

pany. I have long been an advocate for some steps to be taken by the Government to enable them to get possession of that great property; and although a proposal to that effect was defeated last session, I hope the time is not far distant when any Ministry that may be in power will make it one of their first steps to obtain possession of the Midland Railway and land at a reasonable price. I would like also to see some change made in regard to the Agent General's office in London, and to consider whether an Agent General or a High Commissioner for the whole of Australia will be sufficient for the purposes of State Government, thus rendering unnecessary the maintenance of an Agent General for each State. Some reorganisation of our Agent General's office should be made, in any case, and some better system of bringing the advantages of this State into general notice outside should be adopted. I know that the present occupant of the office, while I was in London last year, regretted that he was not supplied with sufficient means for this purpose; for although numerous inquiries were made at the Agent General's office, there was not sufficient information available to satisfy all the applicants.

MR. ANGWIN: The printed matter he has is stored away.

MR. QUINLAN: I was not aware of that.

MR. ANGWIN: I am.

MR. QUINLAN: I would like to see some steps taken to provide deep sewerage for the metropolis. The absence of sewerage is preventing settlement in the city in some measure, and the suburbs suffer likewise. I think the time has arrived for some better method to be adopted, and more encouragement given to people who wish to build or to reside in the city and suburbs. Whether it is to be done by the Government or by the City Council I do not know, but it is a work of national importance, because all property holders in Perth and suburbs are interested in the health conditions of the capital. Generally speaking, I hope the future administration will at least be as careful as that of the James Government has been in the various departments, and will endeavour to carry out some retrenchment by reducing the number of public servants where there are evidently

too many. It would be better in such cases to reduce the number of employees, and increase the pay where necessary, and I think economy would be promoted in this way. My idea of administration would be to carry on the Government of this State by a coalition, if that could be brought about. Perhaps it is too late at present to urge this, but I hope the day is not far off when some such step will be taken, and that unity of parties should form the administration of the State. I do not like to see continuous changes in office; it is a bad thing for the country, and I think there is only one way of bringing about a settlement of this subject, which would be to have a party such as I suggest consisting of representatives of all sections of the community; not one section alone. [MEMBER: And elect the Ministry?] And elect the Ministry. That is a very wise suggestion. It would be a new custom in any of the British dominions.

HON. F. H. PIESSE: There would be log-rolling then.

MR. QUINLAN: I think not. That is my idea of ideal administration, to have Ministers chosen from the whole body of members.

MR. H. CARSON (Geraldton): It may appear to some members of this House presumption on my part when I say I consider this debate to a very large extent has been a waste of very valuable time. After listening to the remarks of the member for Mount Margaret (Mr. Taylor), I am confirmed to some extent, and I think it would have been in the interests of the country if only the leader of the Opposition and the Premier had spoken to this Address-in-reply. Still, I am glad the debate has so far continued for us to have heard the address of the Minister for Lands, for I recognise in that address we have had one which will be a good advertisement for the country, an address that will give the people an opportunity to see the progress we are making, our stability, and also the possibilities of this country. While the leader of the Opposition was speaking, he said the Government had introduced a new departure in appealing to the House for a vote of confidence, and that if the Premier had been content to meet the House their party would have given him support to carry out what

legislation he intended to bring before the House; yet we find that hon. member moving practically a want of confidence in this Administration. It does not appear to me to be altogether correct when we find the leader of the Opposition moving a vote of want of confidence, and at the same time asserting at the outset of his address that he would support the Premier's Administration. I consider that the Government acted wisely in meeting the House, and that they did the right and proper thing in calling at the very outset, as this House is constituted, for a vote of confidence, so that we may have a vote of the House to carry on the business of the country. Whoever may hold the reins of government, they will have to carry out the policy of the James Government, and I think this must be evident to every member of the House. We have had returned to this Parliament 40 members who are in sympathy with and who are pledged to support that policy, and we have had sent here 10 members who are opposed to it in some particular. Whilst we have returned to the House 22 members pledged to the extreme and I may say to some extent in practicable policy of the Labour party, we have returned 28 members opposed to them. I ask, is it wise, is it in the interests of the country that we should have a change of Administration? Is it wise that we should hand over the Administration to men who are inexperienced and who have a great deal to learn? Only a very few of them have had Parliamentary experience, and I consider it is very unwise now, and at any rate not in the interests of the country, to have a change of Administration. I would like very briefly to refer to one or two items in the Governor's Speech. I am sure we all recognise that the settlement of our lands is of paramount importance. I recognise, and I believe every member of the House recognises, that great good has been done in this respect, and much credit is due to the Minister for Lands in regard to the question. I also recognise that there is much to be done yet in that direction. In the Victoria district we have a limited agricultural area, and a very great amount of country is locked up from close settlement; and it will be the duty of whatever Government comes

into power, or carries on the affairs of the country, to secure that land so that it may be settled. Just recently the Government secured the Mount Erin Estate, and I am sorry to say there have been to some extent dissatisfaction and complaint with regard to the price charged for the land thrown open there; but I am also pleased to say that the people who have taken up land—and I believe the greater portion of what has been surveyed has been taken up—are satisfied with the quality of the land. Another item I would just like to refer to at the risk of being thought parochial—and I will refer to it briefly, and only that the leader of the Opposition may consider it, and I trust give it his attention—is the Magnet to Lawlers railway. That railway, without a doubt, would pay the Government handsomely if it were built, and it would do much to help forward the progress of the agricultural, mining, and pastoral industries of that portion of the State; and I trust that if the Opposition come into power they will build the railway. Another item I would briefly refer to—and I believe the country is demanding something to be done in this respect—is an amendment of the liquor laws, giving the people the control of this traffic. Although I have been twitted by members on the other side of the House with looking rather lonely in my position, I do not mind sitting with minorities, but what I will do is to always endeavour to vote for democratic legislation, and oppose class legislation.

OPPOSITION MEMBER: "Come over to this side."

MR. FRANK WILSON (Sussex): I wish through you, Mr. Bath, to convey to the hon. the Speaker my sincere congratulations on the honour this House conferred on him in elevating him to the position he now holds. I know from long parliamentary experience it is an office of dignity, and one which requires a certain amount of personality and determination; and I feel sure the hon. member (Mr. Jacoby) who has been placed in that dignified position will fill it and carry out the duties of his office to the satisfaction of this House and to the credit of himself. I congratulate members on the semi-completion of our new parliamentary buildings; but whilst I look around and admire the architectural beauties, of this