500 per month, something miraculous will have to happen. Of course the Minister will say that some of those applications are in various groups and are being counted several times.

The Premier: There is no doubt about that.

Hon. F. J. S. WISE: Let us take the Minister's figure, that it may be something in excess of 8,000.

The Minister for Housing: About 8,000.

Hon. F. J. S. WISE: Let us take that as an indication. With the marriage rate month by month, without any pretence at slum clearance or improvement of conditions in different suburbs, it does not take much thought to indicate how long this distressing and in some cases desperate position must continue.

The Minister for Housing: If we continue our progressive rise in building construction the position need not continue as it is.

Hon. F. J. S. WISE: Construction is not overtaking the demand at the moment, so if there is a continuation—

The Minister for Housing: Do not take the argument of the member for North-East Fremantle.

Hon. F. J. S. WISE: I am prepared to add up or analyse figures side by side with the member for North-East Fremantle or the Minister, but I say something more tangible in its relief to individuals must be shown. On Monday I will take up with the Minister a case that came to my notice today. It concerns a family that is under order of eviction. There are five children, the husband and wife, and for three years they have been promised a house by the Housing Commission, but are still unsatisfied. Now that the Honorary Minister for Supply and Shipping has returned to her seat I ask does she recall criticising and condemning the previous Government because people had to live in garages? I refer her

to her speech on the Building Operations and Materials Control Act of 1945-46. That position is still with us.

The Honorary Minister for Supply and Shipping: I quite agree.

Hon. F. J. S. WISE: I am pleased that the Honorary Minister does agree. Is it not better for us to admit that that is the position and look for ways and means to overcome it rather than to say that the figures show we are making considerable progress?

The Honorary Minister for Supply and Shipping: We have made progress.

The Minister for Housing: The programme must expand and I think it will show continued rapid expansion.

Hon. F. J. S. WISE: I think we should face honestly up to the position. I want to get the Minister into a frame of mind in which he will say whether the statements used in 1947 were true or untrue in regard to what I think was the greatest period of achievement in this State's house building history, when, from a standing start in September, 1945, to the end of 1947, great progress was made. If the Minister will approach the matter in that way, not only will I be on his side but also will I be in sympathy with him in his problems and anxious to help. But while he continues to claim all sorts of things that will not bear analysis, and that are in disregard of the facts, I cannot see eye to eye with him.

No houses were built in Western Australia during the war years and all the plant, contractors' gear, brick kilns and so on were disorganised. If the Minister will admit all that we will begin to get a truer picture. There is a terrific lot of information that must be given to the public. Originally I intended to be very critical on this Vote, but I would rather approach it by asking that all the cards be put on the table so that the public may know the truth. Only on that basis can we commence to plan for the future. So long as it is true I do not mind what story the Minister arranges to have told to the electors, side by side with former achievements.

*Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.*

**HON. J. T. TONKIN** (North-East Fremantle) [7.30]: It really was a little amusing to hear the member for Swan complaining about the Opposition making this a political matter.

Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Too funny for words.

Hon. A. A. M. Coverley: There has to be one clown in every circus.

Hon. J. T. TONKIN: It does not require much imagination to conjure up just what happened when the Government Parties were on the hustings at the last election. They exploited to the full the situation which then obtained. The language used for the purpose was most carefully chosen in order to stir the feelings of the people and gain what political advantage could be derived from playing up the housing position as much as possible. Members will recall the words "Young married couples yearning for homes." Those were the words used in the Policy Speech. The word "yearning" was very deliberately chosen for the purpose of playing upon the feelings of the people in regard to this matter. So, it is amusing to hear the member for Swan chiding us for making this a political question, especially in view of what transpired on that occasion.

Unfortunately, despite the claims about progress made from time to time by the Minister, there still remains a big lag in the granting of permits and the provision of rental homes. I find the position is even worse than I had believed it to be. I was under the impression, a short time ago, that persons who had been admitted to priority a little over twelve months ago had a reasonable chance of receiving a permit immediately.

Hon. F. J. S. Wise: That is not so.

[*Mr. Brand took the Chair.*]

Hon. J. T. TONKIN: But I find that the situation is very different from that and persons who were put on the priority list in 1947 cannot be sure of gaining a permit to build even now. I have in front of me several letters in connection with this matter and one that I propose to read proves the point with which I have just been dealing. The letter is dated the 31st October, 1949.

The Attorney General: Did you say the 31st October?

Hon. J. T. TONKIN: I may have done so, but I meant the 31st August. The letter states—

I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated the 23rd inst., and would here advise you that your turn has not yet been reached upon the list of applicants whose names have been listed for priority. Just before the strike I was able to issue preliminary approvals to people whose names were listed for priority during November and December, 1947, and as your name was not entered until June 1948 it would appear that there will be some little time yet to wait before your turn is reached after I am able to recommence issuing preliminary approvals.

So this applicant, whose circumstances are particularly bad, gets very little comfort from that letter, because the first step is a recommencement of the issuing of preliminary approvals for persons whose applications were admitted to priority in November and December, 1947. Such applications might have been lodged for months before that.

The Minister for Housing: I thought you said that those in June, 1948, were receiving priority?

Hon. J. T. TONKIN: No, the letter says—

Just before the strike I was able to issue preliminary approvals to people whose names were listed for priority during November and December, 1947.

The Minister for Housing: This particular case was in June, 1948?

Hon. J. T. TONKIN: Yes. That means that it is fifteen months since the application was admitted to priority but I am sure it was lodged some time before that. Here is a letter dated the 7th May referring to the same applicant, which states—

I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated the 19th ultimo—

As this letter was dated the 7th May, the 19th ultimo would refer to the 19th April, and the letter made reference to a doctor's certificate which had been submitted. The letter goes on to state—

—and would advise that your application has again been reviewed and regret that the building materials position is at present such that I am unable to review this application more favourably and must request that you defer re-applying for a further period of six months when it is to be hoped that the building materials position will be improved.

It is possible that this application was lodged even earlier than the 19th April because that letter refers to one received on the 19th April so the application would have been lodged a considerable time before then, although not admitted to priority until June, 1948. Then, on the 31st August, 1949, the applicant is told that preliminary approvals for persons whose applications were admitted to the priority list in November and December, 1947, had to be discontinued and therefore there would be some delay. I take it that other persons who were admitted to priority about the same time as this applicant are in the same position. So that a great deal of progress has not been made at all.

When the previous Government went out of office the applications for rental homes or permits to build could not have been any further in arrears than they are now, because no applications were considered during the war period when the brick kilns were closed down. There was no question of Government house building at that time and the problem could only be tackled upon the cessation of hostilities. If any political capital was to be made out of this question, the supporters of the Government made it. All we could say in the matter was that we had a policy for the provision of homes which was, in essence, that the most needy would have to be dealt with first, and because of that it was regretted smaller-unit families could not receive attention. Quite deliberately, the supporters of the Government did not hesitate to gain as much political advantage as they could to exploit that situation and they played up all aspects of it. They referred to the three and the two-unit families and to the larger families and talked about there being muddle and so on which caused the lag.

Hon. F. J. S. Wise: They talked about a racket with my name associated with it.

Hon. J. T. TONKIN: The overall position now is very little better, if at all, when a comparison is made between the applications for permits and rental homes and the numbers being provided, than it was when the previous Government was in office and was subject to such severe criticism. I take the same line as I did the other night when speaking on another matter; I do not blame the Government because it has not been able to provide more homes and obtain

more materials for the building of them, but I do blame it for the attitude it adopted in its approach to the problem and in its endeavour to gain popular support by accusing the previous Government for the position that existed, when that Government had no more control over the position than this one has.

When we had the industrial trouble recently, which caused some dislocation, the Housing Commission did not hesitate to fasten upon that as a reason for the worsening of the position relating to the granting of permits. It was a reason and a sound explanation, as was to be expected, but one could not compare the dislocation which followed and the consequent reduction in the number of permits granted with that which was occasioned by the long war in which we were engaged. But the supporters of the Government did not make any reference to that as an ameliorating circumstance; quite the contrary. They took the line that the war could not be used as an excuse or explanation. The Deputy Premier said that after 18 months of peace we had such and such a state of affairs; implying that the war could not be used as an explanation or excuse, and that 18 months of peace should have been ample time in which to provide adequately for housing needs.

The Attorney General: Whatever it is, is not that spilt milk and in the past?

Hon. J. T. TONKIN: I know the Attorney General would like to forget it and would also like the people to forget.

The Attorney General: I am only suggesting—

Hon. J. T. TONKIN: He is suggesting that I forget and the people should forget.

The Attorney General: I suggest that you should deal with the future.

Hon. J. T. TONKIN: I am endeavouring to deal with the future by referring to the past. I forget his name, but a very wise man once said, "I have no light by which my steps are guided than the light of experience; I have no way of judging the future except by the past," or words to that effect. I know I am not quoting the gentleman correctly but that is the sense of what he said.

The Attorney General: I agree with that, but do you think your argument will provide any more homes?

Hon. J. T. TONKIN: It ought to assist me to put right the member for Swan, who blamed the members on this side of the Chamber for making this a political question. If this has been made a political question, then members on the other side of the House were the first to start it.

Mr. Hegney: Hear, hear!

Hon. J. T. TONKIN: I agree that the important thing is to provide as many homes as possible and as quickly as possible. In doing that it is necessary to concentrate as much building material as can be obtained upon housing and less of it on buildings which are to be used for shops, showrooms, garages and the like; and there has been a good deal of that lately. I was surprised to see considerable extensions being carried on in the business establishment of Harris, Scarfe & Sandovers, Ltd. I frequently pass through that store and I noticed that building operations were in progress not for weeks but for months.

The Attorney General: Years, was it not? I think that permit was granted during your period.

Hon. J. T. TONKIN: I do not know, but the construction has been in progress for months.

The Attorney General: That also is spilt milk.

Hon. J. T. TONKIN: They have been building for three years then; is that correct?

The Minister for Housing: I am not quite sure, but I think that is so.

The Attorney General: It is very hard to revoke a permit once it is granted.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Hon. J. T. TONKIN: That does not make it right. I am saying that there should be less of that sort of building and more materials allotted to housebuilding if we are to provide the home so urgently required everywhere. We have heard some members this evening stressing the necessity for the erection of homes in country districts. I am not so aware of that as are the members who live in those parts, but I am certainly aware of the need for them in the city. I know that of all the many dozens of applications in which I am interested I have made scarcely any progress for months, despite the fact that they

have been lodged for two years and more. So we do not seem to be getting ahead very fast when the lag is as great as that.

What appears to be necessary is a definite concentration upon the provision of the basic materials and some co-ordination with the way that timber is supplied. I do not want to repeat what I have said before on this question, but I understand that not much is being done to effect a remedy. I have previously mentioned that the sawmills will not cut the sizes of timber required in their proper sequence. They will cut large quantities of timber all right and have supplies carted to the job, but the men there cannot get on with the work because the timber they require first is supplied last. If something were done about that, we should be able to quicken considerably the tempo of building operations. Then again, there are certain sizes of timber necessary in house building, such as hips and ridges.

Mr. May: And floor boards, too.

Hon. J. T. TONKIN: For some reason the mills do not cut very much of that timber, and builders are held up because such supplies are indispensable in the erection of dwellings. Thus, here again they cannot proceed as they would desire. Probably six times a week I come to Perth via the Canning-highway. I have watched the foundations on a block adjacent to the highway for at least, I should say, 12 months, although it seems much longer than that to me. All that is there are the stone foundations, and the people are living on the block of land in a caravan. They appear to be very desirable folk—I have not spoken to them—because they have planted a garden ahead of their housebuilding; the lawn is well tended and the flower garden is kept free of weeds. I should say that they are obviously home-loving folk desirous of getting into their own dwelling. They have been on that block for at least 12 months, and still only the foundations are there. I am curious to know what is the trouble. I do not know if they would be allowed to put down the foundations unless they had a permit to build.

The Minister for Housing: They must have a permit.

Hon. J. T. TONKIN: Then the foundations have been down for at least 12 months and no further building operations have taken place, which seems to indicate inability to obtain the necessary material.

The Attorney General: Or no permit.

Hon. J. T. TONKIN: The Minister said that they could not put down the foundations without a permit.

The Attorney General: The Minister said they should not do so.

Hon. J. T. TONKIN: At any rate, I have not noticed any report of these people having been prosecuted. They are still hopefully waiting, because they are unable to get the requisite bricks and other requirements. That brings me to another matter respecting which I am very dissatisfied. The Government made a great deal of its intentions to lift controls and blamed the Labour Government for having continued so many of them. Some controls have been lifted, notably that affecting fencing wire. Apparently, however, that does not mean a thing. One can go into a store and buy fencing wire.

Mr. Leslie: Where?

Hon. J. T. TONKIN: The hon. member need not look at me in that way, because it is so.

Mr. Leslie: Then you tell me, because I would like to know.

Hon. J. T. TONKIN: People know where they can obtain fencing wire, and they can buy it in quantities.

Mr. Leslie: I would like to know the address of any such firm.

Hon. J. T. TONKIN: That information can be obtained by the hon. member without any trouble. The next necessity is to get a permit from the Housing Commission in order that the purchaser may use the fencing wire. That commodity is not controlled, but it cannot be used unless a permit has been obtained! What sort of an arrangement is that? There is no sense in it. If the desire is to control the use of any material, that control should be maintained in a proper manner. If it is intended that materials can be used and controls are lifted accordingly, then those who purchase such materials should be allowed to use them. That is not the position. A permit is necessary before use can be made of them—and that is nonsensical.

The Minister for Housing: What would they use the wire for?

Hon. J. T. TONKIN: To put up a fence.

The Minister for Housing: But you cannot put up a fence with fencing wire; you want other things.

Hon. J. T. TONKIN: That is so. But the materials are not controlled, and the people may have all the necessary supplies for the job. That does not make any difference at all. They cannot go ahead until the Housing Commission grants the necessary permit. The Minister knows the case, as it has been before him.

The Minister for Housing: Yes, but that is a rather different kind of wire.

Hon. J. T. TONKIN: But it is uncontrolled, and the position is just as I have stated it. The present situation is misleading. If it is intended that certain materials shall not be controlled, then there should be no question of having to secure a permit from the State Housing Commission. It should be one thing or the other and I hope some attention will be given to clarifying the position so that people will know where they are.

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: Is it true that you must get a permit to erect a fence?

Hon. J. T. TONKIN: That is so.

The Minister for Housing: Not usually.

Hon. J. T. TONKIN: The fence in question is required to protect valuable property.

The Minister for Lands: What are they going to use for the erection of the fence? Plain posts or cyclone posts?

Hon. J. T. TONKIN: It is a cyclone wire fence. I urge that the position be corrected quickly so that people will know where they are. Next I desire to draw the Government's attention to the unfortunate people who are evicted from their homes and are at their wits' ends to know what to do. What usually happens is that when a final order is issued, an officer of the Housing Commission is present in court and knows of it. The Commission does nothing further until the date of the expiry of the order. No action is taken in the meantime to provide a place for the accommodation of people who are under final notice, but the Commission waits until the date has expired and then on the following day an officer is sent to see what the people have done,

expecting to find that they have gone out in pursuance of the order. When they find the people have not gone out because they have nowhere to go, they express some surprise at finding them there and tell them that of course they will have to go. In due course the bailiff does his work and the people are emptied out. Still the Housing Commission does not take action, unless the people remain on the footpath in full view and publicity is given to the matter. Then there is a stir to get them under cover; but if they divide up, one member of the family going in one direction and another member in a different direction and all get finally settled down out of sight, then as far as the Housing Commission is concerned they can remain under those conditions for some time.

Dozens of such examples could be given. That does not seem to me to be the way to tackle this problem; because, if it is a question of the greatest need then the need of the person arises immediately he is threatened with eviction. His need is established when a final order is made and it is as certain as night follows day that he will have to vacate the house. That is when immediate steps should be taken to obviate the hardships which confront these people when the bailiff arrives, as he does in due course. I know how difficult the matter is when there are far more eviction cases than houses in which to accommodate people. But it does seem strange that we can find instances where people have been threatened with eviction and where persons whose applications have not been in for a long time can succeed in obtaining a permit to build or in getting a rental home. I must say that every time such a case has come under my notice an explanation has always been given to me by the State Housing Commission which has left me in a half satisfied state.

On many occasions when this has occurred I have agreed that the explanation given meets the position, yet I am still doubtful in my mind whether the explanation is satisfactory or not. It does not seem to be right; I am left in that frame of mind quite frequently. I mentioned a case this evening where a person's application had been in for approximately two years and he was then told that a considerable time would elapse before he would have a chance of getting a permit. I am certain that cases have been brought to my notice where the applica-

tions have been lodged subsequent to the one I have just mentioned and where permits have been granted. Such cases pass out of one's mind, of course, and are exceedingly difficult to recall when one wishes to refer to them; but I have very often felt that the explanation given to me by the Commission was not really a proper one although on its face it appeared to meet the case at the time. Of course, I cannot blame the Housing Commission for that, but I am bound to say that I feel the explanation is not right although I cannot say wherein it is wrong.

The Minister for Housing: It might well be right.

Hon. J. T. TONKIN: Yes, but it is strange that I should have this lurking doubt. I shall refer again to a case I have been dealing with, where the people were admitted to priority in June, 1948, their application having been lodged several months before, and yet people whose applications were lodged afterwards were admitted to priority subsequent to that date and are now building.

The Minister for Housing: That might be so if hardship arose.

Hon. J. T. TONKIN: Hardship was admitted in this case. The people submitted a doctor's certificate and were admitted to priority.

The Minister for Housing: Sometimes special hardship may arise; it may be an eviction or some other circumstance.

Hon. J. T. TONKIN: That may be so. I must say, however, that each time when I have felt there was something not right and I have gone to the Commission for an explanation, I have always received one with which I could find no fault at the time; but I must repeat that I have left the Commission much in doubt about the situation.

The Minister for Housing: You should try to get rid of that state of mind.

Hon. J. T. TONKIN: I wish I could.

The Minister for Housing: It is getting pathological.

Hon. J. T. TONKIN: If the Minister will improve the housing situation perhaps I shall get rid of it; but a metropolitan member has to deal with far more cases of this type than have country members, although the latter have their difficulties as well, but not so many persons would be concerned.

One reason for the doubt I have spoken of arises in regard to applications for war service homes and the like. I believe that at one time a person who put in an application under that section was admitted to priority without regard to need. That has brought about a situation in which one hears of a house being erected for a three-unit family and that makes one wonder how that could be while other applicants in far worse circumstances could not get a permit.

The Minister for Housing: The Commonwealth reversed the needs test and went back to the date of priority.

Hon. J. T. TONKIN: From what date?

The Minister for Housing: I think the last 12 months, roughly.

Hon. J. T. TONKIN: That changing policy further complicates the situation and is probably a reason for the doubt I have expressed.

The Minister for Housing: It is a Commonwealth direction.

Hon. J. T. TONKIN: I think we all agree that this is the most live question of the day and occupies a similar position in our minds to that occupied by unemployment and child welfare matters during the depression period. We will have this housing problem with us for a number of years, no matter what Government is in power. The rate at which applications are piling up indicates that very clearly; and when we have regard to the fact that there is a very vigorous migration policy being pursued, we must expect that the Housing Commission will be a very busy organisation for many years. If we believe that the very first thing that is required to make people happy is that they shall be comfortably housed, we have to accept the responsibilities and obligations which are attendant upon that point of view and do our utmost to see that we provide these homes as speedily as possible.

I do not criticise the Government because there is still a large number of unsatisfied applications. I expect that to be the position for a considerable time. But, as I have said previously, I do blame the Government for exploiting this situation to the limit when it was on the hustings, and now when the position is reversed and it is the Government's responsibility, expressing some

annoyance when we on this side take advantage of the opportunity to draw attention to what was previously done.

MR. LESLIE (Mt. Marshall) [8.12]: I am going to touch briefly on an aspect of this housing business that has been and is generally overlooked. Members, particularly those who were in the previous Government, will recall that about 1941-42 the Commonwealth and the States set about preparing post-war plans, and included in those plans was the overtaking of the lags that had taken place because of the war. Housing was one of those lags. Commonwealth departments conducted a pretty comprehensive investigation with a view to estimating what would be the post-war needs in housing, and eventually arrived at the fact that the requirements for Western Australia would be 3,000 houses per year. That was to overtake the lag and to provide for the additional homes that would be required—to overtake the lag that was war-caused.

One of the things the investigators and all of us overlook is the fact that there was always a lag in housing, and it would be impossible to estimate what that lag was unless we could obtain an accurate figure of the number of dwellings available for occupation and the number of married couples and people who required dwellings in pre-war days.

Hon. A. H. Panton: And the people likely to get married.

MR. LESLIE: Yes. In the pre-war days there was a big shortage of houses. There may have been sufficient to meet the demand that existed because at that time the circumstances of certain individuals—their economic and social circumstances—were such that married couples, although perhaps not content to live with the old folk yet, because of their financial position, accepted the fact that in the early days of their marriage they should do so. So many homes were occupied at that time by more than one family, because of economic circumstances.

Hon. A. H. Panton: They could not do much on 7s. a week.

MR. LESLIE: I agree with the member for Leederville. There were people who married and started a home but were not getting sufficient to pay rent. Eventually, as the



man received a rise in wages or in some other way the financial position of the couple improved, they were able to pay rent. But it was not until very late in life that many of them reached a position wherein they were able to put a few pounds down on a home of their own. It was not uncommon, therefore, to find more than one family occupying a house. There was a shortage in building, too.

Hon. A. H. Panton: There were plenty of materials in those days but no money.

Mr. LESLIE: I will agree again with the member for Leederville. My mind goes back to the fact—and I was an applicant and am the owner or was the owner of a worker's home—that we had to wait months for our turn on the priority list for such a home; and the same applied to war service homes. So there was a lag in those days. We were always behind in building, and the number of houses was quite insufficient to meet actual requirements—I do not say the demand, because the demand was not there. That aspect has not been sufficiently weighed up or was not sufficiently weighed up when the estimate of post-war requirements was reached. All that happened—and I have the figures—was that they took the pre-war building rate and said, "This is the pre-war building rate for so many years. We have not been able to build those houses. We will estimate the increased demand after the war and add that to the lag. We will spread it over a period of five or 10 years and there is our target figure for the post-war period." The target figure for Western Australia, under that method, was 3,000 houses per year.

Now we have reached the post-war period, when social and economic circumstances have completely changed; when we have a Commonwealth-State housing scheme which provides homes at what is called an economic rent; and because people are enjoying, as a result of the effects of the war, a period of so-called prosperity, with plenty of money in their pockets, everybody wants a home of his own. People who were not content to live with in-laws prior to the war but accepted it as an economic necessity do not today see that economic necessity. It is not there. They have the money to pay rent and to pay a sum down on a home of their own. So we find that the demand for housing has increased beyond the expectations

of the biggest expert who has ever been on the job, because it was not possible to calculate what the pre-war shortage of houses was. I doubt whether we could calculate today what is the actual post-war requirement in building or whether it is possible to estimate what the annual target would require to be in order to overtake the lag.

So it is no use our turning round and, because we find today that the clamour for houses appears to be no less and is possibly greater than it was before this, that or another year, laying the blame on anybody's shoulders. Members on the Opposition benches today will no doubt own up that in 1946-47 they were not satisfied with the progress being made in housing and I think members on the front bench on the Government side of the House will say that they are not satisfied with the progress today.

I feel that in another five or 10 years time, whatever Government is in office will still be saying it is not satisfied with the progress being made. The position, too, is being aggravated, in this State in particular, because of a very definite shortage of skilled labour. My attention was first drawn to the fact that the figures prepared by the Commonwealth investigation departments were not based on a secure foundation, by the attitude of the skilled trades unions who refused to accept those figures. I was convinced, when I first got into the Department of Postwar Reconstruction, that the figures were too small.

I still argue that there is no room for concern by any skilled tradesman, because of a fear for their future. They should open their ranks to enable our own Australians to enter the trades and obtain the benefit of being skilled workers instead of unskilled labourers. Because of the insecurity prevailing in pre-war days, the outlook in those times may have been justified, but it is entirely unwarranted now. Goodness knows whether we could arrive at an accurate estimate of the number of houses required because there are still some people who are content to share a home. If we used every effort to stimulate the production of raw materials and made more skilled labour available, as speedily as possible, we would be able to overtake more easily the lag that I feel will be here for many years. I appeal to the Minister and

to the Commission to give consideration to releasing permits for small homes in country districts.

Whereas people in the metropolitan area have difficulty in obtaining the necessary basic materials for building, that problem is not so severe in the country where there is secondhand material available. Therefore a minimum drain would be made on the available supplies that must be used in the metropolitan area if a system of automatic permits was arranged for people to build small homes of, say, 10 squares in country districts. I know that in the country much material is available. People there wishing to build straight away would be prepared to provide themselves with a temporary makeshift and wait for the materials which are at present in short supply. Many are willing to go ahead now knowing that they will be occupied for seven months before they will be requiring materials which are at present difficult to obtain.

I am confident, after reviewing the position and examining the figures of available materials, that if automatic permits were issued to people in the country districts to build small homes, which could be of an expansible type, there would be no trouble. We have great difficulty in holding people in the country areas today because of the shortage of houses. In Wyalkatchem alone we are seeking 14 houses. Unless we can get homes for people they just will not go into the country. They are, however, prepared to help themselves. If the Minister and members care to travel through the country they will find it extremely difficult to get accommodation at the hotels. That applies in my electorate, at any rate.

Mr. May: It applies everywhere.

Mr. LESLIE: I think that is so. I have travelled pretty extensively in the last few months and it has applied everywhere I have been because the hotels are filled with permanent boarders. People have been compelled to stay at hotels and when it is a case of a man and a wife and two or three children it becomes pretty expensive, and obviously not many such people are prepared to go into the country under those conditions.

Mr. May: Are you prepared to cut down the metropolitan building to permit of building in the country?

Mr. LESLIE: That would not be necessary under my suggestion. I believe it is possible for the country to obtain the materials in the districts concerned. There is much timber lying at the mills that never reaches the metropolitan area, and never will, but which many a country man is prepared to pick up, and it would provide nine-tenths of his home. That would not in any way disturb the material which is available for and reaches the metropolitan area. What do we find today?

A country applicant for a home has to submit his plans and estimate and then place his order for the material with a firm in the metropolitan area, so that that does constitute a drain upon the limited supplies that are here. My suggestion, instead of lessening supplies to the metropolitan area, would enable more to become available, because the country people would use material which does not reach and is not intended to reach the city. I hope the Minister and the Housing Commission will give consideration to this aspect of the matter. In that way we would be able to meet the requirements of country people as well as ease the burden of those in the metropolitan area. The size of the houses could be limited to perhaps ten squares and such dwellings could be added to as material became available and opportunity offered. That would enable many people in the country to get roofs over their heads.

I have had young people coming to me and saying that they wished to get married, but were unable to do so as they were utterly unable to find even such accommodation as they would probably be able to secure in the metropolitan area. My reply to such young people has had to be that they should get married, and that then they would have at least some ease to put up in asking for a permit to build.

Mr. May: Do you think single men and women should get permits?

Mr. LESLIE: There is no suggestion of that, but while they remain single it is useless for them to think of applying to the Housing Commission for permits to build. As married couples they would receive at least some consideration under the heading of two-unit families. If young couples in the country were automatically granted

permits as soon as they were married—permits to build small houses for themselves—they could start off with perhaps a two-roomed cottage and that would be an encouragement for them to remain in the country districts and rear families there, and that is something vitally necessary to our future.

Mr. Graham: Some of them are living in fowl-houses in the metropolitan area.

Mr. LESLIE: We should be very careful, in stating such cases, not to suggest that they are representative. I have letters setting out individual cases of extreme hardship, but they are not general. To quote a case of persons living in a fowl-house does not illustrate the general rule and does not advance the argument any further. Perhaps people were living under those conditions long before and up to the beginning of the war.

Hon. A. H. Panton: Now, after the war, many of them are no better off. What about Adam and Eve?

Mr. LESLIE: They had only a fig tree to live under and what kept them warm at night I do not know.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. LESLIE: It is no use members condemning this or any previous Government, because the figures today do not reflect on any particular Government as having fallen down on the job.

Mr. Graham: What about what you said in 1947?

Mr. LESLIE: The housing position was unsatisfactory in 1947 and it is still unsatisfactory in 1949.

Hon. F. J. S. Wise: I will bet you wish this was not a political matter now.

Mr. LESLIE: I am not attempting to make it a political matter. It is far too serious a problem to be treated in that way.

Hon. F. J. S. Wise: So it was in 1947.

Mr. LESLIE: Any member, on either the Government or Opposition side of the House, is entitled to express his opinion of the existing state of affairs.

Hon. F. J. S. Wise: You have been silent far too long.

Hon. J. B. Sleeman: You wrote quite a lot about the cobwebs.

Mr. LESLIE: I will not be saddled with anything I did not do.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The hon. member must address the Chair.

Mr. LESLIE: It is regrettable that this has been made a political matter. It has never been a political matter as far as this side of the House is concerned. In 1947 we said on the hustings and later in this House that the housing position was unsatisfactory and we told the people, when we were on the hustings, "Put us into power and we will improve the position," and we have done so.

Hon. A. H. Panton: You did not say you would improve it, but that you would clean it up.

Hon. F. J. S. Wise: We will tell you just what you did say.

Mr. LESLIE: The Leader of the Opposition cannot do that, because what I said was not recorded. We have improved the position and the fact that there are now 22,000 people waiting for homes, as against so many at some time in the past, does not mean anything. In 1939 there may have been 22,000 people unable to get homes because of the economic circumstances then prevailing.

Mr. Graham: The number of applicants has increased by 15,000 since you took over.

Mr. LESLIE: I have endeavoured to put forward something constructive. None of us must forget that the present lag in housing is cumulative on the pre-war lag and I believe the position will improve if the Housing Commission will extend to country districts the right for the automatic granting of permits for the erection of small houses in deserving cases. Where the circumstances justify it a young couple in the country, on getting married, should automatically receive a permit.

MR. SHEARN (Maylands) [8.37]: Realising the complex nature of the housing problem over recent years, and wishing to be scrupulously fair to the Government, I have had very little to say—as members will recall—about the housing position during the preceding sessions of this Parliament.

Hon. A. H. Panton: They must have built all the houses in Maylands.

Mr. SHEARN: They have not done so. I am inclined to agree with some of the observations that have been made in respect of the attitude adopted by members of the present Government in 1947. I am making that remark because what was said at that time affects me personally to the extent that, due to the promises then so freely made, many people living under very bad conditions come to me, quite naturally expecting the implementation of the improvements that were then envisaged in the present Government's election propaganda.

I am not prepared to say who was responsible for the preparation of that propaganda, but it occurred to me at the time, with some little knowledge of the situation, that their election promises in regard to housing were somewhat reckless. That has been proved. I cannot help recalling that the Government, in the policy enunciated during the election—it is a policy common to the anti-Labour Government Parties at all times—said a great deal about the encouragement of private enterprise. In this connection, however, what do we find? We find that only last evening the Minister, in dealing with Commonwealth-State rental houses—and by the way I noticed he qualified by saying for good or bad, or whether rightly or wrongly, or words to that effect—that this Government held a record in Australia for the building of Commonwealth-State rental homes.

Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Socialism!

Mr. SHEARN: I recall that this Party at election time talked about the socialistic Governments of Australia.

Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Still does.

Mr. SHEARN: The Government Parties deplored the fact that there was a definite trend towards socialism in relation to housing, as in many other matters.

Hon. A. H. Panton: They still do it in every advertisement in the Press.

Mr. SHEARN: I, like the great mass of the public, thought that subsequent to the election we would see some earnestness on the part of the Government in relation to these particular matters.

Mr. May: What a disillusionment.

Mr. SHEARN: The Minister's statement last evening about Commonwealth rental homes fairly dissipates any hope in that

connection. So, I say that members of the Opposition are perfectly justified in saying to the Government that it has been as socialistic as previous Labour Governments. I would go further and say that the Government's attitude, up to date, suggests that it has been even more socialistic.

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: Tell that to the Honorary Minister. Tell her to put it in her pipe and smoke it.

Hon. F. J. S. Wise: She doesn't smoke too, does she?

Mr. SHEARN: I believe, with every other member of this Chamber, that the depressing situation of housing is not one that should be made a Party-political football. That is one of the reasons why I have refrained, at earlier stages, from taking any part in the debate. So far as the Minister is concerned, I know that every member realises that in the Minister for Housing we have a man who is earnest and absolutely honest in his intention to improve the situation.

Hon. A. H. Panton: The trouble is they work him to death.

Mr. SHEARN: A great deal of abuse has been publicly levelled at the officials of the Housing Commission and that ought not to be so. As far as I personally am concerned I lay all the blame at the door of the Government. In my view the Housing Commission, as in the case of any other governmental department, is responsible only for the carrying out of the policy enunciated by the particular Minister through Cabinet. In this instance it is the Minister who must shoulder the responsibility in this House.

Mr. Graham: Is "The West Australian" going to censor this?

Mr. SHEARN: I believe there is no panacea for this problem at the moment but there are many means by which a considerable alleviation can be made in the deplorable conditions which are becoming increasingly difficult. I am particularly concerned about the young couples of which we heard so much during the earlier stages of the debate. I frequently visit the Housing Commission and I am told that people in dire circumstances have been placed on a No. 1 priority. I walk out of the offices of the Commission thinking that the keys will be waiting at the front doors for them. That is a perfectly farcical situation because the

statement of the Housing Commission does not mean anything. A person's No. 1 priority might mean that he is No. 8,142 on the list.

If the present building rate continues, these people will be about as old as Mathusalem before they see any houses. They will not be interested in houses at the time they are eligible for them. They will be more likely approaching the doors of eternity. I have often suggested to the Minister an idea which I now find is gathering public support. Anything of a realistic character would improve the situation, but it cannot be done with the present set-up. The Minister must be well aware, probably better than I am, of the fact that due to the restricted conditions that have obtained over the last few years, some hundreds of registered builders have gone to other trades because of exasperation and frustration.

The Minister for Housing: That is not the case.

Mr. SHEARN: I can assure the Minister—as a matter of fact I will give him the figures on Tuesday; I have not got them at the moment—that that is so. I took the trouble to ascertain the number of registered builders and those actually practising and I can tell the Minister that there are many hundreds.

The Minister for Housing: I have seen the builders about that, and the figures include those who are dead, those who have left the State and many others.

Mr. SHEARN: My information might be as good as the Minister's because I obtained it from the registrar.

The Minister for Housing: And mine comes from the builders themselves.

Mr. SHEARN: I did not ask for the figures of those who are dead. I asked about those who are alive.

The Minister for Housing: That is not the information I have received from the builders themselves.

Hon. A. A. M. Coverley: That is fitting information from this Government, because it is dead.

Mr. SHEARN: If the Government would take the trouble to cut away some of the dead wood from the policy of the Housing Commission, we would see some practical results.

Opposition members: Hear, hear!

Mr. SHEARN: I suggest to the Minister that if he takes a realistic—and I say this quite impersonally—outlook in relation to the present situation, there can be a marked improvement. If the Minister would agree to some modification of the existing permit system, considerable improvement would ensue.

The Minister for Housing: What do you suggest?

Mr. SHEARN: I am not one of those who advocate an abolition of building controls because I think that would be highly undesirable, if not disastrous.

Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Tell that to the Honorary Minister.

Mr. SHEARN: But some encouragement should be given to the enterprising people in the community to build small homes and I have advocated, publicly and otherwise, that something like ten squares would meet the situation. As the member for East Perth said, it would be preferable to having people living in fowl houses and other structures which are equally as bad. From inquiries I have made I know that we have a number of new timber mills coming into operation and this would enable various preparations to be made from that timber. Supply could be increased if the Minister would provide some incentive to the people manufacturing various building materials. I am confident that there would be a definite improvement in the production of materials and as a result of that effort there would be a greater measure of enterprise on the part of the public.

I do not wish to criticise the Housing Commission because I know that that department has to carry out a policy from which it cannot depart. As the member for Geraldton said, anomalies will inevitably creep in in such a huge concern. In order to show what could be done, if the Minister would agree to some relaxation, let me quote one of the many cases I know of as an illustration.

Some considerable time ago a man asked me if I could assist him to obtain a permit for a modest type of home. This man had all the finance necessary, the plans and specifications, the land and the builder. I found, although this man was suffering hardships,

I was unable to have a permit issued to him. His name had been admitted to the priority list but it had not yet been reached. As the position became worse I made further representations and some few weeks later he showed me a letter which stated that he had been granted a Commonwealth-State rental home. Of course his circumstances definitely entitled him either to a rental house or a permit. But the point I make is that that man has gone into a Commonwealth-State rental house that could have been allotted to some other person, despite the fact that he had all the necessary facilities and finance to build a home of his own.

If a man were permitted to build his own home, as this man could have done, the housing problem would soon be alleviated. That can only be achieved if the Minister will relax some of these controls because, in the instance I have quoted, that man would have immediately provided himself with a house representing about ten squares. I do not think there is a chance of any improvement being introduced at this stage unless some incentive is given to the whole community, which can be done only by some relaxation of control. Again I wish to make it clear that I am not advocating that there should be a large measure of relaxation and certainly no abolition. This Government has a responsibility to the community to try to carry out a policy which I suggest to the Minister the Government is very largely, if not entirely, bound to implement. I trust that in his reply the Minister will indicate that even at this stage the Government has some definite and immediate ideas along the lines I have indicated.

**THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING (Hon. R. R. McDonald—West Perth—in reply) [8.52]:** There is much I could say to members in relation to the debate which has contributed a number of constructive suggestions on the problem of expanding our available housing accommodation. I assure members that I, least of all persons, am complacent about the housing shortage. No-one can occupy a position as political head of a department like that of housing without being fully aware of the responsibilities which it entails. The member for East Perth suggested that the approach had been too orthodox. I agree with him that to meet a time of emergency the approach must not be orthodox. and during the last 18

months there have been a great many departures from orthodoxy in our housing programme, and if present plans operate there will be still more. But when I discussed the matter with the Commission in the first place I found it was working on a principle of some importance. It was this: As it saw the problem, it was one which it confidently expected would be overcome within a reasonable time and its anxiety was not to exchange a temporary problem of housing shortage for a permanent one of slums.

That principle applies to building tenement houses as part of the plan and there is something to be said for it. It will not afford an adequate guide to meet the situation as it has been since the war and as it is today. I have been an advocate, and the Commission has accepted and adopted my attitude, of departures from orthodox building essential to meet present conditions. The Commission has been ready to experiment with new ideas in house construction. Firms engaged in the building of houses by pouring concrete into frames were given opportunities for building, and other firms whose methods of construction are not orthodox, particularly regarding cement, have been given opportunities to erect houses, but they have met with difficulties, and in some cases their methods have not been suitable for the construction of houses in this State. But the Commission has been and is willing to experiment with new types of construction if they show any possibilities at all of expanding the present rate of home building.

The hon. member referred to a case into which I said I would make some inquiries. That was the case of a firm known as Barrow Linton & Co. As so often is the case, and the member for North-East Fremantle referred to the fact, the Housing Commission, although it may take an action which *prima facie* may seem to be not quite correct, seems to have grounds which would justify its action. This firm was the defendant in the proceedings on an eviction order and it became necessary to obtain new premises. The company received strong sponsorship for new premises from the Commonwealth Department of Commerce and Agriculture and the State Department of Industrial Development. One of the reasons for this sponsorship was the company's contribution to the export trade, particularly in

dollar earnings. There were five cottages involved in the rebuilding, two of which had been condemned by the Perth City Council.

Mr. Graham: There are dozens of houses condemned, but still occupied.

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: That may be so; I am just stating the facts as given to me. The other two houses had been occupied for the last seven years by Barrow Linton & Co. as storerooms and offices and not for residential purposes. The firm had occupied those houses since 1942. The fifth cottage is used as an electrical store and when the vacated premises are completed it is to be used as an amenities section for the staff in accordance with the provisions of the Factories and Shops Act. So, whilst the hon. member quite recently might have made some inquiry as to whether some lack of judgment had occurred, I think that when all the facts are obtained it will be evident that even if opinions might differ as to the grounds for issuing a permit in this case the Commission did not act without a certain degree of justification and pressure from responsible authorities, including the Commonwealth Department of Commerce and Agriculture.

Mr. Graham: Did you inquire about the squarage? There were 25 squares occupied by Barrow Linton & Co. and 50 squares by Duncan Motors.

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: I have not had an opportunity of investigating the circumstances surrounding Duncan Motors. In those circumstances also a difficult situation arises. A company may be an importer of machinery and vehicles urgently required for the nation's economy. Unless they have some storage space, they simply advise the Commission that they cannot accept imports, and in that event machinery urgently required for production or industry may be prevented from being accessible to people who need them.

Mr. Graham: But this is not a matter of storage but of display, and behind big glass windows, too.

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: Even so, glass is one material that is not very difficult to obtain.

Mr. Graham: I did not mean that.

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: The member for Guildford-Midland referred to land acquired at Bassendean and Midvale for the purpose of housing. I regret that owing to a deputation and other engagements which took up my time this morning, I have not the information at hand to deal with that matter, but I will undertake to procure it. With regard to Midvale—I speak only from my recollection of the conversations of officers of the Housing Commission with me—I believe the acquisition of that land was decided upon after some communication with the Midland Junction Municipal Council, and I understood at the time—again I speak subject to correction—that the municipality was satisfied it was a site suitable for a housing scheme.

As the hon. member no doubt knows, the municipality has applied to the Housing Commission for authority to erect shopping premises in the Midvale area and to invest municipal moneys in the provision of shopping facilities for the occupants of the houses to be erected there. I presume the municipal authorities would not do that, unless they had satisfied themselves that the area was such as to justify the expenditure of the ratepayers' money.

Mr. Graham: The site would be ideal if in Venice.

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: In those circumstances, the land would probably be worth a lot of money. The member for Perth referred to the matter of brick supplies. I agree with him that the output fell very substantially at the beginning of the year. In fact, apart altogether from power troubles, the output dropped from 120,000 to 75,000 bricks a week through internal policy dissensions, and later power stoppages caused a further very severe drop in output. However, the position has now recovered and the June figures show that the output was 107 per cent. above the pre-war production and it has attained probably the highest figure since the war. At any rate, it is within three or four per cent. of the highest figure regarding brick production since the end of hostilities. I agree with the hon. member that much more has to be done to stimulate production, and I can assure him that every possible effort is

being made in that direction. He also mentioned the matter of amenities, with which I agree. There is much more to be done.

I am very glad to be able to say that the State Brickworks, for which I have to take some responsibility, has done something reasonable towards the provision of better conditions for its employees. The member for Perth also mentioned matters relating to the Increase of Rent (War Restrictions) Act. Those matters do not come under this particular Vote, because that Act is not administered by the State Housing Commission. I would simply say to him in passing that I am in agreement with him that we should provide additional staff in order to police the legislation in the interests of tenants who may be overcharged, especially for furnished accommodation. On the other hand, the effect of the Act at present is, on the whole, far more in favour of the tenant by virtue of the restrictions imposed upon the increase of rents than it is in respect of landlords. I would say that the preponderance of advantage in connection with the present legislation certainly lies with the tenants when one takes the broad view.

The member for Pilbara referred to the subject of election promises and propaganda, and that topic was also touched upon by the Leader of the Opposition. I do not want to be drawn into a discussion on that matter. The Premier said there was to be a speeding up in housing, and I think it can be said, with some claim for justification, that that has been done. The figures show that there has been very substantial achievement in that respect. On the point of election propaganda as put out by political parties, that is something I do not like. From the time I first entered Parliament in 1933, I have experienced election propaganda which has been against me and my Party that I have had occasion to think was not fair, but naturally opinions differ as to what is reasonably allowable in the heat of Party warfare. In fact, my first experience of elections was a type of intensified propaganda against my Party which very nearly decimated them at the polls, and to which I and my Party thought we were entitled to take strong exception. However no advantageous result is to be obtained by dealing with that aspect.

The member for South Fremantle said he did not know of any two-unit family being housed in the Fremantle district. In reply to that I will simply say that I got the figures recently and gave them to the member for North-East Fremantle. Speaking from recollection, they showed that of all the permits issued to the 30th June last, 42 per cent. were distributed between two- and three-unit families. That is at least several times more in ratio than was previously allowed. While I will agree that, not through any fault of the State Housing Commission or of the Government, there has been some lag in building operations in the Fremantle area, it has been due to the difficulty in getting contractors, but I think I can say with confidence that that is being overcome. I am sure there has been no discrimination used in the allocation of expansible house permits, duplex homes or other types of homes to any particular area. One of the factors involved in the allocation to areas has been the co-operation of the local authorities and I would like to say that the South Perth Road Board has been one of the most helpful of all the local authorities in its willingness to allow new types of buildings to be erected within its boundaries.

The member for Swan referred to new types of building and I made some mention of the efforts of the Commission to give encouragement to new techniques when there was any chance of success. The member for Geraldton mentioned his district, but I think he will agree with me that while there has been, owing to the isolation of his area, a building rate which has not been satisfactory, very special efforts have been made by the Commission, including visits by the chairman on two occasions, to try to get the building rate in the Geraldton district improved. The member for Irwin-Moore can be assured that the Commission and the Government have paid attention to country houses.

As far as houses for primary producers are concerned, permits for the small type of house have been granted as a matter of course. I do not think any farmer or pastoralist who applied for a permit for a house of small or medium type failed to get it straight away. It is part of the policy of the Government and the Commis-



sion, through the Housing Commission, to encourage the decentralisation of our population.

Mr. Ackland: What about rental houses in country townships?

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: Rental homes have mainly been erected in country towns by contractors, but there has been a lack of contractors. Compared with the applications outstanding, the ratio of authorisations for rental homes in the country has been double the ratio of authorisations for rental homes in the metropolitan area. But that is not to say that building has been at double the rate because, as I said, there has been a difficulty in getting contractors. This has limited the wish of the Commission to build rental homes in country areas. The Leader of the Opposition referred to supplies for the country. This matter is most important. There have been difficulties, but we are now making added efforts to ensure that country districts receive a larger ratio of supplies than has been the case hitherto. I agree with the member for North-East Fremantle that the procedure regarding evictions has been difficult. The whole matter is difficult, but I am not going to take time in going into details. Nothing lends itself more to collusion than an eviction order. That is so with some people, but I would not say with many, in order to get rental homes.

Mr. May: People are invited to do so.

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: No. If an officer did so, he should be reprimanded. The Commission has been charged, and I have been criticised by members personally—not in the House—and by members of the public for rental homes going to people who, they allege, have been parties to collusive action for eviction proceedings. So the Commission has been in a dilemma in that respect and it has made the matter of pre-arranged assistance very much more difficult than would otherwise be the case. I desire to tell the member for Mt. Marshall that emphasis is placed on country building.

I would like to say to the member for Maylands that the Commonwealth-State rental house project is a most important measure of social reform in housing. It is also interesting and unique, being without an exact parallel in any other country. Its

social implications have yet to be studied, but this Government following on the legislation introduced by the previous Government considered that this social measure should be given a fair trial. It has this important aspect, too, that through that measure money was made available in sufficient quantities at a far lower rate of interest, or a very much more favourable rate of interest, for the Government and for tenants than could possibly have been obtained through ordinary financial arrangements.

Hon. F. J. S. Wise: We would have been in a bad way without such a scheme.

Mr. Shearn: The rents are higher, nevertheless.

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: The rents are based on a most favourable rate of interest and a favourable rate of amortisation, 53 years. As compared with private buildings, the rents will be found to be reasonable.

Hon. F. J. S. Wise: As I said, we would have been in a very bad way without such a scheme.

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: Be that as it may, while I acknowledge the occasion for the criticism of the hon. member, I would say that I think the Government did its duty in following on the policy of the agreement with the Commonwealth for the purpose of giving a fair trial to a social measure of great significance, the study of which has not yet been completed.

Hon. F. J. S. Wise: You supported it when you were on this side of the House.

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: I did, I think. The other suggestion of the hon. member, that there should be automatic permits up to a small squareage, is a matter which has been before the Government and the Commission continuously for the last year or two. At the present time it is again being considered by the Government and the Commission in order to determine to what extent any variation in the policy might assist the people of the State and the interests of housing expansion. I would like to add a word or two in acknowledgment of the services of the Commission and its officers, particularly the senior and responsible officers.

Some members have said that they have a very difficult task. I feel that all have an appreciation of that fact and I think it only right that some tribute should be paid for their devotion to their duty. They are prepared to work at any hour, day or night, holidays and Sundays, if they think they can be of some service to the interests of the housing of the people. I should also like to acknowledge the anxious consideration brought to their task by the members of the Commission. The new chairman, Mr. Brownlie, will, I believe, be a tower of strength to the Commission. He is directing his attention to fundamental matters such as materials and policy and he is doing so with great energy and a deep sense of responsibility.

Mr. May: Would he be doing some of the work of the secretary?

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: No. The secretary had too much on his shoulders. He can now attend more to the administrative side, leaving to the chairman the broader problems of policy and organisation. I would like also to acknowledge the work of the Housing Advisory Panel presided over by Mr. Charles Cornish, vice-president of the Building Industry Congress. This panel acts in an honorary capacity and is composed of men representing various phases of the building industry.

Hon. F. J. S. Wise: That is the one of which Mr. Mattiske is secretary?

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: Yes. The panel is composed of men who have a deep sense of responsibility for augmenting the building programme in the interests of the State. I can assure members that they are not only very well-informed and valuable advisers, but that they are also keen critics of the Government and the Commission whenever they think there is something they should criticise; and for the work they have done over nearly two years, I would like to tender my acknowledgment.

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: Has the Minister any information about the Government's day labour organisation?

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: The Government's day labour organisation is a matter of difficulty, because when we endeavoured to get some figures, it was reported to us that it was too difficult to assess the comparison when there are so many

factors involved. Houses are built in different localities. One may get a favourable run of materials and another may not. There is the time that is taken to finish a job, and the amount that is chargeable against the construction by reason of the time taken in construction, one house involving a long time and another a short time. All these factors, I was advised, made any real, effective comparison not practicable where there was comparatively no very great margin of costs between the two methods of building.

In those circumstances there was no definite criterion to be obtained as to which system would be the better. Allow me to say quite frankly that my own personal opinion is that the day labour section of our Public Works Department has done a good job. I think they have built good houses and, on the whole, done conscientious work. They are still operating as a factor in the production of our houses and I have not felt with regard to that condition to our building programme that there was any occasion for dispensing with their services. They still continue to render an important part in the construction of our housing programme.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—Forests, £102,850:

**THE MINISTER FOR FORESTS** (Hon. R. R. McDonald—West Perth) [9.25]: The Department of Forests, as to which I would like the Committee to allow me to say a few words, is one of an importance to our State economy which I know is recognised by members. In this Vote the salaries show a small rise of £1,676 to £39,750. This item relates to the salaries of headquarters or officers who are permanent officials of the department under the control of the Public Service Commissioner.

Members will recollect that there is a special provision in the Forests Act by which the total revenue of the department is subjected first of all to the deduction of an amount to cover the salaries of the permanent officers of the professional administrative department. The balance is then divided, two-fifths going to Consolidated Revenue and the other three-fifths being earmarked for reforestation and forestry control. The reforestation fund is kept separate and derives its revenue from that three-

fifths allocation which it obtains under the Act from the total revenue of the department. Members will recollect that under the Act a plan of expenditure on reforestation has to be laid on the Table of the House annually. That was done last week and particulars were there given of the projected expenditure by the department in the various avenues of forestry control and reforestation.

The contingencies Vote has risen by £12,605 to the sum of £102,850, which it is proposed to spend in this financial year. The main increases involved relate to expenditure on cutting firewood. This has become necessary because of the increased firewood supplies required for consumption at the pumping stations associated with the Coolgardie water supply scheme; and that will account for an additional £7,558. Another item of the increase is £3,181 which is to be spent on pine conversion. This means work on our pine plantations, largely thinning out pines, which is part of the care and management which must be given to these plantations to enable them to mature and reach their full value. The forests of our State are being cut over according to the forestry plan, but at present, owing chiefly to manpower difficulties in the industry, the total output is only three-quarters of the 1948 figures. The whole area of forests in the South-West of our State, excluding the poorer marginal forest, amounts to four and a quarter million acres, of which 3.2 million acres have been dedicated as State forests. There are 254,000 acres set aside as timber reserves, and more than 600,000 acres are still vacant Crown lands.

Of the area of 3.2 million acres, which represents our State forests, only two million are so far under fire protection. Much of the area of 2,000,000 acres has only been brought under fire organisation of recent years. There is an outstanding need for additional funds to protect our forests. Any members who have been in the lower forest areas, where karri forests mainly flourish, will have seen large tracts which have been severely damaged and, in some cases, destroyed by fires which, owing to the absence of fire organisation, have proceeded unchecked over miles of country, causing much destruction to valuable timber. There is a shortage of timber in Australia and, indeed,

in the Empire. We have an important need to conserve our timber if we are to take care of the future.

Last year Australia imported £16,000,000 worth of paper and pulp alone, and another import of substantial value is that of rayon goods, which of course come from wood derivatives. One of the most important contributions which can be made to our forestry wealth in the future is the extension of our pine planting. At present we have 13,000 acres of pines. Pine planting was suspended for a number of years but has now been resumed. An amount of £30,000 was put on the Loan Estimates last year for this purpose, and I think £50,000 is proposed for the current year. While the land is now being cleared and planting will be on a small scale at first, it is hoped to step up the area planted annually by 5,000 acres with the objective of increasing our present area of 13,000 acres to 100,000 acres.

Hon. E. Nulsen: What about the Esperance land?

The MINISTER FOR FORESTS: It is receiving careful consideration. The department is most interested in securing areas of Esperance land and maintaining them for the purpose of building up pine plantations there. Pine planting should, if possible, be in comparative proximity to a port, and Esperance offers a valuable situation on an extensive scale. The Commonwealth Government has been approached with a view to interesting it in pine planting in the Esperance area as part of our national duty to ensure the extension of our forestry products. The department intends, this financial year, to deal with forest regeneration covering 60,000 acres per annum, 12,000 miles of tracks, fire lines and roads are to be maintained, 5,000 miles of those tracks need grading and maintenance work done this year.

About 500 miles of new fire lines and tracks will be built, and altogether a total of £231,000 is proposed to be spent from the Reforestation Fund. Planting will continue to increase our areas of mallet planting which now represents 17,000 acres. As I have already said, our area of pine planting is 13,000 acres, and that is to be progressively extended. It is hoped to start building some 35 to 40 houses this year to house forestry employees in the outer

areas, and £30,000 has been requested from loan funds for this purpose. The gross revenue of the department last year was £238,356. It is expected this financial year to reach £300,000 owing to the introduction of new mills and increased royalty rates which became operative from the 1st April last. Those rates, in due course, will expand the forestry revenue by something approaching £75,000 a year.

Mr. Murray: What are the rates?

The MINISTER FOR FORESTS: The rates vary considerably. When permits are put up for sale by tender, the practice is to accept the highest bid. The rates vary from 3s. or 4s. per load in the round up to about 22s. or 23s. The timber industry last year produced 10,484,000 million cubic feet. That is approximately the same as the previous year. There has been some destruction of mills of latter months, and also last year, owing to fire. This has affected production. The output is still about three-quarters of the permissible amount under the forestry plan. About 30 per cent. of the total cut still comes from private property, and 70 per cent. from Crown lands. Early this year the Government appointed the Senior Assistant Conservator of Forests, Mr. Shedley, as co-ordinator of timber supplies. Mr. Shedley is addressing himself to this task with great ability. His aim is to increase production; assist in distribution, particularly in getting timber out to country areas; and, generally, to improve supplies, particularly for the building industry, as well as for other industries.

There will be a conference on forestry next December, I believe, called at the instance of the Prime Minister and to be attended by senior forestry officers from all States and from the Commonwealth. This Government has requested that the conference be held in this State and I have every reason to hope that the Prime Minister will accede to that request. I feel that the presence of these expert professional forestry officers in our State and their being able to see our forestry problems and conditions, will be of considerable benefit to the cause of the forestry industry in Western Australia. I conclude by saying that the forestry plan on which we are now operating was laid down in 1945 by Executive Council. It was based upon the industry

being to some extent an export industry. That plan envisaged the retention of export markets oversea and interstate and it looked forward to the extension of those exports as conditions returned to normal after the war.

Conditions now, in the opinion of the Government, necessitate a review of that plan and it has been decided that the plan shall be reviewed basically in order that we may form a full appreciation of the additional needs of our own State for timber supplies, so as to assess the importance or otherwise of export of our timber production from this State. That will enable us to determine, on the information we now possess, what our resources will be year by year for the next 50 or more years, and to hold a stocktaking of the whole timber position of Western Australia. We will then be able to determine where we are going at present and what variations of policy are required to place the industry and the preservation of our timber resources on the soundest possible footing. If there are other matters upon which I can inform members, I shall be glad to give that information.

I would have liked the opportunity of dealing extensively with the use of forestry products, as members on previous occasions, in the lengthy debates we have had on forestry, have mentioned matters of importance related to the use of sawdust and the question of pulp wood in this State, together with the general utilisation of our forest products on a more economical basis than obtains today. I have the material available and will be glad to reply to any matters raised in this direction. The member for Nelson, in particular, has a knowledge of and has referred to these matters. The present Conservator, a forestry enthusiast, as the member for Kimberley knows, together with his able officers, is fully aware of the importance of full utilisation of our timber resources. Those officers are in close contact not only with the Commonwealth Department of Forest Products, but also with expert opinion in the U.S.A. and other places oversea, as to the best use of our forestry assets.

HON. A. A. M. COVERLEY (Kimberley) [9.45]: While I find myself in agreement with the Minister for Forests, who

stated that this is one of the most important departments on the Estimates, I feel that a lengthy period could be taken up in a debate on forestry matters, but under the circumstances I do not propose to spend more than a few minutes in supporting the passing of the Vote. As members know, the Forests Department, under the Forests Act, places a plan on the Table of the House each year showing its proposed expenditure for the forthcoming 12 months. It is therefore easy for any member to read that plan and become familiar with the intentions of the department for the ensuing year. Having had the opportunity of reading that plan and realising what money the department has available, I feel that, with a probable easing of the labour position, it will be able to fulfil its programme.

As outlined by the Minister, if labour is available the department intends to plant 500 acres of pine and 600 acres of mallet bark in the next 12 months, and in my opinion the only thing lacking in the policy

of the department is that it should have planned for greater acreages of planting. The department has done an excellent job in reforestation and fire protection, but has been lacking in the planting of large acreages. I know that the reason for this has been shortage of labour. I support the Vote and trust the Premier will do all he can, if the department is able to fulfil its programme, to give it increased assistance.

Vote put and passed.

Progress reported.

### ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

**THE PREMIER** (Hon. D. R. McLarty—Murray-Wellington): I move:

That the House at its rising adjourn till 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday the 20th Sept.

Question put and passed.

*House adjourned at 9.49 p.m.*

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NOTE.—For reference to the following tables see Hansard, Volume 7, pages 789-806.

CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND.  
ESTIMATE FOR 1949-50.

|   | £ | £       | £         | £       |
|---|---|---------|-----------|---------|
| Published Deficit for 1948-49                                 |   |         |           | 864,813 |
| Less Deficit for 1946-47                                      |   |         |           | 47,552  |
| Actual Deficit for 1948-49                                    |   |         |           | 817,261 |
| Add Increases in Estimated Expenditure—                       |   |         |           |         |
| Special Acts:   |   |         |           |         |
| Interest and Sinking Fund                                     |   | 69,017  |           |         |
| Fire Brigades Contribution                                    |   | 5,136   |           |         |
| Forests Act Transfer from Revenue                             |   | 28,929  |           |         |
| Mine Workers' Relief Act                                      |   | 3,894   |           |         |
| Pensions and Retiring Allowances                              |   | 3,343   |           |         |
| Superannuation and Family Benefits Act                        |   | 48,873  |           |         |
| Government Employees' Pensions Act                            |   | 26,449  |           |         |
|   |   |         | 180,191   |         |
| Departmental:   |   |         |           |         |
| Treasury  |   | 2,210   |           |         |
| Government Stores   |   | 3,690   |           |         |
| Government Printer  |   | 30,016  |           |         |
| Education   |   | 92,676  |           |         |
| Department of Industrial Development                          |   | 27,541  |           |         |
| Child Welfare   |   | 28,701  |           |         |
| Forests   |   | 12,605  |           |         |
| Native Affairs  |   | 10,800  |           |         |
| Lands and Surveys   |   | 44,537  |           |         |
| Agriculture   |   | 42,981  |           |         |
| College of Agriculture  |   | 2,063   |           |         |
| Labour  |   | 2,003   |           |         |
| Chief Secretary   |   | 4,548   |           |         |
| Registry and Friendly Societies                               |   | 3,121   |           |         |
| Prisons   |   | 3,838   |           |         |
| Harbour and Light   |   | 2,809   |           |         |
| Mines   |   | 14,976  |           |         |
| Police  |   | 31,791  |           |         |
| Crown Law   |   | 48,723  |           |         |
| Arbitration Court   |   | 2,227   |           |         |
| Medical   |   | 12,037  |           |         |
| Public Health   |   | 200,215 |           |         |
| Mental Hospitals  |   | 23,459  |           |         |
| Fisheries   |   | 7,100   |           |         |
| Miscellaneous Services:                                       |   |         |           |         |
| Kindergarten Union  |   | 3,627   |           |         |
| Alexandra Home—Mothercraft                                    |   | 3,109   |           |         |
| Interest and Exchange   |   | 6,248   |           |         |
| Pay Roll Tax  |   | 2,129   |           |         |
| Hospitals Trust Fund  |   | 112,981 |           |         |
| State Electricity Commission Loans                            |   | 76,301  |           |         |
| Estimated Cost of Basic Wage Increases                        |   | 400,000 |           |         |
| Subsidy Superannuation Board                                  |   | 5,500   |           |         |
| Subsidy Road Transport—Mt. Magnet-Sandstone                   |   | 2,500   |           |         |
|   |   |         | 612,386   |         |
|   |   |         | 1,266,953 |         |
| Public Utilities:   |   |         |           |         |
| Goldfields Water Supply                                       |   | 15,681  |           |         |
| State Abattoirs   |   | 4,868   |           |         |
| Metropolitan Water Supply                                     |   | 4,001   |           |         |
| Other Hydraulic Undertakings                                  |   | 31,784  |           |         |
| Railways  |   | 991,133 |           |         |
| Tramways  |   | 82,115  |           |         |
|   |   |         | 1,120,587 |         |
| Sundry Minor Variations                                       |   |         | 6,255     |         |
|   |   |         | 2,582,986 |         |
| Add Decreases in Estimated Revenue—                           |   |         |           |         |
| Taxation:   |   |         |           |         |
| Totalisator Duty  |   | 2,817   |           |         |
| Probate Duty  |   | 12,163  |           |         |
|   |   |         | 14,985    |         |
| Territorial:  |   |         |           |         |
| Lands   |   | 13,104  |           |         |
| Mining  |   | 2,318   |           |         |
|   |   |         | 15,422    |         |
| Departmental:   |   |         |           |         |
| Government Stores   |   | 2,241   |           |         |
| Lands and Surveys   |   | 21,859  |           |         |
| Native Affairs  |   | 8,649   |           |         |
| Treasury Miscellaneous:                                       |   |         |           |         |
| Rural Bank (Government Agency) Interest                       |   | 15,610  |           |         |
| Rural Bank—Interest   |   | 93,598  |           |         |
| Government Stores—Surplus Stores                              |   | 14,677  |           |         |
| Purchase of Heifers—Surplus                                   |   | 3,000   |           |         |
| State Electricity Commission—Accident and Fire Insurance Fund |   | 69,800  |           |         |
| Agricultural Land Purchases                                   |   | 60,000  |           |         |
|   |   |         | 281,683   |         |
|   |   |         | 294,442   |         |
| Royal Mint  |   |         | 3,610     |         |
| Public Utilities:   |   |         |           |         |
| Fremantle Harbour Trust                                       |   |         | 7,478     |         |
|   |   |         | 835,937   |         |
|   |   |         | 3,736,184 |         |

## CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND—continued.

|   | £ | £       | £       | £         |
|---|---|---------|---------|-----------|
| <b>Less Decreases in Estimated Expenditure—</b>   |   |         |         |           |
| Special Acts :  |   |         |         |           |
| Commissioner of Railways .....  |   |         | 5,947   |           |
| Departmental :  |   |         |         |           |
| Premiers .....  |   | 4,942   |         |           |
| Public Works .....  |   | 26,789  |         |           |
|   |   |         | 31,731  |           |
| Miscellaneous Services :  |   |         |         |           |
| Refunds of Revenue .....  |   | 11,899  |         |           |
| Loan Management Expenses .....  |   | 2,533   |         |           |
| Exchange .....  |   | 8,098   |         |           |
| Stamp Duty on Transfers .....   |   | 2,328   |         |           |
| Recoup Rural Bank—Government Agency Section .....   |   | 19,711  |         |           |
| State Shipping Service—Loss .....   |   | 163,110 |         |           |
| Subsidy—Transport of Supcr. by Road .....   |   | 70,979  |         |           |
| Subsidy—Purchase of Motor Vehicles for Departmental Officers .....  |   | 4,527   |         |           |
| Concession Freight on Fyrites—Norseman Gold Mine .....  |   | 6,882   |         |           |
| Reforestation Fund—Special Grant .....  |   | 3,000   |         |           |
| Drought Relief—Losses on Cropping Advances .....  |   | 16,693  |         |           |
| War Service Land Settlement—Loss .....  |   | 34,012  |         |           |
| Grant to State Electricity Commission in lieu of Balance of Accident and Fire Insurance Fund transferred to Revenue ..... |   | 69,800  |         |           |
|   |   |         | 413,842 |           |
|   |   |         |         | 451,020   |
| <b>Less Increases in Estimated Revenue—</b>   |   |         |         | 3,285,164 |
| Taxation :  |   |         |         |           |
| Land Tax .....  |   | 2,757   |         |           |
| Income Tax Reimbursement .....  |   | 659,808 |         |           |
|   |   |         | 658,125 |           |
| Territorial :   |   |         |         |           |
| Timber .....  |   |         | 47,846  |           |
| Departmental :  |   |         |         |           |
| Education .....   |   | 4,874   |         |           |
| Forests .....   |   | 13,798  |         |           |
| Inspection of Machinery .....   |   | 3,947   |         |           |
| Printing .....  |   | 10,758  |         |           |
| Public Health .....   |   | 23,752  |         |           |
| Public Works .....  |   | 28,920  |         |           |
| Department of Industrial Development .....  |   | 6,340   |         |           |
| Treasury Miscellaneous :  |   |         |         |           |
| Road Construction—Interest .....  |   | 2,897   |         |           |
| State Electricity Commission—Interest .....   |   | 24,785  |         |           |
| Bunbury Bulk Handling—Interest .....  |   | 6,600   |         |           |
| Fremantle Bulk Handling—Interest .....  |   | 13,700  |         |           |
| State Electricity Commission—Sinking Fund .....   |   | 10,148  |         |           |
| Government Workers' Compensation Fund—Surplus .....   |   | 49,594  |         |           |
| Savings Bank Profits .....  |   | 4,590   |         |           |
| Superannuation—Departmental Charges .....   |   | 5,117   |         |           |
| Price Control—Recoup .....  |   | 21,112  |         |           |
|   |   |         | 138,051 |           |
|   |   |         |         | 237,440   |
| Commonwealth :  |   |         |         |           |
| Grant under section 08 .....  |   |         |         | 500,000   |
| Trading Concerns .....  |   |         |         | 13,915    |
| Public Utilities :  |   |         |         |           |
| State Abattoirs .....   |   | 2,478   |         |           |
| Metropolitan Water Supply .....   |   | 30,910  |         |           |
| Other Hydraulic Undertakings .....  |   | 8,372   |         |           |
| Railways .....  |   | 888,782 |         |           |
| Tramways .....  |   | 58,534  |         |           |
|   |   |         | 987,076 |           |
| Sundry Minor Variations .....   |   |         | 2,335   |           |
|   |   |         |         | 2,446,237 |
| Estimated Deficit 1949-50 .....   |   |         |         | £833,927  |

[Return No. 1]

BALANCE SHEET OF THE GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA AT 30th JUNE, 1948, AND 30th JUNE, 1949.

|  | 30th June, 1948. | 30th June, 1949. |  | 30th June, 1948. | 30th June, 1949. |
|--|------------------|------------------|--|------------------|------------------|
|  | £                | £                |  | £                | £                |
| Public Debt ... ..                       | 100,274,741      | 103,688,743      | Invested in Works and Services, etc. ...                     | 98,247,588       | 103,688,743      |
|  |                  |                  | Balance—General Loan Fund c/d. ...                           | 2,027,153        | ...              |
|  | 100,274,741      | 103,688,743      |  | 100,274,741      | 103,688,743      |
| Balance General Loan Fund ... ..         | 2,027,153        | 2,224,803        | Consolidated Revenue Fund ... ..                             | 380,563          | 1,197,824        |
| State Taxes, Arrears ... ..              | 552,702          | 563,890          | Commonwealth Government—Tax Arrears                          | 618,487          | 628,631          |
| Hospital Fund Contributions, Arrears ... | 63,785           | 64,740           | Advances (under Appropriation "Advance to Treasurer") ... .. | 568,835          | 624,513          |
| Reserve Accounts ... ..                  | 8,274            | 3,013            | Expenditure in Suspense ... ..                               | 177,006          | 171,677          |
| Suspense Accounts ... ..                 | 148,312          | 170,352          | Stores on hand ... ..  | 1,107,908        | 1,479,791        |
| Trading Concerns ... ..                  | 100,533          | 77,381           | Trust Fund Investments—                                      |                  |                  |
| Trust Funds—                             |                  |                  | Governmental ... ..  | 2,037,767        | 2,022,088        |
| Governmental ... ..                      | 5,032,018        | 5,276,187        | Private ... ..   | 3,272,736        | 3,665,399        |
| Private ... ..                           | 3,761,058        | 4,168,071        | Banking Account ... ..                                       | 1,660,846        | 178,783          |
| Inscribed Stock Exemption ... ..         | 3,000            | ...              | Cash in hand, etc.—  |                  |                  |
|  |                  |                  | Banks Current Account ... ..                                 | 287,571          | 306,621          |
|  |                  |                  | Banks in Eastern States ... ..                               | 28,992           | 24,230           |
|  |                  |                  | Debenture Deposit ... ..                                     | 1,530,000        | 2,180,000        |
|  |                  |                  | In London ... ..   | 4,494            | 48,309           |
|  |                  |                  | In Transit ... ..  | 11,378           | 16,196           |
|  |                  |                  | In Hand ... ..   | 12,252           | 3,435            |
|  | 11,696,835       | 12,547,497       |  | 11,696,835       | 12,547,497       |

[16 SEPTEMBER, 1949.]



[Return No. 2.]

## REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1948-49, COMPARED WITH ESTIMATE.

## SUMMARY.

|                    | Estimate.    | Actual.      | Comparison with Estimate. |           |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------------|-----------|
|                    |              |              | Increase.                 | Decrease. |
| Revenue ... ..     | £ 20,327,257 | £ 20,560,646 | £ 233,389                 | £ .....   |
| Expenditure ... .. | 20,491,980   | 21,377,907   | 885,927                   | .....     |
| Deficit            | 164,723      | 817,261      | 652,538                   | .....     |
| Surplus            | .....        | .....        | .....                     | .....     |
| Net Retrogression  |              |              | £652,538                  |           |

## DETAILS.

| Revenue                 | Estimate.  | Actual.    | Comparison with Estimate. |           |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|---------------------------|-----------|
|                         |            |            | Increase.                 | Decrease. |
|                         | £          | £          | £                         | £         |
| Taxation ... ..         | 5,620,100  | 5,836,240  | 216,140                   | .....     |
| Territorial ... ..      | 546,000    | 553,078    | 7,078                     | .....     |
| Law Courts ... ..       | 94,400     | 114,745    | 20,345                    | .....     |
| Departmental ... ..     | 2,057,781  | 2,282,239  | 224,458                   | .....     |
| Royal Mint ... ..       | 55,000     | 63,610     | 8,610                     | .....     |
| Commonwealth ... ..     | 4,073,432  | 4,073,432  | .....                     | .....     |
| Trading Concerns ... .. | 114,342    | 121,605    | 7,163                     | .....     |
| Public Utilities ... .. | 7,766,202  | 7,515,799  | .....                     | 250,403   |
| Total Revenue ... ..    | 20,327,257 | 20,560,646 | 483,792                   | 250,403   |
| Net Increase            |            |            | £233,389                  |           |

| Expenditure.                   | Estimate.  | Actual.    | Comparison with Estimate. |           |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|---------------------------|-----------|
|                                |            |            | Increase.                 | Decrease. |
| <b>SPECIAL ACTS—</b>           | £          | £          | £                         | £         |
| Constitution Act ... ..        | 20,310     | 21,567     | 1,257                     | .....     |
| Interest—Overseas ... ..       | 1,336,631  | 1,325,941  | .....                     | 10,690    |
| Interest—Australia ... ..      | 1,923,324  | 1,929,898  | 6,574                     | .....     |
| Sinking Fund ... ..            | 876,000    | 851,885    | .....                     | 24,115    |
| Other Special Acts ... ..      | 840,286    | 818,246    | .....                     | 22,040    |
| <b>GOVERNMENTAL—</b>           |            |            |                           |           |
| Departmental ... ..            | 7,160,088  | 7,460,433  | 300,345                   | .....     |
| Exchange ... ..                | 635,000    | 608,098    | .....                     | 26,902    |
| Unemployment Relief ... ..     | 1,950      | 1,659      | .....                     | 291       |
| <b>PUBLIC UTILITIES</b> ... .. | 7,698,391  | 8,360,180  | 661,789                   | .....     |
| Total Expenditure ... ..       | 20,491,980 | 21,377,907 | 989,965                   | 84,038    |
| Net Increase                   |            |            | £886,927                  |           |

[Return No. 3.]

## REVENUE.

## STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS FROM 1940-41 TO 1948-49 AND ESTIMATE FOR 1949-50.

| Heads.                                       | 1940-41.         | 1941-42.         | 1942-43.         | 1943-44.         | 1944-45.         | 1945-46.         | 1946-47.         | 1947-48.          | 1948-49.          | Estimate 1949-50. |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>TAXATION—</b>                             | £                | £                | £                | £                | £                | £                | £                | £                 | £                 | £                 |
| Land Tax .....                               | 122,069          | 136,455          | 132,102          | 122,519          | 118,184          | 111,353          | 112,465          | 111,113           | 132,243           | 135,000           |
| Income Tax .....                             | 1,874,400        | 2,141,332        |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                   |                   |                   |
| Financial Emergency Tax .....                | 295,288          | 43,206           | 2,546,000        | 2,546,000        | 2,546,000        | 2,546,000        | 3,884,000        | 3,807,000         | 4,494,632         | 5,150,000         |
| Dividend Duty .....                          | 186,570          | 149,329          |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                   |                   |                   |
| Totalisator Tax .....                        | 48,423           | 48,045           | 61,870           | 115,210          | 121,374          | 172,141          | 152,650          | 168,787           | 177,817           | 175,000           |
| Stamp Duty .....                             | 245,067          | 229,082          | 209,087          | 221,813          | 250,829          | 325,776          | 417,491          | 462,122           | 530,885           | 530,000           |
| Probate Duty .....                           | 165,006          | 162,559          | 179,288          | 233,400          | 275,477          | 282,280          | 262,328          | 309,487           | 362,168           | 350,000           |
| Entertainment Tax .....                      | 96,802           | 98,284           | 106,891          | 98,139           | 98,334           | 98,196           | (a)              | (a)               |                   |                   |
| Licenses .....                               | 94,185           | 82,958           | 82,641           | 83,780           | 91,924           | 96,530           | 124,166          | 125,682           | 188,495           | 140,600           |
| <b>Total</b> .....                           | <b>3,127,604</b> | <b>3,111,260</b> | <b>3,317,679</b> | <b>3,420,911</b> | <b>3,502,072</b> | <b>3,612,276</b> | <b>4,453,098</b> | <b>4,984,191</b>  | <b>5,836,240</b>  | <b>6,480,800</b>  |
| <b>TERRITORIAL AND DEPARTMENTAL—</b>         |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                   |                   |                   |
| Land .....                                   | 133,190          | 127,157          | 157,730          | 199,254          | 190,613          | 193,405          | 252,181          | 322,035           | 328,104           | 315,000           |
| Mining .....                                 | 84,559           | 32,579           | 21,707           | 21,873           | 20,089           | 26,306           | 37,750           | 86,608            | 42,318            | 40,000            |
| Timber .....                                 | 151,079          | 150,083          | 137,598          | 128,732          | 137,840          | 134,749          | 236,442          | 242,363           | 182,654           | 230,000           |
| Royal Mint .....                             | 57,038           | 65,291           | 60,739           | 78,099           | 69,614           | 47,323           | 51,794           | 53,240            | 63,610            | 60,000            |
| Departmental Fees, etc. ....                 | 958,122          | 1,101,813        | 1,248,651        | 1,434,100        | 1,700,904        | 1,259,492        | 1,552,644        | 1,787,356         | 2,282,239         | 2,224,780         |
| Law Courts .....                             | 84,704           | 81,812           | 68,389           | 50,867           | 60,341           | 75,655           | 76,981           | 98,569            | 114,745           | 114,000           |
| Commonwealth .....                           | 650,000          | 630,000          | 800,000          | 850,000          | 904,000          | 950,000          | 1,245,000        | 1,977,000         | 3,600,000         | 4,100,000         |
| Do. Special Grant .....                      |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  | 912,559          | 628,000          | 1,000,000         |                   |                   |
| Do. Interest Contributions .....             | 473,432          | 473,432          | 473,432          | 473,432          | 473,432          | 473,432          | 473,432          | 473,432           | 473,432           | 473,432           |
| <b>Total</b> .....                           | <b>2,542,124</b> | <b>2,662,187</b> | <b>2,968,264</b> | <b>3,236,347</b> | <b>3,557,033</b> | <b>4,073,921</b> | <b>4,554,324</b> | <b>5,990,601</b>  | <b>7,087,102</b>  | <b>7,557,212</b>  |
| <b>PUBLIC UTILITIES—</b>                     |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                   |                   |                   |
| Bunbury Harbour Board .....                  | 500              | 11,500           | 5,000            | 5,500            | 3,500            |                  |                  |                   |                   |                   |
| Fremantle Harbour Trust .....                | 192,160          | 185,344          | 287,241          | 259,140          | 326,229          | 292,200          | 208,544          | 263,312           | 357,478           | 350,000           |
| Goldfields Water Supply .....                | 347,748          | 300,198          | 273,779          | 270,277          | 306,384          | 305,053          | 341,798          | 363,270           | 349,574           | 350,000           |
| Kalgoorlie Abattoirs .....                   | 6,092            | 9,225            | 6,307            | 5,654            | 81,689           | 79,010           | 89,839           | 98,038            | 140,236           | 142,714           |
| Metropolitan Abattoirs and Sale Yards .....  | 61,442           | 67,370           | 78,682           | 81,726           |                  |                  |                  |                   |                   |                   |
| Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage ..... | 527,180          | 561,628          | 563,768          | 577,680          | 600,517          | 592,584          | 608,395          | 649,313           | 704,090           | 785,000           |
| Other Hydraulic Undertakings .....           | 68,502           | 78,483           | 82,210           | 84,057           | 87,054           | 86,925           | 101,787          | 108,089           | 121,628           | 128,000           |
| Railways .....                               | 3,573,979        | 3,898,809        | 4,446,870        | 4,419,766        | 4,271,283        | 4,143,413        | 3,979,404        | 4,545,376         | 5,161,218         | 6,050,000         |
| Tramways, Perth .....                        |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                   |                   |                   |
| Electric .....                               | 334,501          | 402,693          | 469,751          | 515,163          | 509,530          | 521,908          | 480,522          | 509,303           | 591,466           | 650,000           |
| Electricity Supply .....                     | 437,988          | 462,739          | 477,904          | 540,932          | 577,979          | 530,148          | (b)              | (b)               |                   |                   |
| State Ferries .....                          | 8,404            | 9,964            | 11,837           | 11,546           | 12,141           | 10,662           | 9,878            | 10,406            | 11,879            | 13,000            |
| State Batteries .....                        | 110,766          | 70,759           | 42,723           | 29,674           | 20,272           | 25,196           | 49,002           | 56,081            | 60,257            | 60,000            |
| Cave Houses, etc. ....                       | 13,861           | 10,689           | 13,956           | 11,715           | 12,184           | 14,408           | 15,278           | 18,038            | 17,973            | 19,000            |
| <b>Total</b> .....                           | <b>5,683,173</b> | <b>6,066,451</b> | <b>6,759,027</b> | <b>6,812,613</b> | <b>6,803,767</b> | <b>6,651,416</b> | <b>6,884,447</b> | <b>6,621,226</b>  | <b>7,515,799</b>  | <b>8,497,714</b>  |
| <b>TRADING CONCERNS</b> .....                | <b>79,167</b>    | <b>100,281</b>   | <b>108,708</b>   | <b>119,104</b>   | <b>85,958</b>    | <b>70,244</b>    | <b>89,106</b>    | <b>114,292</b>    | <b>121,505</b>    | <b>135,420</b>    |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b> .....                     | <b>11482068</b>  | <b>11940149</b>  | <b>13151678</b>  | <b>13689175</b>  | <b>13953880</b>  | <b>14407587</b>  | <b>14980375</b>  | <b>17,710,310</b> | <b>20,560,646</b> | <b>22,670,948</b> |

(a) Included Income Tax Reimbursement.

(b) From 1st July, 1946, taken over by State Electricity Commission.

[Return No. 4.]

## STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE FROM 1940-41 TO 1948-49, AND ESTIMATE FOR 1949-50.

| Head.   | 1940-41.   | 1941-42.   | 1942-43.   | 1943-44.   | 1944-45.   | 1945-46.   | 1946-47.   | 1947-48.   | 1948-49.   | Estimate 1949-50. |
|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------|
|   | £          | £          | £          | £          | £          | £          | £          | £          | £          | £                 |
| Special Acts ...                                      | 4,511,542  | 4,583,533  | 4,595,471  | 4,580,235  | 4,634,706  | 4,654,844  | 4,709,004  | 4,826,367  | 4,947,537  | 5,120,643         |
| Parliamentary ...                                     | 14,882     | 15,867     | 16,209     | 16,392     | 18,227     | 19,049     | 20,037     | 25,535     | 28,830     | 30,061            |
| Premier ...   | 17,998     | 16,687     | 12,459     | 10,549     | 9,923      | 14,285     | 21,270     | 28,248     | 28,387     | 21,430            |
| Treasury ...  | 34,205     | 34,313     | 31,053     | 30,445     | 30,448     | 32,460     | 35,761     | 39,728     | 45,899     | 48,109            |
| Governor ...  | 2,382      | 2,437      | 2,644      | 2,733      | 2,870      | 3,268      | 3,336      | 3,385      | 4,111      | 4,102             |
| London Agency ...                                     | 10,000     | 10,619     | 9,048      | 10,319     | 9,601      | 9,930      | 16,061     | 14,450     | 16,334     | 17,038            |
| Public Service Commission ...                         | 1,727      | 957        | 1,564      | 1,654      | 1,882      | 2,322      | 2,724      | 3,238      | 4,438      | 4,803             |
| Government Motor Cars ...                             | 2,924      | 2,448      | 1,589      | 1,313      | 2,748      | 3,841      | 2,679      | 4,786      | 4,290      | 6,125             |
| Audit ...   | 16,653     | 16,425     | 17,273     | 18,799     | 17,909     | 18,272     | 21,337     | 23,737     | 28,757     | 30,615            |
| Compassionate Allowances ...                          | 2,599      | 3,386      | 3,056      | 4,679      | 4,024      | 4,716      | 2,578      | 3,616      | 5,153      | 5,321             |
| Government Stores ...                                 | 17,769     | 16,956     | 18,194     | 18,710     | 19,568     | 21,672     | 24,073     | 28,914     | 37,456     | 41,146            |
| Taxation ...  | 43,739     | 40,805     | 12,441     | 12,067     | 12,000     | 12,000     | 12,000     | 12,000     | 12,000     | 12,000            |
| State Housing Commission ...                          | 2,516      | 2,381      | 2,500      | 3,259      | 3,233      | 4,702      | 10,006     | 22,995     | 24,521     | 24,416            |
| Superannuation Board ...                              | 66,921     | 67,425     | 66,413     | 70,038     | 71,065     | 86,161     | 102,184    | 137,321    | 155,839    | 185,855           |
| Printing ...  | 7,109      | 3,887      | 1,489      | 432        | 749        | 2,467      | 11,521     | 12,980     | 15,023     | 16,193            |
| Tourist and Publicity Bureau ...                      | 11,249     | 11,802     | 16,550     | 11,550     | 13,150     | 13,241     | 16,989     | 21,952     | 21,947     | 22,300            |
| Literary and Scientific Miscellaneous and Rewards ... | 777,850    | 837,157    | 1,336,831  | 1,356,102  | 1,533,811  | 1,278,720  | 1,403,057  | 1,890,819  | 2,896,322  | 3,093,274         |
| Forests ...   | 29,146     | 28,456     | 77,949     | 137,106    | 171,390    | 151,025    | 84,056     | 77,272     | 90,245     | 102,850           |
| Public Works ...                                      | 90,463     | 98,062     | 251,977    | 233,052    | 222,370    | 258,285    | 276,341    | 318,488    | 530,010    | 509,230           |
| Town Planning ...                                     | 1,679      | 1,787      | 1,635      | 1,684      | 1,831      | 2,211      | 2,457      | 2,939      | 3,602      | 3,800             |
| Unemployment Relief ...                               | 41,353     | 13,355     | 8,865      | 3,334      | 2,975      | 3,611      | 2,331      | 1,871      | 1,659      | 1,830             |
| State Labour Bureau ...                               | 56,519     | 54,202     | 65,353     | 61,392     | 65,122     | 85,028     | 119,910    | 159,884    | 186,163    | 230,700           |
| Lands and Surveys ...                                 | 3,987      | 2,989      | 2,679      | 2,003      | 1,440      | 1,360      | 1,273      | 1,051      | 428        | 440               |
| Farmers' Debts Adjustment and Rural Relief ...        |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |                   |
| Rural and Industries Bank ...                         |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            | 5                 |
| Agriculture ...                                       | 108,886    | 107,559    | 105,370    | 112,529    | 132,920    | 168,518    | 182,292    | 211,868    | 257,863    | 303,307           |
| College of Agriculture ...                            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |                   |
| Labour ...  | 1,538      | 1,595      | 1,183      | 1,701      | 2,025      | 1,990      | 3,110      | 4,623      | 3,847      | 5,850             |
| Factories ...   | 7,308      | 7,824      | 7,520      | 7,706      | 7,824      | 8,415      | 9,420      | 11,784     | 13,416     | 14,800            |
| Arbitration Court ...                                 | 5,598      | 5,277      | 5,076      | 5,594      | 5,490      | 6,152      | 7,620      | 10,181     | 11,006     | 14,133            |
| State Insurance ...                                   |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            | 5                 |
| Department of Industrial Development ...              | 3,699      | 8,176      | 4,680      | 7,412      | 5,909      | 16,975     | 21,107     | 21,058     | 24,499     | 52,040            |
| Child Welfare ...                                     | 132,145    | 108,833    | 78,938     | 72,674     | 77,465     | 76,903     | 83,142     | 94,575     | 112,329    | 141,030           |
| Mines, Explosives, Geological, etc. ...               | 129,847    | 123,341    | 112,264    | 113,507    | 128,016    | 133,482    | 162,539    | 185,657    | 193,802    | 208,778           |
| Medical and Health ...                                | 81,986     | 83,278     | 88,337     | 104,030    | 95,203     | 104,483    | 115,875    | 165,466    | 229,499    | 441,751           |
| Hospital Hospitals ...                                | 128,423    | 134,578    | 140,240    | 148,796    | 147,107    | 159,408    | 179,909    | 217,893    | 255,584    | 279,023           |
| Office of Chief Secretary ...                         | 35,157     | 37,440     | 40,173     | 40,886     | 39,162     | 43,762     | 47,673     | 53,771     | 69,724     | 77,577            |
| Prisons ...   | 32,879     | 32,373     | 38,465     | 46,682     | 48,482     | 51,637     | 53,741     | 64,652     | 74,049     | 77,887            |
| Education ...   | 784,009    | 831,095    | 813,439    | 873,737    | 888,944    | 1,002,520  | 1,223,746  | 1,648,768  | 1,759,635  | 1,852,311         |
| Police ...  | 269,795    | 279,743    | 292,070    | 292,563    | 291,695    | 302,764    | 337,326    | 418,425    | 518,338    | 550,179           |
| Crown Law & Branches ...                              | 87,586     | 88,272     | 87,127     | 104,977    | 98,968     | 120,810    | 149,384    | 167,911    | 229,979    | 278,516           |
| Native ...  | 44,900     | 44,000     | 40,250     | 41,250     | 50,200     | 60,000     | 64,800     | 73,736     | 95,102     | 105,402           |
| Harbour and Light and Tenders ...                     | 28,135     | 29,513     | 32,243     | 42,600     | 39,155     | 40,658     | 42,863     | 44,313     | 51,776     | 54,085            |
| Fisheries ...   | 6,982      | 7,980      | 7,141      | 8,145      | 7,521      | 9,466      | 11,029     | 13,151     | 17,556     | 24,656            |
| North-West ...  | 143        | 86         | 34         | 243        | 183        | 181        | 140        |            |            | 200               |
| Total, Departmental...                                | 3,142,615  | 3,213,882  | 3,843,415  | 4,036,724  | 4,282,608  | 4,340,026  | 4,686,668  | 6,238,115  | 8,070,190  | 8,899,330         |
| PUBLIC UTILITIES.                                     |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |                   |
| Goldfields Water Supply ...                           | 136,753    | 145,022    | 134,642    | 141,875    | 178,602    | 180,930    | 195,887    | 229,024    | 270,819    | 288,500           |
| Kalgoorlie Abattoirs ...                              | 4,738      | 4,551      | 5,235      | 5,877      | 62,640     | 61,972     | 69,434     | 77,083     | 103,721    | 108,589           |
| Metropolitan Abattoirs ...                            | 35,172     | 40,975     | 49,041     | 57,738     |            |            |            |            |            |                   |
| Metropolitan Water Supply ...                         | 106,655    | 138,205    | 126,552    | 131,860    | 131,691    | 159,444    | 180,780    | 217,908    | 239,649    | 243,650           |
| Other Hydraulic Undertakings ...                      | 63,316     | 61,093     | 74,378     | 74,286     | 80,620     | 83,921     | 99,412     | 118,308    | 158,826    | 190,610           |
| Railways ...  | 2,733,203  | 2,998,484  | 3,490,171  | 3,624,320  | 3,652,094  | 3,853,437  | 4,314,699  | 5,872,312  | 6,787,862  | 7,779,000         |
| Tramways ...  | 255,506    | 299,384    | 345,401    | 386,908    | 392,106    | 427,832    | 468,243    | 572,133    | 685,385    | 767,500           |
| State Ferries ...                                     | 8,157      | 8,556      | 10,628     | 10,585     | 10,348     | 18,690     | 15,583     | 13,539     | 15,454     | 14,800            |
| Electricity Supply ...                                | 304,623    | 344,577    | 392,853    | 451,781    | 479,259    | 569,373    | (a)        | (a)        |            |                   |
| State Batteries ...                                   | 106,418    | 88,359     | 47,453     | 38,702     | 33,434     | 44,068     | 75,233     | 78,708     | 80,525     | 80,500            |
| Cave House ...  | 12,261     | 11,380     | 11,502     | 11,280     | 11,237     | 12,425     | 15,234     | 18,895     | 17,939     | 18,141            |
| Total Public Utilities                                | 3,766,800  | 4,140,966  | 4,688,356  | 4,935,195  | 5,032,031  | 5,412,687  | 5,492,755  | 6,997,910  | 8,360,180  | 9,489,350         |
| GRAND TOTALS ...                                      | 11,420,957 | 11,938,381 | 13,127,242 | 13,551,154 | 13,949,340 | 14,407,557 | 15,028,427 | 18,002,392 | 21,377,907 | 23,509,873        |

(a) From 1st July, 1946, taken over by State Electricity Commission.

[Return No. 5.]

**STATEMENT SHOWING ANNUAL SURPLUSES AND DEFICIENCIES OF CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND  
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS 1900-01 TO 1948-49.**

| Year.   | Revenue.   | Expenditure. | Annual.  |             |
|---------|------------|--------------|----------|-------------|
|         |            |              | Surplus. | Deficiency. |
|         | £          | £            | £        | £           |
| 1900-01 | 3,078,033  | 3,165,244    | ...      | 87,211      |
| 1901-02 | 3,688,049  | 3,490,026    | 198,023  | ...         |
| 1902-03 | 3,630,238  | 3,621,763    | 108,475  | ...         |
| 1903-04 | 3,550,016  | 3,698,311    | ...      | 148,296     |
| 1904-05 | 3,615,340  | 3,745,225    | ...      | 129,885     |
| 1905-06 | 3,558,939  | 3,632,318    | ...      | 73,379      |
| 1906-07 | 3,401,354  | 3,490,183    | ...      | 88,829      |
| 1907-08 | 3,376,641  | 3,379,006    | ...      | 2,365       |
| 1908-09 | 3,267,014  | 3,368,551    | ...      | 101,537     |
| 1909-10 | 3,657,670  | 3,447,731    | 209,939  | ...         |
| 1910-11 | 3,850,439  | 3,734,448    | 115,991  | ...         |
| 1911-12 | 3,966,673  | 4,101,082    | ...      | 134,409     |
| 1912-13 | 4,596,659  | 4,787,064    | ...      | 190,405     |
| 1913-14 | 5,205,343  | 5,340,754    | ...      | 135,411     |
| 1914-15 | 5,140,725  | 5,706,541    | ...      | 565,816     |
| 1915-16 | 5,356,978  | 5,705,201    | ...      | 348,223     |
| 1916-17 | 4,577,007  | 5,276,764    | ...      | 699,757     |
| 1917-18 | 4,622,536  | 5,328,279    | ...      | 705,743     |
| 1918-19 | 4,944,851  | 5,696,866    | ...      | 652,016     |
| 1919-20 | 5,863,501  | 6,531,725    | ...      | 668,225     |
| 1920-21 | 6,789,565  | 7,476,291    | ...      | 686,725     |
| 1921-22 | 6,907,107  | 7,639,242    | ...      | 732,135     |
| 1922-23 | 7,207,492  | 7,612,856    | ...      | 405,364     |
| 1923-24 | 7,865,595  | 8,094,753    | ...      | 229,158     |
| 1924-25 | 8,381,446  | 8,439,844    | ...      | 58,398      |
| 1925-26 | 8,608,166  | 8,907,309    | ...      | 99,143      |
| 1926-27 | 9,750,833  | 9,722,588    | 28,24    | ...         |
| 1927-28 | 9,807,949  | 9,834,415    | ...      | 26,466      |
| 1928-29 | 9,947,951  | 10,223,919   | ...      | 275,968     |
| 1929-30 | 9,750,515  | 10,268,519   | ...      | 518,004     |
| 1930-31 | 8,686,758  | 10,107,295   | ...      | 1,420,539   |
| 1931-32 | 8,035,316  | 9,593,212    | ...      | 1,557,896   |
| 1932-33 | 8,332,153  | 9,196,234    | ...      | 864,081     |
| 1933-34 | 8,481,697  | 9,270,609    | ...      | 788,912     |
| 1934-35 | 9,331,430  | 9,498,525    | ...      | 167,095     |
| 1935-36 | 10,033,721 | 9,945,343    | 88,378   | ...         |
| 1936-37 | 10,185,433 | 10,556,638   | ...      | 371,205     |
| 1937-38 | 10,819,042 | 10,829,735   | ...      | 10,693      |
| 1938-39 | 10,949,660 | 11,170,102   | ...      | 220,442     |
| 1939-40 | 11,119,943 | 11,266,768   | ...      | 146,825     |
| 1940-41 | 11,432,068 | 11,420,957   | 11,111   | ...         |
| 1941-42 | 11,940,149 | 11,938,381   | 1,768    | ...         |
| 1942-43 | 13,151,678 | 13,127,242   | 24,436   | ...         |
| 1943-44 | 13,589,175 | 13,551,154   | 38,021   | ...         |
| 1944-45 | 13,953,830 | 13,949,340   | 4,490    | ...         |
| 1945-46 | 14,407,557 | 14,407,557   | ...      | ...         |
| 1946-47 | 14,980,875 | 15,028,427   | ...      | 47,552      |
| 1947-48 | 17,710,310 | 18,062,392   | ...      | 352,082     |
| 1948-49 | 20,560,646 | 21,377,907   | ...      | 817,261     |

(Return No. 6.)

## LOAN EXPENDITURE FOR 1948-49 COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS YEARS.

(Up to 1945/46 Loan Suspense Expenditure was not charged to Loan Fund until the year following that in which it was incurred. The figures for 1946/47 and after include Loan Suspense Expenditure incurred during the year.)

| Undertakings.                                      | 1937-38.  | 1938-39.  | 1939-40.  | 1940-41.  | 1941-42. | 1942-43. | 1943-44. | 1944-45. | 1945-46.  | 1946-47.      | 1947-48.  | 1948-49.    |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|---------------|-----------|-------------|
|  | £         | £         | £         | £         | £        | £        | £        | £        | £         | £             | £         | £           |
| Railways, including Land Resumptions               | 349,893   | 198,065   | 102,153   | 102,478   | 29,899   | 23,781   | 17,856   | 72,936   | 72,687    | 268,379       | 286,548   | 362,844     |
| Tramways—Perth Electric                            | 8,512     | 8,042     | 125       | 9,109     | 29,857   | 71,949   | 9,389    | 6,269    | 1,368     | 3,273         | 54,418    | 97,537      |
| Electric Power Stations                            | 39,977    | 17,919    | 1,097     | 15,125    | 22,578   | 59,136   | 26,353   | 15,498   | 115,081   | 166,054       | 785,897   | 1,066,343   |
| Fremantle Harbour Works                            | 31,691    | 34,603    | 15,845    | 15,853    | 97,168   | 63,817   | 5,223    | 24,872   | 31,393    | 49,049        | 89,499    | 61,376      |
| Harbours and Rivers generally                      | 70,240    | 57,689    | 36,081    | 24,518    | 3,251    | 8,401    | 5,917    | 9,315    | 6,765     | 37,584        | 89,480    | 163,595     |
| Sewerage—Perth and Fremantle                       | 253,490   | 351,400   | 242,105   | 115,433   | 71,112   | 17,494   | 6,473    | 10,717   | 39,631    | 115,897       | 168,624   | 227,886     |
| Sewerage—Country Towns                             |           |           |           |           |          |          |          |          |           |               |           | 7,709       |
| Water Supplies (a)                                 | 709,742   | 584,182   | 611,550   | 754,457   | 270,451  | 73,003   | 52,595   | 90,112   | 202,925   | 623,749       | 549,268   | 600,338     |
| Development of Goldfields (b)                      | 29,071    | 42,015    | 55,806    | 45,453    | 17,790   | 137,854  | 99,490   | 99,270   | 231,722   | 255,357       | 261,585   | 328,224     |
| Development of Agriculture                         | 154,659   | 179,462   | 205,811   | 165,747   | 91,814   | 23,997   | 28,529   | 15,024   | 59,235    | 51,948        | 78,936    | 125,103     |
| Assistance to Settlers, Industries, etc.           | 8,471     | 442       | 9,198     | 12,395    | 8,429    | 6,943    | 3,050    | 2,000    | 2         |               |           |             |
| Land Settlement for Soldiers                       | 87        | 540       | 417       | 679       | 8        | 121      | 210      | 1,207    |           |               |           |             |
| College of Agriculture                             |           | 679       | 443       | 1,118     | 775      | 41       |          |          |           |               |           |             |
| Purchase of Plant (Suspense)                       |           |           |           |           |          |          |          |          |           | 125,000       | 75,000    | 50,000      |
| State Saw Mills                                    |           |           |           |           |          |          |          |          |           | 50,000        |           | 37,550      |
| Steamships   | 215,325   | 15,023    | 3,000     | 417       |          |          |          |          |           |               |           |             |
| Workers' Homes—Working Capital                     | 25,000    |           | 10,000    | 10,000    |          |          |          |          |           |               |           |             |
| Workers' Homes Board—War Housing                   |           |           |           |           |          |          |          | 120,000  |           |               |           |             |
| State Hotels                                       | 18,922    | 4,999     | 9,173     | 20,702    | 147      | 1        |          |          |           |               |           |             |
| Ferries  |           | 12        |           | 1,946     | 2,843    | 2,211    |          |          | 3,000     |               | 609       | 986         |
| State Engineering Works                            |           |           |           | 7,571     | 39,429   | 15,571   | 5,000    | 4,089    |           |               |           |             |
| Public Buildings                                   | 91,728    | 114,954   | 103,536   | 57,231    | 35,259   | 53,151   | 38,808   | 81,217   | 116,607   | 132,045       | 216,988   | (d) 585,902 |
| Hospital Buildings and Equipment, including Grants |           |           | 3,194     | 300,000   | 59,291   | 75,000   | 45,000   | 40,000   | 110,000   | 255,000       | 307,131   |             |
| Roads and Bridges                                  | 160,038   | 65,000    | 325,000   | 41,784    |          |          |          |          |           |               |           |             |
| Sundries   |           | 9,000     | 9,415     | 5,000     | 613      | 130      |          |          |           |               | 10,724    | 20,841      |
| Bulk Handling of Wheat                             | 62,493    | 7,049     | 4,478     | 5,204     |          |          |          | 31,822   | 35,953    | 36,301        | 731       | 116         |
| Boya Quarries                                      | 600       | 1,586     | 2,646     |           |          |          |          |          |           |               |           |             |
| Air Raid Precautions                               |           |           |           |           |          | 80,000   | 22,363   |          |           |               |           |             |
| West Australian Meat Export Works                  |           |           |           |           |          | 85,000   | 14,084   | 70,936   | 50,000    |               |           | 10,000      |
| Woolpool Industries                                |           |           |           |           |          |          |          |          |           | 46,328        | 64,366    | 71,100      |
| Native Stations, Hospitals, etc.                   | 6,568     | 5,500     | 8,294     | 14,000    | 11,207   |          |          |          | 5,000     | 15,000        |           |             |
| Totals   | 2,315,004 | 1,698,111 | 1,759,174 | 1,780,366 | 791,951  | 774,608  | 377,330  | 695,229  | 1,081,549 | (c) 2,230,964 | 3,030,753 | 3,818,724   |
| Less Expenditure from Loan Repayments              |           |           |           |           |          |          |          |          |           |               |           |             |
| Receipts   | 154,825   | 163,105   | 101,086   | 140,203   | 86,867   | 184,706  | 193,896  | 222,494  | 210,595   | 192,818       | 282,155   | 538,204     |
| Net Expenditure from Loan Raisings                 | 2,160,179 | 1,535,006 | 1,658,088 | 1,620,163 | 705,084  | 589,900  | 178,434  | 472,735  | 870,954   | 2,038,146     | 2,748,608 | 3,280,520   |

(a) Including Goldfields Districts. (b) Excluding Water Supplies. (c) Excludes Recoup to Loan Suspense Account 1945-46. Development of Goldfields £350; Purchase of Plant (Suspense) £40,000; W. A. Meat Export Works £30,811; Total £71,161. (d) Includes Hospitals.

[Return No. 7.]

## PUBLIC DEBT.

## (a) LOAN AUTHORISATIONS AND FLOTATIONS.

|   | £                  | £                  | £                 |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Authorisations to 30th June, 1948   | ....               | 132,632,447        |                   |
| Authorisations, 1948-49   | ....               | 2,322,922          |                   |
|   |                    | <u>134,955,369</u> |                   |
| Flotations—   |                    |                    |                   |
| Inscribed Stock, Debentures, Treasury Bonds, etc.,<br>issued in Australia and Overseas—Net proceeds:— |                    |                    |                   |
|   | £                  |                    |                   |
| For Works and Services  | 110,309,978        |                    |                   |
| For Funding Deficits  | 12,115,087         |                    |                   |
|   | <u>122,425,065</u> |                    |                   |
| Discounts and Flotation Expenses (including Cost of<br>Conversion Loans), net:—                       |                    |                    |                   |
| On Works Loans  | 4,714,013          |                    |                   |
| On Deficit Loans  | 752,482            |                    |                   |
|   | <u>5,466,495</u>   |                    |                   |
|   |                    | 127,891,560        |                   |
| Short Term Debt current at 30th June, 1949—   |                    |                    |                   |
| London  | ....               | 2,959,714          |                   |
|   |                    | <u>130,851,274</u> |                   |
| Total Flotations  | ....               |                    | 130,851,274       |
| Balance available for Flotation   | ....               |                    | <u>£4,104,095</u> |

## (b) LOAN INDEBTEDNESS.

|  | £                | £                   |
|--|------------------|---------------------|
| Total Amount raised to 30th June, 1948               | ....             | 127,063,464         |
| Flotations during the year—                          |                  |                     |
| Counter Sales  | 125,810          |                     |
| Instalment Stock                                     | 639,000          |                     |
| Commonwealth Loans (Aust.)                           | 3,023,000        |                     |
| Temporary increase in Debt (London Conversion Loans) | 771,708          |                     |
|  | <u>4,559,518</u> |                     |
|  |                  | 131,622,982         |
| Redemptions—   |                  |                     |
| Total to 30th June, 1948                             | ....             | 26,788,723          |
| During the year—                                     |                  |                     |
| National Debt Commission:                            | £                |                     |
| Securities repurchased                               | 1,027,015        |                     |
| Instalment Stock redeemed (Australia)                | 31,904           |                     |
| Inscribed Stock redeemed at maturity                 | 22,320           |                     |
| Special Deficit Loans redeemed                       | 64,277           |                     |
|  | <u>1,145,516</u> |                     |
|  |                  | 27,934,239          |
| Gross Public Debt at 30th June, 1949                 | ....             | 103,688,743         |
| Sinking Fund   | ....             | 62,822              |
|  |                  | <u>£103,625,921</u> |
| Net Public Debt at 30th June, 1949                   | ....             |                     |

[Return No. 7—continued.]

## (c) SUMMARY OF GROSS LOAN RAISINGS AND DISBURSEMENTS.

| <i>Raisings.</i>                       | £            | <i>Disbursements.</i>                                 | £            |
|--|--------------|---|--------------|
| Total Flotations, as per Return 7 (b)— |              | Discounts and Expenses—                               |              |
| To 30th June, 1948 ...                 | 127,063,464  | To 30th June, 1948 (Net) ...                          | 4,699,816    |
| During Year 1948-49 ...                | 3,787,810    | During Year 1948-49 ...                               | 14,197       |
| Receipts from Loan Repayments—         |              | Redemption of Agricultural Bank Mortgage Bonds ...    | 1,566,000    |
| To 30th June, 1948 ...                 | 3,742,087    | Deficits Funded (including Discount and Expenses) ... | 12,867,569   |
| During Year 1948-49 ...                | 242,820      | Expenditure on Works and Services ...                 | 113,463,736  |
|  |              | Balance of General Loan Fund                          | 2,224,863    |
|  | £134,836,181 |   | £134,836,181 |

## (d) NET PUBLIC DEBT FOR HEAD OF POPULATION ON 30th JUNE EACH YEAR.

| Year.    | Debt per Head. | Year.    | Debt per Head. |
|----------|----------------|----------|----------------|
|          | £ s. d.        |          | £ s. d.        |
| 1919 ... | 116 7 0        | 1935 ... | 197 11 11      |
| 1920 ... | 119 7 3        | 1936 ... | 199 7 10       |
| 1921 ... | *124 15 11     | 1937 ... | 201 15 2       |
| 1922 ... | 137 1 0        | 1938 ... | 202 19 8       |
| 1923 ... | 142 9 6        | 1939 ... | 204 7 1        |
| 1924 ... | 146 13 6       | 1940 ... | 203 15 7       |
| 1925 ... | 146 3 11       | 1941 ... | 204 18 7       |
| 1926 ... | 155 14 8       | 1942 ... | 202 17 4       |
| 1927 ... | 157 14 4       | 1943 ... | 202 1 11       |
| 1928 ... | 165 10 7       | 1944 ... | 198 19 2       |
| 1929 ... | 162 6 9        | 1945 ... | 195 9 0        |
| 1930 ... | 163 9 9        | 1946 ... | 195 3 1        |
| 1931 ... | 174 2 6        | 1947 ... | 195 16 11      |
| 1932 ... | 180 3 8        | 1948 ... | †194 5 11      |
| 1933 ... | 187 4 8        | 1949 ... | 195 10 5       |
| 1934 ... | 193 7 6        |          |                |

\* Compared with the previous year, £2 16s. 11d. of the increase is due to an adjustment in the figures of the population at the Census. † Adjusted on corrected figures of population.

## (e) CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AT 30th JUNE, 1949.

|                                     | Securities Issued. | Re-deemed. | In Circulation. | Funds Invested. |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Metropolitan Market Act ...         | 19,000             | 3,342      | 15,658          | ....            |
| Workers' Homes Act ...              | 189,000            | 28,525     | 160,475         | ....            |
| Agricultural Lands Purchase Act ... | 587,471            | 497,354    | 90,117          | 3,917           |
|                                     | 795,471            | 529,221    | 266,250         | ....            |
| Bank Guarantees in force ...        | ....               | ....       | 1,608,970       | ....            |
| Total, Contingent Liabilities ...   | ....               | ....       | 1,875,220       | ....            |

[Return No. 8.]

## LOAN LIABILITY—STATEMENT SHOWING AMOUNTS MATURING EACH YEAR.

| Earliest Date of Maturity. | Latest Date of Maturity. | Interest Rate. | Repayable in— |           |            |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------|------------|
|                            |                          |                | London.       | New York. | Australia. |
|                            |                          | %              | £             | £         | £          |
| ...                        | 1943                     | ...            |               | ...       | †500       |
| ...                        | 1948                     | 2½             | *2,959,714    | ...       | ...        |
| ...                        | 1949                     | 2              | ...           | ...       | 255,560    |
| ...                        | 1949                     | 3½             | ...           | ...       | 1,304,220  |
| ...                        | 1949                     | 3½             | ...           | ...       | 1,741,310  |
| ...                        | 1950                     | 2              | ...           | ...       | 53,000     |
| 1949                       | 1950                     | 2½             | ...           | ...       | 813,300    |
| ...                        | 1950                     | 4              | ...           | ...       | 1,341,198  |
| ...                        | 1951                     | 3½             | ...           | ...       | 3,852,210  |
| ...                        | 1952                     | 2              | ...           | ...       | 260,830    |
| 1948                       | 1953                     | 3½             | 864,393       | ...       | ...        |
| ...                        | 1953                     | 4              | ...           | ...       | 1,238,774  |
| 1952                       | 1954                     | 3½             | ...           | ...       | 587,800    |
| 1952                       | 1954                     | 3½             | ...           | ...       | 3,167,950  |
| 1935                       | 1955                     | 3½             | 3,204,904     | ...       | ...        |
| ...                        | 1955                     | 4              | ...           | ...       | 1,239,763  |
| 1953                       | 1955                     | 3½             | ...           | ...       | 2,467,805  |
| 1952                       | 1955                     | 5              | ...           | 1,498,444 | ...        |
| 1950                       | 1956                     | 3½             | ...           | ...       | 900,350    |
| 1950                       | 1956                     | 3½             | ...           | ...       | 476,000    |
| 1950                       | 1957                     | 3½             | ...           | ...       | 2,510,621  |
| ...                        | 1957                     | 3              | ...           | ...       | 139,290    |
| ...                        | 1957                     | 4              | ...           | ...       | 1,174,159  |
| ...                        | 1957                     | 3½             | ...           | 267,954   | ...        |
| 1950                       | 1958                     | 3½             | ...           | ...       | 2,272,300  |
| ...                        | 1958                     | 3              | ...           | ...       | 160,697    |
| 1955                       | 1958                     | 3½             | ...           | ...       | 1,462,360  |
| 1950                       | 1959                     | 3½             | ...           | ...       | 906,670    |
| ...                        | 1959                     | 3              | ...           | ...       | 347,622    |
| 1956                       | 1959                     | 3½             | ...           | ...       | 4,648,865  |
| ...                        | 1959                     | 4              | ...           | ...       | 1,167,005  |
| ...                        | 1960                     | 3              | ...           | ...       | 426,489    |
| 1940                       | 1960                     | 3½             | 328,605       | ...       | ...        |
| 1950                       | 1960                     | 3½             | ...           | ...       | 919,790    |
| 1957                       | 1960                     | 3½             | ...           | ...       | 1,300,810  |
| 1950                       | 1961                     | 3½             | ...           | ...       | 5,526,790  |
| 1956                       | 1961                     | 3½             | 1,739,527     | ...       | ...        |
| ...                        | 1961                     | 4              | ...           | ...       | 1,216,546  |
| ...                        | 1961                     | 3              | ...           | ...       | 293,752    |
| ...                        | 1962                     | 3              | ...           | ...       | 174,272    |
| ...                        | 1962                     | 3½             | ...           | ...       | 6,267,855  |
| 1942                       | 1962                     | 4              | 2,021,101     | ...       | ...        |
| ...                        | 1963                     | 3              | ...           | ...       | 184,009    |
| 1960                       | 1963                     | 3½             | ...           | ...       | 781,900    |
| ...                        | 1964                     | 3·1            | ...           | ...       | 1,566,000  |
| ...                        | 1964                     | 3              | ...           | ...       | 149,284    |
| ...                        | 1965                     | 3              | ...           | ...       | 30,361     |
| ...                        | 1966                     | 3              | ...           | ...       | 432,191    |
| ...                        | 1967                     | 3              | ...           | ...       | 519,364    |
| ...                        | 1967                     | 3½             | ...           | 267,955   | ...        |
| ...                        | 1969                     | 3              | ...           | ...       | 379,565    |
| 1965                       | 1969                     | 3½             | 8,281,487     | ...       | ...        |
| ...                        | 1970                     | 3              | ...           | ...       | 381,778    |
| ...                        | 1971                     | 3              | ...           | ...       | 383,926    |
| 1967                       | 1971                     | 2½             | 3,228,661     | ...       | ...        |
| ...                        | 1972                     | 3              | ...           | ...       | 386,011    |
| ...                        | 1973                     | 3              | ...           | ...       | 562,943    |
| ...                        | 1974                     | 3              | ...           | ...       | 328,000    |
| 1964                       | 1974                     | 3½             | 8,829,191     | ...       | ...        |
| 1972                       | 1974                     | 3              | 4,147,000     | ...       | ...        |
| 1970                       | 1975                     | 2½             | 4,134,103     | ...       | ...        |
| 1975                       | 1977                     | 3              | 18,780        | ...       | ...        |
| ...                        | 1983                     | 1              | ...           | ...       | 5,095,129  |
| Average Rate 3.162%        |                          |                | 39,757,466    | 2,034,353 | 61,896,924 |
|                            |                          |                | 103,688,743   |           |            |

\* Floating Debt.

† Overdue.



[Return No. 9.]

## SINKING FUND.

## TRANSACTIONS DURING THE YEAR 1948-49.

| Receipts:   | £       | s. d. | £         | s. d. |
|---|---------|-------|-----------|-------|
| Balances brought forward, 1st July, 1948—                           |         |       |           |       |
| National Debt Commission  |         |       | 154,496   | 2 6   |
| Contributions:  |         |       |           |       |
| State—  |         |       |           |       |
| 5s. per cent. on loan liability                                     | 262,993 | 12 5  |           |       |
| 15s. per cent. on Special Deficit Loan                              | 40,425  | 0 0   |           |       |
| 4½ per cent. on cancelled securities                                | 538,028 | 4 9   |           |       |
| 3 per cent. under Federal Aid Roads Act                             | 9,438   | 1 0   |           |       |
| Special contribution under clause 12 (20) of Financial Agreement    | 864     | 2 7   |           |       |
| Commonwealth—   |         |       |           |       |
| 6s. and 2s. 6d. per cent. on loan liability                         | 204,685 | 0 5   |           |       |
| Net earnings on investments   | 5,558   | 11 11 |           |       |
|   |         |       | 1,062,992 | 13 1  |
|   |         |       | 1,217,486 | 15 7  |
| Disbursements:  |         |       |           |       |
| Redemptions and Repurchases, etc., at net Cost (including Exchange) |         |       | 1,154,666 | 12 4  |
| Balance, Sinking Fund, 30th June, 1948                              |         |       | 62,822    | 3 3   |
|   |         |       | 1,217,488 | 15 7  |

## TRANSACTIONS FROM 1st JULY, 1927, TO 30th JUNE, 1949.

| Receipts:   | £          | s. d. | £          | s. d. |
|---|------------|-------|------------|-------|
| Balances brought forward—   |            |       |            |       |
| 1st July, 1927—Endowment Policy (M.V. "Kangaroo"), Premiums paid    | 57,697     | 10 0  |            |       |
| 1st July, 1929—Crown Agents   | 879,347    | 0 10  |            |       |
|   |            |       | 935,044    | 10 10 |
| Contributions:  |            |       |            |       |
| On account M.V. "Kangaroo"  | 47,250     | 0 0   |            |       |
| On account, Crown Agents  | 40,312     | 13 5  |            |       |
| State—  |            |       |            |       |
| 5s. per cent. on loan liability                                     | 5,007,910  | 11 9  |            |       |
| 15s. per cent. on Special Deficit Loan                              | 202,125    | 0 0   |            |       |
| 4½ per cent. on cancelled securities                                | 4,817,589  | 15 7  |            |       |
| 3 per cent. under Federal Aid Roads Act                             | 579,084    | 13 1  |            |       |
| Special contribution on account loan for purchase of M.V. "Koolama" | 206,905    | 8 4   |            |       |
| Exchange on contribution re M.V. "Koolama"                          | 52,602     | 5 0   |            |       |
| Payment under Clause 12 (20) of Financial Agreement as amended      | 73,874     | 3 10  |            |       |
| Profit arising out of Conversion of a Loan in London                | 8,812      | 15 0  |            |       |
| Commonwealth—   |            |       |            |       |
| 6s. and 2s. 6d. per cent. on Loan Liability                         | 3,407,874  | 6 3   |            |       |
| Net earnings on investments   | 402,531    | 5 10  |            |       |
| Accretions to Endowment Policy at maturity                          | 35,052     | 10 0  |            |       |
| Exchange on remittances   | 29,504     | 6 1   |            |       |
|   |            |       | 14,505,429 | 14 2  |
|   |            |       | 15,460,474 | 5 0   |
| Disbursements:  |            |       |            |       |
| Redemptions and Repurchases, etc.                                   | 14,089,795 | 10 1  |            |       |
| Repurchases from Special Sinking Fund                               | 81,748     | 3 10  |            |       |
| Contributions refunded to the State                                 | 630        | 17 11 |            |       |
| Contributions to Crown Agents                                       | 39,834     | 2 8   |            |       |
| Premiums on Policy account M.V. "Kangaroo"                          | 47,250     | 0 0   |            |       |
| Repayment of 1934 Loan (Crown Agents)                               | 998,353    | 7 3   |            |       |
| Repayment of 1936 Loan (M.V. "Kangaroo")                            | 140,000    | 0 0   |            |       |
|   |            |       | 15,397,652 | 1 9   |
| Balance, 30th June, 1949—   |            |       |            |       |
| National Debt Commission  |            |       | 62,822     | 3 3   |
|   |            |       | 15,460,474 | 5 0   |

[Return No. 10.]

## SUMMARISED CLASSIFICATION OF LOAN ASSETS, 1948-49. (a)

| Undertaking.*  | Loan Liability.<br>(b) | Capital Charges (c). |               |           | Net Earnings. | Surplus. | De-<br>ficiency. |
|--|------------------------|----------------------|---------------|-----------|---------------|----------|------------------|
|  |                        | Interest.            | Sinking Fund. | Exchange. |               |          |                  |
| FULLY REPRODUCTIVE.                                      |                        |                      |               |           |               |          |                  |
| State Engineering Works .....                            | £ 144,949              | £ 4,748              | £ 1,229       | £ 581     | £ 6,565       | £ 57     | ....             |
| State Saw Mills .....                                    | 389,504                | 11,121               | 2,671         | 1,244     | 54,372        | 39,436   | ....             |
| State Hotels .....                                       | 68,855                 | 2,255                | 596           | 252       | 11,869        | 8,766    | ....             |
| Rural and Industries Bank .....                          | 4,905,762              | 168,641              | 38,742        | 18,308    | 258,696       | 37,905   | ....             |
| Rural and Industries Bank—Government Agency .....        | 2,705,160              | 88,610               | 26,855        | 9,913     | 215,610       | 90,232   | ....             |
| Abattoirs, Sale Yards, Grain Sheds and Cold Stores ..... | 524,399                | 17,177               | 3,803         | 1,922     | 36,515        | 13,618   | ....             |
| Metropolitan Markets .....                               | 145,535                | 4,767                | 1,240         | 533       | 6,804         | 264      | ....             |
| Small Loans Scheme .....                                 | 1,285                  | 42                   | 19            | 5         | 100           | 34       | ....             |
| Welshpool Industries .....                               | 175,645                | 5,753                | 915           | 644       | 9,151         | 1,839    | ....             |
|  | 9,101,094              | 298,114              | 75,970        | 33,352    | 599,582       | 192,146  | ....             |

## PARTIALLY PRODUCTIVE.

|   |            |           |         |         |           |       |         |
|---|------------|-----------|---------|---------|-----------|-------|---------|
| Harbours and Rivers (d) .....             | 6,912,652  | 229,430   | 56,590  | 25,332  | 306,921   | ..... | 1,431   |
| Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage ..... | 19,334,717 | 633,326   | 156,373 | 70,854  | 447,753   | ..... | 412,800 |
| Wynham Meatworks .....                    | 1,072,272  | 35,123    | 9,032   | 3,529   | 25,000    | ..... | 23,084  |
| Agriculture Generally .....               | 3,446,044  | 112,878   | 28,563  | 12,628  | 19,235    | ..... | 185,124 |
| Mining Generally .....                    | 847,847    | 31,041    | 7,784   | 3,473   | 1,191     | ..... | 41,107  |
| Assistance to Industries .....            | 214,620    | 7,030     | 1,514   | 786     | 150       | ..... | 9,450   |
| Loans to Public Bodies .....              | 83,315     | 2,729     | 640     | 305     | 798       | ..... | 2,993   |
| Miscellaneous .....                       | 488,128    | 29,021    | 5,640   | 3,255   | 1,820     | ..... | 36,160  |
| Plant Suspense .....                      | 486,806    | 16,094    | 3,459   | 1,689   | 11,921    | ..... | 8,321   |
| Roads and Bridges .....                   | 3,437,203  | 112,589   | 28,985  | 12,698  | 62,167    | ..... | 91,953  |
| State Housing Commission .....            | 680,735    | 22,236    | 6,734   | 2,496   | 8,838     | ..... | 21,749  |
| West Australian Meat Export Works .....   | 287,307    | 7,773     | 2,422   | 870     | 10,588    | ..... | 477     |
| Electricity Supply .....                  | 4,087,411  | 133,887   | 25,462  | 14,979  | 72,205    | ..... | 102,323 |
| State Brickworks .....                    | 52,197     | 1,710     | 441     | 191     | 1,224     | ..... | 1,128   |
| Soldiers' Land Settlement (f) .....       | 2,045,581  | 67,005    | 17,341  | 7,496   | 52,524    | ..... | 39,318  |
|   | 43,900,635 | 1,438,004 | 350,837 | 160,878 | 1,022,861 | ..... | 927,358 |

## TOTALLY UNPRODUCTIVE.

|   |            |           |         |         |            |       |           |
|---|------------|-----------|---------|---------|------------|-------|-----------|
| Railways (g) .....  | 27,669,191 | 906,829   | 230,736 | 101,397 | †2,406,364 | ..... | 3,644,826 |
| Tramways .....  | 1,537,174  | 50,351    | 11,906  | 5,633   | †93,913    | ..... | 161,308   |
| State Quarries .....  | 35,612     | 1,167     | 304     | 131     | .....      | ..... | 1,602     |
| State Shipping Service .....  | 346,396    | 11,847    | 2,917   | 1,269   | .....      | ..... | 15,533    |
| Rabbit Proof Fence .....  | 332,527    | 10,892    | 2,318   | 1,219   | †9,917     | ..... | 24,846    |
| State Batteries .....   | 432,148    | 14,155    | 3,630   | 1,584   | †20,268    | ..... | 89,637    |
| Public Buildings, including Schools, Police Stations, Gaols, Court Houses, Hospitals and Institutions ..... | 6,020,120  | 197,194   | 46,412  | 22,061  | †237,301   | ..... | 503,468   |
| Aborigines Stations .....   | 114,232    | 3,743     | 959     | 419     | †35,899    | ..... | 41,030    |
| Bulk Handling, Bunbury .....  | 74,442     | 2,488     | 626     | 273     | .....      | ..... | 3,337     |
| Ferries .....   | 10,610     | 347       | 88      | 39      | †3,574     | ..... | 4,045     |
| Pine Planting and Reforestation .....   | 1,050,782  | 34,419    | 8,593   | 3,851   | .....      | ..... | 48,863    |
| Tourist Resorts .....   | 119,427    | 3,912     | 634     | 438     | .....      | ..... | 4,984     |
| Campion Alluvial Deposits .....   | 602,000    | 19,722    | 4,830   | 2,206   | .....      | ..... | 28,253    |
| Group Settlement .....  | 2,056,545  | 96,644    | 24,901  | 10,836  | .....      | ..... | 132,680   |
| Stock Suspense .....  | 11,793     | 389       | 99      | 43      | .....      | ..... | 528       |
|   | 41,313,139 | 1,353,246 | 338,961 | 151,398 | †2,807,741 | ..... | 4,651,346 |

## SUMMARY.

|   |             |           |         |         |            |         |           |
|---|-------------|-----------|---------|---------|------------|---------|-----------|
| Fully Reproductive .....                                    | 9,101,094   | 298,114   | 75,970  | 33,352  | 599,582    | 192,146 | .....     |
| Partially Reproductive .....                                | 43,900,635  | 1,438,004 | 350,837 | 160,878 | 1,022,861  | .....   | 927,358   |
| Totally Unproductive .....                                  | 41,313,139  | 1,353,246 | 338,961 | 151,398 | †2,807,741 | .....   | 4,651,346 |
| Capital Adjustments and Unallocated Costs of Raisings ..... | 1,282,175   | 42,004    | 18,242  | 4,698   | .....      | .....   | 64,944    |
| Special Deficit Loans .....                                 | 5,095,129   | 51,594    | 50,892  | .....   | .....      | .....   | 102,896   |
| Balance of General Loan Fund .....                          | 2,224,863   | 72,877    | 17,078  | 8,163   | .....      | .....   | 98,103    |
| Amount held pending Redemption .....                        | 771,708     | .....     | .....   | .....   | .....      | .....   | .....     |
|   | 108,688,743 | 3,255,839 | 851,885 | 368,479 | 1,185,798  | .....   | 5,652,001 |

Public Debt, 30th June, 1949 .... £103,688,743

NET DEFICIT OF £5,652,001

\*For details see Return No. 11. †Debit.

(a) This statement distributes the net cost of loan charges for the year over the various assets. (b) Total expenditure from loan funds (including the proportionate cost of raising) after allowing for sinking fund redemptions and other adjustments. (c) Actual expenditure averaged over all assets. (d) To this should be added £567,948 included in Railway Capital. (e) Represents expenditure by P.W.D. on roads, bridges and drainage, and by Lands Department on repurchased estates. (f) Includes £567,948 being part of Capital Expenditure on Harbours and Jettyes controlled by Railway Department.

[Return No. 11]

## DETAILED CLASSIFICATION OF LOAN ASSETS 1948-49\*.

| Undertaking.                                    | Loan Liability. | Capital Charges. (a) |               |            | Net Earnings. | Surplus. | Deficiency. |
|---|-----------------|----------------------|---------------|------------|---------------|----------|-------------|
|   |                 | Interest.            | Sinking Fund. | Ex-change. |               |          |             |
|   | £               | £                    | £             | £          | £             | £        | £           |
| Railways (b) ...                                | 27,669,191      | 906,329              | 230,736       | 101,397    | †2,406,364    | ....     | 3,644,826   |
| Tramways ...                                    | 1,537,174       | 50,351               | 11,906        | 5,633      | † 93,918      | ....     | 161,808     |
| Electricity Supply ...                          | 4,087,411       | 133,887              | 25,662        | 14,979     | 72,205        | ....     | 102,323     |
|   | 33,293,776      | 1,090,567            | 268,304       | 122,009    | †2,428,077    | ....     | 3,908,957   |
| <i>Harbours and Rivers.</i>                     |                 |                      |               |            |               |          |             |
| Fremantle Harbour Trust                         | 2,944,776       | 96,459               | 24,449        | 10,791     | 326,514       | 194,815  | ....        |
| Fremantle Other ...                             | 737,913         | 24,171               | 6,194         | 2,704      | 26,516        | ....     | 6,553       |
| Bunbury Harbour Board                           | 609,708         | 19,972               | 5,135         | 2,234      | ....          | ....     | 27,341      |
| Bunbury Other ...                               | 171,878         | 5,630                | 955           | 630        | †508          | ....     | 7,723       |
| Geraldton (c) ...                               | 709,578         | 23,243               | 5,976         | 2,600      | †282          | ....     | 32,101      |
| Albany (c) ...                                  | 165,683         | 5,427                | 1,299         | 607        | †1,084        | ....     | 8,417       |
| Esperance (c) ...                               | 15,851          | 519                  | 133           | 58         | 13            | ....     | 697         |
| Busselton (c) ...                               | 20,351          | 667                  | 171           | 75         | ....          | ....     | 913         |
| North-West Ports (c) ...                        | 596,652         | 19,544               | 5,015         | 2,187      | †23,268       | ....     | 50,014      |
| Swan River ...                                  | 521,276         | 17,075               | 4,182         | 1,910      | †359          | ....     | 23,526      |
| Dredges, Steamers and Plant ...                 | 265,727         | 8,703                | 1,792         | 974        | †6,041        | ....     | 17,510      |
| Other Jetties and Works                         | 153,259         | 5,020                | 1,289         | 562        | †14,580       | ....     | 21,451      |
| (c)   | 6,912,652       | 226,430              | 56,590        | 25,332     | 306,921       | ....     | 1,431       |
| <i>Water Supplies.</i>                          |                 |                      |               |            |               |          |             |
| Metropolitan ...                                | 8,955,649       | 293,351              | 72,119        | 32,819     | 415,597       | 17,308   | ....        |
| Goldfields Water Scheme                         | 3,591,119       | 117,631              | 28,672        | 13,160     | 73,643        | ....     | 85,820      |
| Country Towns ...                               | 1,216,152       | 39,836               | 9,918         | 4,457      | 6,326         | ....     | 47,885      |
| Country Areas ...                               | 1,242,121       | 40,687               | 10,096        | 4,552      | †9,693        | ....     | 65,028      |
| Goldfields Areas ...                            | 967,382         | 31,687               | 8,130         | 3,545      | †7,284        | ....     | 50,646      |
| Irrigation and Drainage.                        | 3,172,956       | 103,933              | 25,924        | 11,628     | †24,155       | ....     | 165,640     |
| Other Works ...                                 | 181,417         | 5,942                | 1,514         | 665        | †6,681        | ....     | 14,802      |
| Sewerage for Country Towns ...                  | 7,921           | 259                  | ....          | 28         | ....          | ....     | 287         |
|   | 19,334,717      | 633,326              | 156,373       | 70,854     | 447,753       | ....     | 412,800     |
| <i>Trading Concerns.</i>                        |                 |                      |               |            |               |          |             |
| Wyndham Meatworks...                            | 1,072,272       | 35,123               | 9,032         | 3,929      | 25,000        | ....     | 23,084      |
| Quarries ...                                    | 35,612          | 1,167                | 304           | 131        | ....          | ....     | 1,602       |
| Brickworks ...                                  | 52,197          | 1,710                | 441           | 191        | 1,214         | ....     | 1,128       |
| Engineering Works ...                           | 144,949         | 4,748                | 1,229         | 531        | 6,565         | 57       | ....        |
| Saw Mills ...                                   | 339,504         | 11,121               | 2,571         | 1,244      | 54,372        | 39,436   | ....        |
| Shipping Service ...                            | 346,396         | 11,347               | 2,917         | 1,269      | ....          | ....     | 15,533      |
| Hotels ...                                      | 68,855          | 2,255                | 596           | 252        | 11,869        | 8,766    | ....        |
| West Australian Meat Export Works ...           | 237,307         | 7,773                | 2,422         | 870        | 10,588        | ....     | 477         |
|   | 2,297,092       | 75,244               | 19,512        | 8,417      | 109,608       | 6,435    | ....        |
| <i>Development of Agriculture.</i>              |                 |                      |               |            |               |          |             |
| Soldiers' Land Settlement (d) ...               | 2,045,581       | 67,005               | 17,341        | 7,496      | 52,524        | ....     | 39,318      |
| Rural and Industries Bank ...                   | 4,995,762       | 163,641              | 38,742        | 18,308     | 258,596       | 37,905   | ....        |
| Rural and Industries Bank—Government Agency ... | 2,705,160       | 88,610               | 26,855        | 9,913      | 215,610       | 90,232   | ....        |
| Group Settlement ...                            | 2,956,545       | 96,844               | 24,901        | 10,835     | ....          | ....     | 132,580     |
| Rabbit-proof Fence ...                          | 332,527         | 10,892               | 2,818         | 1,219      | †9,917        | ....     | 24,846      |
| Generally ...                                   | 3,446,044       | 112,878              | 28,853        | 12,628     | 19,235        | ....     | 135,124     |
|   | 16,481,619      | 539,870              | 139,510       | 60,399     | 536,048       | ....     | 203,713     |

\* See footnote. † Debit. (a) on Return No 10.

[Return No. 11—continued.]

## DETAILED CLASSIFICATION OF LOAN ASSETS 1948-49—continued.

| Undertaking.   | Loan Liability.    | Capital Charges. (a) |                |                | Net Earnings.     | Surplus.    | De-ficiency.     |
|--|--------------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------|------------------|
|  |                    | Interest.            | Sinking Fund.  | Ex-change.     |                   |             |                  |
| <i>Abattoirs, Saleyards, etc.</i>  | £                  | £                    | £              | £              | £                 | £           | £                |
| Metropolitan Abattoirs   | 397,543            | 13,022               | 2,933          | 1,457          | 34,808            | 17,398      | ....             |
| Kalgoorlie Abattoirs ...   | 55,334             | 1,812                | 281            | 203            | 1,707             | ....        | 589              |
| Generally ...  | 71,522             | 2,343                | 589            | 262            | ....              | ....        | 3,194            |
|  | 524,399            | 17,177               | 3,803          | 1,922          | 36,515            | 13,613      | ....             |
| <i>Development of Mining.</i>  |                    |                      |                |                |                   |             |                  |
| State Batteries  | 432,148            | 14,155               | 3,630          | 1,584          | †20,268           | ....        | 39,637           |
| Generally ...  | 947,647            | 31,041               | 7,784          | 3,473          | 1,191             | ....        | 41,107           |
|  | 1,379,795          | 45,196               | 11,414         | 5,057          | †19,077           | ....        | 80,744           |
| <i>Public Buildings.</i>   |                    |                      |                |                |                   |             |                  |
| Education (including Narrogin School of Agriculture and Muresk College of Agriculture) ... | 2,264,760          | 74,184               | 17,190         | 8,300          | †116,744          | ....        | 216,418          |
| Police Stations, Quarters, etc. ...  | 178,295            | 5,840                | 1,476          | 653            | †18,047           | ....        | 26,016           |
| Court Houses, Quarters, etc. ...   | 46,531             | 1,524                | 392            | 170            | †7,787            | ....        | 9,873            |
| Gaols ...  | 88,706             | 2,906                | 747            | 325            | †22,522           | ....        | 26,500           |
| Hospitals ...  | 2,048,378          | 67,096               | 15,347         | 7,506          | 9,581             | ....        | 80,368           |
| Institutions ...   | 658,137            | 21,558               | 5,486          | 2,412          | †20,755           | ....        | 50,211           |
| Buildings generally ...  | 735,313            | 24,086               | 5,774          | 2,695          | †61,527           | ....        | 94,082           |
|  | 6,020,120          | 197,194              | 46,412         | 22,061         | †237,801          | ....        | 503,468          |
| <i>All Other.</i>  |                    |                      |                |                |                   |             |                  |
| Aborigines Stations ...  | 114,282            | 3,743                | 969            | 419            | †35,899           | ....        | 41,030           |
| Assistance to Industries   | 214,620            | 7,030                | 1,814          | 786            | 150               | ....        | 9,480            |
| Bulk Handling, Bunbury   | 74,442             | 2,438                | 626            | 273            | ....              | ....        | 3,337            |
| Ferries ...  | 10,610             | 347                  | 86             | 39             | †3,574            | ....        | 4,046            |
| Loans to Public Bodies   | 83,315             | 2,729                | 667            | 305            | 798               | ....        | 2,903            |
| Metropolitan Markets...  | 145,535            | 4,767                | 1,240          | 633            | 6,804             | 264         | ....             |
| Miscellaneous ...  | 888,128            | 29,091               | 5,640          | 3,255          | 1,826             | ....        | 36,160           |
| Pine Planting and Re-forestation ...   | 1,050,782          | 34,419               | 8,593          | 3,851          | ....              | ....        | 46,863           |
| Plant Suspense ...   | 460,806            | 15,094               | 3,459          | 1,689          | 11,921            | ....        | 8,321            |
| Roads and Bridges ...  | 3,437,203          | 112,589              | 28,965         | 12,596         | 62,197            | ....        | 91,853           |
| Small Loans Scheme—State Housing Com-mission ...   | 1,285              | 42                   | 19             | 5              | 100               | 34          | ....             |
| Stock Suspense ...   | 11,793             | 386                  | 99             | 43             | ....              | ....        | 528              |
| Tourist Resorts ...  | 119,427            | 3,912                | 634            | 438            | ....              | ....        | 4,984            |
| State Housing Com-mission ...  | 680,735            | 22,298               | 5,794          | 2,495          | 8,838             | ....        | 21,749           |
| Campion Alunite De-posits ...  | 602,090            | 19,722               | 4,330          | 2,206          | ....              | ....        | 26,258           |
| Welshpool Industries ...   | 175,645            | 5,753                | 915            | 644            | 9,151             | 1,839       | ....             |
| Capital Adjustments and Unallocated Costs of Raisings ...                                  | 1,282,175          | 42,004               | 18,242         | 4,698          | ....              | ....        | 64,944           |
| Special Deficit Loans ...  | 5,095,129          | 51,594               | 50,802         | ....           | ....              | ....        | 102,396          |
| Balance of General Loan Fund ...   | 2,224,863          | 72,877               | 17,073         | 8,153          | ....              | ....        | 98,103           |
| Amount held pending Re-demption ...  | 771,708            | ....                 | ....           | ....           | ....              | ....        | ....             |
|  | 17,444,573         | 430,835              | 149,967        | 42,428         | 62,312            | ....        | 560,918          |
| <b>TOTAL ...</b>   | <b>103,688,743</b> | <b>3,255,839</b>     | <b>851,885</b> | <b>358,479</b> | <b>†1,185,798</b> | <b>....</b> | <b>5,652,001</b> |
| Public Debt, 30th June, 1949 ...   | 103,688,743        |                      |                |                |                   |             |                  |

† Debit.

(a) Actual Expenditure averaged over all assets.

(b) Includes £557,948 being part of Capital Expenditure on Harbours and Jetties controlled by Railway Dept.

(c) To this should be added £557,948 included in Railway Capital in respect of the following Harbours and Jetties: Albany, £108,312; Buncefort, £35,000; Geraldton, £329,283; Esperance, £63,225; Port Hedland, £24,142.

(d) Represents expenditure by P.W.D. on roads, bridges and drainage, and by Lands Department on re-purchased estates.

*In Return 11 the average cost of servicing the Public Debt has been applied to all undertakings. In Returns 12-13 the figures as shown have been prepared in accordance with the published Commercial Accounts of the Utilities.*

[Return No. 12.]

### RETURN RELATING TO RAILWAYS.

| —                           | 1944-45.        | 1945-46.        | 1946-47.        | 1947-48.        | 1948-49.        |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Number of Miles Open ... .. | miles.<br>4,381 | miles.<br>4,381 | miles.<br>4,348 | miles.<br>4,348 | miles.<br>4,321 |
| Loan Capital ... ..         | £<br>26,177,283 | £<br>26,347,848 | £<br>26,859,050 | £<br>26,951,413 | £<br>27,312,438 |
| Revenue Capital ... ..      | 630,899         | 631,715         | 631,140         | 632,284         | 637,143         |
| Total ... ..                | 26,808,182      | 26,979,563      | 27,290,190      | 27,583,697      | 27,949,581      |
| Working Expenses ... ..     | 3,764,290       | 4,026,706       | 4,423,801       | 5,570,000       | 6,702,254       |
| Interest ... ..             | 1,050,469       | 1,039,816       | 1,032,990       | 1,046,333       | 1,063,023       |
| Total Annual Cost ... ..    | 4,814,759       | 5,066,522       | 5,456,791       | 6,616,333       | 7,765,277       |
| Gross Revenue ... ..        | 4,276,250       | 4,106,718       | 4,045,935       | 4,598,896       | 5,214,844       |
| Loss ... ..                 | 538,509         | 959,804         | 1,410,856       | 2,017,437       | 2,550,433       |

[Return No. 13.]

### RETURN RELATING TO TRAMWAYS.

| —                        | 1944-45.       | 1945-46.       | 1946-47.       | 1947-48.       | 1948-49.       |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Loan Capital ... ..      | £<br>1,244,437 | £<br>1,247,988 | £<br>1,251,124 | £<br>1,304,274 | £<br>1,427,804 |
| Working Expenses ... ..  | 427,099        | 456,454        | 476,314        | 595,027        | 668,823        |
| Interest ... ..          | 48,308         | 48,407         | 48,516         | 50,976         | 53,277         |
| Total Annual Cost ... .. | 475,407        | 504,861        | 524,830        | 646,003        | 722,100        |
| Gross Revenue ... ..     | 507,509        | 521,093        | 481,100        | 509,054        | 589,539        |
| Profit ... ..            | 32,102         | 16,232         | ...            | ...            | ...            |
| Loss ... ..              | ...            | ...            | 43,730         | 136,949        | 132,561        |

*In Return 11 the average cost of servicing the Public Debt has been applied to all undertakings. In Returns 14-15 the figures as shown have been prepared in accordance with the published Commercial Accounts of the Utilities.*

[Return No. 14.]

## RETURN RELATING TO ELECTRICITY.

|                          | 1944-45.  | 1945-46.  | 1946-47.  | 1947-48.  | 1948-49.  |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                          | £         | £         | £         | £         | £         |
| Loan Capital ... ..      | 1,996,820 | 2,100,714 | 2,287,921 | 3,023,612 | 4,064,053 |
| Working Expenses ... ..  | 498,053   | 579,825   | 776,207   | 911,172   | 1,049,896 |
| Interest ... ..          | 78,336    | 78,281    | 87,251    | 89,719    | 41,180    |
| Total Annual Cost ... .. | 576,389   | 658,106   | 863,458   | 1,000,891 | 1,091,076 |
| Gross Revenue ... ..     | 575,742   | 578,149   | 668,302   | 762,695   | 783,986   |
| Profit ... ..            | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       |
| Loss ... ..              | 647       | 79,957    | 195,156   | 238,196   | 307,090   |

[Return No. 15.]

## RETURN RELATING TO METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY, SEWERAGE, AND DRAINAGE.

|                                  | 1944-45.  | 1945-46.  | 1946-47.  | 1947-48.  | 1948-49.   |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
|                                  | £         | £         | £         | £         | £          |
| Loan Capital ... ..              | 9,137,020 | 9,241,493 | 9,509,253 | 9,818,546 | 10,259,125 |
| Working Expenses ... ..          | 112,531   | 130,736   | 157,973   | 169,049   | 195,680    |
| Interest and Sinking Fund ... .. | 456,798   | 459,100   | 426,904   | 440,578   | 459,509    |
| Total Annual Cost ... ..         | 569,329   | 589,836   | 584,877   | 609,627   | 655,189    |
| Gross Revenue ... ..             | 591,458   | 575,508   | 791,526   | 615,851   | 676,414    |
| Profit ... ..                    | 22,129    | ...       | 6,649     | 6,224     | 21,225     |
| Loss ... ..                      | ...       | 14,328    | ...       | ...       | ...        |

*In Return 11 the average cost of servicing the Public Debt has been applied to all undertakings. In Return 16 the figures as shown have been prepared in accordance with the published Commercial Accounts of the Utilities.*

[Return No. 16.]

### RETURN RELATING TO GOLDFIELDS WATER SUPPLY.

|   | 1944-45.    | 1945-46.    | 1946-47.    | 1947-48.  | 1948-49.  |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
|   | £           | £.          | £           | £         | £         |
| Loan Capital ... ..                     | 3,112,995   | 3,163,835   | 3,266,444   | 3,520,316 | 3,642,096 |
| Working Expenses ... ..                 | 180,800     | 182,507     | 193,748     | 247,832   | 289,112   |
| Interest, Sinking Fund and Depreciation | 211,537     | 214,426     | 203,216     | 232,739   | 244,739   |
| Total Annual Cost ... ..                | 392,337     | 396,933     | 396,964     | 480,571   | 533,851   |
| Gross Revenue ... ..                    | (a) 314,421 | (b) 318,283 | (c) 343,500 | 338,892   | 341,052   |
| Profit ... ..                           | ...         | ...         | ...         | ...       | ...       |
| Loss ... ..                             | 77,916      | 78,650      | 53,464      | 141,679   | 192,799   |

(a) Includes Commonwealth Grant, £8,074.

(b) Includes Commonwealth Grant, £6,198.

(c) Includes Commonwealth Grant, £562.

[Return No. 17.]

### SUMMARY OF TRADING CONCERNS.

|                               | 1942-43.  | 1943-44.  | 1944-45.  | 1945-46.  | 1947-48.  | 1948-49.  |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                               | £         | £         | £         | £         | £         | £         |
| Loan Capital ... ..           | 2,251,449 | 2,253,613 | 2,326,156 | 2,404,401 | 2,451,826 | 2,317,105 |
| Revenue Capital ... ..        | 52,242    | 52,242    | 49,713    | 49,713    | 49,713    | 10,026    |
|                               | 2,303,691 | 2,305,755 | 2,375,869 | 2,454,114 | 2,501,539 | 2,327,131 |
| Gross Revenue ... ..          | 1,519,006 | 1,539,856 | 1,807,909 | 1,912,251 | 2,102,680 | 2,579,444 |
| Increase in Stocks ... ..     | 7,358     | ...       | 19,522    | 270       | 16,949    | 17,544    |
| Decrease in Stocks ... ..     | 11,516    | 14,833    | 853       | 5,234     | 5,657     | 5,944     |
|                               | 1,514,848 | 1,525,023 | 1,826,578 | 1,907,287 | 2,113,972 | 2,591,044 |
| Working Expenditure (a) ...   | 1,410,346 | 1,454,390 | 1,751,924 | 1,846,802 | 1,951,453 | 2,378,935 |
| Interest and Sinking Fund ... | 147,152   | 422,018   | 124,767   | 126,758   | 116,330   | 115,754   |
| Depreciation ... ..           | 39,959    | 48,818    | 47,014    | 50,617    | 55,451    | 60,026    |
| Superannuation ... ..         | 411       | 656       | 683       | 796       | 859       | 954       |
| Total Annual Cost ... ..      | 1,597,868 | 1,625,882 | 1,924,398 | 2,024,973 | 2,124,093 | 2,555,669 |
| Profit ... ..                 | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       | 35,375    |
| Loss ... ..                   | 83,020    | 100,859   | 97,820    | 117,886   | 10,121    | ...       |

(a) Includes provision for Bad Debts and Bad Debts written off.

*Note.*—Wyndham Meat Works—Financial years ended 31st January, 1944, 1945, 1946, 31st October, 1942. State Shipping Service—Financial year ends 31st December.

[Return No. 18.]

## RETURN RELATING TO STATE BRICKWORKS.

|                                  | 1942-43. | 1943-44. | 1944-45. | 1945-46. | 1946-47. | 1947-48. |
|----------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
|                                  | £        | £        | £        | £        | £        | £        |
| Loan Capital ... ..              | 52,231   | 52,097   | 52,097   | 52,097   | 52,097   | 52,097   |
| Revenue Capital ... ..           | 1,774    | 1,774    | 1,774    | 1,774    | 1,774    | 1,774    |
|                                  | 54,005   | 53,871   | 53,871   | 53,871   | 53,871   | 53,871   |
| Gross Revenue ... ..             | 22,069   | 30,144   | 30,997   | 49,898   | 55,921   | 60,250   |
| Increase in Stocks ... ..        | 993      | ...      | 90       | 270      | ...      | 14       |
| Decrease in Stocks ... ..        | ...      | 1,343    | ...      | ...      | 250      | ...      |
|                                  | 23,062   | 28,801   | 40,087   | 50,168   | 55,671   | 60,264   |
| Working Expenditure ... ..       | 24,245   | 29,132   | 38,723   | 45,933   | 50,041   | 54,112   |
| Interest and Sinking Fund ... .. | 2,820    | 2,820    | 2,813    | 2,813    | 2,682    | 2,686    |
| Depreciation ... ..              | 1,369    | 1,330    | 1,619    | 2,074    | 1,884    | 2,590    |
| Superannuation ... ..            | 411      | 656      | 683      | 796      | 859      | 954      |
| Total Annual Cost ... ..         | 28,845   | 33,938   | 43,838   | 51,616   | 55,466   | 60,342   |
| Profit ... ..                    | ...      | ...      | ...      | ...      | 205      | ...      |
| Loss ... ..                      | 5,783    | 5,137    | 3,751    | 1,448    | ...      | 78       |

[Return No. 19.]

## RETURN RELATING TO STATE ENGINEERING WORKS.

|                                  | 1942-43.   | 1943-44.   | 1944-45.  | 1945-46.  | 1946-47.  | 1947-48.  |
|----------------------------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                                  | £          | £          | £         | £         | £         | £         |
| Loan Capital ... ..              | 175,980    | 182,460    | 180,348   | 178,107   | 176,968   | 145,888   |
| Gross Revenue ... ..             | 379,442    | 392,511    | 379,914   | 281,436   | 266,077   | 271,889   |
| Increase in Stocks ... ..        | 6,365      | ...        | ...       | ...       | 1,716     | ...       |
| Decrease in Stocks ... ..        | ...        | 9,739      | 853       | 1,006     | ...       | 5,944     |
|                                  | 385,807    | 382,772    | 397,061   | 280,430   | 267,793   | 265,945   |
| Working Expenditure ... ..       | 353,845    | 364,763    | 379,789   | 261,023   | 241,742   | 238,881   |
| Interest and Sinking Fund ... .. | (b) 10,274 | (b) 10,519 | (b) 9,413 | (b) 9,486 | (b) 9,012 | (b) 8,081 |
| Depreciation ... ..              | 8,524      | 7,096      | 7,544     | 9,517     | 14,313    | 14,090    |
| Total Annual Cost ... ..         | 372,643    | 382,378    | 396,746   | 280,026   | 265,067   | 261,052   |
| Profit ... ..                    | 13,164     | 394        | 315       | 404       | 2,726     | 4,893     |
| Loss ... ..                      | ...        | ...        | ...       | ...       | ...       | ...       |

(b) Includes Sinking Fund charged, in the accounts of the Concern as follows:—

|      |      |      |      |        |      |
|------|------|------|------|--------|------|
| £431 | £444 | £456 | £531 | £1,002 | £971 |
|------|------|------|------|--------|------|



[Return No. 20.]

## RETURN RELATING TO STATE QUARRIES.

|                                  | 1942-43. | 1943-44. | 1944-45. | 1945-46. | 1946-47. | 1947-48. |
|----------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
|                                  | £        | £        | £        | £        | £        | £        |
| Loan Capital ... ..              | 38,601   | 38,601   | 37,634   | 37,324   | 37,086   | 36,910   |
| Revenue Capital ... ..           | 872      | 872      | 872      | 872      | 872      | 872      |
|                                  | 39,473   | 39,473   | 38,506   | 38,196   | 37,958   | 37,782   |
| Gross Revenue ... ..             | 76       | 272      | 81       | 79       | 94       | 68       |
| Increase in Stocks ... ..        | ...      | ...      | ...      | ...      | ...      | ...      |
| Decrease in Stocks ... ..        | 446      | 200      | ...      | ...      | ...      | ...      |
|                                  | Dr. 370  | 72       | 81       | 79       | 94       | 68       |
| Working Expenditure ... ..       | 601      | 70       | 82       | 24       | 100      | 132      |
| Interest and Sinking Fund ... .. | 2,132    | 2,106    | 2,061    | 2,011    | 1,896    | 1,894    |
| Depreciation ... ..              | 47       | ...      | ...      | ...      | ...      | ...      |
| Total Annual Cost ... ..         | 2,780    | 2,176    | 2,143    | 2,035    | 1,996    | 2,026    |
| Loss ... ..                      | 3,150    | 2,104    | 2,062    | 1,956    | 1,902    | 1,958    |

[Return No. 21.]

## RETURN RELATING TO STATE SHIPPING SERVICE.

|                               | 1943    | 1944.   | 1945.   | 1946.   | 1947.   | 1947-48. |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
|                               | £       | £       | £       | £       | £       | £        |
| Loan Capital ... ..           | 346,396 | 346,396 | 346,396 | 346,396 | 346,396 | 346,396  |
| Gross Revenue ... ..          | 277,594 | 264,625 | 281,719 | 195,266 | 270,154 | 534,035  |
| Working Expenditure ... ..    | 291,985 | 300,438 | 328,971 | 280,055 | 276,727 | 515,411  |
| Interest and Sinking Fund (a) | 30,115  | 18,331  | 18,940  | 18,714  | 16,333  | 16,982   |
| Depreciation ... ..           | 12,010  | 11,906  | 12,075  | 12,320  | 12,114  | 9,322    |
| Total Annual Cost ... ..      | 334,110 | 330,675 | 359,986 | 311,089 | 305,174 | 541,715  |
| Loss ... ..                   | 56,516  | 66,050  | 78,267  | 115,823 | 35,020  | 7,680    |

(a) Includes Sinking Fund not charged in the accounts of the Concern as follows:—

|        |        |      |      |      |        |
|--------|--------|------|------|------|--------|
| £1,579 | £1,579 | £866 | £866 | £866 | £1,732 |
|--------|--------|------|------|------|--------|

[Return No. 22.]

## RETURN RELATING TO STATE HOTELS.

|                                  | 1942-43. | 1943-44. | 1944-45. | 1945-46. | 1946-47. | 1947-48. |
|----------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
|                                  | £        | £        | £        | £        | £        | £        |
| Loan Capital ... ..              | 80,257   | 78,358   | 76,482   | 74,609   | 72,735   | 70,805   |
| Revenue Capital ... ..           | 2,529    | 2,529    | ...      | ...      | ...      | ...      |
|                                  | 82,786   | 80,887   | 76,482   | 74,609   | 72,735   | 70,805   |
| Gross Revenue ... ..             | 70,447   | 69,305   | 70,771   | 89,097   | 105,644  | 112,193  |
| Working Expenditure ... ..       | 59,539   | 58,714   | 61,976   | 73,524   | 90,130   | 96,162   |
| Interest and Sinking Fund ... .. | 6,099    | 6,278    | 6,288    | 5,696    | 5,229    | 5,203    |
| Depreciation ... ..              | 1,307    | 1,372    | 328      | 1,568    | 318      | 2,144    |
| Total Annual Cost ... ..         | 66,945   | 66,364   | 68,592   | 80,788   | 95,677   | 103,509  |
| Profit ... ..                    | 3,502    | 2,941    | 2,179    | 8,309    | 9,967    | 8,684    |

[Return No. 23.]

## RETURN RELATING TO STATE SAW MILLS.

|                                  | 1942-43. | 1943-44. | 1944-45. | 1945-46. | 1946-47. | 1947-48. |
|----------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
|                                  | £        | £        | £        | £        | £        | £        |
| Loan Capital ... ..              | 266,469  | 264,658  | 262,867  | 260,996  | 308,219  | 305,168  |
| Gross Revenue ... ..             | 607,288  | 573,223  | 548,263  | 612,882  | 689,096  | 823,723  |
| Increase in Stocks ... ..        | ...      | ...      | 13,069   | ...      | 15,233   | 17,604   |
| Decrease in Stocks ... ..        | 10,961   | 3,551    | ...      | 3,301    | ...      | ...      |
|                                  | 596,327  | 569,672  | 561,332  | 609,581  | 704,329  | 841,227  |
| Working Expenditure ... ..       | 557,135  | 540,659  | 538,647  | 573,741  | 645,359  | 767,657  |
| Interest and Sinking Fund ... .. | 15,045   | 15,035   | 15,024   | 15,645   | 16,166   | 16,923   |
| Depreciation (a) ... ..          | 2,559    | 3,300    | 5,086    | 10,761   | 13,646   | 18,543   |
| Total Annual Cost ... ..         | 574,739  | 558,994  | 558,757  | 600,137  | 675,171  | 803,123  |
| Profit ... ..                    | 21,588   | 10,678   | 2,575    | 9,444    | 29,158   | 38,104   |

(a) On new assets only. Temporarily suspended on existing asset.

[Return No. 24]

## RETURN RELATING TO WYNDHAM MEAT WORKS.

|                                   | 1-11-42<br>to<br>31-1-44. | 1-2-44<br>to<br>31-1-45. | 1-2-45<br>to<br>31-1-46. | 1-2-46<br>to<br>31-1-47. | 1-2-47<br>to<br>31-1-48. | 1-2-48<br>to<br>31-1-49. |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
|                                   | £                         | £                        | £                        | £                        | £                        | £                        |
| Loan Capital ... ..               | 1,072,322                 | 1,072,322                | 1,072,322                | 1,072,322                | 1,072,322                | 1,072,322                |
| Gross Revenue ... ..              | 21,455                    | 2,155                    | 278,778                  | 405,810                  | 451,339                  | 550,464                  |
| Increase in Stocks ... ..         | ...                       | ...                      | 6,363                    | ...                      | ...                      | 26                       |
| Decrease in Stocks ... ..         | 109                       | ...                      | ...                      | 927                      | 5,407                    | ...                      |
|                                   | 21,346                    | 2,155                    | 285,139                  | 404,833                  | 445,932                  | 550,490                  |
| Working Expenditure ... ..        | 21,564                    | 8,227                    | 251,464                  | 372,335                  | 413,153                  | 509,141                  |
| Interest and Sinking Fund (a) ... | 67,019                    | 53,616                   | 56,300                   | 50,488                   | 48,254                   | 48,254                   |
| Total Annual Cost ... ..          | 88,583                    | 61,843                   | 307,764                  | 422,823                  | 461,407                  | 557,395                  |
| Loss ... ..                       | 67,237                    | 59,688                   | 22,625                   | 17,940                   | 15,475                   | 6,905                    |

(a) Includes Sinking Fund not charged in the accounts of the Concern, as follows:—

|        |        |        |        |        |        |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| £2,681 | £2,681 | £2,681 | £2,681 | £2,681 | £2,681 |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|

[Return No. 25.]

## WEST AUSTRALIAN MEAT EXPORT WORKS.

|                                   | 1944-45. | 1945-46. | 1946-47. | 1947-48. |
|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
|                                   | £        | £        | £        | £        |
| Loan Capital ... ..               | 298,010  | 382,550  | 386,003  | 287,519  |
| Revenue Capital ... ..            | 47,067   | 47,067   | 7,600    | 7,380    |
|                                   | 345,077  | 429,617  | 393,603  | 294,899  |
| Gross Revenue ... ..              | 190,388  | 277,783  | 264,355  | 226,822  |
| Working Expenditure ... ..        | 152,282  | 240,167  | 234,201  | 197,439  |
| Interest and Sinkings Fund ... .. | 13,928   | 21,905   | 16,758   | 15,731   |
| Depreciation, etc. ... ..         | 20,362   | 14,387   | 13,176   | 13,337   |
| Total Annual Cost ... ..          | 186,572  | 276,459  | 264,135  | 226,507  |
| Profit ... ..                     | 3,816    | 1,324    | 220      | 315      |

[Return No. 26.]

## THE AGRICULTURAL LANDS PURCHASE ACT, 1900, and AMENDMENTS.

Position of Estates under the above Act, at 30th June, 1949.

[Amount Authorised £1,500,000.]

| Estates.                  | Receipts.                |                           |            |           | Payments.       |                                 |                        |           | Balances.          |                |           |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|-----------|--------------------|----------------|-----------|
|                           | Proceeds of De-bentures. | Sale of Lots, Rents, etc. | Inter-est. | Total.    | Purchase Money. | Survey Expenses, Interest, etc. | De-bentures Re-deemed. | Total.    | Amount Over-drawn. | In Hand.       | Invested. |
| Anniebrook                | £ 4,992                  | £ 1,463                   | £ .....    | £ 6,455   | £ 4,992         | £ 4,810                         | £ .....                | £ 9,608   | £ 3,153            | £ .....        | £ .....   |
| Avondale                  | 49,949                   | 115,565                   | 3,417      | 168,931   | 49,949          | 61,021                          | 49,949                 | 160,919   | .....              | 8,012          | .....     |
| Beacton                   | 32,875                   | 48,306                    | .....      | 81,181    | 32,875          | 33,390                          | 32,875                 | 99,140    | 17,959             | .....          | .....     |
| Bowes                     | 54,352                   | 100,742                   | 17,588     | 172,682   | 54,352          | 60,914                          | 54,352                 | 169,618   | .....              | 3,064          | .....     |
| Brunswick                 | 5,650                    | 8,893                     | 1,605      | 17,148    | 5,650           | 5,025                           | 5,650                  | 17,225    | 77                 | .....          | .....     |
| Bucklands                 | 30,162                   | 48,330                    | .....      | 78,492    | 30,162          | 15,654                          | 30,162                 | 75,978    | .....              | 2,514          | .....     |
| Henty                     | 4,626                    | 10,089                    | 34         | 14,629    | 4,626           | 4,608                           | 4,627                  | 13,661    | .....              | 968            | .....     |
| Homebush                  | 1,250                    | 1,979                     | 742        | 3,971     | 1,250           | 1,471                           | 1,250                  | 3,971     | .....              | .....          | .....     |
| Jacobine                  | 8,320                    | 20,228                    | 361        | 28,909    | 8,320           | 10,296                          | 8,320                  | 26,936    | .....              | 1,073          | .....     |
| Jingalup                  | .....                    | .....                     | .....      | .....     | .....           | .....                           | .....                  | .....     | .....              | .....          | .....     |
| (Kojonup)                 | 2,735                    | 2,809                     | 15         | 5,559     | 2,735           | 2,859                           | 2,734                  | 8,328     | 2,769              | .....          | .....     |
| Kockatea                  | 16,170                   | 19,290                    | .....      | 35,460    | 16,170          | 14,077                          | .....                  | 30,247    | .....              | 5,213          | .....     |
| Marjidl                   | 4,452                    | 7,917                     | 1,749      | 14,118    | 4,452           | 5,216                           | 4,452                  | 14,120    | 2                  | .....          | .....     |
| Mandel                    | 18,586                   | 20,925                    | 224        | 37,735    | 18,586          | 15,485                          | .....                  | 32,071    | .....              | 5,664          | .....     |
| Narra Tarra               | 24,119                   | 41,610                    | 3,881      | 69,610    | 24,119          | 21,412                          | 24,119                 | 69,650    | 40                 | .....          | .....     |
| Norman                    | 7,000                    | 11,444                    | 4,303      | 22,747    | 7,000           | 8,747                           | 7,000                  | 22,747    | .....              | 8,827          | .....     |
| Oakabella                 | 22,000                   | 45,175                    | 12,018     | 79,193    | 22,000          | 26,386                          | 22,000                 | 70,366    | .....              | .....          | .....     |
| Pickering                 | 4,295                    | 2,933                     | 108        | 7,334     | 4,295           | 4,193                           | .....                  | 8,488     | 1,154              | .....          | .....     |
| Porongorup                | .....                    | .....                     | .....      | .....     | .....           | .....                           | .....                  | .....     | .....              | .....          | .....     |
| (Plantagenet)             | 1,764                    | 1,067                     | 39         | 2,870     | 1,764           | 1,577                           | .....                  | 3,341     | 471                | .....          | .....     |
| Ulljugalup                | 3,350                    | 5,828                     | 1,450      | 10,628    | 3,350           | 3,359                           | .....                  | 6,709     | .....              | 3,917          | .....     |
| Wells                     | 700                      | .....                     | .....      | 700       | 700             | 625                             | .....                  | 1,325     | 825                | .....          | .....     |
| Wongoody                  | 42,280                   | 30,050                    | .....      | 72,310    | 42,280          | 36,407                          | .....                  | 78,687    | 6,357              | 75,985         | .....     |
| Yandanooka                | 140,000                  | 365,315                   | 18,162     | 521,477   | 140,000         | 165,792                         | 140,000                | 445,792   | .....              | .....          | .....     |
| Estates under S.S. Scheme | .....                    | 307,218                   | .....      | 307,218   | .....           | 297,252                         | .....                  | 297,252   | .....              | 9,966          | .....     |
|                           | 477,507                  | 1,218,154                 | 63,694     | 1,759,355 | 477,507         | 801,262                         | 387,390                | 1,666,159 | 32,607             | 121,886        | 3,917     |
|                           |                          |                           |            |           |                 |                                 |                        |           |                    | £125,803       |           |
|                           |                          |                           |            |           |                 |                                 |                        |           |                    | Credit Balance | £93,196   |

[Return No. 27.]

## DISSECTION OF CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND EXPENDITURE, 1940-41 to 1947-48.

| Item.               | 1941-42.   | 1942-43.   | 1943-44.   | 1944-45.   | 1945-46.   | 1946-47.   | 1947-48.   | 1948-49.   |
|---------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
|                     | £          | £          | £          | £          | £          | £          | £          | £          |
| Interest            | 8,546,625  | 3,497,601  | 3,486,611  | 3,418,765  | 3,354,082  | 3,247,497  | 3,224,876  | 3,255,639  |
| Sinking Fund        | 555,296    | 594,154    | 606,060    | 711,623    | 729,732    | 758,381    | 810,393    | 851,685    |
| Exchange            | 493,242    | 497,167    | 503,219    | 506,164    | 471,997    | 494,251    | 528,755    | 608,098    |
| Unemployment Relief | 4,524      | 3,818      | 645        | 591        | 271        | 381        | 744        | 958        |
| Salaries and Wages  | 4,596,107  | 4,587,714  | 5,031,048  | 5,224,667  | 5,685,002  | 6,076,692  | 7,582,266  | 9,355,748  |
| Materials           | 1,068,618  | 1,259,319  | 1,472,251  | 1,622,746  | 1,876,115  | 1,844,285  | 2,350,837  | 2,731,697  |
| Grants              | 151,38     | 151,250    | 172,449    | 215,849    | 625,538    | 950,948    | 1,177,463  | 1,396,536  |
| Pensions            | 232,890    | 252,904    | 272,206    | 325,331    | 318,642    | 360,009    | 417,896    | 508,524    |
| All other           | 1,285,441  | 2,288,406  | 2,006,765  | 1,928,604  | 1,345,978  | 1,295,983  | 1,960,172  | 2,668,622  |
| Total               | 11,938,381 | 13,127,242 | 13,551,154 | 13,949,340 | 14,407,557 | 15,028,427 | 18,062,392 | 21,377,907 |

[Return No. 23.]

## LOAN REPAYMENTS.

## RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE.

| Year ended 30th June. |     |     |     |     | Receipts. | Expenditure. | Balance in Hand. |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|--------------|------------------|
|                       |     |     |     |     | £         | £            | £                |
| 1928                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 154,108   | ...          | 154,108          |
| 1929                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 235,404   | 33,297       | 356,215          |
| 1930                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 153,583   | 216,647      | 293,151          |
| 1931                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 84,248    | ...          | 377,399          |
| 1932                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 112,361   | 171,800      | 317,960          |
| 1933                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 91,751    | 248,275      | 160,436          |
| 1934                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 100,935   | 215,740      | 45,631           |
| 1935                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 150,507   | 97,064       | 99,074           |
| 1936                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 107,906   | 74,791       | 132,189          |
| 1937                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 122,975   | 78,376       | 176,788          |
| 1938                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 134,462   | 154,825      | 156,425          |
| 1939                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 147,040   | 153,105      | 150,360          |
| 1940                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 127,470   | 101,086      | 176,744          |
| 1941                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 127,889   | 140,202      | 164,431          |
| 1942                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 171,232   | 88,867       | 245,796          |
| 1943                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 281,355   | 184,707      | 342,444          |
| 1944                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 256,153   | 198,896      | 399,701          |
| 1945                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 207,075   | 222,493      | 384,283          |
| 1946                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 287,043   | 210,595      | 460,731          |
| 1947                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 190,503   | 192,818      | 458,416          |
| 1948                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 498,087   | 282,155      | 674,348          |
| 1949                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 242,820   | 538,204      | 378,964          |

[Return No. 29.]

## SUMMARY OF TRANSACTIONS OF FUNDS, THE EXPENDITURE OF WHICH IS NOT SUBJECT TO PARLIAMENTARY APPROPRIATION, FOR YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1949.

| Fund.   | Balance, 1st July, 1948. | Receipts during Year. | Payments during Year. | Balance, 30th June, 1949. |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
|   | £                        | £                     | £                     | £                         |
| Hospital Fund (see Return No. 30)...                              | ....                     | 914,841               | 914,841               | ....                      |
| Forest Improvement and Reforestation Fund (see Return No. 31) ... | 39,374                   | 181,921               | 220,902               | 393                       |
| Road Funds (see Return No. 32) ...                                | 1,564,252                | 1,655,061             | 1,631,184             | 1,588,129                 |
| Metropolitan Markets Trust ...                                    | 10,981                   | 23,396                | (a) 22,186            | 12,191                    |
| Fremantle Harbour Trust ...                                       | ....                     | 1,097,060             | (b) 1,097,060         | ....                      |
| Bunbury Harbour Board ...   | 3,305                    | 20,628                | 21,179                | 2,752                     |
|   | 1,617,912                | 3,892,905             | 3,907,352             | 1,603,465                 |

(a) Includes payments on account of—Interest, £6,628, Sinking Fund, £1,693 and Profits, £178.

(b) Includes payments on account of—Interest, £130,633, Sinking Fund, £30,964, Replacement Fund, £2,000, and Surplus Cash, £30,000.

[Return No. 30.]

## HOSPITAL FUND.—TRANSACTIONS DURING THE YEARS 1944-45 TO 1948-49.

|                                  | 1944-45. | 1945-46. | 1946-47. | 1947-48. | 1948-49. |
|----------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <i>Receipts.</i>                 | £        | £        | £        | £        | £        |
| Balance from previous year ...   | 44,519   | 46,222   | 28,174   | 46,549   | ....     |
| Hospital Tax Collections ...     | 275,750  | 275,750  | 325,750  | 325,750  | 325,750  |
| Treasury Grants ...              | 20,000   | 20,000   | 143,000  | 259,007  | 581,656  |
| Miscellaneous Receipts ...       | 5,685    | 5,825    | 2,678    | 7,436    | 7,435    |
|                                  | 345,954  | 347,797  | 499,602  | 638,742  | 914,841  |
| <i>Payments.</i>                 |          |          |          |          |          |
| Administration Expenditure ....  | 3,458    | 4,171    | 7,392    | 9,721    | 18,419   |
| Hospitals Expenditure—           |          |          |          |          |          |
| Departmental ...                 | 122,164  | 136,748  | 175,121  | 260,005  | 345,081  |
| Non-Departmental Subsidies, etc. | 169,583  | 169,720  | 262,321  | 353,187  | 531,399  |
| Miscellaneous ...                | 4,527    | 8,984    | 8,219    | 15,829   | 21,942   |
| Balance at end of year ...       | 46,222   | 28,174   | 46,549   | ....     | ....     |
|                                  | 345,954  | 347,797  | 499,602  | 638,742  | 914,841  |

[Return No. 31.]

## FORESTS IMPROVEMENT AND RE-FORESTATION FUND.—TRANSACTIONS DURING THE YEARS 1944-45 TO 1948-49.

|   | 1944-45.   | 1945-46.   | 1946-47.    | 1947-48. | 1948-49.    |
|---|------------|------------|-------------|----------|-------------|
| <i>Receipts.</i>  | £          | £          | £           | £        | £           |
| Balance from previous year ...  | 68,592     | 8,643      | 1,402       | 57,703   | 39,374      |
| Appropriation from Revenue Fund   | (b) 43,051 | (c) 93,375 | (d) 161,383 | 129,755  | (e) 124,072 |
| Sundry Receipts ...   | 22,052     | 26,103     | 29,799      | 37,233   | 57,849      |
|   | 133,695    | 128,121    | 192,594     | 224,691  | 221,295     |
| <i>Payments.</i>  |            |            |             |          |             |
| Expenditure on Forest Improve-<br>ments and Re-forestation during<br>the year ... | 125,052    | 126,719    | 134,891     | 185,317  | 220,902     |
| Balance at end of year ...  | 8,643      | 1,402      | 57,703      | 39,374   | 393         |
|   | 133,695    | 128,121    | 192,594     | 224,691  | 221,295     |

(b) Includes Special Grant, £15,000.

(c) Includes Special Grant, £45,000.

(d) Includes Special Grant, £30,000.

(e) Includes Special Grant, £33,000.

[Return No. 32.]

## ROAD FUNDS.—TRANSACTIONS DURING THE YEAR 1948-49.

| Particulars.                                     | Main Roads Trust Accounts. | Federal Aid Roads Agreement Account. | Commonwealth Aid Roads Accounts. | Metropolitan Traffic Trust Account. | Total.    |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|
|  | £                          | £                                    | £                                | £                                   | £         |
| Balances from Year 1947-48                       | 399,787                    | 380,760                              | 692,822                          | 90,883                              | 1,564,252 |
| Receipts during year—                            |                            |                                      |                                  |                                     |           |
| License Fees and Permits                         | 10,504                     |                                      |                                  | 293,254                             | 303,758   |
| Recoups by Local Authorities                     | 20,251                     |                                      |                                  |                                     | 20,251    |
| Commonwealth Government Recoups                  | 4,741                      |                                      |                                  |                                     | 4,741     |
| Commonwealth Grant                               |                            |                                      | 1,328,311                        |                                     | 1,328,311 |
| Miscellaneous Receipts                           |                            |                                      |                                  |                                     |           |
| Other Receipts in Suspense                       |                            |                                      |                                  |                                     |           |
|  | 435,233                    | 380,760                              | 2,019,133                        | 384,137                             | 3,219,313 |
| Transfer to Other Funds                          |                            |                                      | 58,494                           | 3,380                               | 71,824    |
| Transfers from Other Funds                       | 71,824                     |                                      |                                  |                                     | 71,824    |
| Totals   | 507,107                    | 380,760                              | 1,960,699                        | 370,807                             | 3,219,313 |
| Payments during year—                            |                            |                                      |                                  |                                     |           |
| Administration, Plant, Office Equipment, etc.    | 6,626                      | 17,295                               | 35,773                           | 30,647                              | 90,341    |
| Transferred to Consolidated Revenue Fund         |                            |                                      |                                  | 58,494                              | 58,494    |
| Treasury—Interest and Sinking Fund               | 5,555                      |                                      |                                  |                                     | 5,555     |
| Road Construction, Maintenance, Surveys, etc.    | 78,624                     | 327,442                              | 790,002                          |                                     | 1,195,968 |
| Distributions to Local and Statutory Authorities | 59,840                     |                                      |                                  | 220,246                             | 280,086   |
| Other Payments in Suspense                       |                            |                                      |                                  | 740                                 | 740       |
| Totals   | 150,545                    | 344,737                              | 825,775                          | 310,127                             | 1,631,184 |
| Balances in hand at 30th June, 1949              | 356,562                    | 38,023                               | 1,134,864                        | 60,680                              | 1,589,129 |

[Return No. 33.]

## TOTAL NET COLLECTIONS OF STATE TAXATION TAKEN TO THE CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND, TRUST ACCOUNTS, AND SPECIAL ACCOUNTS, FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1949.

| Particulars.                              | Paid to C.R. Fund. | Paid to Trust or Special Accounts. | Total.    | Taxation per Head. (c) |
|---|--------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------|
|   | £                  | £                                  | £         | £ s. d.                |
| Probate and Succession Duties             | 359,386            |                                    | 359,386   | 13 9                   |
| Other Stamp Duties                        | 500,745            |                                    | 500,745   | 19 2                   |
| Land Tax                                  | 131,783            |                                    | 131,783   | 5 0                    |
| Income Tax—Commonwealth Reimbursement (a) | 4,494,632          |                                    | 4,494,632 | 8 12 0                 |
| Liquor Licenses                           | 129,789            |                                    | 129,789   | 5 0                    |
| Racing—                                   |                    |                                    |           |                        |
| Stamp Duty on Betting Tickets             | 28,125             |                                    | 28,125    | 1 1                    |
| Totalisator Duty                          | 177,817            |                                    | 177,817   | 6 10                   |
| Totalisator Licenses                      | * 2,277            |                                    | 2,277     | 1                      |
| Stamp Duty on Tote Dividends              | 1,911              |                                    | 1,911     | 1                      |
| Motor Taxation                            | 29,226             | 660,912                            | 690,138   | 1 6 5                  |
| Other Vehicles                            |                    | 8,400                              | 8,400     | 4                      |
| Entertainments—Commonwealth Reimbursement | (b)                |                                    | (b)       |                        |
| Vermin Tax                                |                    | 36,169                             | 36,169    | 1 5                    |
| Fruit Fly Eradication                     |                    | 5,500                              | 5,500     | 2                      |
| Licenses, not elsewhere included          | 17,414             |                                    | 17,414    | 8                      |
|   | 5,873,105          | 710,931                            | 6,584,086 | 12 12 0                |

(a) This amount includes arrears of State Income Tax, £3,670; Goldmining Profits Tax, £...; Financial Emergency Tax, £2,518; and Hospital Tax, £955; Total, £12,143. From this Commonwealth Reimbursement Grant an amount of £887,019 was paid to Hospital Trust Fund.

(b) Now part of Income Tax—Commonwealth Reimbursement.

(c) Based on estimated mean population for year 1948-49, viz., 522,500.

[Return No. 24.]

## STATEMENT SHOWING RECEIPTS FROM COMMONWEALTH, 1901-02 TO 1948-49.

| Year | Contri-<br>bution to<br>Sinking<br>Fund. | Contri-<br>bution<br>towards<br>Interest. | Surplus<br>Revenue<br>Re-<br>turned, | Payment<br>per<br>Head,<br>25/-. | Special<br>Payment<br>to<br>W.A. | Interest<br>on Trans-<br>ferred<br>Prop-<br>erties. | Grant<br>Under<br>Sec. 96, | Total. |
|------|--|---|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|----------------------------|--------|
|------|--|---|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|----------------------------|--------|

## PERIOD COVERED BY BRADDON CLAUSE.

|                    | £.  | £   | £          | £   | £   | £   | £   | £         |
|--------------------|-----|-----|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|
| 1901-02 to 1910-11 | ... | ... | †8,872,722 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8,872,722 |

## PERIOD COVERED BY PER CAPITA PAYMENTS AND SPECIAL PAYMENT TO W.A.

|                    |     |     |     |           |           |         |         |            |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|------------|
| 1911-12 to 1926-27 | ... | ... | ... | 6,632,264 | 2,556,248 | 462,010 | 565,905 | 10,216,427 |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|------------|

## PERIOD COVERED BY FINANCIAL AGREEMENT ACT.

|                 |     |           |            |           |     |            |        |            |            |
|-----------------|-----|-----------|------------|-----------|-----|------------|--------|------------|------------|
| 1927-28         | ... | 77,908    | †483,286   | ...       | ... | ...        | 25,775 | 300,000    | 886,969    |
| 1928-29         | ... | 91,598    | †463,578   | ...       | ... | ...        | 47,868 | 300,000    | 903,044    |
| 1929-30         | ... | 97,863    | 473,432    | ...       | ... | ...        | ...    | 300,000    | 871,295    |
| 1930-31         | ... | 106,166   | 473,432    | ...       | ... | ...        | ...    | 300,000    | 879,598    |
| 1931-32         | ... | 118,946   | 473,432    | ...       | ... | ...        | ...    | 300,000    | 892,378    |
| 1932-33         | ... | 126,781   | 473,432    | ...       | ... | ...        | ...    | 500,000    | 1,100,213  |
| 1933-34         | ... | 136,826   | 473,432    | ...       | ... | ...        | ...    | 600,000    | 1,210,258  |
| 1934-35         | ... | 143,871   | 473,432    | \$133,000 | ... | ...        | ...    | 600,000    | 1,350,303  |
| 1935-36         | ... | 151,247   | 473,432    | \$35,000  | ... | ...        | ...    | 800,000    | 1,459,879  |
| 1936-37         | ... | 167,016   | 473,432    | \$33,000  | ... | ...        | ...    | 500,000    | 1,163,448  |
| 1937-38         | ... | 162,524   | 473,432    | ...       | ... | ...        | ...    | 575,000    | 1,210,956  |
| 1938-39         | ... | 167,013   | 473,432    | ...       | ... | ...        | ...    | 570,000    | 1,210,445  |
| 1939-40         | ... | 174,765   | 473,432    | ...       | ... | ...        | ...    | 595,000    | 1,243,197  |
| 1940-41         | ... | 177,423   | 473,432    | ...       | ... | ...        | ...    | 650,000    | 1,300,855  |
| 1941-42         | ... | 181,808   | 473,432    | ...       | ... | ...        | ...    | 630,000    | 1,285,240  |
| 1942-43         | ... | 183,295   | 473,432    | ...       | ... | ...        | ...    | 800,000    | 1,456,727  |
| 1943-44         | ... | 183,922   | 473,432    | ...       | ... | ...        | ...    | 850,000    | 1,607,364  |
| 1944-45         | ... | 192,447   | 473,432    | ...       | ... | ...        | ...    | 904,000    | 1,569,879  |
| 1945-46         | ... | 195,900   | 473,432    | ...       | ... | (a)912,559 | ...    | 950,000    | 2,521,891  |
| 1946-47         | ... | 188,838   | 473,432    | ...       | ... | ...        | ...    | 1,873,000  | 2,535,270  |
| 1947-48         | ... | 197,132   | 473,432    | ...       | ... | ...        | ...    | 2,977,000  | 3,647,564  |
| 1948-49         | ... | 204,685   | 473,432    | ...       | ... | ...        | ...    | 3,600,000  | 4,278,117  |
| Total, 22 years | ... | 3,407,974 | 10,415,504 | 201,000   | ... | 912,559    | 73,643 | 19,474,000 | 34,484,680 |

\* First complete year under Federation. † Including £868,963 from Special Tariff provided under the Constitution of the Commonwealth for 5 years after the imposition of uniform Customs duties.

† Special payment under States Grant Act, pending passing of the Financial Agreement Act. Proportion of Commonwealth Surplus distributed to States.

(a) Special payment under the States Grants (Income Tax Reimbursement) Act, 1942.

GRANTS FOR ROADS, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND ASSISTANCE TO INDUSTRIES FOR YEAR 1948-49—PAID TO TRUST FUNDS.

Commonwealth Aid Road Act—  
Contributions from Petrol Tax  
For Roads

£  
1,326,311



| Service.   | Loan<br>Li-<br>ability. | Expenditure :                  |                  |                                       |                                      |                  | Receipts.      | Net<br>Ex-<br>penditure. | Cost per<br>Head.<br>(*) |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
|  |                         | Indirect.                      |                  | Direct.                               |                                      | Total.           |                |                          |                          |
|  |                         | Interest<br>and Ex-<br>change. | Sinking<br>Fund. | Con-<br>solidated<br>Revenue<br>Fund. | Trust<br>and<br>Special<br>Accounts. |                  |                |                          |                          |
| <b>1.—Education—</b>   | £                       | £                              | £                | £                                     | £                                    | £                | £              | £                        | £ s. d.                  |
| (a) Education Department and Schools ...                                   | 1,865,013               | 67,925                         | 14,043           | 1,653,750                             | ....                                 | 1,635,718        | 74,097         | 1,661,621                | 3 8 7                    |
| (b) University ... ..  | 43,213                  | 1,573                          | 339              | 117,968                               | ....                                 | 119,880          | ....           | 119,880                  | 0 4 7                    |
| (c) Technical Education ... ..   | 217,102                 | 7,907                          | 1,682            | 200,465                               | ....                                 | 210,054          | 24,758         | 185,296                  | 0 7 1                    |
| (d) Agricultural Education ... ..  | 139,433                 | 5,078                          | 1,127            | 31,861                                | ....                                 | 38,066           | 25,592         | 12,474                   | 0 0 6                    |
| (e) Library, Museum, Observatory ...                                       | 35,956                  | 1,310                          | 303              | 19,196                                | ....                                 | 20,809           | 465            | 20,344                   | 0 0 9                    |
| (f) Deaf, Dumb and Blind ... ..  | 884                     | 32                             | 7                | 3,300                                 | ....                                 | 3,339            | ....           | 3,339                    | 0 0 2                    |
| <b>Total 1 ... ..</b>  | <b>2,301,601</b>        | <b>83,825</b>                  | <b>17,501</b>    | <b>2,026,540</b>                      | <b>....</b>                          | <b>2,127,866</b> | <b>124,912</b> | <b>2,002,954</b>         | <b>3 16 8</b>            |
| <b>2.—Health, Hospitals, and Charities—</b>                                |                         |                                |                  |                                       |                                      |                  |                |                          |                          |
| (a) Public Health ... ..   | 7,919                   | 288                            | 67               | 142,278                               | ....                                 | 142,633          | 27,555         | 115,078                  | 0 4 6                    |
| (b) Care of Sick and Mentally Afflicted,<br>Health of Mothers and Children | 2,533,533               | 92,273                         | 19,433           | 285,641                               | 1,078,564                            | 1,475,911        | 218,180†       | 1,257,731                | 2 8 1                    |
| (c) Recreation Facilities ... ..   | ....                    | ....                           | ....             | 13,000                                | ....                                 | 13,000           | ....           | 13,000                   | 0 0 6                    |
| (d) Relief of Aged, Indigent and Infirm,<br>Child Welfare ... ..           | 114,866                 | 4,183                          | 919              | 191,133                               | ....                                 | 196,235          | 56,508         | 139,727                  | 0 5 3                    |
| (e) Miner's Phthisis ... ..  | ....                    | ....                           | ....             | 49,575                                | ....                                 | 49,575           | ....           | 49,575                   | 0 1 11                   |
| (f) Natives... ..  | 114,282                 | 4,162                          | 969              | 120,364                               | ....                                 | 125,495          | 29,275         | 96,220                   | 0 3 8                    |
| (g) Unemployment Relief ... ..   | ....                    | ....                           | ....             | 1,659                                 | ....                                 | 1,659            | 216            | 1,443                    | 0 0 1                    |
| <b>Total 2 ... ..</b>  | <b>2,770,600</b>        | <b>100,906</b>                 | <b>21,388</b>    | <b>803,650</b>                        | <b>1,078,564</b>                     | <b>2,004,508</b> | <b>331,734</b> | <b>1,672,774</b>         | <b>3 4 0</b>             |
| <b>3.—Law, Order and Public Safety—</b>                                    |                         |                                |                  |                                       |                                      |                  |                |                          |                          |
| (a) Administration of Justice ... ..                                       | 46,531                  | 1,695                          | 392              | 165,011                               | ....                                 | 167,098          | 177,371        | Cr. 10,273               | Cr. 0 0 5                |
| (b) Police ... ..  | 198,906                 | 7,244                          | 1,850            | 520,166                               | ....                                 | 529,060          | 67,652         | 461,128                  | 0 17 8                   |
| (c) Gaols and Reformatories ... ..   | 88,706                  | 3,231                          | 747              | 83,635                                | ....                                 | 87,613           | 5,877          | 81,936                   | 0 3 2                    |
| (d) Public Safety ... ..   | ....                    | ....                           | ....             | 46,572                                | ....                                 | 46,572           | 15,826         | 30,746                   | 0 1 2                    |
| <b>Total 3 ... ..</b>  | <b>334,143</b>          | <b>12,170</b>                  | <b>2,789</b>     | <b>815,384</b>                        | <b>....</b>                          | <b>830,343</b>   | <b>266,526</b> | <b>563,817</b>           | <b>1 1 7</b>             |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL ... ..</b>  | <b>5,406,344</b>        | <b>196,901</b>                 | <b>41,678</b>    | <b>3,645,574</b>                      | <b>1,078,564</b>                     | <b>4,962,717</b> | <b>723,172</b> | <b>4,239,545</b>         | <b>8 2 3</b>             |

(\*) Based on estimated mean population for year 1948-49, viz., 522,500.

(†) Includes £163,723, Patients' Fees paid to Hospital Fund.

## RAILWAYS.—STATEMENT SHOWING TONNAGE AND EARNINGS ON GOODS CARRIED.

| Class of Goods.          | 1944-45.  |                      | 1945-46.  |                      | 1946-47.  |                      | 1947-48.  |                      | 1948-49.  |                      |
|--------------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|----------------------|
|                          | Tonnage.  | Percentage of Total. | Tonnage.  | Percentage of Total. | Tonnage.  | Percentage of Total. | Tonnage.  | Percentage of Total. | Tonnage.  | Percentage of Total. |
| Coal, Coke, and Charcoal | 267,876   | 9.21                 | 307,896   | 11.27                | 342,188   | 13.23                | 361,507   | 12.65                | 378,816   | 19.77                |
| Ores and other Minerals  | 214,289   | 7.38                 | 278,093   | 10.20                | 249,522   | 9.68                 | 196,206   | 6.87                 | 226,985   | 8.29                 |
| Wool                     | 34,525    | 1.19                 | 36,433    | 1.38                 | 32,655    | 1.28                 | 38,148    | 1.28                 | 38,438    | 1.40                 |
| Hay, Straw, and Chaff    | 55,939    | 1.93                 | 58,235    | 1.40                 | 31,510    | 1.22                 | 30,074    | 1.05                 | 31,371    | 1.15                 |
| Wheat                    | 801,887   | 27.61                | 671,273   | 25.04                | 448,093   | 17.43                | 583,911   | 20.43                | 509,788   | 18.63                |
| Other Grain and Flour    | 201,375   | 6.93                 | 178,813   | 6.68                 | 170,777   | 6.62                 | 215,342   | 7.54                 | 195,048   | 7.13                 |
| Firewood                 | 102,380   | 3.52                 | 93,423    | 3.42                 | 84,521    | 3.28                 | 105,219   | 3.68                 | 91,580    | 3.35                 |
| Local Timber             | 223,287   | 7.60                 | 251,778   | 9.23                 | 254,273   | 9.87                 | 272,234   | 9.53                 | 230,464   | 8.42                 |
| Imported Timber          | 172       | .01                  | 849       | .03                  | 405       | .02                  | 443       | .02                  | 779       | .03                  |
| Fruit and Garden Produce | 98,770    | 3.40                 | 107,737   | 3.95                 | 107,052   | 4.15                 | 99,864    | 3.49                 | 115,801   | 4.23                 |
| Fertilisers              | 203,086   | 6.99                 | 200,513   | 6.65                 | 220,878   | 8.67                 | 289,482   | 9.43                 | 238,815   | 8.54                 |
| All other goods          | 701,046   | 24.14                | 608,162   | 22.12                | 634,058   | 24.60                | 687,143   | 24.05                | 685,844   | 25.06                |
| Total                    | 2,904,481 | 100.00               | 2,727,762 | 100.00               | 2,576,936 | 100.00               | 2,857,573 | 100.00               | 2,736,720 | 100.00               |

| Class of Goods.          | 1944-45.  |                      | 1945-46.  |                      | 1946-47.  |                      | 1947-48.  |                      | 1948-49.  |                      |
|--------------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|----------------------|
|                          | Earnings. | Percentage of Total. | Earnings. | Percentage of Total. | Earnings. | Percentage of Total. | Earnings. | Percentage of Total. | Earnings. | Percentage of Total. |
| Coal, Coke, and Charcoal | £ 159,715 | 5.02                 | £ 174,454 | 5.75                 | 218,797   | 8.03                 | £ 230,162 | 7.50                 | £ 300,862 | 8.54                 |
| Ores and other Minerals  | 88,109    | 3.32                 | 109,610   | 4.24                 | 119,338   | 4.58                 | 187,823   | 4.50                 | 140,710   | 3.99                 |
| Wool                     | 92,496    | 3.43                 | 97,104    | 3.75                 | 93,620    | 3.44                 | 104,990   | 3.42                 | 127,018   | 3.60                 |
| Hay, Straw, and Chaff    | 42,930    | 1.62                 | 50,669    | 1.18                 | 25,607    | .94                  | 25,845    | .78                  | 31,500    | .89                  |
| Wheat                    | 400,822   | 15.09                | 374,192   | 14.46                | 291,072   | 10.68                | 361,257   | 11.79                | 373,795   | 10.61                |
| Other Grain and Flour    | 108,829   | 4.07                 | 101,455   | 3.82                 | 103,404   | 3.68                 | 130,502   | 4.26                 | 147,637   | 4.19                 |
| Firewood                 | 80,945    | 1.17                 | 29,138    | 1.13                 | 30,075    | 1.13                 | 40,738    | 1.32                 | 45,849    | 1.30                 |
| Local Timber             | 211,219   | 7.95                 | 219,426   | 8.43                 | 233,000   | 8.55                 | 245,965   | 8.02                 | 245,720   | 6.97                 |
| Imported Timber          | 94        | .00                  | 173       | .01                  | 585       | .02                  | 585       | .02                  | 1,193     | .03                  |
| Fruit and Garden Produce | 119,340   | 4.49                 | 126,413   | 4.89                 | 127,143   | 4.67                 | 114,460   | 3.74                 | 151,471   | 4.30                 |
| Fertilisers              | 62,164    | 2.34                 | 78,818    | 3.05                 | 68,360    | 2.61                 | 82,827    | 2.70                 | 89,865    | 2.38                 |
| All other goods          | 1,339,885 | 50.45                | 1,245,567 | 48.15                | 1,410,482 | 51.97                | 1,591,955 | 51.94                | 1,874,442 | 53.20                |
| Total                    | 2,655,938 | 100.00               | 2,586,939 | 100.00               | 2,725,087 | 100.00               | 3,065,009 | 100.00               | 3,524,087 | 100.00               |

|   | 1939-40.    | 1940-41.    | 1941-42.    | 1942-43.    | 1943-44.    | 1944-45.    | 1945-46.    | 1946-47.    | 1947-48.    | 1948-49.    |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Railway and Tramway Revenue .....           | £3,802,385  | £3,908,540  | £4,301,502  | £4,916,122  | £4,934,929  | £4,780,818  | £4,665,321  | £4,459,926  | £5,054,677  | £5,173,097  |
| Railway Mileage (Route) ....                | 4,381       | 4,381       | 4,381       | 4,381       | 4,381       | 4,381       | 4,381       | 4,348       | 4,348       | 4,321       |
| Wool exported .....                         | £4,131,875  | £1,559,585  | £5,433,041  | £2,378,527  | £5,879,587  | £4,563,439  | £9,957,030  | £10,260,373 | £16,621,984 | £21,534,904 |
| Wool produced (c)—<br>(quantity—lbs.) ..... | 75,400,000  | 69,427,000  | 77,627,000  | 95,718,000  | 102,759,000 | 84,141,000  | 82,067,200  | 80,000,000  | 89,000,000  | 93,000,000  |
| (value) .....                               | £4,054,729  | £3,858,984  | £4,164,150  | £5,967,440  | £6,370,720  | £5,255,927  | £5,211,793  | £7,980,000  | £14,549,000 | £18,731,000 |
| Wheat produced (bushels) .....              | 40,861,000  | 21,606,000  | 37,500,000  | 20,800,000  | 16,550,000  | 15,929,000  | 20,929,000  | 23,800,000  | 34,500,000  | 36,250,000  |
| Wheat produced (value) ....                 | £7,269,316  | £4,182,255  | £7,344,967  | £4,754,380  | £4,523,479  | £3,963,936  | £6,525,456  | £10,890,000 | £20,956,000 | (e)         |
| Hay produced (tons) .....                   | 475,677     | 376,143     | 414,115     | 277,957     | 314,359     | 338,912     | 287,476     | 280,252     | 267,901     | 277,329     |
| Gold produced (b) (value)* .....            | £12,956,931 | £12,000,091 | £10,770,979 | £7,167,716  | £5,058,476  | £5,018,160  | £5,363,214  | £7,419,077  | £7,322,192  | £7,408,877  |
| Coal produced (value) .....                 | £361,152    | £367,403    | £431,005    | £475,078    | £523,724    | £598,694    | £632,180    | £771,351    | £847,082    | £930,525    |
| Other Minerals produced (c) .....           | £129,636    | £238,733    | £157,621    | £160,868    | £201,999    | £250,231    | £327,082    | £323,778    | £446,454    | (e)         |
| Timber exported .....                       | £628,352    | £790,876    | £699,661    | £605,940    | £613,994    | £570,028    | £722,090    | £863,140    | £1,099,073  | £1,006,760  |
| Timber produced .....                       | £1,318,598  | £1,301,777  | £1,333,967  | £1,269,932  | £1,343,973  | £1,339,182  | £1,412,677  | £1,714,149  | £2,114,267  | (e)         |
| Number of Sheep† .....                      | 9,574,433   | 9,516,272   | 9,722,780   | 10,424,385  | 11,102,938  | 10,049,587  | 9,765,973   | 9,787,002   | 10,443,798  | 10,872,540  |
| Number of Cattle† .....                     | 799,175     | 788,928     | 839,731     | 831,231     | 870,939     | 852,563     | 833,567     | 811,949     | 815,610     | 864,019     |
| Number of Horses† .....                     | 139,207     | 130,057     | 124,402     | 112,782     | 106,743     | 96,528      | 88,180      | 80,746      | 74,537      | 68,516      |
| Area of land selected (acres) .....         | 305,213     | 346,365     | 172,129     | 123,944     | 197,373     | 231,400     | 229,022     | 558,676     | 703,160     | 804,128     |
| Area of land leased (acres) .....           | 2,795,988   | 2,509,275   | 2,244,369   | 1,655,497   | 1,902,737   | 1,960,825   | 1,168,645   | 5,128,710   | 5,233,085   | 6,785,119   |
| Area of land under cultivation (d) .....    | 16,112,071  | 15,931,281  | 16,085,051  | (e)         | (e)         | (e)         | 13,860,553  | 14,621,424  | 15,223,328  | 15,901,130  |
| Area of land under crop (acres) .....       | 4,286,925   | 3,988,308   | 3,816,522   | 2,784,000   | 2,744,000   | 2,756,000   | 2,875,048   | 3,532,445   | 3,936,118   | 4,102,348   |
| Tonnage Shipping, Inwards .....             | 3,719,116   | 3,040,611   | 2,545,823   | 1,435,241   | 1,585,935   | 590,820     | 2,378,266   | 2,532,769   | 3,738,006   | (e)         |
| Tonnage Shipping, Outwards .....            | 3,761,135   | 3,087,389   | 2,507,742   | 1,467,495   | 1,579,656   | 1,528,336   | 2,472,948   | 2,646,285   | 3,431,319   | (e)         |
| Exports, including Gold .....               | £24,576,754 | £24,839,479 | £25,351,454 | £16,362,003 | £19,532,146 | £19,403,033 | £26,544,880 | £29,720,015 | £55,731,230 | £56,715,827 |
| Exports, excluding Gold .....               | £12,473,441 | £12,191,568 | £14,964,896 | £8,435,851  | £15,833,325 | £19,390,608 | £26,515,024 | £29,639,279 | £51,852,585 | £56,664,562 |
| Imports (Australian Currency)* .....        | £20,008,720 | £18,614,730 | £18,250,537 | £16,093,080 | £17,199,337 | £18,039,357 | £21,628,149 | £30,591,097 | £42,819,781 | £52,628,845 |
| Savings Bank Deposits .....                 | £10,039,271 | £10,193,000 | £12,153,422 | £17,468,535 | £20,346,899 | £21,262,769 | £32,917,664 | £26,140,983 | £26,773,839 | £28,380,145 |
| Savings Bank Withdrawals .....              | £10,641,171 | £9,657,739  | £11,000,730 | £11,626,377 | £13,786,931 | £15,826,571 | £26,974,891 | £28,426,316 | £27,810,784 | £27,634,325 |
| Population end of Financial Year* .....     | 473,254     | 474,791     | 476,983     | 475,281     | 481,530     | 487,692     | 492,510     | 502,480     | 515,302     | 530,000     |

\* Revised.

† Preliminary figures, liable to revision.

(c) Calendar year first mentioned.

‡ As at 31st December of year first mentioned.

(d) Area cropped, cleared, fallowed, ringbarked, etc.

(b) Australian Currency Value.

(e) Not available.