

ment there for years past. Nor has anything been done about the lake. People living in the other direction say their needs must be placed before the Government. I am satisfied that the present Ministry will be very ready to meet any legitimate needs consistent with the money they have at their disposal. I am confident that with the assistance and co-operation that have been promised by the Leader of the Opposition, the present Government will be reinforced, and that the legislation they desire to bring forward in the interests of the people will be thus expedited. I thank the House for the patient hearing they have given me, and I will reserve further comment for some future occasion.

MR. CLOTHIER (Maylands) [7.48]: I wish to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your appointment to the high office you hold, and to congratulate also the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition. I sincerely hope the Leader of the Opposition will continue in his post for a very long time. I listened with interest to the remarks of His Excellency's Speech touching upon gold mining and prospecting. We must all commend the Minister for Mines on his prospecting scheme, the real object of which, I think, is to provide a chance for the rising generation, the youths in our midst. Time and again have those youths been refused sustenance, but now they are to be given a chance to get away prospecting under the direction of men with a wide knowledge of the game. I hope the Minister will be duly rewarded for initiating the scheme. We have heard several times that £555,000 spent on education is a fair proposition. Personally I should be very sorry to see that amount reduced. Only this morning, coming past the Maylands school, I counted the members of three classes. In one there were 72 children, in another 63, and in the third 54. That is beyond reason, for I hold that any number from 45 to 50 is quite enough to be in a class under one teacher, and I hope the Government will see their way to establishing this limit. The Leader of the Opposition had a good deal to say about our primary industries. It will not be denied that the Labour Party stand wholly and solely for the success of those industries. They recognise fully that primary production means the welfare of the metropolitan area. This is seen by comparing the achievements of the Collier Ad-

ministration during 5½ years with those of the Mitchell Government during a similar period. The Collier Government provided agricultural water supplies and Agricultural Bank allowances to the value of £2,644,000, as against £1,073,000 provided by the Mitchell Administration. Again, during the regime of the Collier Government 11,285,000 acres of land was taken up, as against 8,000,000 odd acres during 5½ years of the Mitchell Government. From this it will be seen that the people of the agricultural areas must have been satisfied that they were well treated by the Collier Government. The Minister for Lands remarked yesterday that there are any number of inquiries for abandoned farms. Here again, it seems to me we have proof that the agriculturists know they may rely for fair treatment upon the Collier Government. Having been in the industrial movement for a number of years and in touch with various firms of employers working undue hours of labour, I contend the Government should have an ample staff of inspectors in order to catch those people breaking the industrial awards to the prejudice of the genuine worker competing in business. Only the week before last the secretary of an organisation was notified that a certain firm of foreigners was going to work. The secretary of the organisation concerned thought it best to let the inspector know all about it. What was the result? The inspector rang up the firm and when he went to the place there were no men working. It would be to the general advantage for the Government to appoint two inspectors for that work alone, or alternatively give the secretaries of the organisations increased power to catch those breaking awards. I make bold to say that if this were done, the police court would not have sufficient paper on which to write out summonses for all those infringing the awards. Again in reference to inspectors—I understand this has never previously been brought forward here—there is the unfortunate position of domestic servants. I know that some parents of young girls who cannot get work answer advertisements in the Press, and when they apply for the job they are offered 5s. a week and keep. Fancy that in a country like Western Australia! Some employers offer a little more, but the hours of work are from 6 o'clock in the morning to 6 o'clock or 7 o'clock in the evening,

and when there is to be a bridge party it means a much later hour. It is time legislation was brought in to give our domestics a fair chance for recreation, which they do not get to-day. As one who has for long supported the purchase of locally-made goods, I have often heard it said the people require educating up to that ideal. However, I know that the people for the most part do buy local products when they can get them. The trouble is that we require to educate the shopkeepers to stock local products. One can go to shop after shop in Perth and ask for locally-made goods, only to be disappointed. The time has arrived to educate our shopkeepers in this regard. That is all that is required, for our local manufactures are quite capable of competing against those of the Eastern States in point of quality. I sincerely hope the Government will take steps to put the Lotteries Commission on a more satisfactory footing. The appointment of the commissioners gave rise to a great deal of controversy, and I contend the Government should appoint a committee to make an inquiry into the working of that commission. The lottery, I am sure, could be run much cheaper and better than it is at present. When the commission were appointed I wrote a letter to the Press, but it is still in the press box. Being interested in some friends on the group settlements, I have come to the conclusion that if not a Royal Commission, at all events somebody, should be appointed by the Government to go and see the way in which the group settlers are living down near Busselton. I was there for a month last Christmas and I was surprised to see the way in which the settlers worked and lived. If that occurred in the city, we would call them the slums of Western Australia. In some of those homes the people camp on beds made of chaff and superphosphate bags, which, in a country like this, is a crying shame. Some of the settlers were ordered off their holdings and some have left through no fault of their own. The wives of the settlers work as hard as do the men, and though the settlers have boys working for them at 5s. a week, they cannot make a living. The cream cheque, in some instances, is not worth nearly as much as is sustenance, and yet those settlers have to remain on the groups and put up with such conditions. As to my constituency, I consider it

is the most neglected suburb in the State. I regret to have to say that my predecessor, who was a Minister, could have done much better for the district than he did do. It is surprising to me that there has not been an accident near the railway station. The crossing over the line is such as to give one the impression of a switchback railway. If some alteration is not made there, an accident must occur before long. The member for Subiaco (Mr. Moloney) spoke about the reconditioning of the railways. I endorse his remarks. The paint on the Mt. Lawley station can almost turn round and bid one good morning—it sticks out so far. The entrance to the railway is paved with rough stones not fit for a woman to walk on, especially if she is pushing a perambulator. The condition of the school is no better than that of the Subiaco and Jolimont schools mentioned by the member for Subiaco. There are some stumps of trees in the school yard but there are no seats for the children. The seats have disappeared. Perhaps some unfortunate unemployed man has taken them for firewood. I hope the Minister will see that the children attending that school are properly catered for in the near future.

On motion by Mr. Hawke, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 8.3 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 25th July, 1933.

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