

can see the power that these executives are going to wield and whether hon. members like it or not, they will have to obey those executives. I am prepared to act in the manner I have indicated, and I trust that even at this late hour the Country Party may be successful in protecting Western Australia from the dangerous proposals outlined in the Speech.

Hon. H. SEDDON (North-East) [5.53]: May I, as a new member, add my voice to those of the hon. members who have already spoken on the Address-in-reply. As one who cannot claim to have that familiarity with public affairs held by other members, I would like to place before the House the views I have been able to form as the result of my residence on the goldfields, and from my knowledge of things as they are in the old land. We have heard a great deal of criticism in this House regarding the immigration policy of the Government. The matter has been approached from various standpoints. I would like to place before the House the standpoint of the man whom we are going to bring to this country, and to ask hon. members to consider the standpoint of the man who is at present putting up a most severe battle, not only against hard conditions, but against actual starvation, and a man who has behind him the knowledge that he is leaving a set of conditions which he will find non-existent on his arrival here. This man will be prepared to fight an infinitely harder battle but under better conditions than was in any way possible in the Old Country. I would draw attention to the records of achievement on the part of the Barnado boys. These boys have been taken out of the big cities of England. None possessed a knowledge of farming life, but all the same they have been sent out to various parts of the Empire. The record of these boys is a credit to any section of the community; they have made good everywhere. Therefore, if only from that standpoint there is held out to us a foundation of encouragement, and in that way we may hope to establish in this country a class of citizen who, if warmly received and encouraged, will not fail to make good. There is one aspect which has been lost sight of, and it is that to which we might refer as psychological. May I give an illustration: A regiment was drawn from men of the city of Manchester during the period of the great war. These men were taken from workshops, warehouses, and all kinds of occupations which did not go to make physique or develop initiative. During one of the great battles on one of the Western fronts that regiment stood in its place and was wiped out to a man. They stood there because they were taught it was their duty as Englishmen to stand fast. I will say that the men coming out here, ex-service men, have been trained in similar conditions and can be trusted to face the difficulties which will confront them, as well as the loneliness of the life in the bush, and make good. Therefore, we see the possibility of success for the immigration scheme, but

we must not fail to encourage these people, remembering all the time that they are entirely ignorant of the conditions pertaining to farming life. They will only require some help to make successful citizens in Western Australia. It is for the reasons that I have given that I intend to support the proposals outlined in the Governor's Speech. I would like to see the principles which it is proposed to apply to the South-West applied also to more remote districts of the State, districts which we are somewhat inclined to lose sight of. Moving about the city of Perth one cannot help gathering the impression that the people in the coastal areas have entirely lost sight of the gold-mining industry which unfortunately at the present time is languishing. Coming down here one feels that he is entering another country. One feels as if the possibilities of the great goldfields are not being realised as should be done. While the goldfields are suffering from serious natural disabilities, there exist also possibilities which are offered to the student and which will well repay research. There is no industry which offers better opportunities to the student than that of gold mining. We must recognise that mining has become more and more a chemical industry. When we examine the great chemical industries, we find that they have made good only because they have made use of every by-product. All have been built up in this way. The great progress made in Germany and in America has been due entirely to careful study in the direction of the use of by-products, and the effecting of economy in every possible direction, as well as using every fraction of power and heat to reduce costs. If we went into the question of utilising all material which is now wasted, we would find that it would be possible, even under existing conditions, to make good and put the industry on a sound footing. May I give an illustration. In connection with the great South African mines there was established some years ago a mines' trial committee. This committee was appointed by various groups of mines to consider what economies could be effected in working the mines. One of the subjects to which attention was directed was that of the steel used in the drills and the kind of point on the drills. A series of experiments extending over six months resulted in the discovery of means of saving thousands of pounds in that particular item alone. This is a line of action which might commend itself to members of the Legislature, because we are vitally concerned in seeing that our industries are carried on successfully. If, as an outcome of the co-ordination of work between the Chamber of Mines and the Government, the scientific aspects of these questions could be investigated, I am confident results would be obtained of tremendous importance and assistance to the industry. I was grievously disappointed to find no reference in the Speech to the serious matter of miners' phthisis. I do not think members realise the position of the industry as regards this terrible scourge. The splendid report placed in the hands of members by Mr.

Cornell is enlightening and indicates a course of action which might be the means of lessening the terrible toll of human life which the industry is exacting at present. After all, the most serious question we have to consider is that affecting the life and health of our citizens. I have no hesitation in saying that if the question of miners' phthisis were investigated by a committee acquainted with the facts, recommendations could be made and embodied in a Bill which would be the means of our having removed from the mines those men who are inevitably doomed to early death. Means could be devised to deal with these men in such a way that their lives might be prolonged to the ordinary span, but action must be taken early. The disease is so insidious that the victim is not aware of its approach until too late. A few weeks ago I attended the funeral of a miner on the fields, and I left the cemetery with a man of not more than 45 years of age. We walked slowly for a distance of about half a mile and then we had to stop. That man was suffering from the disease in its first stages; he was doomed. Among all the important questions before Parliament, I cannot conceive of one which demands more urgent attention, or which will return more fruitful results to the people than this question of miners' complaint. We should take prompt action to minimise the evil; we should assist the relief fund instituted a few years ago, and we should do all in our power to ensure an extension of life to these men who, at the present time, are being sacrificed in order to win the gold which is of such great value to this country.

Hon. J. A. GREIG (South-East) [6.5]: The most important question in the Speech is that relating to immigration. I am not one of those who go into ecstasies and applaud the Government and the Premier on the immigration scheme and the method by which it has been handled so far. More especially do I refer to the preparations made at this end for the reception of the new settlers. I am not going to criticise the scheme, or offer any obstruction to it. I realise that the Government are up against a very difficult proposition. As far back as two or three years ago, the Government knew that it would be possible to obtain a large number of emigrants from England, and the fault I have to find is that they did not then start the work of preparing for them. The action of the Government during the past three years has led to our own people being denied the right to select land. They have closed all agricultural land from selection before survey, and while I do not disapprove of this, I do complain that they did not carry on the survey of land in order to supply the wants of our own people. Many of our own people want wheat-growing land. We have millions of acres of it within the assured rainfall line. This land would be taken up if the Government had only had it surveyed and had given the people an opportunity to select it. There are many

people in this State who know the value of our best wheat-growing land. They do not want land in the South-West; they have not been brought up to that class of farming. They know their business as wheat growers and they want wheat land. They are not prepared to take the inferior land lying idle adjacent to the railways when they know that good land is available further out. They are quite prepared to go out further in order to get good land. We know that Western Australia is a very difficult country to deal with because our good land occurs in patches and requires a great mileage of railways to serve it.

Mr. Willmott: Members will not agree with you on that. They did not agree with me last year, though it is quite true.

Hon. J. A. GREIG: The hon. member on that occasion was referring to the South-West. During the last three years the Government have closed down on all railway construction, and during that same period our deficit has been increasing. I would not mind the deficit increasing if only the State were progressing. If the Government were opening up new land so that there would be a chance of obtaining quick returns from production, the position would not be so serious; we would then have a chance of overtaking the deficit. During the last three years from 50 to 100 men have asked me to put them on to good wheat land in this State. They had no objection to going 20 or 30 miles from a railway, provided they could get good land. I had to tell them I did not know where to send them; the conditions were that there could be no selection before survey, and there was no good wheat land surveyed. It is two or three years since I was promised that surveyors would be sent to survey a quarter of a million acres in one patch at Newdegate. Last week the Government were able to throw open 40 odd blocks in that area. I realise that the Government have been short of money for building railways and making advances to settlers. They have had to economise and I quite agree that economy should be the keynote of the Government at the present time, but to sacrifice development for economy is a very serious mistake. The government during the last three years have been Micawber-like in their actions. They have not made preparations as they should have done. They have made preparations in other ways, but why retard the progress of the wheat belt when that is the portion of the country where the most prosperous farmers are located to-day? Why not survey that land by the hundreds of thousands of acres and make a stipulation, if necessary, that a railway will not be built until a certain number of settlers are located in a particular area. I do not believe in keeping the land locked up if settlers will go out and take the risk of getting a railway. We have heard a lot about the good land lying undeveloped alongside existing railways. I have honestly tried to find any quantity of good land idle