

made at a variety of meetings held by various organisations outside Parliament, where some of these statements, by sheer reiteration, tend to become accepted as fact when they could bear a little more investigation than is given them.

There is only one other matter to which I wish to draw attention, and that is in relation to the Karnet Rehabilitation Centre. I was fortunate enough to be in attendance at the original meetings held when the proposition was first suggested. I have taken some interest in it right through, was at the opening, and recently visited it as a guest of Mr. Driscoll. I have had lunch there with some of the inmates and I would suggest that if members ever get an opportunity to visit that centre they should avail themselves of it.

It is a new departure in the way of gaols in this State and is extremely interesting. It has two wings, one to house 60 rehabilitation candidates—I will put it that way—and the other, reasonably well separated, to handle 60 persons who have been gaoled because of an addiction to alcohol. This is the inebriate section.

I had lunch with three very interesting fellows. They were nicely spoken and were particularly pleasant to talk to. They discussed their problems with extreme frankness, and it was enlightening to talk to them at that level at the meal table. The whole attitude of these people is unlike that of those in the gaols with which most members here will have had any experience—in a social way, I mean, of course. These fellows are really taking a keen interest in their rehabilitation. They have their own branch of A.A. with people travelling from Perth for meetings at regular intervals. They give them their evening meal and conduct the meeting. The president, secretary, treasurer, etc., are all inmates, having been transferred there from Fremantle.

At present there are 22 in the inebriate section and 40 in the rehabilitation section. The whole moral tone and morale of the place is something to see and experience. It is good. I think Mr. Driscoll, the present man in charge, is doing a particularly wonderful job.

This evening I have endeavoured to mention certain matters which although not of earth-shaking importance, have been steps forward in the general humanitarian progress of this State. Several of them have made marked contributions to the welfare and well-being of people in country areas and have been positive steps towards decentralisation and the ideal that is sought of people staying in their own little districts and living there in happiness and contentment. Although they are not as worthy of headlines, shall I say, as the decentralisation moves like the establishment of Laporte, and big iron ore projects, and such things, they still have a very large part to play in decentralisation,

and that part they are playing. Therefore it behoves us to remember these various moves that have been made.

There are, of course, many things yet to be done and always will be as long as there is government in this State. In speeches such as we have heard over the last few days, many original and good ideas have been put forward. I was particularly impressed by one submitted by Mr. Wise last night. I refer, of course, to his comments on the possibility of encouraging insurance companies to make bequests to the research of medical problems and the like.

We have not the immense wealth in this State which leads to the sort of bequests that are customary in the more wealthy countries, and indeed, in the Eastern States. Whilst I have no doubt the immediate reaction to Mr. Wise's suggestion will be a sort of sad shaking of the head, I hope, as time goes by, the seed will fall on fertile ground and something will be done about it.

In conclusion I would like to congratulate Mr. Dellar and Mr. Dolan on being elected as members of this Chamber, and Mr. Heitman who will be joining us in the next day or so. Like most members, I am sorry, however, at the various deaths which have occasioned these by-elections. I support the motion.

THE HON. D. P. DELLAR (North-East) [7.46 p.m.]: First of all I would like to take this opportunity, Mr. President, of thanking you and all members for the good wishes that have been passed on to me in the short time I have been in the House. I can assure members it is most encouraging. I propose tonight, during the debate on the Address-in-Reply, to speak of the hardships that have been and are still being experienced throughout my electorate.

People in the mining industry are fortunate, however, to have behind them the Chamber of Mines to help them overcome many hardships. At all times the Chamber of Mines has done all in its power to assist and keep the mining industry going, particularly during the difficult periods it has experienced, and is experiencing.

We are also fortunate to have had the management and workers in the goldmining industry working in harmony together and in close liaison with each other. This has prevented strikes and trouble in the industry but it has been brought about only by the close and good relationships that exist between management and the workers. The mine managers in the various mines throughout the goldmining areas have planned ahead and prepared themselves for the days of increased prices and the high costs of supplies necessary for the mining industry. They have spent large sums of money on experiments.

The first experiment I would like to mention is the introduction of hydraulic fill. It took a long while and a lot of money and many working hours on the part of the mine management to introduce this system. Much money was spent in preparing plants and getting the density down to a liquid form so that the dirt being taken out of the mines could be pumped back underground to help hold the mines together. Not only does it help to hold the mines together but it also overcomes problems with bad ground and allows men to work in places where it would be impossible for them to work without the hydraulic fill system. It has also extended the life of the mines.

Secondly, large sums of money were spent by the companies on the introduction of carbide tipped drills. These were introduced to enable the ground to be broken at a quicker rate and this brought about an increased overall production or tonnage. Also it was of advantage to the miners because they were able to handle the lighter equipment with less strain and fewer working hazards. All these innovations have assisted greatly to help overcome rising costs, but the companies have to look further ahead and now they have introduced a new explosive called ammonium nitrate fuel oil. Once again the mine managers worked long hours and spent considerable sums of money experimenting with this explosive. That, too, is helping to keep the mines going.

I would like to congratulate the Shire of Kalgoorlie on its foresight. Some two years ago it saw the need for conserving water, which is a very important commodity in any outback town. The shire now has a lagoon which would be a credit to any town or State. Unfortunately it is not quite as big as the shire required; it was looking for a 37,000,000 gallon lagoon, but this one holds only 10,000,000 gallons. However, there is hope in the near future of its being enlarged. Just recently a new power house was opened in Kalgoorlie and that, too, involved the spending of a large sum of money. However, it is money well spent because it is for the benefit of people on the goldfields and I want to congratulate the town council for providing it.

The town of Boulder has been going along nicely and quietly and the Boulder Town Council has been improving the streets of the town and has also installed fluorescent lights on the main roads. It has seen fit, too, to build a nice little caravan park for tourists who want somewhere to stay overnight and enjoy what Boulder has to offer.

Recently the Shire of Cue, which is a long way from here, saw fit to install a new generating plant. That is a great encouragement to any little town and the shire deserves all our congratulations. The Menzies Shire Council has laid down kerbings along the streets to allow the bitumen

road to be put down. It has also planted trees down the middle of the roads. These are all small things which help beautify the town, and the residents are proud of it. The little shires of Leonora, Sandstone, Mt. Magnet, Laverton, Meekatharra, Yalgoo, and Wiluna are all to be congratulated and admired on the way they go about their business. They never give up hope and they are always trying to beautify their towns and keep the ratepayers happy.

I am sad to say there are few prospectors in the bush at present. Later on I hope to mention a few ways in which I think prospectors could be assisted.

Over the years the pastoralists in the northern districts have seen fit to spend considerable sums of money and put in many hours of hard work on their properties. Pastoralists in the north country do not get it easy. They have no bitumen roads running past their properties; all their materials, whether being transported in or out, have to be hauled over bad roads; but they are to be admired for the way they have stuck to the back country. I am happy to say that at the present time the pastoralists are doing a good job in holding the back country together. If members were to see some of the places and the people I have mentioned it would be an education for them.

All those who reside in the outback have faith in it. They have spent large sums of money and put a good deal of effort into their work and I think it is the duty of any Government, State or Federal, to render every assistance possible to them.

Tonight I intend to indulge in a few little criticisms and in doing so I will accept any challenges coming my way. There has been a good deal of talk about decentralisation, but I agree with one member who said that much of it is only lip service. Mr. MacKinnon talked about the benefits of electricity and certain other little matters—or matters which apparently are big to him.

However, to my way of thinking, there are not many people who can think of any place further than 150 miles from the coast. How the people in the north are expected to go on living with rail freights continually rising is beyond me. Surely we should obtain some uniformity in this regard; surely some large concession can be granted to these people by way of subsidy!

I would like to refer to an anomaly which has been brought to my notice and which relates particularly to discrepancies in rail freights charged. I quote the case of our local cordial factory which pays approximately £9 a ton to have its sugar railed to Kalgoorlie. If the manager of the factory had his syrups made in Perth,

the cost would be approximately £6 per ton. I certainly do not think that is encouraging local industries.

We find the Coca Cola people railing their product to Kalgoorlie at approximately £6 a ton; yet the Golden Mile cordial factory in Kalgoorlie is hanging on, and is prepared to pay this extra £3 a ton, merely to keep an additional industry going in the goldfields. It is not right; and it is certainly not fair that, because an industry happens to be 360 miles from Perth, it should be asked to sacrifice itself in this fashion.

I now come to the ever-present problem of water rates. Surely some concession could be given to the people in the north and those on the eastern goldfields? The pipeline to the goldfields was put down with money paid by the people of the goldfields, but they only receive whatever water happens to be left in this source of supply after the metropolitan area has been served.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Do you know what it costs to get 1,000 gallons of water to Kalgoorlie?

The Hon. D. P. DELLAR: The answer was given by the Minister for Works some 12 months ago.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You can tell us now.

The Hon. D. P. DELLAR: It is not possible for me to give the Minister the information from memory. But I am not concerned as to what it costs to get 1,000 gallons of water to Kalgoorlie. All I am concerned about is assisting the people in that area to obtain something which by right belongs to them—it belongs to the people of the goldfields.

I have no desire to deny the farmers a bit of water; but I would like to know what these farmers are paying for their water. I do not care whether a district is 10 or 50 miles from Perth, but I do feel that the rate charged for water which is piped to Kalgoorlie should be a uniform one.

The Hon. R. H. C. Stubbs: I heartily agree.

The Hon. D. P. DELLAR: The question of uniformity of rate also applies to petrol. Here we have another charge which is sounding the death knell of every motorist in the north. Once again I ask: Why cannot the amount charged for petrol be made uniform? As an illustration I would point out that I can go to any store, no matter how far it is from the metropolitan area, and buy a packet of cigarettes at a uniform price. There are many similar commodities that I could mention. Why the difference of 11d. per gallon on petrol?

One leaves Kalgoorlie and goes to Menzies where one pays 5s. a gallon. The same thing applies at Leonora; and so it goes

on until the price eventually reaches 6s. or 7s. per gallon. We are told that these costs are inevitable because of freight rates. But I am not convinced that they cannot be made uniform. I asked a question as to why there should be these extra costs, and the answer given me was that they were due to freight charges and insurance coverage.

I would point out, however, that petrol has been taken up north for a very long time, and if any member can quote me an instance of there having been a fire or a blow-up resulting in a claim on an insurance company, I would like to hear it. No such claim has ever been made. Even if these extra costs are due to freight and insurance charges, I suggest that the people who are enjoying the best of life right here in the heart of the city should be made to pay for them. I know I will not get support from all members in this House on the matter, because they have their own electorates to consider and look after.

At this point I would like to mention the charge of £2 15s. which is made for a radio license. This charge is uniform no matter where one is. In the metropolitan area one has a choice of 10 stations. In Kalgoorlie one might have three stations to choose from; whereas three miles from Kalgoorlie there are only two such stations. When South Australia comes on the air, however, we are lucky if we have one station to tune into. Yet the people still have to pay £2 15s. to license their radios. If television were introduced into the goldfields tomorrow I am sure the same inconsiderate treatment would be meted out to the people in that area; and they would be lucky if they had one viewing station.

The Hon. H. K. Watson: It is the Commonwealth Constitution which is responsible for that.

The Hon. D. P. DELLAR: Another matter which requires attention is the charge made for people who own rifles. I do not know whether the powers-that-be who are responsible for the rules and regulations appreciate the fact that the man in the bush depends on his rifle for fresh meat. The man in the bush still has to pay for the privilege of owning a rifle; and, as I have said, he depends on it for his fresh meat. It is not possible for him to find a butcher shop 300 or 400 yards up the street from which he can get his fresh meat. In spite of this fact we find that in three years the license fee for a rifle has gone up 500 per cent.

Three years ago I had one rifle which cost me 1s. to license. At the moment I have two rifles which cost me 10s.; and the cost seems to be ever-increasing. If one had five rifles one would still have to pay an extra 5s. for each rifle; yet three

years ago it would have cost only 1s. It would be difficult to convince me that costs have risen to that extent.

There is still the one policeman in every town who collects his usual wages and does his ordinary day's work; he still has only to tear off a strip of paper which constitutes the license; and yet the man in the bush is being charged 500 per cent. more than he was three years ago for an identical service. I know this charge is the same for everybody, but we must not lose sight of the fact that the man in the outback depends on his rifle for his meal.

Another cost to which I would like to refer is the £1 extra by way of surcharge on motor vehicle insurance. That was purely and simply a tax imposed on the motorist. What benefit does the motorist derive from this £1 surcharge? None whatever! In the metropolitan area owners of motor vehicles use their cars every day for one reason or another. Perhaps they can afford to use them every day and pay the extra £1. Then again we have fleet owners who pay this £1 surcharge but who are able to claim a taxation deduction in respect of it, depending on the number of cars they have. It is not possible, however, for the prospector up north to make any such claim for his vehicle. He may, perhaps, use his vehicle once or twice a week to pick up his stores.

The Hon. A. R. Jones: And mostly over bush tracks.

The Hon. D. P. DELLAR: Mr. Jones is burning up the roads! Apart from using his vehicle once or twice a week, the man in the outback usually leaves it lying under a gum tree for the rest of the time. It is little wonder, therefore, that I should say that talk of decentralisation is only lip service. Decentralisation might extend up to perhaps 100 miles from the metropolitan area; certainly no more.

I was going to speak at some length on the Workers' Compensation Act, with particular emphasis on silicosis and other miners' diseases. I am very happy, however, to find that the Minister for Mines has appointed a committee to inquire into this matter, and I offer him my congratulations for having done so. I will await the findings of that committee before saying anything more on the subject, but I do hope it recommends a complete review of the Act.

Speaking on the Supply Bill the other day I mentioned a short telephone line. I said that I protested to the Federal member of my district in regard to the matter. I have here a reply that the Federal member received from the Postmaster-General in regard to my request, I will quote a small portion of the letter which is as follows:—

The extension of telephone facilities to Mt. Ida already has been examined exhaustively. Unfortunately the costs

of erecting a Post Office pole route or installing suitable radio equipment are so great as to make the proposition financially prohibitive. I regret, therefore, that the Department is unable to accede to your request in this connection.

That reply was received in regard to a request for 40 miles of telephone line to serve approximately 130 people. Mr. President and honourable members join me in bowing our heads in shame.

Our pioneers of 60 years ago who went out into the back country with wheelbarrows, horses, and drays would not have worried about 40 miles of telephone line. They would have put it up themselves. Yet, 60 years later in a modern age and with all the modern equipment that we have, the department cannot see its way clear to put up 40 miles of telephone line.

The Hon. R. H. C. Stubbs: They can put up telephone calls.

The Hon. D. P. DELLAR: Yes, they can put lots of things up; but when it is something to help people they cannot see their way clear to do anything. The fellows of 60 years ago would turn over in their resting places if they could see the treatment that is being handed out to people in the outback.

I wish now to speak for quite a bit about the roads in the north country; and once again I do not think what I have to say will make too many people happy. I was born there and lived in that area and I feel it is my duty to bring this matter up whether I offend or not. When one goes within 100 miles of the coast in any direction one will see bitumen roads leading in all directions. Wherever there is a road leading to any corner one will find that it is bituminised. I say good luck to those people in the agricultural areas, and I hope they get more bitumen roads and better roads.

The other day I asked the Minister for Mines a question regarding a road from Menzies to Leonora. The question was as follows:—

With regard to the proposed route of the bitumen road from Menzies to Leonora, will the Minister inform the House—

- (a) (i) if it is going through Jeedamya station property; or
- (ii) will it follow the present railway line; and
- (b) what advantages will decide the route?

Much to my disgust this matter turned out to be the same as the telegraph line—they were worried about the extra cost. The Minister replied as follows:—

- (a) (i) The existing road from Menzies to Leonora is located through Jeedamya. Except

for minor deviations where alignment is not satisfactory it is proposed to adopt the existing road which goes direct to Leonora over the bridge crossing of Lake Rae-side.

(ii) Answered by (a) (i).

- (b) There are advantages in taking into account the salvage value of the existing road and its condition of compaction, and there would be advantage also in that it would be the shortest route.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Don't you think that is the common sense thing.

The Hon. D. P. DELLAR: No, I do not. There is not one bit of sense in it.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You believe in going the long way round.

The Hon. D. P. DELLAR: The longest way and the sweetest way. That may sound silly, but I will give my reasons for saying it. I would say the people responsible for mapping out this road to go through Jeedamya station showed very little thought, if any.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You know more about it than the engineers.

The Hon. D. P. DELLAR: That is for sure; and I am prepared to stand here and say it. Too much engineering work is done from St. George's Terrace.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Not enough local knowledge—I agree with you.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: Hear, hear!

The Hon. D. P. DELLAR: I would say the engineers of 60 years ago were 100 per cent. on these fellows, if that be their only excuse for taking the road that way. The railway follows the goldmining belt from Menzies to Leonora. However, they are going the short way. They say 15 miles, but I know it is 10. I was born there. They will cut out the goldmining belt and serve one pastoralist only. By following the existing railway line—and one of the most important things at the present time is to follow the gold mining belt—at least eight pastoralists would be served. After hearing these facts can the Minister see any sense in the reply which I read?

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I cannot see any sense in one man who thinks he knows everything.

The Hon. D. P. DELLAR: That is for sure. I do not know everything, but I know what I am talking about. The engineers were afraid of the hue and cry that would break out in Leonora, because the Leonora people would have to cover an extra 15 miles—no, I will stick to 10. Surely after travelling for a number of years over boulders, stumps, mulga, and corrugations,

they would not worry about travelling an extra 10 miles on a bitumen road. I am sure of that.

The Hon. R. Thompson: It is only the cost of a Minister's trip overseas, isn't it?

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: That is a smart one.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: That would not do half a mile.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: He did not say the tipping; he said the tripping.

The Hon. D. P. DELLAR: I have not finished with regard to the cost. Once again I know too much. Unfortunately I do know too much when it comes to the cost of this road. When the 18-mile peg is reached and the road leaves the railway line and heads for Leonora all of the materials required will have to be taken off the trucks at the 18-mile peg and carried over 40 miles by road. If the materials were loaded on to a rail truck at Menzies, Leonora, or Kalgoorlie, they could be railed within 10 yards of where the road should go. Yet those concerned are prepared to take the materials off a truck and cart them 40 miles; and they are worrying about the little extra cost to provide a shorter route of 10 to 15 miles.

Over the last 12 months the Water Supply Department or the Main Roads Department has been going along putting in little dams in order to conserve water in connection with the bituminising of this road. However, had they followed the gold mining belt there would have been no need for that whatsoever. Seeing that I know so much probably I can enlighten the Minister. Had the engineers of the department concerned seen me a few years ago I could have informed them that at Jessop's Well 30,000 gallons of water per day were running away. At Kookynie 40,000 to 42,000 gallons of water run away per day, and at Champion Flats the figure is 30,000 to 40,000 gallons.

Despite this, the department saw its way clear to put down these little dams in order to save cost when the water which is required was already there. All that was needed was a little pump. The water could have been put on railway trucks or motor trucks and taken along the road. At present they have to cart the water 16 miles either way. They also need water to fill the dams. It is no good building dams where there is no water. However, at the places I mentioned, thousands of gallons of water are running away each day.

I am going to repeat myself and say this: It is high time this Government or any other Government—

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I am glad you said that.

The Hon. D. P. DELLAR: —took its mind a little further than 150 miles from the coast. I think the people within that

radius have had a pretty fair go. If we are going to assist people, let us do something about decentralisation and not just talk about it. That is the only way.

I could be wrong, but in my opinion that is the only way we are going to do away with centralisation. People are not going to stay in the north paying high costs when they can get things for, say, half the cost in the metropolitan area. It will not be many years before people will be leaving the metropolitan area in flocks, because they will be only too happy to go back to the north. That is my answer to centralisation. I support the motion.

THE HON. H. C. STRICKLAND (North)
[8.32 p.m.]: Like other members who have already spoken to the Address-in-Reply I welcome the new members to the House and regret the passing of those they have replaced.

I listened intently to the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech and I was very disappointed with some aspects of it. I am not going to travel completely through the Speech, but merely touch on two subjects—or, rather, the absence of one and the mention of another. The subject which was absent is one of greatest importance. It received scant consideration by the Government in His Excellency's Speech. That particular absentee happens to be unemployment.

The only reference of any kind in the Speech to unemployment is one which gives a preliminary precis of the distribution of the terrifically large sum of money which the Government has had at its disposal in the past 12 months, and out of that very large sum which was spent by the Government we find that a special allocation from a Government grant to stimulate employment was mentioned in the Speech.

The number of people registered with the employment bureau has averaged 5,000 to 6,500 persons per month and at the present time there are slightly over 6,500 registered unemployed, which is unfortunate for those who are registered. It seems to me that the effort which was made by the Commonwealth Government in granting to the State Government a special allocation of £510,000 to stimulate employment for the 5,500 to 6,500 people who were registered for employment is rather a paltry sum, because even if it were distributed on a cash basis per capita it would amount to only £85 for each person, which is, of course, not a very invigorating stimulant.

I feel that the Government's effort on behalf of the unemployed has not been very great, and as a result the number of unemployed continues to increase. All this is in spite of the fact that the Government has had very large sums—record sums—at its disposal. Of course, each Government

would have the same increased amount of money as the years go by—at least we would hope so, anyway.

The only other reference made to employment of any kind came from the Minister for Housing. In his contribution the Minister said that housing played an important part in a successful State drive to attract migrants from Britain to meet the demands for skilled workers created by economic expansion. That is a fact. That is correct. But, of course, this economic expansion and these exciting ventures, works, and projects about which we read from day to day are, most unfortunately, not having the effect which the Government is endeavouring to create. The Government is endeavouring to create what some Ministers choose to call a public image of the exact position in the minds of people. We read of fabulous iron ore discoveries, about which members on this side of the House told the House several years ago, and who were not believed.

Despite all the advertisements in connection with mining and the talk about mineral deposits being discovered, being leased, and being taken up in other ways; and despite the fact that we read about the development of new ports, new towns, and goodness knows how many miles of railway line throughout the north-west, the image which is being presented to the public in respect of all these works which are being created has had the net result of putting more people on to the labour market; of having more people registered for work on the labour market.

According to the Press there are today 6,600 registered unemployed in Perth. Of that number, 2,200 are under the age of 21. They are minors. That is a most unfortunate circumstance for the 2,200 young people who are unemployed. It is most unfortunate indeed that work cannot be found for them, has not been provided for them and has not been proposed for them in the foreseeable future.

Whether the Press and the Government, or the Government and its Press agents create the public image to which I have referred, I do not know. I do not know which way it is; I am never too sure whether the daily Press speaks to the Government or for the Government. I have been here for 12 years trying to establish that. I am certain that during the six years I was a member of one Government the Press did not speak for the Government, but it always spoke against the Government.

This image about which I am speaking is a new phrase which has been coined and invented since the Ord River diversion dam was completed. We find that the public image is not achieving the results which the Government intends. The Government can mislead people into believing that everything is rosy and that expansion in this State is dynamic. But that is not the case.