on farmers, saving them many thousands of pounds. Later on, the firm began the manufacture of ploughs with wooden beams and handles. They now manufacture about a hundred varieties, all iron. This firm commenced in a small way in one of the back streets of Ipswich; to-day their works cover nearly thirty acres of land and they employ upwards of 2,500 hands. Then there is the firm of Messrs. Turner, who began by patenting a smooth roller mill for crushing linseed, which was for a time used for feeding cattle. Now that firm, employing a large number of men, do a vast business in roller flour mills. I could name several other firms, which from small beginnings have grown into immense commercial propositions. Now if these small factories were to be established in our State and were given slight assistance in the beginning, it would meet the case, and probably certain of them would develop into large concerns. There is only one other little matter to which I would refer, namely, the proposal to establish State flour mills. That, perhaps, is the last thing the Government should touch. I have had considerable experience in flour milling myself, and I can say that it has become almost a science. It is most difficult to procure a thoroughly competent manager, for not only must he understand the manufacture of flour but he must also have to his credit a considerable experience in the buying of wheat.

Mr. O'Loghlen: Is the business more difficult than that of gold extraction?

Mr. HAYWARD: No, I think not. Perhaps they are about on a par. The member for Geraldton mentioned that in his district at the present time there are three flour mills working, while others will soon be established by private enterprise. What is there to prevent the farmers all over the State going in for co-operation in their respective districts? Certainly the establishment of flour mills is the last thing the Government should be asked to undertake.

Mr. Taylor: Are you against the proposed purchase of a number of cows?

Mr. HAYWARD: I know nothing of that. I have merely been giving a few ideas of my own—merely throwing out a few practical hints; and if they should prove of value I shall indeed be glad.

Mr. A. A. WILSON (Collie): I had not intended speaking on the Address-in-Reply, but as the debate is getting a little weak it seems to me that, like Johnny Walker's whisky, a bit of Scotch might put some life into it. I have read the Governor's Speech, and I find it contains many subjects that, perhaps would have been better left out, and others that, perhaps, will be discussed in the near future. Among these are the amendment of the Constitution Act, the redistribution of seats, liquor law reform, the agricultural railways extension, and the Trading Accounts Bill. But the Government have omitted to make any reference to the Workers' Compensation Act, the Conciliation and Arbitration Act, and the Coal Mines Regulation Act. I regret these subjects should have been left out, because I feel that some consideration should be given to the workers in these matters. When such provision is not made plenty of scope is afforded hon. members to tell the House what they would have done if given the chance. I desire to correct a statement made by the member for East Fremantle in connection with the Donnybrook jam factory. I regret that the statement should have been made, because, as a rule, the member for East Fremantle is very correct in his utterances.

Mr. Angwin: I cannot make a statement without having at least rumours to go upon.

Mr. A. A. WILSON: Rumours are ugly things and best left alone. When the hon. member was speaking on the Address-in-Reply he said—

> I notice from the Governor's Speech that it is the intention of the Government to introduce a Trading Accounts Bill. I was hoping when the Minister for Lands was speaking the other night that he would have given us some information with regard to the Donnybrook Co-operative Society. It is known that this society started a factory at Donnybrook for the purpose of manufacturing jam on the co-opera-

tive principle, but it was such a side issue as far as co-operation was concerned that they could not co-operate together without getting some financial assistance from the Government to carry on. What is the position to-day? There are some rumours about, and I have heard that the factory is closed down, and I have also heard that a meeting has been called to wind up the concern. If such is the case, and the Government have advanced several hundreds of pounds towards these works, I consider it is necessary that we should have some information with regard to the security which is held for the money advanced. If the Trading Accounts Bill is for the express purpose of assisting industries such as this, I only trust that hon. members may give close attention to it when it comes before them for consideration.

When once you have attacked any person or society with a rumour it is very hard to get that rumour off; when you fling mud some of it sticks. I have here a letter from the secretary of the Donnybrook Co-operative Society touching upon the remarks made by the member for East Fremantle. The letter reads—

> I draw your attention to remarks made by Mr. Angwin in the House on Thursday (cutting enclosed) which I have no doubt you have seen. I have written the *West Australian* giving an emphatic denial, but it will be impossible to entirely counteract the mischief. The remarks are unfair and unmanly, and appear, judging from the quarter from which they come, to be done with a distinct purpose.
>
> It is bound to have a disastrous effect on getting in the calls, and will injure our credit, which so far has been good. Mr. Angwin should be asked to disclose the source of his information in the House.

I have an intimate knowledge of the society, and I knew the rumour was incorrect. I knew it was on a sound basis, and in this morning's *West Australian* members will find a letter in which the secretary of the society gives the rumour a denial. I mention this because, where farmers or co-operative parties set out to benefit themselves and the State at large, it is unfair for members to come to the House with rumours without first trying to substantiate them.

Mr. Angwin: We want information.

Mr. A. A. WILSON: I think the hon. member should have got the information before making the statement. If the Trading Accounts Bill means assistance to industries like the jam factory at Donnybrook it shall have my support. I trust it is for that purpose. In regard to workers' compensation, I have always held that when a man receives an injury compensation should start from the time he meets with the accident, and I think the Government would be justified in at least getting that clause of the Bill introduced by the member for Dundas through the House. I also consider that in coal and gold mines bad ventilation or bad air should be treated as an accident. A man working in an atmosphere loaded with powder and all the foul gases attached to it has sometimes to knock off work for two or three weeks at a time because the poisonous fumes have been injurious to his health. In my opinion that is an accident, and I consider the Government would be justified in treating it as an accident. I trust the Bill introduced by the member for Dundas will get the consideration it is entitled to by humanity, if not by the Government. Last session I introduced a Coal Mines Regulation Amendment Bill, but I got no further than moving the second reading. However, from a remark passed by the Minister for Mines I understood he was going to introduce an amending Bill, and I am disappointed to find there is no mention of it in the Governor's Speech. At present in the Collie coal fields they are making preparations—I should not say preparations, but they are cutting the life out of the mines so much that in the near future, I warn the Government, there will be a Whitehaven disaster at Collie. They are cutting the pillars and supports out of the mine. This is bad and inefficient management, and one mine

has collapsed altogether. In yesterday's paper there is this report—

> Collie, August 15th. A subsidence of the roof of the regular workings in the Collie-Cardiff mine occurred early this morning, the area affected extending considerably over 100 yards. A heavy mass of ground came down over the pillars but none of the miners were injured. Mr. Briggs, the inspector of mines, ordered a cessation of work, and it may be several days before the workings are cleared and passed as secure enough to permit of the resumption of coal-winning operations without danger.

I want to correct this slightly. It was the management who ordered the cessation of work and ordered the men out, not Mr. Briggs, the inspector of mines, and it is only fair to say it. The report, while it gives some idea of the state of affairs, is not altogether correct. Where the fall occurred the pillars were taken out for yards and yards. The same state of affairs exist at another mine adjacent to the Collie river. I say, as a man with 30 years' experience, that with a little tremor in the earth and the men working below, we will have a disaster unequalled in this State. I warned the Labour Government of the same thing in 1905, writing to Mr. Hastie, who was then Minister for Mines, as follows:—

> Dear Sir, I have been instructed by my union to draw your attention to the fact that the Collie Proprietary Coalfields of W.A., Limited, are at the present time "slicing the pillars," that is coal supports, at the Wallsend lease. The union have no desire to in any way interfere with the management of the mine, but they emphatically protest against any innovation in coal getting that will constitute an obvious menace and palpable danger to the lives of the workmen employed; under such circumstances our union desire an assurance from your department as to what is their intention in such a matter of grave importance to all concerned.

That was in 1905. But still the pillars are being taken out. I may say that in connection with the same mine it cost the Government £900 to underpin the railway owing to the pillars being cut away.

Mr. George: How is it they get favoured?

Mr. A. A. WILSON: I do not blame the inspector, but there is some person doing something wrong, and I think it is up to the Government to step in before many valuable lives, perhaps, are sacrificed.

Mr. George: I could not see why the railways should have to pay that money.

Mr. A. A. WILSON: The Cardiff mine is in the same danger. And in speaking of this mine I may say the taking out of the pillars was enhanced by the Newcastle strike. Wherever they could get a pound of coal they ripped it out, and in some cases they ripped out the shale or roof and sent it away to the oversea steamers who were getting coal from them. I make this charge that I can take any nominee of the Mines Department to where the roof and the shale were absolutely blasted down to the floor and sent away to the ships as coal, and I stand on my privilege as member of the House in saying it.

The Minister for Mines: What mine was that?

Mr. A. A. WILSON: The Cardiff mine. They absolutely shot the shale from the roofs in the old bords and then filled the stuff into the trucks they sent away to the boats for coal. That was killing the goose that lays the golden eggs. Any company that sends away inferior stuff will not get customers. No customer will come back to a mine that supplies bad coal.

Mr. George: Who is inspecting it?

Mr. A. A. WILSON: The trouble is there is no inspector for other than Government coal.

Mr. George: But what are the miners doing? Why do they not protect themselves?

Mr. A. A. WILSON: The miner is told to fill that bad coal and he fills it: if not he gets the sack.

Mr. O'Loghlen: A miner is doing something now in asking for better inspection.

Mr. Angwin: We ought to have sent these managers to prison for the protection of the State.

Mr. A. A. WILSON: Personally speaking, I think it is up to the Goverment to appoint a Commission to see if these statements of mine are correct, and to see that the very best coal is sent out of the State. If the companies will insist on sending away bad coal we should take away from them any allocation of the Government trade. That is one of the ways in which I would punish these people. Now, in regard to the coal trade as a whole, I congratulate the industry, and the Government incidentally, on the fact that there was 39,052 tons increase in the output between the years 1908 and 1909, while the increase in comparison with 1907 was 70,000 tons. It shows that the coal oversea trade has come to stay, and it behoves the Government to protect that trade, now it has come to stay, from exploiters and from men who would deliberately send away pure shale and dirt in order to get a few pounds extra when a strike is on. The Government pay 10s. 6¾d. for an article of 10,500 British Thermal Units. If the quality of the coal goes under that, the price is reduced 1d. for every 100 B.T.U.; but if it goes to 11,000 B.T.U. no more is paid. I do not consider that is encouragement to any coal company to try to get better coal. Instead of merely reducing the price when inferior coal is supplied, the Government should also tell the companies that if they supply coal over 10,500 B.T.U. they will get the same increase per hundred. Instead of that, however, if the company produce coal good as Newcastle the Government will not give any increase, because 10s. 6¾d. is the maximum price for the value of 10,500 B.T.U. and over. I consider that any Government that wants to encourage the industry should encourage the people to produce a better article and then we would have a better trade.

Mr. George: You get the same thing if you reduce the price by so much.

Mr. A. A. WILSON: No; if you produce an article of 9,500 B.T.U. you are paid 9s. 8¾d. If you produce an article of 14,000 B.T.U. you get 10s. 6¾d. just the same as for producing an article of 10,500 B.T.U. So the companies are not trying to get above the standard of 10,500 B.T.U. There is a shoe loose somewhere, and I believe the Government could, with satisfaction to themselves, give 1d. increase per 100 just as they reduce the price by 1d. per 100. It is proposed to build a railway from Wagin to Darkan. Now the settlers in the Beaufort and Arthur River districts were promised a railway years ago. Plans were given to the settlers showing a railway route to their district, but now it is intended by some people to cut the line straight across and leave these people out. I believe that if settlers are encouraged to go on the land, and if they get maps showing a railway will be given to them, the Government should in all seriousness carry out their promise. Therefore, I shall cast my lot for the people in that corner who have been promised a railway, and who are entitled to it by reason of the promise given to them, and because of the maps issued to them before they went on the land in the district referred to.

(Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.)

The MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. Frank Wilson): Owing to my indisposition, and consequent absence from the House during the past fortnight, I have not had an opportunity of listening to the various and many speeches which have been delivered in connection with the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply. I regret that all the more, because one is quite unable, sometimes at any rate, to get a fair idea of what was in the minds of speakers from the condensed reports that appear in the Press. Apart from that, I have been unable, unfortunately, to follow the newspapers a good part of the time I have been absent from the House. I notice, however, that the burden of the complaints by most members who have criticised the Speech, prepared by the Government and placed in the hands of His Excellency the Governor, has been that it has been verbose, too lengthy, contains nothing new, and on