

there might easily be an accident. These may appear to be trivial matters, but they are matters that should be attended to. I shall look forward to the advent of the Land Drainage Bill with considerable pleasure. I expect it is the same old measure that the present Minister for Lands had before him when he was previously Minister for Works, and which I looked at frequently during my eight years of office, but could never get an opportunity to introduce. Now I hope it will be introduced and that something will be done, because land drainage in the South-West is a most vital problem and one that has to be faced. It is a proper policy, and I am sure the Minister for Lands will agree with me that it is better to start on land near to the markets than to undertake work at tremendous distances where the settlers will be handicapped from the outset.

Mr. Pantou: We have been telling you that for 20 years and you have just woke up.

The Minister for Lands: There is an area of 250,000 acres in your district and we cannot touch it for another five years.

Mr. GEORGE: The existing Road Districts Act requires quite a number of modifications and the insertion of provisions to meet the altered conditions brought about by motor transport. One point the Minister should consider is whether the rates collected in any particular ward should not have some relation to the expenditure. It should not be possible, as has been done in some districts, for rates to be collected for many years and practically no expenditure to be made in the wards concerned. People in those wards can obtain no redress from the board. If possible the Government should enlarge the audit staff to deal with road board accounts. I am satisfied that if an annual audit were made, many of the irregularities now occurring would be obviated and the ratepayers would know how they stood at the time instead of being kept waiting year after year. In a district I know of one ward in the last 20 years must have contributed £10,000 in rates and not £20 has been expended in its area by the board. Provision should be made in the Act to protect the ratepayers. They have to pay their rates, and surely they have a right to expect something in return. It is not right that a ratepayer's money should be filched from him and spent elsewhere. He has the right to expect that some

of the money collected should be expended for the purpose of giving him and his neighbours some of the facilities that are so necessary. I suppose the Government have been steadily overhauling the files and records of the departments, with the object of ascertaining whether they can do better than other people or put into force things which other people might have been unable to do. Instead of rushing into a lot of criticism upon their administration I think I shall be doing better service to the country if I confine my remarks to the various topics and departments that will in due course come before us for debate. I am pleased to think and hope that we have turned the corner, and that Western Australia is steadily marching along a course of prosperity, which its great potentialities justify us in assuming it will some day reach.

On motion by Mr. Sleeman, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 9.17 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 11th August, 1925.

					PAGE
Question:	Railway construction,	Salmon Gums-			150
	Norseman	
Address:-in-reply,	fifth day	151

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

QUESTION—RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION, SALMON GUMS-NORSEMAN.

Hon. J. W. KIRWAN asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, Will the Government comply with the general desire in the Esperance district that formation work in connection with the Salmon Gums-Norseman railway be started at both the Salmon Gums and Norseman ends? 2, Are the Government

aware that this desire is prompted by the hope that the construction of the line may be completed as early as possible, so that land selection be not impeded, as many hundreds of applicants are waiting for the 350 holdings to be made available between Salmon Gums and Norseman, and the successful applicants cannot get Agricultural Bank assistance until brought within the 12½-mile limit by the completion of the line?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: 1, The question is receiving consideration. The Acting Engineer in Chief left for Esperance on the 4th instant, and upon his return he will report further on the question. 2, The decision of the Government to authorise the construction of the line so soon after the passing of the Act indicates the opinion of the Government.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Fifth Day.

Debate resumed from the 6th August.

HON. G. POTTER (West) [4.35]: I wish to echo the lofty tributes paid by yourself, Mr. President, the Colonial Secretary, and other members to the memory of the late Hon. J. A. Greig. The voice that has been stilled by death will be greatly missed from the deliberations of this Chamber. The late gentleman, by virtue of his great sacrificing endeavours, erected an enduring memorial to himself in the province he so ably represented. Upon Mr. Glasheen will devolve the responsibility of representing that province, great in area and no less great in its importance to the State. With other members I welcome Mr. Glasheen, and assure him that he will share the experience I had when I entered the House by receiving all possible courtesy, and will have unasked the aid and helpful advice of members who have grown old in the service and have given to this House the prestige it enjoys to-day. Since last session the Premier has visited the Old Country. It should be almost unnecessary to assure the Premier of our keen appreciation of his endeavours in the interests of the State. It is a source of satisfaction to know that he was able to influence the administration of the Trades Facilities Act in England. That indicates an awakening conscience on the part of the

authorities abroad, who do not necessarily know our difficulties as we know them. They are awaking to the fact that Western Australia, by pursuing a great, broad, development policy, is doing something for the consolidation of the Empire. Insofar as the money obtained will be expended mostly in the activities of North-West trading, portion of the honour of having obtained it rests with members for the North-West who, at great trouble and often expense to themselves, have journeyed to the seat of Empire, pleaded the State's cause, and interested influential parties in the development of that territory. It must have been pleasant for the Premier, on his return, to find the financial position so buoyant. That fact should inspire him to continue the development work that has given birth to such handsome results. When a great catastrophe occurs, we concern ourselves with the cause of it and, by ascertaining the cause, we seek to guard against a recurrence of the misfortune. We should be no less diligent, having ascertained the cause of the State's improved condition, to benefit from experience and continue the policy that has made possible such a happy state of affairs. It is my firm conviction that the cause of the improvement lies with the primary producer. Undoubtedly he has contributed 90 per cent. of the improvement. Certainly the season has been advantageous and nature has been kind, while the world's market has been in our favour, but all those fortuitous circumstances would be as naught if the development policy of the past had not permitted us to take advantage of them. In arriving at that conclusion, I am not unmindful of the personal equation represented by the primary producers, whether they be prospectors looking for new gold-fields or men in the backblocks subduing the wilderness. Nature, once conquered, can be directed to the uses of man, but nature does fight a vigorous rearguard action, and it is only by the exercise of indomitable will that our hardy pioneers can achieve success and assist the State to maintain its present satisfactory position. Undoubtedly the pioneers will win through, as did their ancestors, but only at the expense of long hours, arduous labour and with the possession of stout hearts. It behoves us to assist them to the utmost limit of our power. The pastoralist, who undoubtedly is the pioneer

of closer settlement, has many difficulties with which to contend. Sometimes the magnitude of his holding makes us feel that we do not thoroughly understand his position. Sometimes the price he receives for his wool is apt to obscure the enormous losses that have to be met before he can place the clip upon the world's market. There are other difficulties that confront him. The kangaroo or its kinsman, the euro, breaks his fences and eats the feed that the sheep should have. In other places dingoes cause great depredations amongst the flocks. The pastoralist suffers from these pests, and the State suffers in sympathy with him. The mixed farmer often has all these pests at his door, with the added nuisance of the rabbit, which is already a serious menace to the well-being of our agriculturists. It may appear strange that such remarks should fall from the lips of a coastal member, but I utter them so that the representatives of districts that rely upon the success of these great and essential industries will know exactly where I stand if the Government, either of their own volition or at the suggestion of members, introduce measures designed to afford the relief they so much need. In connection with country development it is pleasing to note that the Railway Advisory Board are energetically employed in reporting upon the necessity and possibility of railways in districts that require them and deserve them. I hope the board will not overlook the claims of the district which would be served by the construction of a line from Brookton to Armadale. Hope has long been deferred in the breasts of the people there. After all, it is not as if the people in that district were putting up some ephemeral case, a case with little foundation, or something merely imagined. They have been there for many years, have proved the quality of the land, and have in a great measure succeeded; but they are labouring under an enormous difficulty which makes the success they have already achieved a tribute to their indomitable will to succeed. Those settlers have been out there for many years creating for the State a taxable asset; not something that is diminishing, but something that is increasing in value. All they ask for is the right to market their produce with the same facilities as are granted to other industries, or to their own industry in other parts of the State. Representations have been made recently regarding that mat-

ter. A deputation waited on the Premier, who suggested, doubtless jocularly, that if they found the money without interest he would build the line. Such a proposal is almost impossible. In fact, I think the Premier must have been chuckling inwardly when he made the suggestion. I do hope the Railway Advisory Board will see their way to support the justifiable claims of those people. Mr. Stewart referred to a pamphlet circulated not only here but elsewhere by Mr. Hedges. For the action Mr. Hedges has taken in that regard he is worthy of the highest commendation of all who have the interests of the State at heart. He has demonstrated his possession of a public spirit that might well be emulated by everyone. The generosity with which he has approached his criticism of the existing State railway system is thoroughly admirable. He says that in defining an agricultural railway policy he does not adversely criticise the engineers who built the existing railways, because he fully recognises the necessities of the occasion which made railway building from point to point absolutely essential. It was necessary to connect Perth with Albany direct, and therefore the railway went as directly as the grades would allow. The same thing applied to the railway from the metropolitan area to the Eastern Goldfields. That railway also had to go direct. At that time, however, it was not anticipated that in this State agricultural development would reach its present stage of importance to Western Australia and, indeed, to the Commonwealth. Therefore Mr. Hedges launches his suggestion in the hope that the future railway policy of this State may be considered along the lines suggested by him. As he himself is an experienced railway constructor, his opinions are well worth weighing. It is a matter of supreme satisfaction to realise that the present Government will continue an active immigration policy. Either by the dawn of common sense, or by the necessities of the occasion, the opponents of immigration have become submerged. Still, we recognise that immigration must be conducted with a high degree of sanity, as it has been in the past. While unquestionably there must be a little pressure on the employment market, we cannot avoid that. With the best regulated scheme there must be some little leakage. It is no condemnation of the immigration policy that a few migrants who should never have been allowed to get through, found life on the back blocks here distasteful to them and

gravitated to the city again. That in itself is utterly insufficient to condemn the migration scheme. It is encouraging to know that the present Administration will pursue an active immigration policy. For the purpose of enabling them to do that, the new agreement which has been found acceptable by the Government, has been concluded. However, the Premier is supported by everyone in his view that the agreement is not as generous as it might be. Still, that need not condemn the agreement. When the Commonwealth Government, in conjunction with the Imperial Government, asked the various States to submit an immigration policy, only one State had the matter thought out with sufficient care to submit a policy; and that was Western Australia under the Premiership of Sir James Mitchell. Naturally, it was a pioneer policy; and the agreement contained a provision that any additional benefits accruing to other Australian States from migration agreements would be incorporated in the Western Australian agreement. Therefore, having regard to the various agreements being made from time to time, we are in duty bound to pay honour to the party who was the initiator of the system that we hope will solve Western Australia's difficulties. On the report of the Royal Commission on Group Settlement I do not propose to say much at this moment. No doubt the report will eventually be the subject of extensive debate in this Chamber. To my mind, the kernel of the whole situation lies in the fact of the enormous financial drain from Western Australia to the Eastern States. If that amount were capitalised and represented as the goodwill of a business, it would be recognised as worth a huge sum. On Mr. Collier's return from his sojourn abroad he gave us some valuable advice, advice which is all the more worthy of respect since he was at pains to investigate for himself on the spot the deficiencies of our various marketing schemes. I was very much impressed with what the Premier had to say, and the recommendations he made, regarding fruit marketing. He mentioned that at the great fruit market in London he had seen Western Australian fruit which he was almost ashamed to see there. He advised the fruitgrowers to grade their fruit properly, to grow the right types, and to pack with adequate care. Those are matters which the orchardists can deal with easily, as one grower undoubtedly will police the other. Further, the fruitgrowers have

the benefit of Government inspection. However, there is one great disability under which our fruitgrowers suffer; and I have voiced it in this Chamber before. I refer to the shipping of our fruit, and the handling which the fruit receives before it gets to the ship's side. That is the chief weakness of Western Australia's fruit exporting industry. Let us picture to ourselves fruit arriving from the country and, owing to the occasional vagaries of shipping, being stored in a steaming hot shed. Because of the working hours the shed is closed up, whereupon it becomes almost like the oven of a bakehouse. That fruit, experts tell us, would be far better left out on the wharf covered by a tarpaulin or sheeting. Later that fruit is taken from the shed and put into the cool store of a ship. With what result? That the violent change of temperature damages our fruit when it goes into the hold, and also damages the fruit already in the hold from other ports. One result is that shipping companies do not view with favour the shipment of fruit under those conditions. In the Eastern States there are many fruit interests which would be only too pleased to pay for the whole of the fruit space in a ship rather than let some of that space go to be filled at Fremantle under such conditions. At the representation of fruitgrowers and others to the Minister for Agriculture, a chamber was made available at the freezing works at South Fremantle; and undoubtedly that represents some little alleviation of the difficulty. It has, however, this great fault, that it involves a somewhat tedious railway journey from the South Fremantle freezing works to the ship's side. The fruit, being shipped at that time of year when the temperature is high, undergoes a considerable change in temperature while being conveyed to the ship; and the same thing recurs when the fruit is put on board the ship.

Hon. F. E. S. Willmott: And does it not cost anything to take the fruit to South Fremantle and bring it back?

Hon. G. POTTER: The cost is very material, and the process involves four handlings instead of one, while labour charges are advancing daily. Moreover, the fruitgrowers have no opportunity of recouping themselves, since they have to compete in the world's markets with the fruitgrowers of America and other countries. Furthermore, all this involves deterioration of the fruit,

and so Western Australia, with all her difficulties to face, has one more added. Our advantage of being nearer by thousands of miles to the world's markets is negated by the primitive handling conditions which obtain at the Fremantle wharf.

Hon. J. Duffell: And by the lack of consideration from the department.

Hon. G. POTTER: Undoubtedly. If there were any insuperable difficulty in the provision of a cool store on the wharf at the ship's side, one could not very much wonder.

Hon. F. E. S. Willmott: What is wanted is not a freezing chamber, but a cool chamber.

Hon. G. POTTER: A pre-cooling chamber. During the fruit-shipping period the Fremantle wharves are not congested, and it would be quite possible, at small expense, to insulate one of the sheds. Further, this is not an occasion on which the fruitgrowers want from the Government something for nothing. They are prepared to pay a tax per case of money shipped, and the resultant amount of money would clear the whole of the cost of the shed in two or three years. It does not also mean that such a shed, insulated and converted into a cooling store, would become a white elephant for the remainder of the year. After the fruit season was over the doors could be thrown open and the shed could be used for ordinary purposes. The space required for the condensing pipes around the shed would take up but little room and would count for practically nothing. As a crowning example of what this would do for the grower, let me cite an instance of what happened not so long ago in connection with a shipment of fruit. A prominent shipper had a parcel of fruit made up and specially packed to be forwarded as a test consignment, the object being to see how it would arrive in London. When the vessel by which it was to be shipped reached Fremantle, it was discovered that there was not enough space for the whole consignment. Some of the consignment got through, and the remainder the shipper took back into his own cool stores which are a matter of five or six minutes from the wharf by motor lorry. Later on another ship came alongside and the agents rang up to say that they could find space for it. Within half an hour the shipper had his lorries at work, and the fruit was put into the vessel's chambers. Now, listen to the result: the fruit that was sent by the first vessel, and which was

handled not by him, arrived in London in a worthless condition. A week or two later that portion of the consignment that he himself handled in the way that fruitgrowers required, arrived at its destination in splendid condition, and in spite of the fact that the market was somewhat weak, this fruit was disposed of at top prices. No Government should require a more glaring instance than that respecting the disabilities fruitgrowers in this State are subjected to. Therefore I trust that whilst the Government are giving a slight alleviation by way of accommodation at the cool stores at South Fremantle, they will not consider that their duty to the fruitgrower ends there, but that they will take into consideration other matters similar to those to which I have drawn attention. Whilst on the subject of the Fremantle harbour, I wish to add that I was surprised at the remarks made by Mr. Stewart regarding the amount of money spent at the port.

Hon. A. Burvill: And it is not nearly finished yet.

Hon. G. POTTER: Mr. Stewart will pardon me if I misunderstood his comment the other night.

Hon. A. Burvill: Where do the Fremantle Harbour Trust get their revenue?

Hon. G. POTTER: I will tell the hon. member in a minute. I gathered from Mr. Stewart that he complained that too much money had been spent on the Fremantle Harbour.

Hon. H. Stewart: Too little on the other harbours.

Hon. G. POTTER: I am glad that I understand the hon. member now. I will support him and other members in their efforts to bring about the development of the other harbours of the State. But as a representative of a primary producing area the hon. member will appreciate this fact, that once produce is at the wharf, it behoves the Harbour Trust to see that it is handled properly and that it is got away promptly. I have just looked up some of the Fremantle Harbour Trust figures from the inception of the Board, and find that they make illuminating reading. Since the Harbour Trust first came into existence 22 years ago they have paid in interest no less a sum than £1,218,183; to sinking fund £320,193; to renewal fund £36,688; to Consolidated Revenue directly £778,013; to the Treasury as a recoup for special advances £112,944, making a grand total of £2,466,023. These formidable

figures demonstrate two things, the volume of business that has passed through Fremantle harbour and the assiduity of the Trust Commissioners in preserving to the State the security of the money invested. Therefore, instead of being a drag upon the State, the Fremantle Harbour Trust have contributed materially to Consolidated Revenue.

Hon. H. Stewart: It would interest us if you gave us some of their expenditure figures.

Hon. G. POTTER: While they have undoubtedly collected very largely from primary producers, those primary producers cannot be blind to the fact that, had this money not been contributed to the revenue of the State, the State would not have been in a position to assist the producer in the way that he has deserved to be assisted. If we further examine in detail the various reports, we find that the increase shown in the financial statement is to-day just about five times what it was 20 years ago. If we follow the figures all the way along, we become impressed with the fact that development is being accelerated every year, and that it brings about with it an increased tonnage of ships and an increased handling of cargo. This augurs well for the expansion of the harbour. I understand that an eminent harbour expert will shortly be in our midst, to inspect our principal harbours, and therefore, at the present stage I have no wish to deal with the subject at any great length. I do, however, desire to say that the harbour should be extended and that the work that has been in progress has been necessarily very slow. It is essential for the Government to see that the Fremantle harbour and all the other harbours in the State as well, are kept up to date so that they may cope with the expanding trade that is going across the wharves. There is no doubt in my mind that when the visiting engineer is discussing the subject of harbour extensions the question of a dry or a graving dock will come under his notice. Possibly he will follow on the lines of the late C. Y. O'Connor. On reading that great engineer's reports it is quite evident that he visualised the provision of a dock of some description, because the Harbour Trust Commissioners must realise that to enable them to carry on their activities there must exist a dock of some kind. In dealing with the subject of a dock, I wish very reluctantly to take this opportunity of dispelling some misconceptions that

have arisen in respect of the attitude of the various members for Fremantle towards its provision. In what I am about to say I have the full concurrence of my colleagues. It has been stated that all the members for Fremantle have been careless in respect of their advocacy of a dock. That statement is most unwarranted. Of all the calumnies that public men have had hurled at them, this one in regard to the dock is the most unwarranted.

Hon. J. W. Kirwan: The members for Fremantle are responsible for a quarter of a million being thrown into the sea in connection with the construction of a dock there. It was sunk in a hole in the sea.

Hon. G. POTTER: So much for the money being thrown into a hole in the sea! Let me tell the hon. member that when I was a boy I heard a gold mine described as being a hole in the ground, owned by a liar. I am afraid that many thousands of pounds have been thrown into holes in the ground in the hinterland of this State. However, I hope that that money will be got out of those holes again.

Hon. J. W. Kirwan: Absolutely wasted a quarter of a million.

Hon. J. Duffell: Are you in favour of a dock for Kalgoorlie?

Hon. G. POTTER: Yes, and I would put the hon. member in charge of it. While Mr. McCallum was recuperating his health, members were very active in expressing their views regarding the need of a dock at Fremantle. Others also referred to the necessity for it, and a gentleman made the statement that I complained of. He was acting in some degree as agent for the vendors of a dock. Like the great public spirited man that he is, he subordinated his own personal prospects to those of the State by advising members not to proclaim too loudly the existence of this dock that was available. The fact was known to all members of Parliament and to the Government, but if the vendors in the Old Country knew that there existed a desire for the actual purchase of the dock, then the price would immediately go up, and Western Australia would suffer. That gentleman, of course, was to be commended for the attitude that he took. Mention has been made of the catastrophe in losing so much money in connection with the previous attempt to establish a dock. Of course, that was most regrettable. It does not mean that for all time Fremantle must be without a dock, and that Western Australia

lia must lose prestige through being unable to tackle any shipping that comes to its shores.

Hon. A. Burvill: A dock could be built at Albany for a quarter of the price.

Hon. G. POTTER: What sort of a dock would it be? If the hon. member was trying to place his best goods in a window, would he place them where very few people would see them? The place for the dock is where it will have the greatest patronage.

Hon. H. Stewart: The place is where the fleet could get in. The "Repulse" could not get into Fremantle.

Hon. G. POTTER: Why, the "Repulse" was lying at the North Wharf, and was brought in under her own steam. A matter of nearly as much importance to Fremantle is that connected with the storm water difficulty. This annoys people every winter, just as the shortage of water annoys them in the summer.

Hon. H. Stewart: Could not the municipality deal with that?

Hon. G. POTTER: It desires to do so. It is felt that this dual control is not fair to the ratepayers. It is often necessary for the Fremantle Council to do something which is opposed to their municipal conscience, namely, to tax people for services they do not enjoy, or to ask them to pay twice for the services that are inadequate. About 18 years ago the Government constructed four drains in Fremantle, and the cost debited against that work was £29,000. Last year the Government collected on account of this £2,600. The Fremantle municipality cannot altogether reconcile this cost with their own opinions. The cost is very much at variance with the estimate of their own engineer, Mr. Haynes, who is recognised as one of the ablest engineers in Australia. The council naturally hesitate, when they find these enormous charges coming in every year for work which could have been completed more cheaply under their own control, to accept that figure. Under the Act all Governments levy a storm water rate of 5d. in the pound on the rateable value of the properties within a watershed. If the whole of Fremantle were supplied with storm water drainage the difficulty would not be so acute. In this case we have the spectacle of a large watershed sometimes converging to a small place. A small drain could be built to cater for the requirements of the large watershed. In a case like that the Government will build a drain at a low capital cost and tax the whole

of the large watershed. In another case, where there is a small watershed and a long drain is required, involving considerable capital expenditure, they do not concern themselves about it, but leave it to the municipality.

Hon. J. Duffell: That is not peculiar to Fremantle.

Hon. G. POTTER: No. Recently Bate-man's warehouse at Fremantle was surrounded, like an island, with 6 inches of water, but this firm had to pay 5d. in the pound storm water rates. It is most unfair and unjust. The municipal council are anxious that the Government should permit them to purchase the stormwater system at a fair cost.

Hon. J. Duffell: Fremantle gets more from the Government than any other municipality.

Hon. G. POTTER: They are not asking for anything for nothing. They have the money in their hands and want to buy, and nothing could be more equitable. Another matter of grave importance concerns the environs of Fremantle. Land drainage is mentioned amongst the forecasted legislation, but I do not know what the Bill will contain. Between Fremantle and the Peel Estate stands a large area of swamp land. There is a chain of swamp lands extending as far as Bunbury, but I am not conversant with that. I am, however, conversant with the valuable asset the State is losing through not draining the swamp lands between Fremantle and the Peel Estate.

Hon. J. Duffell: The Government cannot drain the lot in a short period.

Hon. G. POTTER: No, but the sensible thing to do would be to start the job at one end and finish at the other, instead of starting in the middle and working both ways. The last administration promised that something of this nature would be done. I hope the Government will take up the matter, not in a piecemeal fashion, but will provide some co-ordinated scheme. Those people who have suffered so long will then be able to enjoy some means of earning a livelihood. I would not like country members to think I am insensible to the necessities of other parts of the State. I am prepared to pay this tribute to the gold mining industry, and say that had it not been for it Fremantle and the other coastal towns would not have assumed the importance in the scheme of things that they undoubtedly have to-day. Had those hardy

pioneers of the gold mining industry not discovered gold, and had they not displayed the courage they undoubtedly did display, we should not be as important as we are. I hope that one result of the labours of the Disabilities Commission will be the granting of the gold bonus to the mining industry, and giving to it of some small compensation. No compensation can be big enough compared with the losses that have occurred. We are not insensible to the depredations made in the gold mining industry of the State by the Commonwealth during the war. Other primary producers have been able to recoup themselves to a large extent for their added expenditure, but the gold mining industry has been left with a burden to carry that is so great that only substantial assistance can compensate it in some slight degree, and prevent it from being wholly extinguished. We must possess ourselves in patience regarding the legislation forecasted in the Speech, and wait to ascertain whether the Bills turn out to be geese or swans. I hope when the Minister for Works is recasting the charges under the Traffic Act he will bear in mind the difficulties from which owners of various vehicles of transport have to suffer to-day. It was not anticipated, when the Act governing this phase of transportation was brought down, that the result would be so disastrous. Many people are utterly unable to pay the enormous charges inflicted upon them. These are not confined to one means of transportation alone. Those who depend upon horse vehicles are harder hit than any. They have to stand up against the inroads of the more modern means of transport. Horse drivers have practically to take the leavings of those who conduct motor transportation. The regrettable feature is that those owning horses are not using the main roads, to which the traffic fees are applied, in a measure commensurate with the fees charged. The Act has a duration only until the 31st December next, and I hope the Minister, when recasting this legislation, will bear in mind the difficulties that have been undergone. In speaking for some of those people who have been heavily pressed, may I express their gratitude to the Minister for the kindly sympathy he extended to them in promising to do what he can to enable them to pay the fees in two moieties. This would give them some breathing space. It is a matter of great regret

that the progress of our secondary industries is so inordinately slow. The development of these industries must first be contingent upon our getting the necessary population, so that there will be a home market for the resultant products. No doubt some of the evidence which was given before the Disabilities Commission will keep in the forefront the difficulties that traders and secondary industries generally suffer as a result of the unfair and unjust competition of the Eastern States. By virtue of the Australian constitution this is unavoidable. There is no doubt that goods are dumped into this State. Not only are we faced with the utmost difficulty in establishing new industries, but we are faced with the spectacle of our established industries struggling for mere existence. Not only must we think of those organisations that have risked their money in establishing secondary industries here, but of the fact that the failure to achieve the necessary development is reflected in the lack of avenues for employment for our young people who are reaching manhood and womanhood. I hope that through the establishment of the Muresk Agricultural College the Government will be able to bring about some easement in the position. It is a good thing to instil into the minds of these young men an appreciation of the conditions they will enjoy on the land and not teach them under conditions likely to render farming life obnoxious to them from the very outset.

Hon. J. Nicholson: Could that possibly be done if you had a man appointed not possessed of all those qualifications?

Hon. G. POTTER: The principal of an agricultural college, I should think, would be an agricultural expert.

Hon. J. Nicholson: Not a school master.

Hon. G. POTTER: Certainly not.

Hon. H. Stewart: He should be a scientifically trained graduate of a university having practical experience in farming work.

Hon. G. POTTER: That is so. I hope the Government will give serious attention to the question of apprentices. It is disastrous to continue under our existing conditions with so many young men finding themselves in a blind avenue, having to become labourers because there are no other positions open to them. Failing that they drift to the Eastern States where there are big factories. Thus it is that we are sending

away many of those we can ill afford to lose. The Government are to be complimented upon the appointment of Mr. Acting Justice Davies to the position of President of the State Arbitration Court. Since his appointment he has had a particularly strenuous time and has discharged his duties in the admirable way we would expect from a gentleman of his attainments and assiduity. It is all the more regrettable therefore to see the fruits of his labours lost and all the wisdom and energy brought to bear by him on his duties set at naught. That is most lamentable and should be guarded against in the future. No doubt any president of an arbitration court would be concerned when he saw his awards flouted, particularly after he had spent weary weeks in an endeavour to arrive at a solution fair to the parties concerned and the public as well. The work of the Arbitration Court has been negatived because of a few militants who thought they were Heaven-born geniuses capable of defying the laws of the land and having their own way. The worst of it was that they received support.

Hon. J. R. Brown: The reason why such things happen is that you do not give the Arbitration Court power to enforce their own awards.

Hon. G. POTTER: We have to take the law as it is; it is there to be obeyed. No one can deny that the law was flouted time and again during the recent strike of hotel and restaurant employees. A strike is an illegal thing. In this instance those concerned in the strike accentuated their wrongdoing by standing at the doors of premises and preventing the public from going about their business. Surely it is not right that people engaged in an illegal act should have the protection of the police force. Hon. members know that it is entirely wrong. If picketing is legal, let us consider the position. I understand that pickets are appointed by a union to see that members of its organisation do not go back to a workshop or factory that is under the ban. I do not know that anything has happened that justifies the action of pickets in preventing people from conducting their business. I do not blame the police. If a constable is engaged in investigating a crime, he usually looks for someone a little higher up. Thus in this instance it is not to the policeman who moved the crowd but left the pickets alone, to whom we must look, but to those

who were responsible for giving him his orders. If a policeman makes a mistake he is dealt with trenchantly.

The Honorary Minister: Did you wish to see blood shed during the strike?

Hon. G. POTTER: I have seen too much blood shed to desire to see any more. The blood I saw shed was for the purpose of maintaining law and order and to secure justice for all the people. While it is true that this strike was a bloodless affair—

Hon. A. J. H. Saw: It was because of the anaemic action of the Government.

Hon. G. POTTER: If this sort of thing is to continue, justice will become not only a blind, but an anæmic figure indeed. If a constable makes a mistake, he is dealt with firmly. Recently the papers contained headlines referring to a police sensation. The report dealt with the dismissal of a constable and when the report was read it was seen that the head-lines were not "scare-heads" and the language used was not extravagant. I refer to the discharge from the force of Police Constable Lambert. Brief reports have been published in the Press. Nearly every resident of Fremantle knows and respects this constable. In the exercise of his duty, in the opinion of a superior officer, he made a mistake.

Hon. E. H. Gray: A serious mistake too.

Hon. G. POTTER: Accepting it that he made a serious mistake and failed in his duty, would it not be fair to give him an opportunity to defend himself and to state his case. A constable may be called upon to take a most hardened criminal and shelter him from the reach of the mob. He places him in a position to secure justice. When the constable himself is in trouble, however, he is denied the right to defend himself and justify himself in the eyes of the public. It is a small thing that Constable Lambert asks for. He merely desires to state his case before a board as provided under the Police Act. Such boards comprise a magistrate, a justice of the peace, and an officer of the police force. Constable Lambert is prepared to place himself in the hands of such a body, and is it fair, right or just that he should be denied it? He has a perfect claim upon the Government to see that justice is done to him. It must be remembered that a man in his position is harder hit than would be a man working in an engineering shop, a carpenter or any other artisan because such workers could go elsewhere and get similar

jobs. In Lambert's case, however, there is no other police force to which he can transfer his abilities. To be discharged from the police force carries with it a stigma making it impossible for him to get work elsewhere. Surely the Government will listen to the claim of this man to have such a board appointed. We do not ask that Lambert shall be reinstated at once; we merely ask for him to have the opportunity to put his case before a board.

Hon. J. Nicholson: The board might say that it was an honest case of mistaken identity.

Hon. G. POTTER: Yes, and the peculiar part is that Lambert was not the only policeman who made the same mistake, but he is the only member of the force who was punished. That is where the grievous injustice is made the more glaring. I wish to refer to a matter that is of great interest to fathers, mothers, daughters, and sons of returned soldiers. It must have come as a great shock to the susceptibilities of those who are in sympathy with the returned soldiers and what they stand for, when it was discovered that such men were debarred from taking part in a time-honoured institution. At the request of certain people they had been accustomed to delivering short lecturettes in the schools on Anzac Day. It has been stated that it was not desired that the children should listen to inflammatory speeches. Who would be less likely to deliver inflammatory speeches on the subject of warfare than returned soldiers? Surely they would be less likely to contaminate the minds of those young innocent people regarding the horrors they themselves had faced, than possibly, other people. After all, the Education Department were very careful in the selection of people who delivered the addresses to children. As a matter of fact those people were mostly invited at the request of local parents and citizens' associations, the members of which comprise for the most part the fathers and mothers of the children themselves. Surely those people would not agree to anyone speaking who would poison the minds of their young folk. Then again the head master of a school would probably be the final determining authority as to who was to speak. When one school teacher asked me to deliver an address I asked him why he did not do it himself. His reply was that he was with the children every day; whereas if I would agree to ad-

dress them, my words would impress them more than if they were uttered by one who was not a stranger to them. We do not associate the Colonial Secretary personally with such an action as this, but rather do we associate him with the energetic steps he took in an endeavour to have the soldiers' mental home erected. There the Colonial Secretary was in his natural element, doing something to assist those who, as the result of their having defended their country, cannot now assist themselves. For his efforts in that direction he will carry the undying gratitude of all returned soldiers.

HON. F. E. S. WILLMOTT (South-West)
[5.45]: His Excellency's Speech contains many matters on which I had intended to dilate at some length. However, since those questions will come before us in the shape of legislation I shall on this occasion confine myself to other matters. It is not before time that agricultural water supplies are being attended to. Members representing the eastern districts have been only too long aware that if we are to get the full value out of those great wheat areas the settlers must have stock, which involves the provision of water supplies and wire netting. I regret to have to inform members that despite all we have heard about the great relief to be given to settlers in respect of wire netting through the big Federal grant there are about 400 applications awaiting approval, while there is practically no wire netting. The approval, of course, is no good without the wire netting. I trust that our Federal members will bestir themselves and see that we have a decent grant, at least £100,000 to start with, in order to enable us to supply wire netting to the settlers who require it. The twin subjects of main roads and the marketing of produce will come before us by-and-bye. As for traffic charges and pests, I was pleased to hear Mr. Potter declare his readiness to assist the people outback. He pointed out how the man on the back blocks was affected by dingoes and other pests. Of course that must be reflected on the people in the metropolitan area, or those of them who are not vegetarians—for about the only thing the dingo does not tackle are cabbages and other vegetables. To a large extent the price of meat has been affected by the enormous annual destruction wrought by dingoes. Then we have in much smaller numbers, but still in in-

creasing numbers, the fox. The rabbits do not trouble us so very much in my district, but no doubt the depredations made by those animals on the wheat areas are becoming very serious, with the result that wire netting is absolutely necessary. On the subject of land drainage I hope that we shall see in the near future, if not a complete drainage scheme, at all events, a definite plan of dealing with local drainage. At present we are working in a haphazard way, and if there be anything in the hundred and one complaints made to me we have our drainage started from the wrong end. So, when 15 or 20 miles of subsidiary drains are run into a main drain it is found that the main drain has no outlet and, in consequence, the last condition of the land is worse than the first. There can be no doubt we have started much of our drainage at the wrong end and drained certain lands to the great detriment of others at a lower level, which have been flooded as the result of the drainage starting at the wrong end. I trust that under the present Government we shall find very much better results from drainage. I was sorry to see there was no mention in the Speech of the very necessary Collie power scheme. For many years past we have heard Mr. Ewing advocating that scheme, and I had hoped it would be one of the principal items in the Speech. I am not going to dilate on it now, for I have no doubt that within a very few days we shall have a better opportunity. Still, I express my regret that the subject was not included in His Excellency's Speech. Mr. Potter put up a very good case for Fremantle, working the parish pump very well. Since he with others represents the chief port in the State I give him great credit for having done so. He threw out a little burley to keep us quiet and induce us to swallow the hook. But let me say that we coming from beyond the metropolitan area, consider ourselves not altogether without importance. There are the harbours of Geraldton, Bunbury, Busselton and Albany, not forgetting Esperance. Bunbury is the principal harbour in the South-West. Busselton of course, ships a good deal of timber, but Bunbury requires many facilities that it has not at present. As was pointed out by Mr. Potter, what is necessary for the expeditious and careful handling of fruit in Fremantle is equally important in Bunbury. I am sorry to say that this year we have exported only 29,000 cases of fruit

from Bunbury notwithstanding that Bridgetown alone sent away 150,000 cases, or about one-third of the total exported from Western Australia. That 150,000 cases did not include the output from the Manjimup district, nor that from the Preston line nor from Boyanup; so one can imagine the enormous number of cases that pass the port of Bunbury and go on to Fremantle. Probably that will be so for some years to come, but I hope that every year we shall have a greater number of cases exported from Bunbury. If Fremantle members want to keep their trade, they had better support Mr. Potter in respect of the erection of that cooling chamber on the Fremantle wharf. I have put up the scheme from time to time, and on one occasion I even went along with a proposition to find the money. However I was told that so much money had been spent on the freezing works at Robb's Jetty that there was none available for a cooling chamber on the wharf. It is only during the last few months that we have been able to cart over the road to Robb's Jetty at all. When, last season, we attempted it the road was so bad that the fruit was scattered over it from the lorries. It is altogether wrong that fruit sent to Fremantle for a certain boat, but shut out and having to wait a few days for another boat, should be sent all the way down to Robb's Jetty, only to be dragged back again. Every time you handle a case of fruit it costs money and, moreover, the fruit is deteriorated to the tune of 1s. per case. It costs quite a deal of money first to send fruit to Fremantle, and then to send it on to Robb's Jetty and drag it back again two or three days later. The trip to Robb's Jetty is nothing but a waste of money and of time.

Hon. J. Duffell interjected.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT: We are not asking for freezing works on the wharf. All we ask for is a chamber where we can keep our fruit at a temperature of 45 degrees.

Hon. J. Duffell: But is it not folly, since we have freezing works at Robb's Jetty?

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT: No, it is not folly. In time every inch of that freezing space at Robb's Jetty will be required. Another point: we want better transport facilities for our fruit. The hon. member declared that derogatory remarks as to the packing and grading of the fruit were frequently heard. I am a fruitgrower

and I export a few thousand cases every year, so I am in constant touch with the buyers in England and elsewhere. It is strange that I have received no letters of complaint, while, on the other hand, I have had many of congratulation.

Hon. E. H. Gray: You must be a good grower.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT: The point is this: if there be so many causes of complaint, would I not have heard of them? Last season we sent away 400,000 cases of fruit. Would it not be absurd to expect that amongst so many there should not be a few either ill-packed or not properly graded? I think we can congratulate ourselves on the very excellent quality of the fruit sent from Western Australia and on the way it is packed and graded.

Hon. E. H. Gray: You would not say that if you saw it being shipped.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT: I have seen thousands of case of fruit shipped. There has been this trouble, that fruit apparently in good condition when it left the orchard was found at Fremantle to be affected with bitter pit, owing to its being kept in the trucks in the blazing sun and delayed en route to the port. Inspection, however, is designed to detect that sort of thing and such fruit is justly rejected. It does not go to London. I have seen a large number of letters written to various growers congratulating them on the way the fruit was packed stating that the writers wished to deal with them again next season, and concluding with the hope that the growers were as satisfied with the prices realised as were the consignees with the fruit. We cannot desire anything better than that. Is it not strange that no attempt has been made so far to plant orchards on the groups, which are in the best fruit country in the State, far better than Bridgetown? The best fruit land in Australia is in our South-West. If we had another 20,000 acres of orchards bearing fruit, we would be in a much better position to-day. We would be handling for export not 400,000 cases, but four times that number, and we would be treated with deference instead of being condemned. We would be catered for in every possible way. We would have our own canning factories dealing with peats, and instead of importing all our cider from Tasmania, we would have factories here to produce it. We would have many things that we have not to-day, because we

are in too small a way of business. I hope that in the immediate future orchards will be planted on many of the groups. All the suitable country in the South-West should carry a small orchard. In some years an orchard does not pay. In the past fruit-growers have had rough spins now and again, but taking one year with another, it is a remunerative business. Otherwise I should not be in it. We have heard a great deal about the money paid by the port of Fremantle, and in Bunbury the other day we heard what that port paid. One would think that Bunbury was of very little importance. Yet it shipped 25,000 cases of fruit, 52,000 tons of wheat, 27,878 tons of coal, and 350,000 tons of timber. That for a small hokey-pokey out-of-the-way port is an excellent record. Given greater facilities, those figures would be enormously increased. I have been taken to task for venturing an opinion regarding the report of the Royal Commission on group settlements. I consider the report is like the curate's egg—good in parts.

Hon. J. Ewing: In very few parts.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT: But there is an element of truth in the report, and members who know the country as I do must admit it. I do not consider the report condemnatory of the South-West. If I thought it was so, I would have none of it. I would make it my business to travel through the State to point out that such was not merited. I would make it my business to write to friends and relations in England refuting the statement. But it is not so. The members of the Royal Commission went to the South-West to see things as they really were and what did they find? They found that we had embarked upon a huge scheme for settling people on the land: a scheme into which we were somewhat rushed without being prepared for it; a scheme so gigantic as had never been attempted here before. The result was that certain money had been wasted. Is that anything new? Members should cast their minds back to the time when we began to settle people on our wheat areas. Did we lose no money there? Did we make no mistakes? Did not the then inspectors instruct the men to clear the wodgil country because it was the most easily cleared, and did not they have to take the men off those blocks after all that money had been wasted, because a mistake had been made? Do we find people to-day going about proclaiming that our wheat areas are

useless or worthless or of no account because of those mistakes? No.

Hon. J. Ewing: Some people would have stopped the work there at that time.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT: Some people would do anything. I do not consider that the members of the Group Settlement Commission were people like that, or were anxious to stop the development of the South-West.

Hon. J. Ewing: From their report, it looks as if they were.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT: They have fulfilled a very useful function in pointing out the mistakes of the past, and thus giving the Government a chance to rectify them.

Hon. J. Ewing: I wish that was so.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT: It is so. The Commissioners consider that the scheme was launched without proper preparation. We know it was somewhat rushed. What is wrong with that recommendation? It is a palpable truth. Had we had more time, we could have made greater preparation. We could have built the railways first, and thus would have saved considerable expense and annoyance.

Hon. J. Ewing: It is a great blessing that the scheme was launched.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT: Of course it is. Had we had time to get the railways built first of all, we would have saved a great deal of money and a great deal of annoyance, but we had not the time to do that. There was an opportunity to get the people, and we got them. The Royal Commission, in stating that not more than 50 per cent. of the settlers will make good, are optimists, not pessimists. How many people who go into business in Perth succeed? Do 50 per cent. of them succeed? No. How can we expect to do any better when we settle people in the virgin forest, tackle in it its green state, not waiting for the cheaper time of the year in which to operate, namely, the summer, but working through the winter. If we get through with 60 per cent. of successes we shall have done marvellously well. The Royal Commission did not like some of the group members as settlers; they considered they would not be successful as farmers. I am of the same opinion. I am located right amongst the group settlers. I know some of them will never make farmers, but many of them will, and very successful farmers, too.

Hon. A. Burvill: The Royal Commission did not mention them.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT: There was no need to mention them because they will be there when the Royal Commission is dead, and when its report has been used for fire-lighting purposes. We do not need to worry about the successful settlers. The proof that they are making good is there for anyone to see.

Hon. J. Ewing: Why do the Royal Commission want to stop the group settlement scheme?

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT: I do not think they want to stop it. So far as I can gather they wish to see that the mistakes of the past are avoided in future. If they had anything else at the back of their minds, I have yet to discover it. The Royal Commission are right in many ways. I have a right to my opinion, and I intend to voice it, regardless of whom it pleases or displeases. In many instances the blocks are too small. When we find a man like Hugh Brockman, who has lived all his life—about 60 years—in the South-West, saying the same thing, well, if I am wrong I am erring in very good company. I do not think I am wrong.

Hon. H. Stewart: Did not the department act on the advice of Mr. Brockman?

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT: If the hon. member reads the evidence, he will find that in many instances Mr. Brockman recommended larger blocks, and that his recommendation was not adopted. I think it will be found necessary to set aside commonages for the groups only. We talk of dairying on the groups, but what are the group settlers going to do with their dry stock? What do the present settlers do with their dry stock? The bulk of them send their cattle to the coast for a change. I am going to give up that custom and so feed my stock as to make it unnecessary to send it to the coast, but to do that, I must have the requisite area of land to carry them. On the small areas provided under the group scheme, settlers will not be able to carry sufficient stock to make dairying profitable.

Hon. J. Duffell: You ought to read the report of the Milk Commission.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT: We are told that dairying is to be the mainstay of the groups. If that is so, it is not going to be the mainstay of the groups for a few days to come. It is necessary to learn to walk

before one can run. Before that country can be turned into beautiful dairy farms, it has to be civilised and cleared, planted with pastures and sweetened. When all that is done, the country will be an eye-opener. These results have been achieved by private individuals and will be achieved on the land within the group areas.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

HON. F. E. S. WILLMOTT: Before I mentioned that owing to lack of time it had not been possible to put out the railways which have since been built to enable the Government to get the settlers on their blocks more expeditiously, and also to convey by rail, instead of by other means of transport, all that was necessary for the great scheme. Undoubtedly many of the people who went on the groups in the early days, in that wet climate, had a good deal to put up with. They suffered privations which might have been avoided had more time been allowed. However, I do not know that it was altogether a bad thing for them. A man who is kept in cotton wool all the time becomes very soft. The early pioneers of Western Australia were certainly not kept in cotton wool. They put up with a hundred and one hardships which people to-day would not dream of attempting to put up with. The newcomers may be all the better for their experiences in the early days of group settlement. A peculiar feature of the scheme is the appointment of foremen and their duties. I am pleased to note that the Commissioners recognised the extraordinary nature of the position in which the foremen were placed. Take the case of a thoroughly competent foreman who has for many years been bossing big gangs of men having the power of dismissal; a foreman who is not a bully, but one who thoroughly understands how to get the best results out of men. Place such a foreman in charge of a group, and observe the peculiar character of his position. Naturally he is more than anxious to make a good show, to demonstrate that his group is doing good work, clearing blocks as cheaply as, if not more cheaply than, other blocks of similar country are being cleared. If he hustles his gang, some of the men will not like it, and perhaps will give impertinence. From my knowledge of gangers, they do not like too much impertinence. They do not mind a bit of rough back talk occasionally, but will not stand impertinence, especially when they

know they are only demanding a fair thing. In the first period of the groups they had the right of dismissal, but that system was found to work unsatisfactorily. During the later period the foremen only had the power of suspension. What has occurred is this: A foreman considers that a man should no longer be allowed to remain on the group. The man may be a loafer, or may be inciting others to loaf. Perhaps he is exceedingly impertinent, or possibly he has expressed himself in no uncertain language to the other groupies as one who is going to stay as long as it suits him and will then walk off the job. He may be a plausible person, and when suspended by the foreman may put up an excellent case to the officers sent to inquire, with the result that he is reinstated. Directly that man returns to the group, imagine the position of the foreman. I know a number of the foremen, and have discussed the situation with them. They have asked me how I would like it. My reply was, "How would it be to use a little persuasive force? When you know that a man wants to be cheeky can't you find him a one-man job and then express your views to him as we would have done in the good old days?" The rejoinder was, "If I did that, I would get the sack. The position is unbearable. They have already reinstated two men on my group, with the result that when I have given instructions for certain things to be done in a certain way, the men have told me they did not intend to do them that way." The final result is the statement in this report that the work as at present carried out costs far too much. I do not wonder at it. I do not quite see that we can give to foremen the full power to dismiss. It is too serious. Foremen are not infallible. A foreman may have had a good many trials on a certain day; for two or three days running his supplies may have been delayed; so he may have become irritable and disposed to deal too drastically with the men. On the other hand, I am as sure as that I stand here that to-day there is too much of this sort of thing going on: "If I want to hold my job as foreman, I have to be exceedingly lenient to the group I am bossing. If not, I will have to go. The department won't put the men off, and I can't sack them. There is only one thing to do—drift along and do the best I can." That is not a right position. The majority of the men on the groups are only too anxious to get on. After they have put in their eight hours, they will work round their little homes.

Hon. E. H. Gray: They intend to stop there.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT: Yes. Others, unfortunately, will not do a thing. They have no intention of remaining. Now, would it not better for some responsible officer to go into the matter with the senior foreman and the group foreman and say, "These men must go. Give the others a chance." There are on the groups men who are bound up body and soul with the enterprise, and are determined to see it through; men who say, "In spite of having loafers on this group, we are going to stick it out. We like the life." Let us do all that we can to help those men, and let us dispense with the man who is a trifier.

Member: Why not put the trifier on piecework?

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT: I am coming to that. I am pleased that in both the majority report and the minority report the Commissioners express the conclusion that sustenance as paid to-day has a bad effect on the receivers of the money. Both reports advocate piecework. It may be said, "You cannot work these new men on piecework." I say we can. They are demanding to be put on piecework to-day. I speak now of the genuine men. They believe that piecework will reduce their overhead costs considerably. As an hon. member said, "Piecework will very soon weed out the loafers." The foreman then would be in quite a different position. He would not be dealing with daywork men, but with piecework men, and could be their instructor and friend, showing them how to do their piecework jobs in the cheapest possible way.

Hon. J. Ewing: How about the new settler just coming in?

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT: I was a new settler once.

Hon. J. Ewing: How could you have a contract with a new settler?

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT: I took on a contract at boring posts, and the price per hundred was one for which a man to-day would not bore ten holes. Yet I made good money. I landed here a young fellow straight from an English college, never having done a day's work in my life, but having devoted my attention to all sorts of sports, rowing, football, cricket, fives, and every other game that an English public schoolboy spends his time on, very often time that should be devoted to study. I came

out here, and I am only a little runt of a man now; I am only half the size of half the Australians that one sees. But, still, I held my end up. Although I had never done a day's work before, I found that by using my brains, and by taking a little advice from those who knew better than myself, I could do quite well. And others can do that now. It will make them more self-reliant, better men and better citizens in every respect. I am pleased that the Commission also report the following:—

Your Commissioners found the successful settlers in the district, with very few exceptions, to be those engaged in producing fruit.

I hope the Government will take notice of that sentence, and will see that on suitable lands these people are started with small orchards. As time goes on the orchards will come into bearing, making a nice little addition to the incomes of the settlers. Last week Mr. Ewing and I attended a conference in Bumbury, and I was rather struck with some evidence given there. A settler said that as a sideline he kept a few fowls, with results very satisfactory indeed. He had 400 fowls and bought all the food that they consumed. That was only a sideline and at the end of the year it showed him a profit of £163. I strongly recommend that the people on the groups keep a few fowls.

Hon. H. J. Yelland: Where did he dispose of his produce?

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT: In the metropolitan area, and some of it went to England through the ordinary channels. I had something to do with that man going on the land, and it now comes to my memory that those who had the say-so were not too favourably impressed with him. They did not think he was the type of man with sufficient experience to make good. However, I happened to know something about him and was able to say what he had done in the past. Then he was given a chance, and he has taught a great many people down there a great deal more than they ever knew before he appeared on the scene. He is an Australian and is one of the best settlers we have. Out of the Group Settlement Commission's report I can read something with which the members representing the South-West will be in accord with me. It says—

The South-West however offers to these settlers the undoubted advantage of cheap land and an entire absence of drought, a mild climate subject to no extremes of either heat or cold.

That is not condemnatory. It is the truth. I say in all sincerity that you can travel in any part of the world and I doubt whether you will ever find such a climate as we have in the South-West. If we go to the Eastern States we get the extremes. They certainly have advantages in the way of summer rains and volcanic soil, and together with their great population and their wealth they have developed into the big bullies of Australia. Therefore we little chaps over here have to knuckle down. But the time will come, and my sons will see that time, when it will be possible for us to give them back some punches. We are told what the climate is like and what the rainfall is like. You can take it from me also that there are hundreds of thousands of acres of beautiful soil. Of course throughout Western Australia the soil is good and bad. I speak with knowledge because I have travelled over the greater part of the State with the exception of the Kimberleys. I can say that the good soil in the South-West predominates. We have there beautiful running streams and very deep soil, and at the present time fairly reasonable transport. On that subject I would like to inquire the reason for the delay in taking over the line from Jarnadup to Pemberton. Authority was given by Parliament and it should have been acted upon long ago. I hope the Leader of the House will give us an explanation as to the reason for the delay.

Hon. A. Burvill: Why was that matter not referred to the Commission?

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT: Probably they did not know of the authorisation by Parliament. Let me quote further from this supposed condemnatory report—

In visiting the various groups your Commissioners have taken every opportunity of inspecting the crops and pastures and have been struck by the splendid results that have been obtained with clovers over a wide range of soils and conditions. The ease with which these have been established on new and roughly tilled lands provide the most encouraging aspect of dairy farming that we have seen. The results on the better class of light soils in the Busselton-Margaret-Augusta area appear to be equally as good as those on the heavier soils of Manjimup, Jarnadup, and Pemberton.

Is there anything condemnatory about that?

Hon. J. Ewing: That is where they contradict themselves.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT: I hope that if ever anyone is called upon to report on

my property, should I want to sell it, that the report will be as favourable. I shall then be perfectly satisfied.

Hon. H. J. Yelland: Then why the minority report?

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT: We shall see how much difference there is between the majority and the minority reports. I am of the opinion that although somewhat condemnatory, the report does not condemn the land, though it in some ways condemns the financial side of the undertaking.

Hon. J. Ewing: The people in the district regard it as condemnatory.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT: Exactly, because they have not read it. They could not have read it because it was not available until the House met. The people had not seen it unless they got hold of the report that was surreptitiously published in the Press.

Hon. J. Ewing: It was all published in the Press.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT: Nothing of the kind. Look at the size of it. When one takes up the report, is he only going to read the report itself or the report and evidence. The evidence is the most important part of it. A man with any brains at all can read the evidence and judge for himself. We have published the evidence of men who own every stick and stone on their properties. And their evidence is to what effect? That the scheme is all right but that certain alterations may be necessary regarding the financial side. On the subject of the administration there is the evidence of theoretical men who know absolutely nothing about the subject. I ask members whether as men representing the whole of Western Australia in this Chamber, are they so deficient of brains that they are going to take the evidence of those who are theoretical and not practical men, and are unable to judge as to the fitness of the scheme so far as the South-West is concerned. I have taken the report outside and laughed at the extraordinary statements it contains and wondered how on earth any men could make such unutterable asses of themselves by writing those worthless, utterly untrue and utterly condemnatory statements. What brain power men require to write that kind of stuff! When one goes on to study the report and then

reaches the summary what does he find? The summary sets out—

The better class of lands of the South-West are suitable for dairying and mixed farming and can be put under pasture at a cost which will allow dairying to be profitably carried on.

There is nothing wrong with that. It is the truth.

A considerable area of poor land unsuitable for the purpose has been utilised for group settlement.

That is true too.

Hon. J. Ewing: What is poor land?

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT: We have rich land and poor land. It is not worthless land; it is called poor land because it will not produce as much as other land. What do the Commission say about that land? That had the occupants been sufficiently trained they would be in a different position to-day, and it might have altered the tone of the report. I thoroughly agree with that. I have already told the House how some drainage work was carried out, that it was commenced at the wrong end and the country was flooded. I am of the opinion that a great deal of the poor land will be found to be very valuable as time goes on. We have proved that in many places in the South-West, and that it will grow clovers in a most extraordinary way with the aid of superphosphate. We have proved that the cold clay flats that a few years ago were regarded as utterly worthless are capable of producing good grasses. These flats have a good deal of sand through them and are good holding ground in summer, with the result that astonishing crops can be grown. We know, of course, why all the first-class country was not settled. It was because of the friction between the Forestry Department and the Lands Department. The Forestry Department refused to make land available, with the result that other land had to be taken over. It may yet be proved that it was just as well that that happened. What is a paltry few thousand pounds if it turns out that we have another million acres of land at one time considered practically worthless which can be turned to useful account. The Commission say—

The sustenance provisions of the scheme have had a demoralising effect upon the settlers and have been the chief cause of the high cost of group work.

I do not like the scheme myself and I think it will be found that the other scheme will be of inestimable benefit not only to the settlers but to the State. We now come to other recommendations of the majority report. They say—

That group membership be confined to settlers who have passed through a period of preliminary training.

The minority report is said to disagree with the majority report. It says—

Group members should be confined to settlers who have passed through a period of preliminary training.

Where does the difference come in? The majority report says—

That the whole work of preparing the farms be completed under piece work.

The minority report says—

In view of the large amount of State funds involved, and the unsatisfactory result of the sustenance system, the existing groups be brought under the contract conditions at once.

They are both agreed upon these points. Let me now take another from the majority report—

That for the purpose of providing training for settlers, group areas in each district be conducted as training camps while the farms upon them are being prepared, and that the Imperial Government be invited to approve of such camps as training farms under the new agreement.

The minority report says—

For the purpose of providing training for settlers, group areas in each district be conducted as training camps, while the farms upon them are being prepared, and that the Imperial Government be invited to approve of such camps as training camps under the new agreement.

It is the same thing. The majority report goes on—

Groups be settled only upon carefully selected areas which will provide each location with at least 100 acres of first class land.

The minority report says—

Groups be settled only upon carefully selected areas that will provide each location with at least 100 acres of first class land.

Hon. H. J. Yelland: Does every one of the recommendations of the minority report correspond in the same way with those of the majority report?

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT: I have read out every recommendation of the majority report, but not every one of the minority report?

Hon. H. A. Stephenson: Why not?

The PRESIDENT: I do not think time will permit of your reading everything in the report.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT: I have read out everything recommended by the majority report, and everything concerning those particular recommendations contained in the minority report.

Hon. H. J. Yelland: Because they agree.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT: They do agree. The minority report has excellent matter in it as well. The report is unanimous so far as certain recommendations are concerned. I do not consider it condemnatory. A great deal of the evidence is worthless. Anyone going down there for the first time is likely to be frightened by the gigantic task undertaken by the State in subduing that huge territory.

Hon. J. Ewing: And they would be frightened by this report, too.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT: If we take this report and pick at it here and pick at it there, we can turn it into a condemnatory report, but if we read it as I do, and take it by and large, we can only arrive at the conclusion that, although it is somewhat drastic concerning the methods of administration, it absolutely speaks the truth about the land. It lauds the land and it is land that deserves to be lauded to the skies. It points out that a considerable amount of money has been spent and will be spent, and it advises how this shall be done, how the State funds shall be conserved in the opinion of members of the Commission. I have no fault to find with the report. In certain instances the Commission would have done well to have told witnesses in as polite language as possible that they did not know what they were talking about, and then dispensed with them. On the other hand, undoubtedly they were right in taking evidence from men who have put in the whole of their lives there. There is a most extraordinary improvement in the methods adopted to-day in our group settlements as compared with those adopted when the scheme was first started. This shows that we are profiting by experience. The groups now being formed at Hester are groups to be proud of. The work is being carried out expeditiously. I do not give this Government any credit for that, any more than I would condemn the Labour Government for the trouble we had in the early stages. Had the Labour Government been in power in the beginning it would not have been fair to saddle them

with the blame. The Government have now profited by the experience of the years that have gone by.

Hon. E. H. Gray: The Labour Government have gone pat on it.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT: I am glad to know that. The groups are doing the work more economically than it was done before. We can now go one better. We can appoint advisory boards to assist those in control of the scheme, to show them where they have made mistakes, and how they can avoid them in the future. I refer to advisory groups of local men who have been successful there and know the business from beginning to end. They could meet at short periods and consult with the senior foreman or controller on the spot. There would require to be one board for the country around Bridgetown, another for that around Manjinnup, and another for the Margaret. I do not say they should have power to expend State funds, but surely members can see what advantage would be gained by having, say, three men on each of these advisory boards advising the senior foremen of better, quicker and cheaper methods of handling timber, and many other methods which experience has proved to be right. It nearly broke my heart when I first went to the Margaret River country to see good timber wasting on the groups. It was scandalous. The people were using gelignite to blow up logs I could carry away on my back. Half-a-dozen cuts with a decently sharp axe would have felled the tree which they were blasting with gelignite.

Hon. E. H. Gray: The foremen must have been incompetent.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT: Perhaps they did not know. Furthermore, the most beautiful jarrah trees that would have made excellent timber were also being blasted. I am pleased to say that at last we have come to our senses and are calling for tenders for timber on the various groups. We are getting a nice royalty of 25s. per load in the round and 35s. per load in the square. We are in a most extraordinary position to-day. Some years ago Parliament decided that the there were jarrah trees there would be sleeper cutter must go. I said in another place the whole idea was wrong, that while sleeper cutters. Other people who did not know as much about the business as I did said that small spot mills would fill the bill, and would cut all the timber that the hewer was dealing with. They knew nothing about

it. If there is one thing that is difficult it is to make a spot mill pay. If the timber is not first class a spot mill will never pay. Every time the saw runs through a log it has to turn out profitable timber, or at the end of the day there has been a loss. A big mill can deal with all sorts of timber, and can afford to see a certain percentage go into the fire heap that a spot mill cannot afford. Where there is sparse jarrah country and the trees are far apart and not of good quality for milling, there is only one way to deal with it and that is per medium of a hewer. He is mobile. He takes his saw, his mallet, his wedges, and his broad axe and away he goes. The sleepers he cuts can be carried twenty miles from the fallen tree to the nearest railway siding. That could not be done in the case of a spot mill. It is necessary to have hewers. Owing to that legislation, however, we have not sufficient of these men. No one who, prior to a certain date, did not hold a license, can hold a license to-day. A man can get a faller's license to cut timber on the group areas, but cannot get a hewer's license. When certain forest areas are put up to auction a man bids up to 35s. a load for the timber and then finds that, although he has a limited period in which to remove it, he cannot get a hewer because the men who are working on the group settlement lands on a faller's license cannot, under the forestry regulations, hew on forestry lands.

Hon. A. Burvill: Cannot that be altered?

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT: Only by Parliament. It is a ridiculous position and members opposite, who are practical, can see at once how necessary it is to alter the Act as early as possible. We should not give a license to men who will spoil timber. It should be left to the forestry officials to decide upon the efficiency of the men. They know them all, and can decide whether a man is worthy of a license. If a man is a wood spoiler I should be the last to expect him to get a license. We have good men in the bush, however, who should be allowed to carry a license. A discussion such as this upon the report of the Royal Commission can only lead to good results. It will be found that the more we probe into Western Australia, the more good shall we find in it. The deeper we delve, the better we like it and the result will be that out of something that at the time raised a storm, much good will come. Attention will be drawn to

the South-West, and people with money, as well as those without it, will go down into that country about which there has been so much talk. Those people will immediately invest because there is no better investment to-day than our South-Western lands.

HON. E. H. HARRIS (North-East [S.16]): His Excellency's Speech indicates the continued increase of revenue and the reduction of the deficit. That fact reminds us of the words of Sir James Mitchell last session when he said:—

I am justified in saying we have turned the corner. There is daylight ahead. The worst is over.

The accuracy of Sir James Mitchell's forecast is amply borne out by the information placed before the House. The later statement regarding the financial position justified him in expressing such an opinion less than a year ago. The revenue for the year constituted a record and that also applied to the expenditure. The present Treasurer seems to be like all other Treasurers; he spends all the money he can lay his hands on. There is a spirit of optimism right throughout the Speech which, I think, is warranted, because records have been achieved in several of the Government departments. Owing to the bountiful harvest, the revenue from the railways has been buoyant and additional demands upon the electricity supply make necessary the addition of another unit at the East Perth power station. It would have been wise on the part of the Government had they considered installing the additional unit so that they could use oil instead of coal. By using coal exclusively at East Perth we have to rely upon coal alone. Should any industrial trouble arise we may be at the mercy of the coal owners. On the other hand, if provision were made for the use of oil in the additional unit, it might be of great advantage to the Government in an emergency. Increases are also recorded in the Forests Department and in connection with the pastoral industry as well. Many things have been placed before us for consideration, and it is for the public to estimate what degree of credit is due to the Mitchell Administration and to the Collier Administration respectively, for such an achievement. I note the legislation that is to be placed before us during the session, and I am satisfied that we shall have plenty of work ahead of us before the

recess. I wish to refer to the mining industry which has done so much for the progress of Western Australia. The few remarks in the Governor's Speech having reference to the mining industry make depressing reading indeed. This industry has played an important part in the welfare of the State, yet at the present time there are, roughly speaking, not more than 20 mines occupied in active mining and milling operations. They have been adversely affected by the onerous charges levied upon the industry in various ways, both by the Federal Government and also by the State. After the declaration by the present Government that special consideration would be given to the mining industry, which, as the Premier stated, was so neglected, we naturally thought that proposals would be advanced for the benefit of gold mining, such as would galvanise interest in the industry. The assistance accorded the industry during the time the Government have been in office has been of a very limited description. First they granted relief in taxation paid by prospectors and during last session the relief granted did not come up to expectations. We thought the Government would have granted relief to the extent of that provided by the Federal Government, for the State has more to gain than has the Commonwealth. In granting that relief last session, however, the Government indicated that it was as high as they could go at the time. The Government abolished the fine on late payment of lease rents. That has meant a few shillings only to a small number of prospectors, who were not able to pay their fees and rents at the proper time. The Government too have continued assistance to prospectors. Last session, however, we passed a Bill for the creation of mining boards that were to take the place of prospecting boards. The only difference was that the Government were to pay the expenses of the mining boards whereas the work of the prospecting boards was done voluntarily. That measure has not been proclaimed yet for reasons that are unknown to us, and what particular advantage it may prove to be to the industry remains to be seen. The Government also removed encumbrances on leases under the Mining Development Act except as regards machinery held on mortgage. Under the old conditions men could not work such ground unless they took over the responsibility for the mortgage on machinery on

the ground. That necessity has been lifted now. However, that is a matter of small importance; such circumstances may occur infrequently. Then we were promised a geological survey of the goldfields areas, but the report of the Mines Department shows that nothing more has been done than is usual annually. We were to be granted relief on account of railway freights. The present Minister for Mines, when speaking regarding railway freights, said that the industry was being destroyed by excessive railway freights charged on mining requisites. A few weeks back the Government altered the rates charged on commodities carried over the agricultural and goldfields railways. I understand it is their intention to relieve the railway freights to the extent of the money received from land taxation, and the proportion to be applied to the goldfields operations runs out at about £11,000. If hon. members take the quantity of ore crushed for 1924, namely, 783,760.30 long tons, they will see that the relief works out at something under 3d. per ton. Another matter refers to the transport of ore for prospectors in the out-back districts. This has helped a limited number of men, but these things represent the relief afforded the mining industry by a Government from whom we expected something better! Is that the degree of assistance to be rendered to the industry with a view to re-vitalising it? The sentiment expressed was that if they came to the assistance of the industry the Government would re-vitalise mining activities. Yet we find the few small items I have referred to appear to be the limit to which the Government will go. Reference to the mining industry in the Governor's Speech contains the following:—

Every possible assistance has been rendered to the industry by the Government, and the report of the Royal Commission on the mining industry is now receiving the serious consideration of my Ministers.

If what I have outlined is the best the Government are capable of doing to assist the industry, not much will be accomplished to raise the industry from its condition of uncertainty and despair. The owners of the big mines in the State have not altogether lost interest in the mines, but owing to the limited avenues available of making profits in connection with the mining industry, they have certainly lost a good deal of that interest. The Federal Government appointed the Western Aus-

tralian Disabilities Commission to find out what adversely affected this State with a view to rendering assistance. We thought that in the case put up by the State Government some special mention would be made of the gold bonus. When the State put up its case, those associated with the mining industry decided to ask the Commission for a bonus of £1 per ounce on gold produced in Western Australia. It was remarkable that that proposal was not deemed worthy of mention in the Governor's Speech. Cabinet includes several Ministers representing goldfields constituencies, and yet we find that it was not until the Federal Commission had left Western Australia that Ministers expressed views in favour of that very important proposal. Nothing was said by the Government to the Commission in support of the proposal. I should like to hear from the Leader of the House why the Government have been silent on this point. On the 30th April, 1925, Mr. Hickey, then Acting Minister for Mines, made an official statement on behalf of the Government, from which I quote the following extracts—

Cabinet has given consideration to the request made on behalf of the combined gold mining industry for the payment by the Federal Government of a bonus of £1 per ounce on standard gold produced in Australia for a specified term of years. The position of the industry was reviewed at length and its relationship to the welfare of the State in particular, and the Commonwealth generally, was considered. The pronounced decline in the gold output over recent years gave the Western Australian people real cause for alarm, and it was a matter for great regret that the severe economic conditions coming in the wake of the war so severely penalised an industry of such vital importance to the wellbeing of the State—an industry to which we owe a lasting debt of gratitude for setting this country on its feet in the early days of our existence. On the other hand, the Government hold the opinion that the interests of the State will be served if some practical means can be found for bringing ore of a lower grade than is now payable into the reach of the enterprising prospector, miner and investor.

Here was an excellent opportunity to go before the Disabilities Commission and support the proposition for a bonus on gold that would bring the lower grade ore within the reach of enterprising prospectors and mine-owners! The statement continues—

Some form of substantial revival in gold mining realms is, therefore, greatly to be desired, and striven for, and any steps taken towards that end should be fully encouraged.

Here was a chance to encourage it! The statement reads—

In the opinion of the State Government, therefore, the bonus form of assistance direct to the gold mining industry and indirectly through it to the whole of the Commonwealth, is not only advisable, but is eminently equitable and just. The Government have given consideration to the question of granting a bonus on the gold produced in the State, but, owing to the financial stringency, are unable to carry that into effect.

Mr. Hickey, speaking on behalf of the Government, said that owing to financial stringency the State was unable to grant the gold bonus, but urged that it should be granted by the Commonwealth Government. The State Government could quickly demonstrate their sincerity, which is scouted in some quarters, in the contention that they consider the industry vital to the welfare of Western Australia, that to it they owe a lasting debt of gratitude, for they intimated in no uncertain language that failure on the part of the Commonwealth Government to grant the gold bonus asked for by those associated with the industry was regrettable. The Government also declared that on being relieved of the financial stringency by the Federal Government they would, to the extent of the relief, apply it to the gold mining industry and thereby give it a new lease of life. That would give the industry a new lease of life, and so would afford the Government an opportunity to emphasise the statement made after the Disabilities Commission had left Western Australia. Another matter to which I wish to refer is the failure on the part of the State Government to proclaim the Miners' Phthisis Act, passed in 1923. We want to know what the intentions of the Government really are. Last year we amended the Workers' Compensation Bill, in introducing which Mr. Drew very rightly said that the most important feature of the measure was the provision for the payment of compensation for occupational diseases. In his pre-election speech the Premier vehemently denounced the Mitchell Government for not having proclaimed the Act. They had put forward the excuse that it was of no use proclaiming the Act until the laboratory was completed. The building has since been completed, and Dr. Nelson took charge on the 13th January, 1925. The laboratory was officially opened on the 12th March of this year. But on the 30th Janu-

ary a proclamation appeared in the "Government Gazette" prescribing that the provisions of the Workers' Compensation Act in relation to mining, quarrying, or stonecutting or crushing should come into operation on the 1st March and be limited to the South-West district. This would permit the Act operating in respect of the men working in the lead mines at Northampton. The Government had definitely told the industrial workers that their sole aim and desire was to bring the Act into operation. Yet on the 27th February a further proclamation was issued withdrawing the area covered by the first, thus excluding from the provisions of the Act those working at mining, quarrying, or stonecutting or crushing. I should like to know why the Government, having granted relief to the men under the Workers' Compensation Act for occupational diseases, subsequently withdrew it from them. Let me draw attention to a speech by the Minister for Works, reported in the "Westralian Worker" of the 1st July, 1925. The Minister is reported to have said—

They had not been able to proclaim the Miners' Phthisis Act passed by the previous Government, because the mine owners had threatened to close down if that were done.

I have proved that they had proclaimed it for a portion of the State and then withdrawn it. The report continues—

Therefore the Government had brought out from London a man with a world-wide reputation in order to ascertain what the industry could carry in that respect.

The terms of the commission issued to Mr. Kingsley Thomas, the Royal Commissioner, bore no reference to finding out what the mine owners could bear in respect of miners' phthisis. However, this is a responsible Minister speaking, and these are the words he used—

They did not desire to rely merely upon the word of the Chamber of Mines. The Government now had not only the advice of the Royal Commissioner, Mr. Kingsley Thomas, but also that of another authority.

I should like the Colonial Secretary to indicate what other authority has been called in or is referred to in that speech by the Minister for Works. The report continues—

They had examined each side of the position and the Government now knew where they

were, and could say definitely to the mine owners just what they thought the position was and what the obligations of the mine owners were.

To workers in the mining industry those are statements of great importance, and anxiety is expressed as to when the Government are going to redeem the promise made that the Workers' Compensation Act would be put into operation. The Commonwealth Government sent over Dr. Nelson and other staff members to the laboratory in January last. The laboratory was declared open on the 12th March, and now the Minister for Works has been asking the Federal Government to put on three shifts of doctors in order that the number of men to be examined might be the more quickly handled. At present the staff is capable of examining five men per day. But had the Government proclaimed the Act when first the institution was officially opened, they could, at the rate of five men per day, have had 750 men examined by this time. The staff are still there waiting for the State Government to set them at the work for which they were appointed by the Federal Government. We have had a lengthy report on the mining industry by Mr. Kingsley Thomas in his capacity as Royal Commissioner. As pointed out by Mr. Willmott, when referring to the Group Settlement Commission's report, the evidence tendered is the most important part of the document. It contains a great deal of valuable technical information. I experienced some difficulty in getting a copy of the report and evidence. There are many students at the Kalgoorlie School of Mines and a great number of men on the various mining staffs, who are anxious to secure copies of this report and evidence. On inquiring at the Government Printing Office and the Mines Department I have been informed that the type has been destroyed and that only 500 copies of the evidence were printed. There are numerous copies of the report available, but the most important feature of the whole inquiry was the evidence, and that is not available to people who want it. In years to come when it is desired to make comparisons between the different processes and phases of treatment, the figures contained in the evidence will be invaluable. I have received many requests for copies of the evidence, and I

suggest that copies be made available for people in the industry desirous of having them.

On motion by Hon. J. Duffell, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 8.47 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 11th August, 1925.

	PAGE
Questions: Electricity Supply	172
Railways, C.O.D. system	172
Sweeps and lotteries	172
Pastoral lease, Belliluna Co.	172
Address-in reply, fifth day	173

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

QUESTION—ELECTRICITY SUPPLY.

Mr. NORTH asked the Minister for Railways:—1, What is the estimated consumption in units of electricity for the present financial year in the metropolitan area? 2, What is the minimum point of consumption at which, in the opinion of the Minister and his officers, it would be economically sound to transmit a bulk supply of current from Collie, utilising the East Perth power house merely as a stand-by or to assist in meeting the peak load? 3, How long is it estimated that the construction and installation of the main Collie to Perth high tension scheme, including the provision of a main power house, would take to inaugurate and complete?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, 48,000,000 kilowatt hours. 2, The technical considerations are such—in a scheme of the magnitude of generating and transmitting power from Collie—that the point of consumption is not the influencing factor. 3, Three years.

QUESTION—RAILWAYS, C.O.D. SYSTEM.

Mr. A. WANSBROUGH asked the Minister for Railways: 1, Has any report been made by the departmental officers upon the C.O.D. system recently inaugurated? 2, Is it contemplated applying the system to goods traffic? 3, If so, when?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, Yes. 2, Not for the present. 3, Answered by No. 2.

QUESTION—SWEEPS AND LOTTERIES.

Mr. RICHARDSON asked the Minister for Justice: 1, How many applications were received between 30th June, 1924, and 30th June, 1925, for permission to run sweeps or lotteries in Western Australia? 2, What were the names of the applicants, and what were the objects for which the money was to be devoted out of the proceeds of such lotteries or sweeps? 3, How many applications were refused? 4, What were the names of the applicants, and the objects of those so refused? 5, How many sweeps or lotteries are being conducted at the present time in this State? 6, What are the names of the applicants, and the objects to which it is proposed to devote the money to be obtained from the sweeps now in operation?

The MINISTER FOR JUSTICE replied: 1 to 6, A return will be prepared and laid on the Table of the House.

QUESTION—PASTORAL LEASE. BELLILUNA COMPANY.

Mr. COVERLEY asked the Minister for Lands: What were the conditions under which the last 7,000 acres of pastoral country were granted to the Belliluna Pastoral Company?

The PREMIER (for the Minister for Lands) replied: The Belliluna Pastoral Company does not hold any lease of 7,000 acres. The last lease granted to the company on the 14th January, 1924, was 71,680 acres. This is held under the conditions applying to pastoral leases, as prescribed in the Land Act, 1898, and the amendments thereto, particularly Sections 101 and 109a, Subsection (3), of the Compilation of the Land Act, 1898. The rent has been fixed at 5s. per thousand acres per annum, and the lease is subject to re-appraisal in fifteen years.