

I hope members will forgive me. If I am returned at the next elections, it will be my seventh attempt on the Address-in-reply to get my requests attended to; but whether I am returned or not, I sincerely hope the Government will give serious consideration to the matters that I have brought under notice to-day, attention to which will be for the well-being, not only of the South-West, but the whole of the State.

**MR. DONEY** (Williams-Narogin) [6.0]: A friend has suggested to me that I might occupy a little time in replying to the previous speaker's remarks about the Country Party. I might have done so if I had been able to determine exactly what the hon. member desired to convey.

**Mr. Withers:** You must be pretty dull.

**Mr. DONEY:** In common with pretty well all members, I suppose, I examined the Governor's Speech closely, with the object of discovering therein something inspirational. However, I was disappointed; nothing was there. Neither did I find, nor for that matter did I expect to find, when the Speech assessed the agricultural advancement of the State, any recognition of the good work done towards this end by the farmers themselves through their various organisations. For some strange reason there is always a reluctance to attribute any of the numerous improvements in agricultural conditions and services to the body responsible for a great many of them, namely the conference of farmers who year after year meet in Perth and by their insistent work contrive, generally indirectly, to have a good deal of legislation amended to meet their practical needs.

**Mr. Panton:** That is our complaint as trade unionists, too. None of us get any credit.

**Mr. DONEY:** As the baby member of the House—a distinction of which I do not think any other member will be anxious to deprive me—I feel some diffidence about criticising the Government's account of their stewardship as disclosed by the Speech, particularly as, while sitting here, I have noticed that Ministers whose departments are attacked have a habit of not only defending themselves but of counter-attacking, carrying the war, as it were, into the enemy's country. I shall not follow the customary line and criticise the financial position of the State. Not that there is

nothing to criticise: God forbid that I should utter a lie of that magnitude. The point is I am not yet so stupid—or I hope not—as to attempt a task for which I am ill-equipped by reason of my inexperience. At the same time I cannot help observing that no attack, apology or explanation will, in my opinion, coax members to believe that, to quote the Speech, “the finances of the State are in every respect satisfactory.” Surely a deficit cannot be regarded as a satisfactory result of half a dozen successive good seasons. Such a statement appears to me an affront to the meanest intelligence. However, I shall refrain from labouring that point, especially as, perhaps fortunately for me, it has already been ably and effectively disposed of. I desire to come straight away to the question uppermost in my mind, and say a few words, but very earnest words, regarding the provision of a new hospital at Narrogin. Narrogin is a progressive town, as I daresay the House has heard scores of times. It is likewise a clean town, and quite properly is proud of its cleanliness. It is a town that deserves support and encouragement from the Government of the day. Its municipal body teaches the residents a high regard for hygienic methods. Yet, despite all those factors, Narrogin, strange to say, has the regrettable distinction of containing within its boundaries just about the oldest and surely the sorriest-looking, worst-equipped, most cramped and most ineffectively-ventilated hospital in Western Australia. I have often heard the institution described—and in my opinion quite correctly—as a real blackfellows' hospital. It is admitted that no hospital, or so-called hospital, coming within the jurisdiction of the Health Department is anything like as insanitary or ill-favoured as this unfortunate institution. By a strange contrast, Narrogin hospital, besides a highly efficient nursing staff, has two medical officers of unusually high merit, one of them a physician and surgeon whose reputation is State-wide. It has been my unfortunate lot to have both a wide and a close experience of hospitals in various parts of the world, some of those hospitals being in isolated spots; but never before have I seen a hospital comparable with the one under review in respect of general unsuitableness for the task that it is courageous enough to tackle. An hon. member of another place, whose connection with Wil-

Liams-Narrogin is just about as close as my own, was an inmate of the institution; and I have not heard, at least for many years, a more scathing or more bitter indictment of hospital equipment and accommodation than fell from the lips of the hon. member in question upon his discharge from the Narrogin hospital. He was a very angry man indeed, and justifiably so. I may add that local people regard their hospital as a scandal, and that I share their view.

The Minister for Lands: Is the hospital run by a committee?

Mr. DONEY: No.

The Minister for Health: It is run by the Government, and the local authority will not do its part.

Mr. DONEY: Fortunately I am able to come to another and a brighter phase of the question. Arrangements are, I am relieved to say, in course of being made to provide Narrogin with a new hospital, and the Annual Estimates will, I understand, contain the necessary item. The Minister for Health and the Secretary to the Medical Department are heartily sympathetic towards the project, and are also in accord with the local desire to have the foundation stone of the new hospital laid in October next. If precautions are taken, as I presume they will be, to treat proposed works on their merits, I feel sure that when items of questionable urgency are being deleted, this particular item will be retained. The Narrogin hospital caters for a wide area indeed. Eastward its operations extend to Karlgarin and into the newer wheat areas, and 70 per cent. of the patients come from outlying districts. One of the functions of government is the care of the health of citizens, and special consideration should be given to those isolated farming and mining areas the occupants of which are possibly more subject to disease and accident than we are. Surely they have a right of access, and quick access too, to modern medical treatment, just as we have. Nothing ornate is desired, but simply a building roomy, clean, and modernly equipped. I am not imputing any blame in this connection to the present Minister for Health. On the contrary, I am happy indeed to seize this opportunity of complimenting the hon. gentleman upon his quite unusual energy and enthusiasm, which have exhibited themselves in the establishment of hospitals, baby clinics, and health centres in various country districts, thus ensuring far better treatment than ever before was available for country

mothers and babies. But here is a little warning that I may be permitted to offer. The Narrogin people are just now worked up to a high pitch of enthusiasm over the hospital question. All profits from local efforts are going towards the fund for hospital equipment. The town and the district are prepared to shoulder their share of the financial burden that is going to be imposed. But this is the point. The temper of the people is such as to make it advisable to warn the Government that if the matter is delayed beyond the year, it would not be surprising to find one fine morning, or perhaps I had better say one sad morning, that Ministers had been murdered in their beds.

The Minister for Railways: Red revolution!

Mr. DONEY: I suppose the most engaging and most important scheme upon the economic horizon at this juncture is the attempt to settle 3,500 farmers or thereabouts upon 3,500 farms. That is a big scheme and a bold scheme. Personally, I like schemes that are big and bold. I think this scheme is likely to succeed, as it is bound to have the ablest assistance that all sides of the House can possibly render. One of the factors which will contribute to the success of the scheme is that modern methods, properly applied, enable us to grow wheat payably on a rainfall of nine or ten inches. Because of this and other factors, I believe the scheme will succeed, with the proviso, however, that applicants are subjected to a far more rigorous test than customary, and that only those men who are strong and possess plenty of grit and experience shall be permitted to settle. In my opinion, the man is always the governing factor. The land, undoubtedly, is of consequence, but not nearly of so much consequence as the man. Quite a number of people hold the view that the 3,500 farms scheme is in the nature of a new departure. Not at all, to my mind. It represents quite a normal way of development. In point of fact it was forced on us by the somewhat tardy and unsatisfactory manner of development in other directions. Some such scheme was, indeed, desirable or even essential if production was to maintain the necessary increase, the increase that we have been led to expect year by year. I am led to remark at this point that nowadays we seem to forget the wonderful land settlement vision of the Leader of the Opposition, which given practical effect to by him formed the firm

basis on which our present day reputation as a grain State was founded. It is only a repetition of the methods of the member for Northam that is being applied now.

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

Mr. DONEY: At the tea adjournment, I was engaged in the rather unusual occupation of paying a compliment to the Leader of the Opposition. I was pointing out that in these days we are somewhat too prone to forget his wonderful land settlement achievements of earlier days. His work then led up to our present-day successes in wheat production. I would say that the 3,500 farms scheme is the natural re-application of the Opposition Leader's methods of earlier days. I will give the Government credit for the precautionary measures they are taking. They could quite easily have blundered hastily along placing men, in the full flush of their first enthusiasm, on holdings, only to see their efforts end in tragedy. To have pursued that course would have been unutterable stupidity, particularly in view of our experience in other parts of the State. Obviously this is the time to make our preparations and investigations. My only word of caution in respect to this scheme is to suggest that we should co-ordinate the work of the Lands Department and that of the Agricultural Bank in the early stages of development. We should let the new settler know straight away precisely what measure of financial assistance he can expect from the Agricultural Bank. Do not let us be so stupid as to provide materials for endless fights, disappointments and delays in the future, by having not only surveyor's classifications, but Agricultural Bank classifications as well. I imagine we should not have our eyes so firmly fixed on the eastern horizon as to make us lose sight of our requirements nearer home. As we direct our attention towards the eastern parts, we hardly seem to give a moment's consideration to bringing into fuller use, by legislative means and otherwise, the unused cultivable land nearer home, within or about the 20-inch rainfall belt. We give little consideration nowadays to the use of improved methods. It must be patent to every hon. member that there is room there for ample legislative activity along these lines, because improved methods are cheaper and yield far superior results than those that can be obtained by a mere increase in the area under crop. Nor do we hear much nowadays about

the need for fallowing our light land. For the encouragement of anyone intending to take up farming in the light land areas, I would mention an instance that has been brought under my notice of operations carried out near Ejanding. I understand a farmer and his four sons took up 25,000 acres of land, practically the whole of it being scrub country. There are 7,400 acres cleared already and this year, I am told, they have 3,000 acres under crop. Fallowing is now being done with the aid of three tractors. The yields of wheat and oats have been consistently good each year. I understand that last year 10,000 bags of wheat were taken to market. To my mind that is a wonderful achievement. The Agricultural Bank regard this farmer as being financially successful. If the bank is willing to concede that fact, we may depend upon it that the description is perfectly accurate! The bank officials are too cautious and shrewd to concede success to any farming operations unless it is fully deserved. The point I want to make is this: Where this man has led, hundreds of others may reasonably be expected to follow, provided they have the knowledge necessary to enable them to select the right type of scrub land. I take it that there is more of that land available than is comprised in the holding I have referred to.

Mr. Lindsay: Not in that district; it has all been taken up.

Mr. DONEY: Then it may be assumed that there is a good deal more of that class of land in other parts of the State. Like everyone else, I am considerably concerned about soldier settlement in Western Australia. The payments from the Commonwealth grant no doubt did a great deal of good, but the incidence of the payments was nevertheless frequently harsh and inequitable and the problems in connection with that scheme, though to a lesser degree, of course, still exist. I recently perused the findings of Judge Pike, who was appointed a Royal Commissioner to investigate soldier settlement matters. No doubt hon. members have read his recommendations. As they coincide exactly with my views, it will be gathered that they have my warmest commendation. It struck me that if we had a return showing the holdings repossessed in Western Australia, we would be amazed. The reasons for the repossession of soldiers' farms come under the following headings:— (1) The wrong man; (2) too poor a farmer; (3) over capitalisation; (4) ill health, and

(5) one that we seldom hear mentioned publicly—political interference with Agricultural Bank decisions. I consider that only sound and experienced men should be allowed to remain on their holdings. It has been my experience that soldiers who have been gassed, shell-shocked or have suffered other war disabilities, are but now, by reason of rough living, giving evidence of those disabilities. All such soldiers, I consider, should be taken from their holdings, as Judge Pike suggests, and placed in some more congenial occupation. I know a number of men who were strong, but are now becoming weaklings physically, and in one or two instances, I regret to say, mentally as well. The day is no longer with us, if it ever was with us, when any fool can be a farmer. In these days of high tariff, high freights, high taxation, inflated wages, increased cost of living, and increased costs of agricultural commodities, it takes a man of pronounced ability and shrewdness, as well as of great knowledge of the industry, to make a success of his undertaking year by year. I am, of course, referring to the man who has to find interest annually on the full capital value of his land. His outlook, as I see it, is seldom a promising one. It seems to me that such a man lives constantly in an atmosphere of uncertainty, dogged by interest charges, bills of sale, instalments, store bills, etc. There are one or two directions in which we can assist. We can help him in respect of taxation and freights, which are under our control. As to the tariff, it should at least be possible for us to cultivate some sort of tariff-sense in this State which, by and by, may reasonably be expected to have some Federal result. I am not gainsaying the fact that in Western Australia we have large areas of land that provide ample scope for men with small capital, but I would never settle such men on improved farms near home. Since I have been in this House, I have been convinced that there is only one big job before us, although there are a number of little ones as well. The one big job is to lower the cost of production. I do not know if it will ever be possible to get members to think agriculturally, I am rather doubtful about it. There is no doubt in my mind that in Western Australia we have to stand or fall on our wheat and wool. If wheat and wool are down, the whole State tightens its belt. It may be said that from the Governor down to the meanest struggler

for existence in our midst, we are all, in a sense, agricultural labourers in one department or another. The railway man works in the transport department of agricultural development, and everyone else, according to his vocation, falls into his separate department in the same category. I know that the farmer represents the pivot point of our existence in this State, and his problems should be amongst the Government's chief concerns. Like others, I am seeking for unity in outlook regarding our primary industries. It has always struck me that there is very little unity in this House. We have our various outlooks, that of the South-West, of the city, of the North, the industrial outlook, and that which concerns itself with the primary industries. No one of these viewpoints discloses much tolerance for any of the other points of view. In time, we may evolve a party with a purely State outlook. Quite possibly it is not difficult to understand that the party I am looking for is the Country Party. I do know that recently the Country Party has so broadened its constitutional basis as to include the interest of every department of Western Australian activity.

Mr. Lambert: And include all candidates for Parliament.

Mr. Lindsay: Your party allows only one candidate to stand.

Mr. Lambert: No, two—unfortunately for me.

Mr. DONEY: I come now to the operations of the Agricultural Bank. As a general rule these do not need to be interfered with, but there is one direction where a change is imperative. I have never been able to understand why the Agricultural Bank insists upon a fresh mortgage being registered for each fresh loan which it is attempted to raise. I know of farms carrying as many as 10 separate mortgages. I could never see any reason why there should be more than one. I know, of course, that the Land Titles Department, and ultimately Consolidated Revenue reap a fine harvest from the existing system. I also know that, after all, this is only another form of agricultural taxation, and that it is altogether unnecessary.

Mr. Lindsay: How do the other banks do?

Mr. DONEY: I understand they take out a mortgage for the full amount the farmer is likely to require.

Mr. Lindsay: Then why cannot the Agricultural Bank do the same?

Mr. DONEY: That is my own view. We all know that mortgages are very costly instruments. The need for the multiplicity of reports, valuations, registrations, statements of accounts, and all that sort of thing leads to a tremendous amount of delay and expense that, after all, only impede progress and to a small extent impair the usefulness of a very fine institution. As the member for Toodyay has just indicated, it should be quite easy for the settler upon his entry on his farm to forecast his probable loan requirements and to have an inclusive mortgage registered for the full amount, naturally drawing piecemeal upon that sum in amounts of £200 or £300. All that, of course, would be done through the branch offices and on the branch officers' entire responsibility, the matter not being referred to the head office in Perth except upon an unusual situation arising. This suggested amendment of the method would at least secure some semblance of reality to the policy of Agricultural Bank decentralisation, and also it would serve to reduce the huge amount of quite unnecessary work that the present method entails at head office. I hope the Minister responsible will give to this labour-time-and-money-saving suggestion of mine a little attention. Now I wish to refer once more to a matter which has been referred to here a dozen times or more, namely, the needs of Narrogin.

Hon. G. Taylor: Do you want more railways at Narrogin?

Mr. DONEY: No, although there is one I may mention a little later. But the point I want to make here is that year by year, as Narrogin grows and the buildings I am going to complain of get older, the position becomes worse. It is principally in respect of the public buildings at Narrogin that I am going to speak. I am very hopeful that I shall not be forced to take up the running set by my predecessor and annually parade Narrogin woes before the House. For myself I am hopeful that in due course I shall be able to coax the Minister concerned down to Narrogin, let him see for himself that there is a very sensible foundation for these complaints, and get him to apply the necessary remedy. Narrogin is one of the fortunate towns. Its geographical situation has resulted in its becoming a very important railway centre, and also the business and administrative centre of a very wide area. Private and

municipal enterprises have provided it with many fine buildings and conveniences. It is an exceedingly busy town, and its Government officers are especially busy. In view of this, one would imagine that successive Governments would be only too glad to help those towns that help themselves. But it is not so. The Narrogin Government buildings, except the post office, which of course is a Federal building, are disgracefully dark, cramped and antiquated little concerns dotted here and there over the face of the town. When I say they are dark and cramped and antiquated, that is precisely what I mean. They are at once the joke of all the more fortunate towns and the amazement of visitors. I will shortly outline to the Minister a scheme that will entail but very small outlay of money, and will result in the efficient housing of the departments concerned, namely, the Lands Department, the Agricultural Bank, the Savings Bank and the Courthouse, and I will dare hope for the Minister's co-operation. A further improvement necessary to the progress of Narrogin is the provision of an overhead vehicular bridge to connect the two parts of the town that now are cleft by reason of the railway running through the centre of the town. Already the Government have a certain responsibility in this matter, for I understand that when they closed the level crossing connecting the two sides of the town, they did so without having first received proper legal authority for their action. As the result of that illegal action, the traffic is now diverted to one road on the north and another on the south, each about half a mile from the centre of the town. I hope the time is not far distant when the Government will be sufficiently financial to take up this matter and give to important inland towns, or those of them assured of permanency, the administrative offices and conveniences they are entitled to. Now a brief word respecting the railway institute, or lack of one, at Narrogin. I find it necessary here to call the attention of the Minister for Railways to the matter. The convenience is thoroughly well deserved and is highly desirable, as much from an educational as from a recreative standpoint. It is very long overdue. Not that its desirability has not been officially recognised, but financial considerations have always stood in the way. I believe that for eight or nine

years successive commissioners of railways have urged its construction. Just now, as a temporary measure I am pleased to say, a small structure has at last been agreed to. This small building, I hope, is only a forerunner of the larger and better structure the Minister has in mind. I wish to stress its temporary nature and to say I feel sure the Minister will not overlook the fact that provisions are made in this and similar institutes for instruction in all railway matters, as well as in general knowledge. The Minister therefore stands to get a pretty substantial share of the benefits to be gained. I am very glad to see that the slump in wool prices has at last decided the growers of that commodity upon the launching of a wool campaign. I hope that such opportunities for assisting the industry and the campaign as happen to come the way of the Government will be seized with both hands. The bulk of the propaganda, of course, will be carried out at Home, and it seems to me reasonable to hope that the services of the Hon. W. C. Angwin, and the other Agents-General in London, will be amply and promptly availed of. The imperative need in this State for an active, extensive and profitable wool industry is manifest. Wool and wheat form the two sources from which we draw the wherewithal to conduct the services of the State, and on which we rely for the absorption of our surplus labour. Because of that, its profitable activity is of just as much consequence to the State as to the grower. Hard times have overtaken the industry but hard times hurt no one if they are properly faced. Rather do they have a tonic effect upon the industries concerned and provide a good form of discipline. Forced with our backs to the wall, we are the more determined to protect our rights, and the keener becomes our appreciation of the value of profits. Additionally, new methods are adopted, new markets found and economies effected. We have all noticed, I think, that publicity and unity have already in this State put new life into many a jaded primary industry, and the present campaign, if properly conducted, will, I consider, put wool on a sounder basis than it was even before the decline. It will take persistent and judicious advertising, of course, to slacken the demand for synthetic substitutes. Still, there is this much in our favour that wool is the natural

covering for flesh and blood, while synthetic substitutes are not, and sound advertising will squeeze the utmost benefit out of that fortunate fact. The point to be constantly borne in mind is that the wool question is a national question, and the rehabilitation of the wool industry should be a matter for intense and immediate Government concern. We listened last night to a clever speech by a very able man—the member for East Perth (Mr. Kenneally)—who touched upon a number of points, but on no more interesting one than that of the industrial situation. It is a subject whereon he, I suppose, can speak with more knowledge, but unfortunately on occasions more one-sidedly than possibly anybody else in Western Australia.

Mr. Lindsay: Hear, hear! He has studied only one side of the question.

Mr. DONEY: I have no desire to be in any way offensive to the hon. member.

Mr. Kenneally: I shall have to examine that statement to find out where the compliment lies.

Mr. DONEY: Neither did I intend any compliment; I merely intended to point out precisely my opinion of the hon. member's remarks. I think I may say he is an apostle of the doctrine of higher wages and shorter hours; in other words, of less work and more money.

Mr. Sleeman: You do not believe in lower wages and longer hours, do you?

Mr. DONEY: Never mind.

Mr. Panton: He will not answer that question.

Mr. DONEY: I do not mind saying that I, too, would be in favour of shorter hours and higher pay provided our industries and our production could stand the strain, which obviously they cannot. The hon. member's party constantly hold up America as affording an example of how labour should be treated. They frequently speak of the high wages obtainable in America. What is more natural than that it should be so. America is able to pay out of her prosperity. She is prosperous by reason of her solid factory and land productions on massed lines.

Mr. Lambert: You say that the establishing of factories in Australia is impoverishing it.

Mr. DONEY: I have never said that.

Mr. Lindsay: Your policy is not to give them a fair chance to be started.

Mr. Sleeman: You will not patronise them when they are started.

Mr. Latham: We patronise most of them.

Mr. DONEY: I was showing that America is in a position to be generous to her labour by reason of her wealth. The two countries, America and Australia, are by no means comparable; anyhow they are not fairly comparable. America is rich, not only on account of honest results from honest labour, but because of her quite successful grab at the storehouses of a rather impoverished Europe. These things have given her the wealth that enables her to be generous. If Australia is given a chance to rise, she will reach precisely the same position by and by.

Mr. Kenneally: You want us to accept a period of low wages and long hours and then we might get something to compensate us later on.

Mr. Lindsay: We want more work. That is all.

Mr. DONEY: The party opposite should not attempt to strangle Australia in her youth, as it were, by imposing conditions such as the 44-hour week which she cannot stand. We can pay wages only out of our production. Very good, help us to produce. The Labour Party should help Australia to what I may call economic safety so that we can afford to pay what they ask. It seems to me that just as we are starting to rise, the extremer elements of the Labour Party want to hit us on the head with a club. This, anyhow, should be obvious to all that the biggest industry in the State certainly cannot stand a 44-hour week. I refer to the agricultural industry. It would be quite reasonable to ask for corroboration on that point from Labour members who have farms of their own. They know that to apply the 44-hour week to agricultural occupations is altogether out of the question.

The Minister for Lands: Give us your experience, because you were a farmer at one time.

Mr. DONEY: I do not mind doing that; I am pleased at the opportunity to do so. I can easily recall that I worked from about one hour before sunrise until one or two hours after sundown. I do not claim to have kept it up for too many years, but I kept it up for a time, long enough to put the farm on a pretty successful basis.

The Minister for Lands: What, on a successful basis!

Mr. DONEY: A pretty successful basis.

The Minister for Lands: That is news to me.

Mr. DONEY: I am speaking, of course, from a fuller knowledge than the Minister can have of my concern. I was admonishing the party opposite not to kill production—the goose that lays the golden eggs, nor to claim a monopoly of the democratic virtues. I think I and a number of my friends on this side of the House may claim to be just as good democrats and humanitarians as are our friends opposite.

Mr. Kenneally: The hon. member hides the democratic temperament very successfully.

Mr. DONEY: Will the hon. member explain how?

Mr. Kenneally: Each member of the Country Party hides it very successfully.

Mr. DONEY: Where have I hidden it?

Mr. Latham: There is none so blind as he who will not see.

Mr. Kenneally: One of the members who hides his democratic tendencies has found that he himself could not stand the long hours on the farm, but he wishes to continue to work others for those long hours.

Mr. DONEY: In response to that rather long interjection I would like to point out that the reason I ceased to work the long hours on the land was not because I was unable to stand up to them, or because of a sudden accession of laziness, but because a disturbance occurred in another part of the world and I had necessarily to cease operations. Anyhow, I did not give up a 16 or 17-hour day to take on a 44-hour week. At present I am not in any very precise occupation, but I am still working something like 14 or 15 hours per day.

Mr. Lindsay: And you thrive on it, too.

Mr. Kenneally interjected.

Mr. DONEY: That is a point we are not likely to pursue with any benefit to the hon. member. Just before that mass of interjections, I was remarking that we could only pay wages out of production and I was asking members opposite to help us to produce. I also said that I claimed to be as good a democrat and as sound a humanitarian as anyone on the opposite side of the House. I am just as anxious as they that the finances and resources of this State should be so ordered as to put a coat on every man's back and bread on every man's table. Let me now prove the democracy that is inherent in me. My father used to teach me that all projected legislation should be regarded first and foremost from the point of view of the poorest of the poor

people. He told me something of the virtues of equality of man, equality of opportunity and so on. He also told me the childish stupidity of killing the goose that laid the golden eggs.

Hon. G. Taylor: What has the member for East Perth to say to that?

Mr. Kenneally: You keep your eye on No. 1.

Mr. Latham: We all do that, I think.

Mr. DONEY: I did not catch the remark of the member for East Perth.

Mr. Lindsay: He said you keep your eye on No. 1.

Mr. DONEY: To whom was the member for East Perth referring?

Mr. Kenneally: Evidently you did catch my remark.

Mr. DONEY: The remark perhaps, but not its import.

The Minister for Lands: Now you have joined the most reactionary party in Australia.

Mr. Lindsay: You should ask the Minister to withdraw that statement. It is not correct.

Mr. DONEY: I shall not bother to ask for its withdrawal, but I should like to tell members opposite that there is in existence in Australia to-day an economic force which, if Labour persists in widening the gulf between money received and value given, will force Australia completely out of the markets of the world. There is not the slightest doubt that we in Australia have isolation and costly production to contend with. Do not let us add to it the unnecessary burden that comes from senseless party strife.

The Minister for Lands: Who gave you the right to lecture on this matter?

Mr. DONEY: The rules of the House give me that right.

The Minister for Lands: You do not produce the commodities you speak of. Why do you no longer produce?

Mr. DONEY: The hon. member must know why I no longer produce. The reason is quite sufficient.

The Minister for Lands: I know why and that is why I object.

Mr. DONEY: I would like members opposite to take an Australian view, instead of looking at things from a party viewpoint. The member for East Perth spent a good deal of time last night in trying to saddle the party to which I belong with an express predilection for South-

ern European labour. Does he think that by some strange division of the national sentiment, all the love of Australia and Australians is on his side of the House, and all the love of the foreigner on this side?

Mr. Kenneally: That is indicated by the employment that is given to Southern Europeans.

Mr. DONEY: The Southern Europeans are here and they are here largely at our own invitation. Anyhow, we allowed them to come here when we might perhaps have stopped them. The responsibility, therefore, is largely ours. The point is, they are here, and being here they have to be fed. While they are here they should work, at that particular class of occupation that suits them. Never on any account let them have preference over our own people. I never would give that, nor would members of the party to which I belong.

Mr. Kenneally: Members of your party say differently. Are you denying your own members?

Mr. DONEY: No. I should like to see members opposite a little more consistent than they are. On many occasions I have seen members entering restaurants run by foreigners and taking refreshments there. That means, if it means anything, that they are showing preference for Southern European labour over British labour. There are in this city and everywhere a sufficient number of British-run restaurants, if people desire to patronise them. So much for the consistency of members opposite.

Mr. Sleeman: I think you have bad eyesight.

Mr. Lindsay: Why do you not clean that up before starting upon us?

Mr. DONEY: I should like to make a brief reference to something that appears in "Hansard," and ask an explanation of the Minister concerned. In March last I asked the Minister for Works whether any decision had been arrived at, and if so what it was, with respect to compensation for land resumed along the Dwarda-Narrogin railway. I also asked him to state the date fixed for the settlement of the compensation claims. The Minister replied that the land had not yet been resumed but that plans were being prepared. He anticipated that a "Gazette" notice would be issued by the end of the following month, when claim forms would immediately be forwarded to all land owners concerned, and the provisions of the Public Works Act would then be carried out as claims were received. I

understand that claim forms were not sent out, and I take it the plans have not been prepared. I am anxious to ascertain from the Minister for Works what the compensation is, and when the people concerned may expect to receive their claim forms.

**MR. LAMBERT** (Coolgardie) [8.20]: In addressing myself to this motion I do not know that I shall attempt to be quite as versatile as some other members have been. The member for Swan spoke on pretty well everything, from the League of Nations to fruit-fly. Other members were quite as all-embracing in their remarks. Some showed rather a regrettable despondency by indicating that this might be the last occasion when they would have the opportunity to speak to a motion such as this. I intend to be a little optimistic and express the hope that the great majority of members now in the House will return to their places. I find it a little difficult to speak at this juncture. Members will know that I displayed a disposition last session to acquire more territory than then existed in the Coolgardie electorate. They will recollect the enthusiastic manner in which I supported the desire to extend the boundaries of that district.

**Mr. Lindsay:** We know how enthusiastic you were.

**Mr. LAMBERT:** Having realised that ambition, I find it necessary now to address my remarks not only to the territory that once embraced the historic electorate of Coolgardie, but also to refer to some of the problems surrounding the equally important constituency of Yilgarn. Last season was not a very good one, and was very far from good in the part of the State to which I refer, namely around Southern Cross and over a considerable portion of the Yilgarn district. Had it not been for the foresight of the Minister for Lands and the Government generally in establishing an experimental State farm at Ghooli, and demonstrating to the settlers there what the land could produce with proper farming methods, no doubt there would have been a considerable amount of despondency. Whilst the wheat returns from the Southern Cross district were regrettably low, at the Ghooli State farm, where proper methods of cultivation were indulged in, an average yield of 19 bushels to the acre was realised. What would have been a very disappointing outlook for the farmers in and around Southern Cross, owing to the adverse season, was considerably brightened by the fact that if they were

prepared to adopt proper farming methods, they could obtain results equally beneficial.

**Mr. Mann:** What area was cropped at Ghooli?

**The Minister for Lands:** Last year, about 400 acres.

**Mr. LAMBERT:** This year I think the area is between 400 and 500 acres. Sufficient land was cultivated last year to demonstrate that by the use of proper methods and with even a light rainfall at the right time, wheat-growing could profitably be undertaken in that area. The Government have encouraged fallowing, and the adoption of better methods of farming to the extent that they are even making advances for fallowing. On the miners' settlement and in other parts a considerable acreage of ground is under fallow, and this will be producing next year. I am confident from the results I have seen that if the Government encouraged farmers to adopt improved methods of cultivation Southern Cross would develop into one of the most important agricultural centres in the State. I was speaking to Mr. Moran, a trustee of the Agricultural Bank, recently. He told me he had with the local Agricultural Bank inspector travelled over the miners' settlement. He found a great deal of enthusiasm amongst the settlers. He said it was wonderful to see the transformation that had taken place in that area during the last two years. A large amount of land is under cultivation and under fallow. The stout-hearted men who unfortunately had, after years of toil in the mines, to forsake their avocation, had tackled nobly the problem of carving out a home for themselves in this new centre. They were working under conditions that were quite strange to them, but had engaged in the work with that determination that was characteristic of those who went to the gold-fields in the early days. They were making a show that was a credit to them. I am sure the Government will not be unmindful of their obligations to these settlers, who will require water supplies and other facilities to enable them to become successful farmers. At no distant date they will require a railway for the transport of their produce. The granting of all these facilities will be justified in the near future. This brings me to the 3,500 farms scheme. The member for Williams-Narrogin stated that the big territory embraced by the area lying south of Southern Cross to the seaboard,