

get through more rapidly than do the passenger trains. We know that the gold mining industry has revived slightly. That information will be accepted with joy by every member of the Chamber. No accusation can be levelled at the workers in that industry regarding hours or rates of pay. They are the worst paid workers in the whole of the Commonwealth, having regard to the precarious nature of their work and the tendency to disease by virtue of occupation in the industry. Still the industry is declining, and I regret that although the present Federal Government have good reason for refusing assistance, they gave very little encouragement, but used what from this time onwards will be the slogan of all Governments, in saying "The national stringency prevents us from being generous." That was the slogan of the Federal Government in refusing to grant the gold bonus. Gold can get no reward. Its price is standardised, although other commodities are being manufactured under the shelter of a high tariff wall designed to assist them to find a local market. Gold has no local market, but it has a world market and the world is at hunger point for gold. It would be an easy thing for the Minister for Mines to guarantee that he could sell every ounce of gold won in the State. Yet the trouble with all industries receiving assistance from the Federal Government is that invariably there is difficulty in providing a market for them. I do not know of any industry that, when in a state of prosperity, does so much to develop a country, for gold has a very rapid and big market and, might I say, a very liberal market. Miners do not hoard money; rather do they spend everything they get. From that point of view it might be advisable to grant the request for a gold bonus. But I trust that in the very near future the financial stability of the country will improve, and that the very next industry to receive consideration in the way of a bonus will be the gold mining industry. I do not know whether any progress has been made in regard to the construction of the Meekatharra-Wiluna line, but I would say that the need for expeditious treatment of the ballasting of that line is very acute. There are two rates applying, namely the Public Works Department's rate and the Commissioner's rate. Further than that there is no great difficulty. Goods are delivered by the wayside, some in a bad state of repair,

broken open, and others taken away altogether. I hope the Government will expedite the ballasting of that line. Wiluna is the best and most illuminating star on the gold mining horizon at the moment, and I hope that at the official opening of the line members will take the opportunity to visit Wiluna and observe the progress and the very efficient methods that have been adopted for the treatment of ore at that centre. As we shall be afforded an opportunity when on the Estimates to touch on other matters of a parochial character, I will conclude by thanking members for their attentive hearing and you, Sir, for your kind consideration during the time I have been delaying the House.

MR. HEGNEY (Middle Swan) [10.50]: When previously I spoke on the amendment moved by the member for East Perth to the Address-in-reply I strictly confined myself to the matter then under discussion. I should now like to deal with a few points affecting the interests of my electorate. On reading the Governor's Speech I was struck by the fact that it is inconsistent with the statements made by the leaders, both of the Nationalist Party and the Country Party, when those gentlemen were appealing to the electors. In His Excellency's Speech I find this—

Notwithstanding the general depression prevailing, the internal condition of the State is satisfactory. National income is derived chiefly from primary production, and it is satisfactory to note that the wheat output grows steadily year by year. Last year a record crop of 39,081,183 bushels was harvested. Copious rains have fallen throughout the wheat belt, and this year it is expected that this yield also will be eclipsed. Oat crops increased by half a million bushels. The wool produced during 1929 amounted to 67,150,718 lbs., and at the end of the year the number of sheep in the State was 9,556,823. It is estimated that there are at least 10,000,000 sheep in the State at present, and, as good rains have been general in the pastoral areas, an excellent season is anticipated. Western Australian apples retain pride of place among Australian fruit in the Home and foreign markets. The dairying industry is flourishing. Last year the State produced over six million lbs. of butter, an increase of one-sixth over the previous year. Clover fields have been established over wide spaces. An increase in quantity and an improvement in quality have been demonstrated by pastures in the South-West. Last year, one and a half million acres were alienated under conditional purchase to 2,114 applicants, and eight and a half million acres of pastoral land to 155 applicants. Min-

ing looks brighter than it has for some years past. Wiluna is nearing the production stage. Activities in the principal Kalgoorlie mines have increased, owing largely to the modernisation of the underground development and surface treatment. The past six months show a distinct improvement in gold production. Reforestation is now keeping pace with the cutting out of timber areas. It is gratifying to record an increase in the value of goods manufactured within the State. The work of the session will be devoted largely to finance, and to legislation affecting finance. It is regarded as of the utmost importance to increase the national income by production. To this end, Parliament will be asked to consider a Bill to authorise the Trustees of the Agricultural Bank to raise money for the bank's requirements, in order to secure funds for development. Other necessary steps will be taken to adjust the difficulties which have arisen by reason of the sudden termination of the supply of loan funds. So far as the internal condition of the State is concerned, the future is bright. The extent and quality of its wheat and dairying lands and pastoral areas have been proved. The seasons can be depended upon. There is latent wealth in abundance. Salvation lies in tapping this latent wealth by increased work and production; and as a means to that end Agricultural Bank activities must be stimulated under legislative authority. It is recognised that there can be no general prosperity until all are at work again. Work will beget production, and production, in turn, will spell progress and prosperity.

When one compares that with the statements made by the party leaders during the election campaign, it is seen that what is said there is an endorsement of the fact that the outgoing Government, during their six years term of office, controlled the destinies of the State and functioned well. The Speech indicates that all the industries in the State have been prosperous, not only the primary industries, such as wheat growing and wool growing and the dairy industry, but also the secondary industries, were expanding and developing during those six years. The ex-Leader of the Country Party when appealing to the electors had this to say—

As the progress and prosperity of Western Australia are bound up with primary production, can it be truthfully claimed that the actions of the State and Federal Labour Governments in increasing the cost of production have been conducive to the development of the State?

He also says—

In the State's sphere, the Premier (Mr. Collier) has issued a similar appeal. But what

has Mr. Scullin's Government or Mr. Collier's Government done to assist the primary producers to respond to this national appeal?

Again he said—

The demand of the State at present is for a Government that will ensure financial stability, general prosperity and work for all. The Labour Party, after six years in office, has failed conspicuously in all three respects.

Those statements are absolutely inconsistent with the Governor's Speech, which is an endorsement of what the Labour Government have done during the past six years. Mr. Thomson, who was then Leader of the Country Party, when appealing to the electors, made the statement that the Collier Government had spent £18,000,000 more than their predecessors. He wanted to know what had become of all that money. It is well known that during the Collier Government's term of office they advanced to settlers £2,644,000, as against £1,073,000 advanced to them during the previous Mitchell Administration. As to agricultural water supplies, when Sir James Mitchell was previously Premier, £83,000 was the total amount spent in that direction, whereas the amount spent by the Collier Government was £665,000. In respect of railways, we find that during the previous Nationalist Administration £694,000 was spent, and that during the regime of the Collier Government £2,190,000 was the expenditure on railways. The same thing applies to roads and bridges. Here a little over a quarter of a million was spent by the previous Mitchell Administration, whereas nearly £3,000,000 was spent by the Collier Government. Coming to country hospitals, we find that the Collier Government spent nearly four times as much as was spent by their predecessors, while in respect of schools the amounts were similar. Those are some of the directions in which the additional money expended by the Collier Administration went. We know that during the past six years there was prosperity in this country, and virtually the wage earners were engaged in no industrial disputes. Moreover, the increments withheld from the Public Service by the previous National Administration were all released by the Collier Government. The same thing applies to school teachers. It was stated during the election that the administration of the Collier Government had been at fault, and that they had made

a mess of the finances. What is contained in the Governor's Speech is diametrically opposed to that, and it is difficult to know which statement one ought to accept. There is no question that the most important matters to be dealt with this session are those of finance and unemployment. It has been said that finance is government and that government is finance. Most of the Governments in Australia seem to be powerless against those who control finance. Currency and credit have been restricted considerably during the last 12 months. Overdrafts have been called up and generally unemployment has been brought about because people engaged in industrial enterprise and in production have been unable to secure the necessary credit with which to carry on their operations. This Parliament will have to consider that problem. The question of unemployment is of vital importance here as elsewhere. Unemployment is world-wide. No matter whether the country be protectionist or free-trade, whether it be a white man's or a black man's country, everywhere the same spectre of unemployment confronts the people. We have been told that increased production will save the State; yet it is remarkable that the potential wealth producers in this and other countries are walking the land looking for the right to earn a living and cannot be suitably placed for the production of wealth. On the other hand, there is a superabundance of commodities for consumption, and consumers are unable to buy the commodities they need. In this State much distress exists. There are men, women and children who cannot get sufficient food, because they have no income. They are also suffering a shortage of clothing. There is a surfeit of wool production, and yet any number of our kith and kin cannot get sufficient clothes to cover themselves. Many others are without boots and yet the factories are full of boots. I believe the time will come when we shall have to tackle the problem by a system under which the goods produced will be distributed. Even advocates of the existing system must admit that it is an absolute failure. If it is not a failure, why are there so many people out of work? Throughout the world there are millions of people unemployed and likely to be unemployed for years to come. Responsible statesmen in England have said that a million workers there will never get

a job again in their lifetime. What then can be said for the present social system?

The Minister for Railways: The system is the same in Italy and France and they have not any unemployed.

Mr. HEGNEY: The conditions of the workers in France cannot be compared with those in Australia or in England.

Mr. Kenneally: In any event, it is only post-war reconstruction which is keeping people there employed.

The Minister for Railways: That does not matter.

Mr. Kenneally: And France is getting the greatest benefit from the reparation payments.

Mr. McCallum: There are thousands of people starving in Paris.

Mr. HEGNEY: Unemployment is a problem to which economists and statesmen the world over will have to address themselves. Many people try to bolster up the present social system, but commonsense indicates that under it unemployment will always be prevalent. Even at the best of times, there are numbers of men out of work for fairly long periods, and some reconstruction of society is necessary so that they will have the right to a decent standard of living throughout the year. That would be possible if society were reorganised, but until recently it was nobody's business to succour the unemployed. The position is now becoming so acute that Governments must do something to keep their people from starving. Hitherto there was said to be no obligation on private employers to succour men who had been dismissed. Now the obligation rests upon Governments, though they have tried to reject it as no concern of theirs. The fact is that Governments must do something, or the people will revolt against such conditions. Let me quote from an address delivered before the Academy of Political Science, Columbia University, and the findings of a committee of the British Liberal Party on the questions involved—

What are the causes of the discontent which finds expression in wasteful strife, or in still more wasteful restriction of effort and output? The thinking workman makes five main complaints against the existing industrial system. First, for all his toil, it does not supply him in many cases with an income sufficient to give a comfortable livelihood for himself and his dependants, together with a margin for enjoyment and for saving.

The second complaint is that industry has failed to give him security of livelihood however eager and willing to work he may be. Accident, a spell of sickness, or a shortage of work due to no fault of his own, may at any moment throw him out of employment, use up his savings, and inflict hardship and humiliation upon his children. Of all these menaces, unemployment is the most serious, and it inspires the belief that there must be something wrong with a social order in which, amidst flaunting luxury, such insecurity haunts the life of the worker.

The third complaint of the worker is that the existing industrial order denies him the status which seems proper for a free citizen. He may be dismissed at a week's or a day's notice, and thus deprived of his livelihood without redress or appeal, perhaps for no better reason than that he has offended an autocratic foreman. While as a citizen, he has an equal share in determining the most momentous issues about which he may know very little, in regard to his own work, on which he has knowledge, his opinion is seldom asked or considered, and he has practically no voice in determining the conditions of his daily life, except in so far as trade union action has secured it. Indeed, where management is inefficient and autocratic, he is frequently compelled to watch waste and mistakes, of which he is perfectly well aware, without any right of intervention whatever, and this despite the fact that when these errors issue in diminished business for the firm concerned, he and not the management will be the first to suffer by short-time working, or complete loss of employment.

The fourth complaint, according to the Liberal committee's analysis, is knowledge of the financial results of industry, and of the division of its proceeds, is denied to the worker; and of this he is becoming increasingly resentful. He has little means of judging to what extent he is in fact participating in the fruits of his own labours, or whether or no he is getting a "square deal," and his dissatisfaction with the existing order is proportionately intensified.

The fifth complaint that the Liberal committee observed is the worker believes that the products of industry are unfairly divided between capital and labour; that under the capitalist system society is divided into two classes—a small class of masters who own the means of production, or live luxuriously by owning, and a huge class of workers who receive in return for their work only what they can force the owners to pay. He believes that under such a system there can be for his children no true equality of opportunity with the children of more fortunate classes.

These are not the findings of Communists or Socialists, but the opinions of members of the committee of Liberals who went into the question. They contend that the position of the workers is most insecure, and that the worst menace they have to face is

that of unemployment. It is the duty of Parliament to endeavour to find work for our people. I hope that before long the Government will be able to bring down proposals that will lead to work being made available for the large body of men now tramping the country. When he was seeking the suffrages of the people, the Premier promised to find work for all who wanted it. I hope before long he will keep that promise. Unfortunately in most of our industries employees are being retrenched and the position is being intensified.

Mr. Sampson: Unfortunately it is world-wide.

Mr. HEGNEY: On the hustings the Premier made a definite and unequivocal promise to the electors. If any member doubts that statement he has only to refer to the Press reports when the Premier appealed to the electors.

Mr. Kenneally: He said that notwithstanding the stringency of the financial position he would find work for all.

Mr. HEGNEY: The Premier said—

"So long has unemployment been rife that the merchant is losing his business, the store-keeper is losing his trade, and married men who thought their position secure are being dismissed. The scandalous and unnecessary state of affairs is entirely due to bad management by this so-called best of all Governments.

"If returned to power, I have promised to find work for everybody in the State. This is no extravagant statement. What I have undertaken to do, I know I can do. I have had three terms of office, one of them as Premier for five years. On each of the three occasions my party were returned to clean up the muddles caused by Labour Governments, and were invariably successful. But never before has the State reached the shocking plight to which the last six years of Labour mismanagement has reduced it.

"Can any worker honestly approve of a Government that will guarantee wealthy trading companies to the extent of hundreds of thousands of pounds, and yet refuse to find one penny to relieve the distress of the unemployed? Sympathy is all the Government can offer them, but fair words never yet satisfied an empty stomach. Whatever credit we can command, let it be used to help our own citizens.

"During the five years I led the Coalition Government from 1919 to 1924, we had no unemployed trouble; no starving people. Everyone was at work, prosperous and happy. They were difficult times, those early post-war years, but Press and public alike agree that I wrought wonders.

"By voting Nationalist, electors can ensure Government without fear or favour, economical management, work and opportunity for all, and a speedy return to prosperity.

Mr. Kenneally: And then the sequel.

Mr. Lamond: Which paper published that?

Mr. HEGNEY: The "West Australian" newspaper. It was the final appeal that was being made by the then Leader of the Opposition to the electors. It was an appeal which induced many of the workers to believe what the Premier said, and to vote him into office.

Mr. Sampson: Rubbish.

Mr. HEGNEY: It may be rubbish to the hon. member, but the Premier is called upon to live up to his promise. Most of the people who supported him, particularly the workers, have been deceived and deluded by this statement. It was contended by the late Government that unemployment had been accentuated in this State by an influx of people from the Eastern States and Southern Europe. The Governor's Speech makes reference to this and says that the most serious result has been a severe reaction against employment, and although Western Australia's condition has been sound internally, the unemployment figures have been swollen by a considerable influx of unemployed from the Eastern States. During the elections that statement was refuted. The Collier Government said that people were coming from the Eastern States and Southern Europe and thus accentuating the unemployment position. Members on the other side, however, said that was only an apology for the situation which had been created. Now we find the very statement contained in the Governor's Speech. I believe that the Minister responsible for the unemployed is doing his best to meet very difficult circumstances. We must all do what we can to tide over the situation. We know that he is tied by the position of his leader, and that the Premier in turn is tied by the financial position. Many workers voted for the present Government believing that if they were in charge of the country money would flow more freely into it. They thought that whilst Labour was in office people would not invest their money here, but that with a change of Government they would do so, and employment would thus be created. We find, how-

ever, that the present Government are just as much a part of the system as the Labour Government were, and that the people who control the purse strings will not advance money until they wish to do so. I will not labour that point any longer. As regards the Railway Department, when Labour came into office six years ago numerous locomotives had been imported into the State. I think the number was 33; and there was an agitation in the Midland Junction Workshops, and in some of the unions interested, to have rolling stock manufactured in Western Australia. Eventually the Labour Government decided to construct rolling stock at the Midland Junction Workshops.

The Minister for Railways: The decision was arrived at before then.

Mr. HEGNEY: We know that the cost of constructing rolling stock was fairly high then, and that the Railway Department had been starved for a number of years on that account. The agitation of the unions eventually resulted in the Government changing their policy and having locomotives manufactured at Midland Junction. Then it was found that in comparison with landed cost a Class P engine cost £1,005 less to construct in Western Australia. On a number of locomotives the saving to the State was large, while a fair amount of employment was afforded to our skilled artisans. Moreover, numbers of our youths were given the opportunity to learn the trade. I hope that the present Minister for Railways will do his utmost to see that anything that can be manufactured at Midland Junction is manufactured there instead of being imported from overseas. Employment has to be found for the men at Midland Junction, who undoubtedly are skilled artisans. As regards the construction of boilers I can speak with authority, having worked in various Australian locomotive workshops. Comparing the boilers made at Midland Junction with those imported from England, I say unhesitatingly that the local workmanship is superior.

The Minister for Railways: There is nothing wrong with the workmanship here.

Mr. HEGNEY: As regards production of locomotives at Midland Junction, a few more portable machines are needed, and then the cost will be reduced. It is not a matter of local labour not being able to reduce the cost, but a question of

machines. I know that finance affects the position. However, I believe the Minister for Railways will adopt the right policy. My electorate is fairly diverse, comprising mainly industrial workers who live in Maylands, Bayswater, Bassendean, Rivervale, and Belmont. The other electors are engaged in primary production, such as poultry raising and the supply of eggs to the local market. They are also endeavouring to establish an export trade in eggs. Numbers are engaged in producing bacon for the local market. There is room for considerable expansion in that quarter, as Western Australia imports large quantities of Eastern States bacon. Probably some encouragement could be given with a view to substituting locally manufactured bacon for that now imported from the East. Another primary industry in my electorate is the dried fruits industry, which just now is not highly prosperous. Owing to legislation introduced by the previous Government, the industry is able to carry on. The wine-growing industry, together with the Valencia Wine Distilleries, is hard up against it, and is endeavouring to obtain an increase in the proportion of its output that is put on the local market. Poultry raising is located in South Belmont, Redcliffe, Beechboro, Morley Park and Welshpool. Again, numerous people are engaged in the dairying industry, supplying fresh milk and cream to the local markets. Others are engaged in the production of honey, and are seeking legislation to organise the industry with a view to an increase in the consumption of honey. Another industry of importance to many investing members is the horse-racing industry. I confess that I know nothing about horse-racing, and it is rather remarkable that the racecourses of Belmont Park, Canning Park, Helena Vale and Ascot should all fall within the boundaries of my electorate. Occasionally when visiting a racecourse I have noticed members from either side of the House investing and seeking to obtain good returns. A number of important secondary industries are established in the Middle Swan electorate: the Cuming Smith fertiliser works at Bassendean, the Cresco fertiliser works at Welshpool, the McKay Sunshine Harvester works at Maylands, McGilvray's tannery, W. & D. Fowler's general engineering works, the Southern Cross Windmill Co., various tile-making factories, and a sandalwood oil factory at Belmont. The last named is one

of only three establishments of the kind in the world. This factory exports sandalwood oil. As the hour is getting late I shall curtail my remarks. However, there was one question of outstanding importance during the Middle Swan election. I refer to the construction of a bridge across the river to connect Belmont and Bayswater.

The Minister for Railways: Why Bayswater?

Mr. HEGNEY: Because Bayswater and Belmont are in the Middle Swan electorate.

The Minister for Railways: Oh!

Mr. HEGNEY: Residents of my electorate have no other means of crossing to Belmont except going to Maylands or to the Guildford electorate. On the Causeway there is considerable congestion, and many accidents have happened there. Undoubtedly a new gateway to the city is required. The estimated cost of constructing a new causeway is about a quarter of a million pounds. The financial situation seems to put that out of the question for the present. An alternative would be to construct a bridge across the river somewhere—personally I am not concerned where, so long as it is the right place. Strings should not be pulled as to the site of the bridge. Probably the bridge would serve all needs for the next 35 years. Its site, I repeat, should be determined not in the interests of any particular individuals, but from the aspect of serving the best interests of the people. Therefore I hope that when the finances look up—perhaps not this year, but within a year or two—the Government will give attention to the matter. As regards tramway facilities, I have already spoken to the Minister, and I fully understand that there cannot be tramway extension at the present juncture. Both the extensions I have mentioned to him are important—the Beaufort-street extension of about a third of a mile, and a similar extension from Ferguson-street on the Maylands side. I hope that a little later, when the financial horizon has brightened, these extensions will be taken in hand. There are a number of roads in the Middle Swan electorate that can be termed developmental roads. They serve a number of people engaged in primary production, who conduct piggeries, dairies and poultry farms. They want decent roads to afford them an opportunity of quick access to the metropolitan markets. Government-road, which extends

from Bassendean around the northern part and crossing Beechboro-road is one, and another road is that which goes around Caversham and the northern portion of the district. The time will come when the Minister will probably be looking for avenues for the spending of money on developmental roads as a means of providing employment for married men. When that time comes, he may be able to give consideration to the roads I mention. Then there are Benari and Ivanhoe roads in the Bassendean district, which need attention. They were affected by the diversion of traffic from the main roads on account of the floods at Caversham. Those roads were constructed to assist the settlers and have been cut up considerably by the heavy traffic that was diverted on that occasion. It is seven years since the Ivanhoe-road was constructed, and at that time the Government subsidised money made available by landowners for the purpose of constructing a developmental road to serve the primary producers. As the road was not constructed solidly, it was quickly affected by the heavier traffic. There are one or two other points I wish to raise. The school at Bayswater is overcrowded and there is great need for extensions there. About 500 children attend the school and I hope that before long the Minister for Education will be able to give his approval for the erection of sufficient accommodation to adequately house all the children. Another matter that will have to be tackled sooner or later relates to the Rivervale crossing. Not long ago a serious accident was narrowly averted there when 20 people in a bus escaped losing their lives. It is a dangerous crossing on a main road, and a subway should be constructed there. That is not a question affecting the people of Middle Swan only, because it affects the people generally. The works I have mentioned are such that the Government might well consider undertaking them in order to relieve unemployment. I have nothing more to say on the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply except to thank hon. members for the courteous hearing they have given me.

On motion by Mr. Thorn debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 10.34 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Thursday, 11th September, 1930.

Question: Ministerial salary	PAGE
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The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTION—MINISTERIAL SALARY.

Hon. G. FRASER asked the Minister for Country Water Supplies: 1, Is he aware that the Hon. the Chief Secretary has applied to the Arbitration Court to increase the hours of certain unionists employed in his department, from forty-four to forty-eight per week, on the ground of financial stringency at the Treasury? 2, Is he also aware that the Hon. the Chief Secretary at the same time continues to practise his profession as a barrister in the Supreme Court? 3, Will the salary of the Hon. the Chief Secretary, in his ministerial capacity, be reduced by the amount he earns by practising his profession?

The MINISTER FOR COUNTRY WATER SUPPLIES replied: 1, Yes. 2, Yes. He is engaged in winding up his practice, and will in any event retire at the end of the present law term. 3, No.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Eleventh Day.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

HON. G. W. MILES (North) [4.33]: May I first join with others in offering you, Sir, my congratulations on the high honour His Majesty the King has been pleased to confer upon you, an honour that is justly deserved. I am very pleased to know that His Majesty has recognised your splendid services, not only to the State, but also to the Empire. With other members I regret that we have lost a colleague in the late Mr. J. R. Brown, who was a most lovable man. I humbly offer my condolences to his relatives. I wish to congratulate the new members we have amongst us and I hope,