

is made for the family as it comes along. Why should not every child have a place? We must take care of the children and make ample provision for their existence. If we wish to keep our heads above water we must have efficient administration, industrial peace, and a larger population. Regarding the former point, Ministers must keep in personal touch with their departments and responsible heads. They must take personal notice of everything and of those working under them. They must apply themselves now, as they have never done before, to their work. I am glad that reference was made from the other side of the House to the fact that they do not believe our compulsory industrial arbitration has failed. I do not think it has. I know what strikes mean not only to those immediately involved but to hundreds, and often thousands, of those removed from the scene of the strike. If we are to have the strikes during the next two or three years that we have had in the past, we shall never get out of our difficulties.

Mr. Clydesdale: Are you a pessimist?

Mr. DAVIES: Not altogether, but unless we face the position squarely and honestly, and try to find a way out of our difficulties, there is no possible chance for us at all. I believe in the good sense of the Britisher, and that when it comes to the absolute limit, he will say to himself and his fellows, "This will not carry us much further." We have to alter our tactics." We see what is taking place in the Official Labour Party to-day. There is a change in tactics and I hope this will be for the benefit not only of the workers but of the State as a whole.

On motion by Mr. Corboy, debate adjourned.

*House adjourned at 10.30 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly,

*Wednesday, 17th August, 1921.*

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

### QUESTION—ESPERANCE LANDS, CLEARING.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN (for Hon. T. Walker) asked the Premier: 1, Has any provision been made for a steam traction engine for the purpose of assisting the Esperance district settlers in the mallee district on similar terms to like assistance rendered elsewhere? 2, If so, when can the settlers expect that the steam traction engine will be in commission? 3, If no steps have been taken to assist the mallee settlers to roll down the scrub, will he consider the advisability of rendering this assistance as early as possible?

The PREMIER replied: 1, No. 2, Answered by No. 1. 3, Inquiries by the General Manager, Agricultural Bank, go to show that horses will be more economical than an engine. If it can be shown that the engine is cheaper, he is prepared to send one down.

### QUESTION—RAILWAY BUFFET CARS.

Mr. PICKERING asked the Minister for Railways: 1, How many buffet cars has the Railway Department? 2, How many are in operation? 3, What sections are they operating on? 4, What have been the financial results during the period of running?

The PREMIER (for the Minister for Railways) replied: 1, Three. 2, Two. 3, Perth-Wyalcatchem, Caron-Yalgoo. 4, Perth-Wyalcatchem car, 21st March to 31st July, profit £30 17s. 10d.; Perth-Kellerberrin car, 21st March to 31st July, loss £152 11s. 1d.; Caron-Yalgoo car, 16th May to 31st July, loss £49 12s. 11d. The Perth-Kellerberrin car was discontinued with the time table alterations operating from 8th August. The Caron-Yalgoo car is the only means of satisfactorily meeting refreshment requirements of passengers between Perth and Murchison District.

### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Seventh Day.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

Mr. CORBOY (Yilgarn) [4.36]: In common with others who have spoken on the Address-in-reply, and especially as the baby of the House, I desire to welcome the mother of the House amongst us. I hope that during my tenure in this Chamber I will not give Ministers, or others, cause to complain that, like most babies, I am always howling for a rattle. I will endeavour to bring forward for the consideration of the Government only those things that I think are reasonable, or that I consider should be granted. With regard to the Address-in-reply, there has been an almost total absence from the speeches delivered by members sitting on the Ministerial side of the House, of any proposal or policy, either on the part of Ministers or private members, indicating any definite ideas as to how the financial drift is to be remedied. In the Governor's Speech we



are confronted with a mass of figures. There is page after page and column after column of figures, and we have had the same thing from the Premier, who has read lists to members showing where losses are taking place. We have had from the Premier admissions that certain things, on the other hand, are showing profits, but we have had no definite proposal as to how the deficit may be stopped. When speaking on the Supply Bill some days ago, I made the same point, and I would like to again ask if the Government have any definite idea, or tangible proposal, to bring forward which will help to relieve us from the present position.

Mr. Marshall: Patience, Mr. Corboy, patience.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! An hon. member is not allowed to refer to another hon. member by name.

Mr. CORBOY: This is a matter of considerable importance, especially to the people outback, and more particularly to the mining constituencies. It has been necessary for the Government, in jogging along in the same old style, advancing nothing new from time to time, to increase the taxation in order to make up the few pounds they fall behind. In pursuing that policy, material injury has been done to some of the industries in Western Australia, and to men engaged in those industries, some of whom deserve a great deal more consideration than they have received in the past. Take the case of the prospector. We have men in this country—and I hope very soon to introduce the Premier to some of them—who have been battling in the back blocks for 15 or 20 years. Some of them have been battling there for a longer period than that, and with little more to show than a few clothes and tucker. Eventually some of these prospectors make a strike. What happens? Immediately they want to sell their show to a company and thus recoup themselves for their 20 years of work and privation, battling away in the solitudes of the bush, the Government step in with exorbitant claims for taxation, with the result that it is not possible for a company to buy, or for the man to sell.

The Premier: That is not a proposal of this Government.

Mr. CORBOY: You are not doing anything to rectify it.

The Premier: Yes, we are.

Mr. CORBOY: I am glad to have that assurance.

The Premier: The trouble is mainly with the Federal Government.

Mr. CORBOY: I will have something to say regarding the Federal Government as well. I am glad, however, to have the assurance from the Premier, that these men who are battling in the back blocks against conditions which the city people cannot realise, are to get some consideration. I have on many occasions supported the claim that it would be just to assess a primary producer's income on the average income derived during the five preceding years. I want to see some-

thing done in the interests of men like the prospectors, so that they may have a reasonable chance of securing a fair return for their work instead of having it taken away from them, as is the case to-day.

The Premier: Why five years, though?

Mr. CORBOY: Ten years would suit me better if it is possible for such a thing to be. I do not presume to be an actuary, to say that such a proposal is a possible one. Should it be found possible, however, I think that relief should be given to these primary producers.

The Premier: That is a suggestion worthy of consideration, anyway.

Mr. CORBOY: The Premier stated that the Federal authorities had a good deal to do with this question and I agree with him. The Federal imposts to-day are reaching almost the possible limit in taxation without considering in any way the State requirements. The Federal Government are indulging in extravagance throughout the Commonwealth, and they are creating new positions, with large salaries, not only within Australia but in England and America as well. I wish to enter a strong protest against the Federal authorities with respect to the loans which they have been floating during the past five or six years. Have the Federal Government, or any other Government, under the Commonwealth Constitution, any right to free their loans from taxation?

The Premier: The Federal Government have the right to free their loans from State taxation.

Mr. Angelo: A previous Treasurer, Mr. Gardiner, assured us that that was so some two years ago.

Mr. CORBOY: It is a most unfortunate thing if that is so. It is unfortunate that the Federal authorities can so materially interfere with our laws.

The Premier: Especially as they are paying 6½ per cent.

Mr. Angelo: Mr. Gardiner said that we could retaliate in connection with any loans we raised here.

The Premier: But can we?

Mr. CORBOY: So far the Government have not raised any loans in Western Australia. The position, therefore, has not been tested, seeing that no attempt has been made to raise a loan. When the member for Guildford (Mr. Davies) was speaking last night he brought up the question of the endowment of motherhood. Members will agree that that proposal is a good move, but the hon. member seemed to regard with horror the suggestion that a lottery should be conducted to raise the money. I put it to the Treasurer that it would be a good thing for this State if we were to start a State lottery. In Queensland enormous sums have been raised by these means, and it has been found possible, not only to maintain hospitals, but to build new ones, and to provide money for all sorts of charitable purposes. Similar action is proposed in New South Wales. Whether or not



we think these lotteries are good, we cannot hope to stop the Australian from participating in them by refraining from having a Government lottery in this State. If the people cannot get one here, they will continue to send their money to those in Tasmania and Queensland. It would be very much better if the Government used every possible endeavour to retain that money in the State by running a lottery here. I put it to the Premier that, instead of having private gentlemen going about begging for funds for the erection of a new out-patients ward at the Children's Hospital, we ought to establish a State lottery. This is a matter worthy of the most serious consideration. An enormous sum of money goes out of this State every year in the form of investments in lotteries in Tasmania and Queensland, and I hope some effort will be made to retain that money in this State. I was glad to hear the declaration of the member for Claremont (Mr. J. Thomson) that his own observation had shown him that in Queensland the Labour Government had done more for the returned soldiers than had all the other State Governments put together. It is a pretty sweeping statement; I should not care to go quite so far myself. But it is an indication that the Queensland Labour Government have honestly endeavoured to do their duty by the soldiers. When I remember statements made by members sitting opposite, to the effect that the Queensland Labour Government were a disloyal Government; when I remember the statements appearing in our newspapers that the Queensland Labour Government were against the returned soldiers, it is especially pleasing to hear one sitting on the Government side declaring that in his opinion the Queensland Labour Government are trying to do their duty.

Mr. Pickering: He is considering the changing of his position in the House.

Mr. CORBOY: He will be a welcome recruit over here. One with the genial disposition of the hon. member would add greatly to the tone of our side.

The Premier: He would be a handsome addition.

Mr. CORBOY: Yes, handsome in every sense of the word. I believe there are on the Government side one or two other members who if they wished could back up the statement that the Queensland Government have done exceptionally well by the soldiers. There are many on the Government side who claim to be the friends of the soldiers, that they are out all the time to do anything they can for the returned men. We have heard that statement many times during the last four or five years, but I noticed a significant silence, the lack of anything in the nature of a cheer, when the member for Claremont praised the Queensland Labour Government for having done their duty.

Mr. Angelo: Your side cheered so loudly that you did not hear our cheers.

Mr. CORBOY: I admit that we did cheer, and rightly so.

Mr. Boyland: In Queensland the civil population are getting better conditions than are the soldiers.

Mr. CORBOY: I do not believe that.

Mr. Boyland: It is a fact.

Hon. P. Collier: It is not. I have just come back from there, and I saw a good deal of what was going on.

Mr. CORBOY: I do not think the member for Kalgoorlie has visited that State recently. I have it from those who have been there recently, that no distinctions are made in that State, that the Government are giving everybody a fair deal. The same cannot be said of this State. We are getting retrenchment here. It reminds me that the Government are always proclaiming their desire to do everything possible for the immigrants who will come out here. They are laying themselves out to do that. We have in the community the Ugly Men's Association, who have done yeoman work in relieving distress in various directions. They also have laid themselves out to help the immigrants. That is a right policy to pursue, but I say that some effort should be made on similar lines to deal with the unemployed amongst us.

Mr. Mann: The Ugly Men's Association are doing that.

Mr. CORBOY: I fear that is not so. If an Australian born went to that association to-morrow without being entitled to wear a returned soldier's badge and asked to be put through their school, as the immigrants are, and for a farm to be found for him, he could not be granted those advantages.

Mr. Mann: The association have found work for over 400 since October.

Mr. CORBOY: But you are prepared to go a great deal further for the immigrant than for our own unemployed.

The Premier: I do not think so.

Mr. CORBOY: Well one can only go on what one sees happening around him. I should like to know from the Premier whether any effort has been made to provide jobs for the men recently dismissed from the Railways; has any work been put in hand in advance to provide for those men, just as the Government would provide for a ship-load of immigrants? When you dismiss men wholesale, you are throwing a crowd on the labour market.

The Premier: I have not heard that any of them are wanting work.

Mr. CORBOY: They are coming to us for it.

The Premier: I hope they will stick to you.

Mr. CORBOY: If the Premier sticks to his present treatment of them, I can assure him they will stick to us at the next elections, when the votes are wanted. I protest against these wholesale dismissals from the Railways. The Minister for Railways, in answer to a question the other day, informed me that the percentage of the salaried staff employed in the Railways has increased



during the last 12 months to a greater extent than either the mileage or the wages staff. There comes a time, as at present, when things are slack on the railways. They have had two bad monthly reports, and in consequence either the Commissioner or the Minister is panic-stricken and resorts to dismissals.

The Premier: I believe this will be the worst month in the history of the Railways.

Mr. CORBOY: It makes it the harder to understand the action of the Government during this and the previous month. Although the salaried staff has increased more than either the wages staff or the mileage, when it comes to a question of retrenchment there is no suggestion of getting rid of the surplus clerical staff.

Hon. P. Collier: They are increasing them.

Mr. CORBOY: There is no question of retrenching among that staff, but there are wholesale dismissals among the wages staff. In my opinion those dismissals are damaging to the service as a whole, and not in the best interests of the State. Let me quote an instance: In the Guildford electorate a few nights ago I met a lad of about 20 years of age who has been for five years in the railway service. He has ever taken a keen interest in his work and has done everything possible to advance himself. For some time past, although only 20 years of age, he has been a signal man in the signal cabin. Yet the department has dismissed that lad because he does not happen to be married at 20. The department keeps on other men who are casuals, and who will not take the same interest in their work as this lad did. In that the Government are following a policy not in the best interests either of the service or of the country as a whole. If that lad had been a rotter, if through being a rotter he had found it necessary to marry at 17, he would have been kept on; but because he has been decent he has to go. It is not fair.

The Premier: Have you mentioned it to the Commissioner?

Hon. P. Collier: The Commissioner says we must not approach him on these matters.

Mr. CORBOY: Yes, I have received a similar notice. Furthermore, when the dismissals are wholesale I do not feel justified in approaching the Commissioner about one man. It should then be a question of altering the policy, and not of rectifying an individual case.

Mr. Underwood: Keep them all on.

Mr. CORBOY: The Premier himself says that this will be the worst month in the history of the Railways, and naturally things will liven up again. Then why not keep them all on?

Mr. Underwood: Because it is not necessary.

Mr. CORBOY: I will take the hon. member at his word and agree that it is not necessary to keep them all on. But I then ask, what is wrong with dismissing some of the salaried staff, instead of making the wages men bear the whole brunt?

Mr. Underwood: A youngster of 20 years has to bear a lot of brunt, hasn't he?

The Minister for Railways: Exactly the same thing applies to the wages staff. The best paid remain on permanently. They cannot be put off.

Mr. CORBOY: That amuses me! The Minister was out of the Chamber when, a moment ago, I dealt with the case of that lad.

Mr. Underwood: Poor lad! Poor young fellow! Only 20 years of age! Can't he go into the bush?

Mr. CORBOY: I do not wish to go into the whole details of this lad's home, but I venture to say the hon. member was never in the circumstances of this lad.

Mr. Underwood: No, mine were not nearly so favourable.

Mr. CORBOY: I remind the Minister that in the Railways the term "permanent" does not mean that those officers cannot be dismissed. It means merely that they get certain privileges not given to casual men.

Hon. P. Collier: They have not the security of public servants.

The Minister for Railways: The permanent wages staff has. One cannot sack an engine-driver or a fireman.

Mr. CORBOY: The Minister says he cannot sack an engine driver or a fireman. That might be so, but he can reduce an engine driver to the grade of fireman, and a fireman to the grade of cleaner and put the cleaner out.

The Minister for Mines: That would be the boy!

Mr. CORBOY: No; in the other case of which I spoke, I was referring to a signalman. It is still possible for the Minister to retrench, for when the men are put back a grade, they are also reduced in wages. It amounts to the same thing as sacking the engine driver; one employee is got rid of.

The Minister for Mines: A boy at the bottom.

Mr. CORBOY: But the others, too, are dropped a grade, and the same amount of money is saved as if the engine driver were sacked.

The Minister for Mines: That is an entirely different proposition from putting the men off.

Mr. CORBOY: I shall again refer to the case of the signalman for the benefit of the Minister.

The Minister for Mines: I heard what you had to say.

Mr. CORBOY: That lad was supposed to be a permanent employee. Why should he be dismissed?

Mr. Underwood: Why should he be permanent anyhow?

Mr. CORBOY: I do not claim that he should be permanent, but there are many men wasting their time in the offices of the Railway Department who should go before a useful lad like this is put off. I make no bones about saying that I was in one of the offices of the Minister's own depart-



ment less than a week ago, and the whole of the office staff were crowded around a table where four members in office hours were playing bridge. If those men can be kept on, there is surely something wrong with the system.

The Minister for Mines: You ought to report a thing like that.

Mr. Underwood: And the lad should also be allowed to play bridge.

Mr. CORBOY: I was not there to play the part of detective on behalf of the Minister. Before this debate closes, I would like a declaration from the Minister for Railways as to where this business of dismissing men is going to cease, and whether the whole of the burden of it is to be borne by the wages men and not by the salary men. I do not wish to make this a bitter issue, but the Government should take us into their confidence. It is their duty to let the country know where we stand, and we have a right to know definitely what to expect and what provision to make to help to find employment for the men who are put off. I wish to deal with one other matter before I conclude. I do not intend to be like some babies who squawk all day. I notice that I am receiving an encouraging smile from the mother in the House, which is a great help.

Mrs. Cowan: Ladies only talk all day, but the sons are very good sons of their mothers, are they not?

Mr. CORBOY: During the debate the member for Katanning (Mr. A. Thomson) as deputy Leader of the Country Party outlined what I presume we must regard as the attitude of that party, and he also replied to certain statements made by the Leader of the Opposition. I wish briefly to continue that discussion, though I do not wish to labour it, because there are more important things requiring attention than the progress or even the future of the Country Party. I wish briefly to quote to the House a portion of the constitution of the Country Party and to compare that constitution with the statements made by the deputy Leader of the Country Party.

Mr. Pickering: What about your constitution?

Mr. Munsie: You are at liberty to deal with that.

Mr. CORBOY: I am quite willing to allow the member for Sussex to deal with our constitution, and I assure him that any member of this House can obtain a copy of our constitution on application.

Hon. P. Collier: And free of charge.

Mr. Pickering: To whom should he apply?

Hon. P. Collier: I will obtain one for you.

Mr. CORBOY: Any member on this side of the House will obtain one for the hon. member. We are not a bit frightened of letting it see the light of day, but it is interesting to note that I experienced some difficulty in getting a copy of the Country Party's

constitution. It is not so widely distributed as is ours.

Mr. Hickmott: You can get them by the dozen.

Hon. P. Collier: In fact, you paper your houses with them.

Mr. CORBOY: If that is so, perhaps the member for Pingelly will give me an amended copy of the constitution at the close of the conference now being held. The member for Katanning, as deputy Leader of the Country Party, said—

We have no caucus. The Country Party is free and untrammelled in its deliberations in this House.

Paragraph 51a of the constitution of the Primary Producers' Association reads—

The Country Party in both Houses shall, upon all party measures outlined in the political platform, vote solid and as the majority of the party dictates at a properly constituted party meeting.

Mr. Pickering: That is not outside influence.

Mr. CORBOY: I shall deal with that in a moment. The paragraph continues—

Any member or members of the party voting against such decision shall be deemed to be no longer a member or members of the Country Party.

The Country Party's constitution therefore provides for expulsion if a member dares to defy the party caucus, and yet they say they are the only party without a caucus. I would remind members opposite of the statements repeatedly made in this House by members of the Country Party, that they have absolute freedom on the floor of this House and that they can do just as they wish. When one member of the National Labour Party was speaking, there was an interjection by a member of the Country Party to the effect that no more liberty was enjoyed by any party in this House than by the Country Party. I venture to say that, if the statements made by members of the National Labour Party are true, that there is absolutely nothing binding upon them, then the Country Party are bound a great deal more than they are, and furthermore I maintain that the Country Party are bound to a greater extent than ever members of the Labour Party have been.

Mr. Pickering: We have not seen your constitution yet.

Mr. CORBOY: I shall supply a copy to the hon. member before he makes his speech in order that he may comment on it.

Mr. O'Loghlen: We will give him a framed copy.

Mr. CORBOY: A majority of the Country Party outside of this Chamber dictates to the whole of the party in this House, and if any member dares to oppose that majority, the constitution of the Country Party clearly provides for his expulsion from the party.

Mr. Pickering: Surely you would not suggest holding a caucus meeting in this Chamber.

Mr. Underwood: Do not complain about the Country Party when the same thing applies to you.



Mr. CORBOY: The member for Pilbara was well content with the Labour Party for many years until he saw an opportunity to get out.

Mr. Underwood: I was expelled.

Mr. O'Loughlen: You were not expelled.

Hon. P. Collier: It was one of the mistakes we made that we did not expel you.

Mr. Underwood: You talk about expulsion!

Mr. O'Loughlen: Why repeat it? You were never expelled.

Mr. CORBOY: The member for Sussex wanted to know something about the outside domination. The constitution of the Country Party also contains a paragraph treating with this aspect. The denial has gone forth repeatedly from this Chamber and from members of the Country Party outside that there is no such thing as outside domination so far as they are concerned, and that there is no dealing at all with any outside body as to what their actions in this House shall be. Let us study paragraph 51 of their constitution, which reads—

In the event of any doubt arising as to the interpretation of the party platform, the council may, at the request of the Parliamentary party, convene a political conference comprising the members of the council and the Parliamentary party, and the decision of such conference shall bind the Parliamentary party.

Mr. Pickering: Notice that it states "at the request of the Parliamentary party."

Mr. CORBOY: And I would be pretty right in concluding that if a request was necessary, it would come along.

Mr. Pickering: From us?

Mr. CORBOY: Yes, and it would not need a very strong hint from the executive to convince members of the Country Party that it was desired to have a talk with them. If there is no such thing as outside domination, why should the deliberations of a body consisting of members of this House and members of an outside organisation be binding on Country Party members in this House? They say there is no outside domination. Yet their own constitution clearly shows that the executive of the Primary Producers' Association has power, together with members of this House, to bind the whole of the members of the Country Party.

Mr. Pickering: To give an interpretation of the platform.

Mr. CORBOY: That is merely the thin end of the wedge. It is very easy to widen a loophole like that when it is desired so to do.

Mr. Pickering: We do not want to.

Mr. Munsie: Not just at present.

Mr. CORBOY: I do not intend to pursue that subject further. The member for Sussex apparently desires to reply to me, and I shall listen with pleasure to any explanation of his which can possibly show that my interpretation of the two clauses of their constitution which I have quoted is not the correct one.

Mr. Pickering: I shall be delighted.

Mr. CORBOY: The deputy Leader of the Country Party (Mr. A. Thomson), during the course of his remarks, went to some pains to explain how the decision to support the present Government was arrived at, and he denied the accuracy of the statement made by the Leader of the Opposition. The hon. member said that members of the Country Party sitting in this House met and came to a conclusion as to what they should do, and then went to the executive of the Primary Producers' Association and said, "We have come to this conclusion," and that the executive endorsed it. The Leader of the Opposition, in his statement, said that the Country Party members and the executive met together, thrashed the question out, and together came to a decision on the point at issue. The member for Katanning denied that this was so, but only yesterday the real leader of the Country Party, Mr. Monger, in the course of his statement, said—

Following upon the general elections in March, and in conformity with the instructions received from the conference in August last, the members of the Country Party and the executive met in conference on the 30th March to consider what steps should be taken by the party in respect to linking up with other parties on the Government side of the House.

I have no objection to the Country Party doing this.

Mr. A. Thomson: Thank you for that.

Mr. CORBOY: If the member for Katanning wishes to run his party on these lines, that is the concern of the Country Party only, but I maintain that Mr. Monger, in this particular controversy, has backed up the statement of the Leader of the Opposition and denied the statement of the deputy Leader of the Country Party.

Mr. A. Thomson: Have you noticed that everything done at our conference is published, that we sit with open doors?

Mr. CORBOY: Yes, and I can give the hon. member an assurance which can be borne out by members on the Government side who have belonged to the Labour Party, that everything done at our conferences is published in our own paper just as the proceedings of the hon. member's conferences are published in his own paper.

Mr. Pickering: We publish ours in the "West Australian."

Mr. CORBOY: Well, that paper supports the Country Party. What difference does it make?

Mr. A. Thomson: I know of a Labour conference that was held in Perth with closed doors, and no one could get in or out.

Mr. Munsie: You never saw a conference with closed doors yet.

Mr. CORBOY: I wish to enter a protest against one statement which was made by Mr. Monger and which is repeatedly being made, namely that the deficit in this State is due almost entirely to the State Trading Concerns.



The Minister for Works: He does not know what he is talking about.

Mr. CORBOY: Quite so, and I want the Government to deny the accuracy of his statement. A few evenings ago the Premier, when referring to this matter, told the House that the State Trading Concerns during last year had made a profit of nearly £8,000.

The Minister for Works: We made £15,000 on the State Sawmills alone.

Mr. CORBOY: I venture to say that but a tiny proportion of our deficit to-day is due to any of our State Trading Concerns. The statement, however, has gone out repeatedly. It has been used by members of the Country Party in an endeavour to damn the Labour Party for the reason that these trading concerns were brought into existence through the agency of the Labour Party. The statement has been used in an endeavour to convince the people that our deficit is due to these trading concerns. I do not think anyone in the community has had half as good a deal from these trading concerns as the farmers, for instance, have had from the State Implement Works and the rest of them. The farmers have had even more advantage out of these things than have the people represented on this side of the House. Whenever statements of this kind are made I want to see the Government do their duty and put them right, and point out that these things are not as stated by members on the other side of the House.

The Minister for Works: That man does not know what he is talking about.

Mr. CORBOY: I have held that opinion of him for a long time. I would again appeal to the Government to give us, as early as possible, a definite idea of what they are going to do towards stopping the drift. Without following the old channels let us find a new line which will not impoverish and hurt the people in the way that we find to-day. Let the Government evolve some means of pulling the country out of the mire that it is wallowing in to-day. Let us make an endeavour to get upon our feet. Let me add to the assurances of my leader and others on this side of the House and say that I will give every possible assistance to any equitable and just measure that will hold out some hope of stopping the financial drift. Let me assure Ministers that I have no desire as a private member to embarrass them in any way. I recognise that they are faced with one of the toughest propositions that has yet confronted them in the matter of the finances. I have no desire to place before them any requests which I think should not be granted, or are unreasonable and likely to embarrass them. Let me again make an appeal on behalf of the men out back—those who have had to face many a thirsty day, and have suffered many privations from year to year in the hope, as Micawber would say, that something would turn up—to the end that greater consideration shall be extended to them in the future than has been extended to them in the past.

Mr. ANGELO (Gascoyne) [5.18]: There seems to be an epidemic of congratulations in the House, and I find myself affected by some of the germs of that complaint. I will preface my speech by congratulating you, Sir, on your return to the seat you now occupy. During the last month I paid a visit to the Eastern States, and it was my privilege to also visit the Federal Houses of Parliament and the two State Houses. As a result I find that this House stands out for the decorum and dignity with which its deliberations are conducted. This in a great measure is due to the able manner in which you, Sir, have presided over its deliberations. I am also glad to see how well, comparatively speaking, members of this Chamber attend to their duties. I visited the Federal House on four different occasions. On one occasion there were 17 out of 75 members present, on another occasion 14, on another 13, and on the fourth occasion, when a most important debate was taking place, there were only 7 members of that august body sitting in their places. It is a deplorable thing that our Federal members do not attend more regularly to the work for which they are so highly paid.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You will have an opportunity of changing them next year.

Mr. ANGELO: On each of the occasions when I visited the Federal House our good friend, Mr. Gregory, was in his seat, the member for Fremantle was there on one occasion, and the other members from Western Australia were conspicuous by their absence. I join with other members in congratulating our lady member. It is indeed a good thing to see a lady in the House who will look after the interests of the race and home. The member for West Perth said that it is not a good thing for man to be alone. I say it is not a good thing for one woman to be alone. I hope shortly that the member for West Perth (Mrs. Cowan) will have one or two colleagues sitting in the House with her.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: When I was young I was satisfied with one at a time.

Mr. ANGELO: We have only one lady amongst 49 of us. That is perhaps what appeals to a good many of us. An excellent opportunity might be grasped for increasing the number of our lady members when the Re-distribution of Seats Bill comes along. Perhaps, by cutting out a few of the electorates and putting aside four or five seats for women members, the State voting as a whole for those particular four or five, we might get the desired effect. I am surprised that the member for Claremont should object to such a proposal. He has taken the most coveted seat in the House as it is alongside that of the lady member. I also desire to congratulate the various new members of this House. I am particularly pleased to see the new members on the opposite side of the House. The Opposi-