

shortage of domestic help and the fact that tradesmen cannot and often will not deliver household goods to the consumer, people have to go to the shops for them, and the mother of a child that has to be wheeled in a pram is to be pitied when she has to travel by tram.

Time and again I have seen women with prams left standing at the stopping places because the tram crew could not or would not accept the prams. I do not know whether it is a matter of tramway regulations or whether it is merely an unwritten law amongst the tramway men themselves that only two prams may be carried on a tram at the one time, but it is a fact that many tramway men refuse to take more, and many women have complained of it. If it is only a matter of space—admittedly some of the large prams occupy considerable space—I would suggest that hooks such as are provided on privately-owned buses and on the trolley-buses be fitted on the front and rear of tramcars so that if the crew of the car could not or would not lift the pram aboard, the mother herself could put it on the hook and be sure that it was accompanying her to her destination.

Reference was also made by the member for Claremont to the beautifying of the city and its surroundings, presumably in order that we and tourists might enjoy the scenery. We have in this State, and not always at a great distance from the city, beautiful natural scenery, and if we had good means of transport to reach there and return in quick time, we could exploit these beauty spots for the tourist traffic that would come our way. In pre-war days it was usual for mail boats to call each week, one inwards and one outwards; they arrived early in the morning and departed at night. Passengers, with the idea of seeing something of our city, usually made their way only to Perth, because there were no transport facilities to go further, and they had to stay around the city. If means were provided to get out during the day a distance of from 30 to 50 miles—there is no reason why that should not be provided—they would see something of our country and serve as ambassadors in advertising the beauties of the State. By that means not only would the tourist traffic be enhanced but new settlers would be induced to come here permanently. With these remarks and in

the hope that the war will soon be ended and that we can assume a little more responsibility in our peacetime progress, I support the motion.

MR. TELFER (Avon): As a new member I wish to express my appreciation of the many courtesies shown to me by members of the House. I am also extremely thankful for the help that Ministers have given me from time to time. I feel it my duty to assist in bringing about a better post-war readjustment. I was very glad to have heard the expression that security is one of our dominating desires. Security from fear, security from want and security to see that our children receive good education are certainly amongst the dominating factors for us to exploit. The expression has also been used that it is desirable to see that our State is more densely populated and that people in the country get more out of life. I look at things in this way. If we can provide decent amenities for the country, people will go there. In the past the country has had only 10 per cent. of amenities and 90 per cent. of lip-service. I regret very much that those in power in the Commonwealth over the last 15 years have allowed a shocking state of affairs to develop.

If the countryside were given a decent standard of living, proper housing, good educational facilities, water, transport and amenities in the towns, I feel that three-parts of our objective to populate the countryside would be achieved. We have to accept it that all things have a foundation. I am of opinion that our economic life mainly depends upon the man on the land. If he does well, naturally the industrialist does well, as does also the business man and the professional man. If we place the man on the land on a sound footing we all go forward. We must recognise, and the community must recognise that no one section can go forward while another is going backward for any considerable period of time. There should be more team work to allow all sections of the community to go forward, for then we would not have so many heartburnings as have been experienced. Our heritage should give us a reasonable standard. That must be one of the dominating factors in the days to come. Scientists in the past have on many occasions worked for the benefit of the individual. The work of

the scientist today should be for the benefit of the people as a whole.

We have the wrong outlook as to money values. The only function of money is to exchange one group of commodities for another. Money in its original form was never made to be bought and sold. Things were the other way round. It was for the purpose of exchanging one group of commodities for another. The wealth of our countryside lies in our goods and services. Money itself cannot restore life or health. It is the physical ability of the doctor which restores health. If the war went on for 10 years money would not have any effect upon it. Money did not save Singapore. It is labour and the products and the equipment of war that could have saved Singapore. That is how I regard money. It must be our policy to see that money or bank credit is our servant and not our master.

Depressions are not necessary. If we have a surplus of labour it is definitely the duty of the Commonwealth and State Governments to make work for that labour. If necessary let us get bank credit with which to do that. The Commonwealth Bank must be put back into its true position. We in this House ought to press for that if we are to work and team up with goodwill. We will then have less bickering between employer and employee. A lot of the trouble today is due to the harvesting of the crop that was sown 15 years ago when we had unemployed in the streets, men begging for work and so on. That only brings about syndicalism, and the result of that is bad thoughts. That is the harvest we are reaping today. In the post-war period I say that money for national works such as transport, railways, water supplies, electric power, national building, schools, etc., should be made available at one-half per cent. interest. It is fantastic to look at the railway balance sheet and find that that concern is paying over £1,000,000 in interest, representing 20 per cent. of its income. The burden on the country cannot be carried.

Perhaps we must have price-fixing commissioners for a long time after the war, because we cannot put up with the old jungle law of supply and demand, where the strong crushes the weak. We have heard a lot in the past of this wonderful law of supply and demand, but I regard it as the cruellest law that can prevail. Speaking of prices brings me back to the man on the land. It

is definitely a State and Federal job to provide a planned production and for the control of production. If wheat were worth 5s. or 20s. a bag it would not interfere with its life-giving qualities. Whether we got our wool for 6d. or 1s. 6d. per lb. it would still give the same degree of warmth to our bodies. That is how things are. If we want to keep people on the land we must give them security. There must be a general levelling up of prices.

Water in the back-blocks should not be any dearer than it is to a man close to a weir. The man at the weir should not have to pay more for his bread than does the man in the back country. Services, costs and amenities 300 miles into the back country should not be any more expensive than at a spot 30 miles from the city. We should have equality. Why should the man in the back country be carrying the burden? My remarks more or less apply to education. Compare the country child with the city child. I heard of a man in the city today who was prepared to spend £150 on the purchase of a commodious car so that he could transport his two children to school. He also proposed to pick up another 5 children and to travel 50 miles on a round trip every day. Compare that with what is happening in the city! It is shocking that children should be up against such a disability.

As stated by the member for Perth we find monitors in charge of schools. We sometimes see a small school with only eight children and as many classes, and a monitor who has not had more than 12 months training put in charge. That is not giving justice to country children. The reason why we are losing quite a lot of people from the country is because they are not satisfied with the educational facilities provided. A great many have gone away. Whilst I appreciate that the Minister for Education is spending perhaps £1,000 a day more than his predecessors did on education, I contend that it is not enough. He will require to spend an additional £1,000 a day to provide the necessary opportunities for our country children. I will say that the Minister is standing up well to his job, and I hope he will do a great deal more than has been done for the country children. In the country we require modern school buses, hostels for the children, central schools where rural, technical and post primary education can be given.

We also want a few high schools and do not want them all centralised on the coast. We contend that there ought to be one at least every 100 miles so as to give all children a chance to secure higher education and take on a professional career. I was recently present at a road board conference when the matter of education and high schools was discussed and the conference was definitely of opinion that these high schools should be erected in order to give children in farming districts and on the goldfields an opportunity to secure the same educational facilities as are available to children in the more thickly populated districts. I am of opinion that the curriculum should be changed to include a course of citizenship. In some of our country schools I do not think one per cent. of the children could give the name of the Minister for Works.

Several members interjected.

The Minister for Works: Perish the thought!

Mr. TELFER: That is the fault of our system. Greater assistance should be rendered to country infant welfare centres. These centres, both in the metropolitan area and in the country, have suffered on account of the war, but the country centres have to contend with transport difficulties, besides which they have to pay their nurses about £120 a year. Therefore they should receive additional assistance.

If members could hear what the Town Planning Commissioner has to say about country houses they would be amazed. I have heard him state that not 5 per cent. of the farmers' country houses measure up to standard health laws, not 50 per cent. are supplied with running water and only 40 per cent. have baths and kitchen sinks.

Mr. Leslie: Less than that.

Mr. TELFER: Conditions in country homes should be such that refrigeration becomes standard equipment. In some of our small country townships I have seen the fourth-rate houses in which railway fitters are forced to live. Railway barracks in many cases are in a shocking condition; there is only one respectable barracks that I have seen and that is the one at Northam. I do not altogether blame the Minister for Railways for these disabilities, they are the result of the wretched slavery to which we are committed by our monetary system.

Mr. Marshall: Hear, hear!

Mr. TELFER: In our promised new order we should definitely break away from that system; the Minister is hard put to it because he must find over one million per annum for interest.

Railway transport is much below par. Our passenger services should at least be privileged to travel 150 miles in four hours instead of taking seven. Even if it costs £5,000,000 to get our railways up to a decent standard, we should impress upon the Commonwealth that it should make the money available for the purpose at a cheap rate of interest. The department should control the country bus services and use them as feeders for the railway service in order to give the public quick and frequent services. The Minister has said that he is purchasing six Diesels; I think he ought to get three or four times that number. Country residents are entitled to such amenities and if these were provided not only would they have better transport facilities but they would be enabled to make excursions to the coast. I quote the case of the nurses in the hospital at Merredin. They are working seven days a week and eventually get five or six days off. Yet they cannot avail themselves of a cheap trip to the coast because the existing service does not fit in with the week-end. If we are to keep nurses in these country hospitals they should be privileged, after having worked continuously for a month, to have a cheap excursion to the coast for five or six days. If such amenities as education, water supply, transport and stabilised markets were made available in the country, then I think it would not be necessary to solicit people to settle on the land. They would go to the country of their own accord.

I suggest to the Minister for Lands that he should try to secure the 12s. per acre restriction for another year. The wise man in the street tells me that we may get increased supplies of superphosphate this year to the extent of about 58 lbs. to the acre. If that should be the case and the restriction is lifted it would be equal to 40 lbs. of 17 per cent. superphosphate and would not provide the amount of super required for farm lands. Abattoirs and meat chilling works should be established in the country. They should be part of our scheme of decentralisation. I also hope that the Minister will give thought to the personal comfort question. I do not think

the farmer wants to be at all unfair. Getting down to bedrock he puts his case this way: Ill-health or some other misfortune compels him to leave his farm and he should be allowed to go to a private tribunal and be relieved of his obligations.

If a man leaves a farm and goes into business and is absent seven or eight years the road board can go on to his property during that time to destroy rabbits and vermin and can submit a bill for as much as £100, for which he can be sued. It is not right that the personal covenant debt should follow a man for that length of time. The average farmer is quite agreeable to the personal covenant so long as he remains on the property, but if he leaves it he hopes that he will at once be given relief. It may be said that such a man could go through the bankruptcy court. That is true, but such a procedure is expensive and places a stigma on a man. The problem of water supplies is also important. "Water" is a simple word but the Minister for Works has a tough time ahead of him to meet the needs of people in the country in this connection. Sheep and stock have been increased fourfold and the position will be very acute during the coming summer. I hope the Minister for Works has a very good programme in mind for the handling of the situation.

The Minister for Works: I hope it rains like the devil soon.

Mr. TELFER: The Minister is not the only one who wishes that. I feel that we should team up and try to obtain several other amenities for the country such as swimming pools and better sanitation in some of the larger towns. We are entitled to have some of the beautification schemes that were outlined by the member for Claremont. The war has proved that our physical ability to provide goods and services should be the dominating factor and not money.

MR. MANN (Beverley): In the first place I should like to congratulate the new members of the House on their excellent speeches. After having been in the House for 15 years I can assure them that their speeches were capital. I remember that when I first came to the House and made my maiden speech there was a much colder atmosphere than has been in evidence in later years. I enjoyed the speeches of

the new members on this side of the House and I must congratulate the Government on its acquisition of two excellent supporters on its side of the House. In moving the Address-in-reply the member for Nelson, although a secretary of a union, revealed commendable interest in the rural areas. The member for Avon, too, has definite opinions on rural matters. I am sure that other members on this side of the House find it refreshing to have new blood introduced into the Chamber, men with a broad outlook as opposed to the narrow parochial city viewpoint.

The Minister for Mines: There are very few city members in this House.

Mr. MANN: I appreciate the interjection, but I am afraid that when people become domiciled in the city they become imbued with a metropolitan outlook.

The Minister for Justice: Not always, and especially not when they still have interests in the country.

Mr. MANN: There is no doubt that the greatest factor in life is environment, and that a city environment breeds an entirely different outlook from that evident in the country areas.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. MANN: I suppose the most important problem facing the people, not only of Western Australia but of Australia, today is the forthcoming Referendum. I may not have spoken on the Referendum tonight except for the fact that the subject was raised by the member for East Perth. Perhaps because of his youth he considered it was essential to raise the question. The Bill of Rights passed on the 13th February, 1689, laid down the principle that for the redress of all grievances, and the amending, strengthening and preserving of the laws, Parliament should meet frequently. Now, what has happened in Western Australia? Parliament, which ought to meet frequently, adjourned last November and did not meet again until the end of July of this year. Is that preserving the rights of the people? Why has the Government allowed so long a time to elapse between sittings? Are we not in the same position in this State as in the Eastern States where we are under Federal control by regulation, and not by Parliament? I understand that the Government entrusted with the control of this State decided last November that it was not neces-