

Hon. J. E. Dodd: This was the democratic House last session.

Hon. A. H. PANTON: That was because I appeared on the scene; I gave it a democratic tone. In view of the fact that the Commonwealth Government have assumed so many functions of the State Government, it will be agreed that whatever need there was for two Houses of Parliament in each State prior to Federation, that need no longer exists. To-day we are faced with the fact that hospitals and schools are being starved; they are in need of financial assistance which it is not possible to give them. I am a member of the board of management of the Perth Public Hospital and I speak with authority. I also spent a considerable amount of time in the country during the past twelve months and my experience is that the schools built to accommodate fifteen or twenty children, seven or eight years ago, are to-day asked to provide for as many as fifty. Although I do not represent a farming province, I desire to say a word on behalf of the farming section of the community, and it is that the schools are built too far away from one another, and they are altogether too small for the rapidly increasing population in the various districts. Take the Lake Grace district. The children there have to travel many miles to school. An instance that came under my notice was that of a girl of seven years of age driving her younger sisters a great distance to school while bush fires were raging around. It is useless to ask people in the towns to go on the land if we are not prepared to give them better facilities for the education of their children. The abolition of this Chamber will release a sum of £15,000 which can be made available for those who are settling on the land. The time has also arrived when traditional ideas should be lost sight of. Surely after the war we have gone through and the upheaval that has taken place we are not going to perpetuate traditional institutions, and I say with all due deference to this Chamber that it is one which, in my opinion, is no longer necessary. In my opinion it has been kept going merely because it is a traditional institution. Undoubtedly there is now a growing demand for the abolition of the Legislative Council, not only of this State, but of every State in the Commonwealth.

Hon. H. Stewart: That is not so in Queensland.

Hon. A. H. PANTON: I am dealing now with Western Australia, and besides we do not want to see a repetition of what happened in Queensland or even in New South Wales. As there is such a demand for the abolition of one House we should not wait for that demand to become more accentuated. I want to see hon. members of the Legislative Council in this State set an example to the Governments of the day in the other States of the Commonwealth, and if they desire to do that they will support the amendment which I propose to submit. If that amendment is carried it will be an intimation to the Government and also to the people of

Australia that we, at any rate, are prepared to fall into line with the growing demand of democracy as we find it to-day. Without any further delay I move an amendment—

That the following words be added to the Address-in-reply:—“And we respectfully suggest to Your Excellency that the time has now arrived when the government of this State can best be carried on by a single Chamber elected on an adult franchise.”

Hon. T. MOORE (Central) [5.28]: I have listened with interest to what Mr. Panton has said in connection with the amendment he has just moved. I intend to support it with a few remarks which I think are necessary. Having lately been returned by the electors of a portion of this State I wish to point out that on every occasion I was before those people during the progress of the contest I made it clear to them that I stood for the abolition of the Legislative Council. I have at all times pointed out that in my opinion this House was an unnecessary Chamber, and that, as a matter of fact, it existed to block legislation which would be of use to the masses.

Hon. Sir E. H. Wittenoom: Give us some instances.

Hon. T. MOORE: I will give instances as I go along. As Mr. Panton has stated, the time has arrived when, as the outcome of the spread of education, the people desire to have a say in the affairs of the country in which they happen to have been during the greater portion, if not the whole, of their lives. There are many people who have resided here all their lives and who have reared families and who have never had the right to vote for a candidate for the Legislative Council. That very fact must appeal to members of this Chamber. Surely the men who have said so much in recent times about democracy will not be deaf on this occasion! What a lot we have heard in recent years about democracy! What a lot we have heard about making the world safe for democracy and about the men whom we sent away to make democracy safe! Who were those men? Many of those who went away were born of mothers and fathers who had never a vote. In the timber country where I lived for many years there were fine old pioneers who year after year were struggling to rear families. Some of their children have blossomed forth as educated men, men who have made names for themselves. Many of these men went away to fight for democracy. I was sorry to notice, when this measure came before the House a few months ago, the spectacle of members who had been boasting about the wonderful thing called democracy, refusing when the vote was taken on this subject, to give the men who went away to fight for democracy, a vote for this House. I do not believe in class legislation at all. It would have been wrong to have given the soldiers a vote if the mothers and fathers who bore them were not also allowed to vote for this Chamber. I was astonished to find

that, even after the lesson we have just learned, the lesson of the value of man power—for after all it was man power that counted in the war—I was astonished to find that men who prate so much about democracy should by a vote cast in this Chamber deprive the men who went away to fight, and their mothers and fathers, of a vote for this Chamber. I am surprised that such members could say they believe in democracy when they sit here and vote to kill it on every possible occasion. When Mr. Panton was speaking, Mr. Cornell interjected to the effect that he would be quite safe in moving for the abolition of this House. I understand that Mr. Cornell came into this House pledged to support a measure of this kind, and I feel sure he will do his utmost not only to honour that pledge, but to persuade other members who do not think as we do, to support it also. This House has in the past been the means of blocking legislation which would have been of advantage to the great masses of the people, and this House when dealing with different Governments, has adopted different attitudes. I wish to refer to the time when a Labour Government were in office in this country. As a matter of fact there never was a Labour Government in power in this State because the power always lies with this Chamber. We are often told that there was a Labour Government in power, but we know very well that this Chamber, having the right to say what legislation shall go on the statute-book, leaves the Government without power, and we have never had a majority in this Chamber. On every possible occasion, when useful legislation was sent along to this Chamber, it was turned down. In connection with the Income Tax Bill sent to this Chamber during 1914-15, there was an interesting debate. One hon. member who now holds a very important position in this House—I refer to the President—stated on that occasion in the course of a speech in opposition to the Bill—

There are, and the Government in the bottom of their hearts know it, excrescences on the commercial life in the State which the Government should make an endeavour to lop off or amputate. I refer to the State enterprises.

On the ground that he believed these enterprises were a waste of money, he refused to vote for the measure of taxation. As a matter of fact, that taxation proposal was thrown out by this Chamber. Since then when other taxation proposals of a similar nature have come before this Chamber, they have been altered in a respect which does not do credit to this Chamber. They have been altered to reduce the amount of exemption on which taxation shall be paid, from £200 to £100, and passed subsequently when another Government was in office. It is rather a disgrace to think that to-day we tax a person who is earning over £100 from personal exertion. I can give a case in point. A man 75 years of age who refuses to take the old-age pension,

makes a little over £100 a year by personal exertion and he is taxed on his income. Yet members know how difficult it is to-day to keep body and soul together on £100 per year. Let members consider what a lot of young girls are earning just £2 a week. We know what responsibilities they carry. Many of these girls have just as many responsibilities as men; they have in many cases widowed mothers and little sisters to support, and because they make a little over £100 per year, we call upon them to pay income tax. When a just measure of taxation was proposed by a Labour Government we know what attitude was adopted by this Chamber. On that account, I say, this House stands here to block legislation. When this Council refused to pass money Bills, it refused to allow the Government elected by the whole of the people to carry on the affairs of the State in the manner they thought fit, that Government having just been returned by a fine majority, this House proceeded from the outset to block its legislation. The people had given the Labour Government a mandaté to do certain things and this House blocked them, and I say that on that account if on no other, this House should be abolished. There are many men and women in this country who have no right to a vote for this House. There are very many of these people who are sufficiently intelligent to exercise the vote. The only thing lacking is that they do not possess bricks and mortar. Take our goldmining centres. Look at the number of men who put in years and years of their lives there. They get together a little habitation sufficiently good to live in and to enable them to battle along. After years of pioneering work, many of them have not been able to get together very much, and many of them finish up at the Wooroloo Sanatorium. These are the men who have opened up this country and have made this country, but we give them no voice in the election of members for this House. I have come into this House, and to me it seems to be a kind of a dead end. I feel that I have no right to be here. Mr. Panton said I had been repatriated. It is a rather remarkable kind of repatriation. I am in earnest in my desire to see the whole of the men and women of this State exercising a vote for this House, for those without the right to vote have as much intelligence as those who possess it. Some members of this House have more than one vote. At my election at least one member exercised a vote in my electorate and I know he had votes for many other electorates, and I suppose he exercised them also. I do not think he voted for me. I believe that no one has a right to more than one vote. To give him more than one vote is absurd. While we give one man eight or ten votes, we refuse a vote to other people who have just as much right to the privilege. I marvel at this, especially after the times of trial through which we have recently passed, and wonder how long

the people of this State will tolerate this Chamber. Members are playing with a fire. If they are going to keep this Chamber to buttress and retard legislation which is desired by the whole of the people, I wonder how long the people will tolerate it and how long it will be before they rise up in force and abolish this House.

Hon. Sir E. H. Wittensoom: You have not told us of the particular legislation which has been blocked.

Hon. T. MOORE: I have told the hon. member one phase of it—when you interfered with money Bills and when the Government in office, by the mandate of the people asked this House to pass certain legislation and this House refused to pass it. It is time the system was altered.

The PRESIDENT: It is usual for hon. members to address the Chair.

Hon. T. MOORE: I apologise. It is rather remarkable to find how little interest is taken in this Chamber by the members of the House. Nothing further need be said beyond calling attention to the fact that there are so few members present. How many of those who are present can say they are here honestly believing that they are going to do any good?

Hon. J. Cornell: The hon. member is getting pessimistic now.

Hon. T. MOORE: Not at all. We shall never do much good while we permit this state of affairs to exist. After all it is men who matter, not other things. I hope members will take that view. We are here on this planet for a certain time and I suppose we all do the best we can. If, unfortunately, some of us are not able to get sufficient money to buy a home which would entitle us to a vote for this Chamber, surely we should not be deprived of that privilege.

Hon. J. Duffell: If you rent a house for 7s. 6d. a week, you get a vote for this Chamber.

Hon. T. MOORE: Surely those people who are good enough to go out back and do all the hard pioneering work are good enough to exercise the franchise for this Council. Members should remember how much has been said in the past few years regarding democracy. What was it that mattered in the last few years? Was it bricks and mortar that saved the people during the recent war or the men we sent away? When members again record their votes on this question, I ask them to give to men the right to vote for the country they were good enough to fight for and not only to them but to the fathers and mothers who bore them.

On motion by Hon. Sir E. H. Wittensoom, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 5.54 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 10th August, 1920.

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

VISIT OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS, THE PRINCE OF WALES.

Mr. SPEAKER: In accordance with the resolution adopted by the House last Thursday, I attended His Excellency the Governor and presented the Address to His Majesty the King, adopted by this Assembly. His Excellency was pleased to make the following reply:—

The Governor has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of an Address passed by the Hon. the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia on the 5th August, 1920, and to intimate that it will afford him pleasure to transmit this Address by telegram to the Right Hon. The Secretary of State for the Colonies for presentation to His Majesty the King. Government House, Perth.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS.

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Mitchell—Northam) [4.43]: With your permission, Sir I should like to make a suggestion to hon. members in regard to the asking of questions. I suggest that it would be of great convenience to Ministers and heads of departments generally if hon. members, in giving notice of questions during the week, would ask for replies on the following Tuesday. No

estimates would be increased at least 100 per cent. on prices of material and labour ruling to-day. 3. In 1918, cost of machinery, etc., for Fremantle terminal elevator was estimated approximately at 2s. per bushel, and for country silos 9d. per bushel. Prices ruling to-day would enhance costs probably 50 per cent.

BILLS (2)—FIRST READING.

1. Friendly Societies Act Amendment.
2. Rottnest Island.

Introduced by the Minister for Education.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Eighth Day.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

Hon. T. MOORE (Central) [4.36]: I take this opportunity to thank the different members who have uttered kind words of welcome to us new members of the House. I can only say that, while I am in this House, I shall endeavour to do my best in the interests both of this State and of the Commonwealth. I have been taken to task owing to the fact that I got on my feet rather prematurely, in the opinion of some members. It seems that men who have been in this House for quite a number of years believe that they possess the wisdom of the whole State. At all events they inferred that a man who had been here only 24 hours seemed to have taken a good lot upon his shoulders when he had the audacity to express his opinions so soon. This House does not contain the whole of the intelligence of this State. There are men outside the House who, even if they are never returned here, would be quite competent to express opinions which, so far as statesmanship is concerned, would be equal to any which have been or will be expressed inside this House. I have also been charged with insincerity. One speaker after another, while not singling me out particularly, referred to the fact that the motion which I seconded had something rather insincere about it. I want to disabuse the minds of members on that score. I have come into this House with certain ideas and, when I speak here, I believe I am doing the right thing. As time goes on I think hon. members will find that, in anything I do, I am sincere. When members get to know me better I think they will give me credit for that. This is a sort of slur, for which I do not care too much. It may be Parliamentary usage for one member to say to another that anything he does is done from party motives, but while I am and always will be a party man, I am here to do that which I consider to be right, and I hope that members will never charge me with being insincere. This brings me to His Excellency's Speech. While some members are in accord with the programme as outlined in that Speech, I must say that I am grievously disappointed. I had hoped that after passing through such wonderful times in our history, we would have gained some

knowledge and that, through the gaining of knowledge as a result of lessons taught by the big war, we would have had a Speech on new lines. In the Speech, however, there is absolutely nothing new, and I find fault with it on that account. One of the principal reasons why I find fault with it is that there is very little mention of the necessity for secondary industries in this State. We have heard quite a lot about the wonderful prosperity which is to come to the State as a result of a bountiful harvest. We have heard quite a lot of talk about wheat, wool, timber, and other primary industries, but we have heard them talked of for a long time; and we shall be proceeding on very slow lines with the development of this State and of the Commonwealth if we are going to be satisfied to be primary producers for all time. I believe we have done very, very well with regard to our primary industries. In this State we have arrived at such a stage that it is rather difficult now to get land for people who wish to settle on the land. The practice of the present Government, and of the Repatriation Department controlled by the Federal Government, has been to purchase land which has been tilled for a number of years, and to settle new settlers where old settlers formerly were. This is not getting us much further forward. In building up the primary industries of this State, as a result of which we now have a population of 330,000 people, we have done very well. The primary industries have now reached that stage of development whereby the farmers' sons growing up in the different localities will settle the whole of this country in good time. I have not the slightest doubt about this, but what a slow process it is! If we go in for a policy of immigration as has been outlined, what are we going to do with the immigrants when they arrive here? That is a question I have asked myself. If we expect immigrants to come here, we must be in a position to offer them something definite. We must be able to offer them something better than they can get in the country where they happen to be living. I am rather doubtful whether we are in a position to offer the workers of Britain anything better than they have. In England the workers are enjoying benefits from the changed conditions, and are getting very high wages. Their wages, in fact, are on a level with those paid in Australia. An offer to bring them out here with the idea of starting them at work in the mines or in the timber industry or in any of our other industries or as farm labourers, will be hardly likely to induce them to come. For a long time I have been one who believed we should start to make this State self-supporting, and surely the war has taught us that the time is ripe to do something to help ourselves. In days gone by it was perhaps all right to purchase from overseas commodities which could be obtained cheaply, but those commodities which used to be cheap are to-day very dear. If this State is going to carry the population which is necessary to hold it, we must get down to the establishment of sec-

ondary industries. Take for instance the woollen industry. This industry might suit the squatter. We understand that the squatter has done very well out of his wool. Owing to the price of wool having been raised considerably during the last few years, the squatters have made rather large sums of money. While it might pay a squatter to sell his wool abroad at 1s. 3d. a pound, which I understand is about the price being paid to-day, I do not think it is good for the State that wool should be sent out at 1s. 3d. a pound. I understand that a pound of wool will make something near a yard of cloth. I want to know why we cannot establish woollen mills in this State, and instead of getting 1s. 3d. for the wool let us get 15s. or more from the woollen goods which we could send overseas. By the establishment of these factories we would be able to say to the workmen on the other side of the world, "We have factories similar to those you are engaged in to-day. Come out to this country and you can find work in them. You will have then plenty of possibilities to look around, and greater opportunities as well." If we were to adopt that course we would get plenty of suitable immigrants. It has been said in the past that the party to which I belong does not believe in immigration at all. That is altogether a fallacy. We want immigration, and we want quite a lot of it. But we are not proceeding on the right lines. If we are going along in a slipshod manner and allowing things to go as they are instead of pushing the country along in the way that it should go, we shall not get anywhere. I am surprised that the Government have not said more about the establishment of secondary industries. There is a move being made by a certain gentleman in this State to establish woollen mills. An inducement is also being offered to soldiers, through their gratuity bonds, to allot so much of those bonds with the idea of proceeding on what may be regarded as co-operative lines. But our rich men—and we have rich men in spite of what an hon. member said here yesterday, to the effect that there were very few rich men in Western Australia—have dodged their responsibility in this regard. If there are men in this State with money, and there is no doubt that they have acquired a good deal of cash, we expect them to do the right thing, because it is only those with money who can assist a country in the direction of establishing secondary industries. I am surprised now that the soldier is being asked to contribute towards the establishment of such industries. That seems to be the wrong way of doing things to-day. Hon. members are aware that soldiers who have been away for three, four, or five years have not had the same opportunities that others have had. While the war was in progress we know well that many people made more money than they ever did before, and therefore, rather than ask soldiers to contribute anything towards building up industries, those men who made money while the war

was in progress are the men who should assist to establish the industries, and in that way give the soldiers who have returned a chance to work in them. This is no new theme with me. I am a member of the A.N.A., and it is the only society to which I belong, in spite of the fact that a certain Minister made the statement at a recent public meeting that some hon. members were members of a secret society. The only secret society to which I belong, if that gentleman likes to call it a secret society, is the Australian Natives' Association, and I am proud to belong to it. I hope the Minister in another place who made the statement is as proud of the society to which he belongs. As you are aware, Mr. President, the Australian Natives' Association is an organisation which has taken a great interest in matters such as the one I am discussing, the establishment of industries. Their object is to create that which we need more than anything, the building up of a purely Australian sentiment. The Association has done more in that regard than any other ten bodies in existence. On that account I am proud to think that it is the only society in this State to which I belong. We have been trying very hard, by holding shows of Australian made goods in the different provincial towns, to point out to the people that the manufacture of what we most require has been neglected. Let me refer for a moment to the timber industry. We hear quite a lot about what we are going to get out of it. I was engaged in that industry for quite a long time, and so far as I can see we are quickly cutting out a great asset, and very little attempt is being made to make the industry last. It is quite alright for a company such as Millar's combine, who have had a great extent of country given to them, and who are allowed to do with that country just as they please. When I look around this Chamber and see the beautiful timber which has been used in its construction, it makes me think. I know it must also strike hon. members that such fine timber should not be going out of the State as sleepers and beams. The timber has a greater commercial value, and hon. members will be surprised to know that timber equal to that which we are looking at now is being burnt by the hundreds of tons every day in the fire shoots of the South-West. Pieces of timber that will not make a beam or a sleeper or whatever particular thing is on order, are going through the fire shoot. We will yet wake up to the fact that we are getting rid of one of the finest assets we have in the State, and what shall we have in return? The men are getting very little out of it, and we know also that the shareholders of the companies controlling the industry do not live in the State; they live in another part of the world. We get a very small sum in royalties from these people. How are we going to get out of the difficulty? I think that owing to the fact that

furniture is becoming very dear we shall in the near future make greater use of our timbers in that direction. It has been proved that the various West Australian woods are valuable for furniture purposes. It has been said that it is heavy, but that, if anything, is an advantage, inasmuch as it will add to the durability of the article manufactured. When we have something made of jarrah it will be possible to say that it will last our lifetime, no matter how young we may be or how long we are likely to live. We heard Mr. Stewart last night on the commercial side of mining. I compliment him on the speech he made. There is no doubt about it that he understands the subject very well. I was interested in hearing him deal with the commercial side of mining, but I regret that he did not touch on the other side.

Hon. H. Stewart: I endorse Mr. Dodd's remarks.

Hon. T. MOORE: I want to know what we are going to get from our wonderful mining industry. What have we had up to date? It has been the means of bringing into the State in the early days perhaps the finest men who ever came to Western Australia. In the nineties the ambitious men from the other States came here. Those men who leave a country to go to another are men with a broad outlook, and are the class that any country should be glad to receive. But unfortunately the men of the nineties, or a great number of them who continued to work in the mines, are now in the Wooroloo sanatorium. What are we getting from the mining industry? Like the timber industry, it will come to an end in perhaps 12 or 14 years' time. Side by side with the timber industry, the life of which is being shortened, our mining industry is suffering in a similar way, and all that we have had from the latter is a number of men suffering from miners' complaint. So far as immigration applied to the mining industry is concerned, it has been noticed in the past that quite a number of men who have been employed in the mines have been foreigners. I do not object to foreigners provided they are the right sort. We want men from the northern parts of Europe. I have never seen much good arise from the immigrant who has come from the southern parts of Europe. Unfortunately, however, those foreigners who have been engaged in the mining industry have come from the south of Europe—Italians and Austrians. Those men have worked in the mines, saved up the money they earned in wages, and then returned to their native land. How few of them have taken to themselves wives and settled down! They have generally saved £300 or £400, spent as little of it as they could, and then returned to Italy and Austria, and others have come to take their places. What have we had in return from those men? Nothing. There have been certain companies in this State who have been instrumental in

giving preference to foreigners in mines. I know that because I have been there and seen it. It has been a short-sighted policy. While I am ready to receive immigrants if they are foreigners, I want them to come from the northern portions of Europe. The others cannot be described as settlers; they drift away and leave us none the richer. Much has been said about industrial unrest. We know very well that that is world-wide; it is not confined to this country. We know that many countries have been at war, and that those that were successful spent a great deal of money in winning the war, while the nations that lost are very much the poorer. The very fact that we are being taxed so heavily means that the cost of living is up to what it is to-day. The party I represent has been asked to point out how we may bring that cost down. My idea is that to lighten the load of taxation, to lighten the burden we have incurred through the war, we must have in our State not 300,000 people but two millions or three millions, and the sooner we can offer them inducements to come out the better it will be for us. That is one way of reducing the cost of living, and in no other way shall we get rid of the burden of debt. I know that during the progress of the war a number of men were of opinion that Australia was not doing her share. I wonder whether they hold those views to-day, or whether they have arrived at the conclusion that Australia did perhaps more than any other country, and whether they are now grumbling because they are not getting on as well as they did before. Quite a lot of people said that we were going to send the last man and spend the last shilling. I do not know how we would have got on had we done so; but Australia, to my mind, has come out of the war better than any other nation except for the fact that we are very nearly bankrupt. I am not speaking now as a returned soldier, but there is no doubt that the men who went away made a great name for themselves in every part of the world. They are the best advertisement Australia has ever had.

Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. T. MOORE: But they have come back now and find that they have to struggle for existence. They were told that they would get better conditions on their return, instead of which they find worse conditions prevailing. Is it any wonder that there is discontent on every side? Discontent is broadcast. The soldiers were told that they had only to win the war and everything in the garden would be lovely, whereas, having won the war, they find things in the garden far from lovely. Mr. Dodd, in the course of a fine speech here, showed that he had gone deeply into these questions. He said that some good would come out of the war by reason of the congress of the workers of the world held recently in Washington. He mentioned that that congress drew up rules to be observed by the workers in the various countries. One rule

was for a universal eight-hours' day. The Japanese, the hon. member mentioned, were there. One would infer from his remarks that the mere fact of a congress drawing up a rule would make that rule law. Just previously the hon. member stated that there were some men who, he feared, were building up class hatred. Congresses meet in various parts of the world, and draw up rules for the employment of their members in various industries. Those rules represent the things which the workers hope for, the things which they set out to obtain. Now members returning from those congresses tell the men exactly what has been decided. The Washington congress decided on a universal 48 hours week; and that, I hope, is something that will come about. While I doubt that it will come about in the near future, I know that the men who go back to advocate it in various countries will be called agitators. We hear a good deal about agitators; but, after all, where an agitator gets on well there is something wrong. In an industry where men are working harmoniously there is no room for an agitator. I am sure that few members believe that our public servants went on strike because they liked going on strike. They went on strike because they were forced to do so. They saw private employees, who have access to the Arbitration Court and other means of remedying their grievances, getting ahead of them, getting more money than they were receiving, and naturally the civil servants sought to get something extra too. I know they were forced into the position they took up. Any member of the House who suffered under the same disabilities as the civil servants, who tried to bring up his family on the civil servant's pittance, might have been a strike leader and possibly might have been branded as an agitator. On the question of State enterprise we find Sir Edward Wittenoom—who I observe has just entered the Chamber—saying that owing to the fact that certain State enterprises are not paying, he is in favour of selling them. I am one of those who believe that there is a great deal to be said for State enterprise. Very few of our State enterprises would fail if given proper opportunities. We know that a fish shop has been closed down by the present Government, possibly because a fish supply is not available owing to the Italian fishermen having left the country. But we know that the big State enterprises built up by the Labour Government are showing really good results. What is happening now in connection with the Commonwealth enterprise of woollen mills in the Eastern States? Unfortunately too many of these Commonwealth undertakings are established in the Eastern States, while Western Australia is neglected. The Commonwealth woollen mills were originally set up for the making of khaki cloth for our citizen forces. By reason of the termination of the war quite a lot of khaki is on hand, and the mills have since turned to making tweeds for civilians. A large quantity of cloth has been made by the Commonwealth mills and sold to the returned soldiers. When that cloth came to Western Australia,

soldiers were found rushing to get it. They did not rush for it because this was the only cloth in the country. We know that there is plenty of cloth at the Bon Marché, at Foy & Gibson's, at Boan Bros., at Robertson & Moffat's, and at all the tailor shops in Perth. The reason why the soldiers rushed for the Commonwealth cloth in such large numbers—quite a queue of them was observed—was that the cloth was good and cheap. Hon. members are aware that long prior to the establishment of the Commonwealth mills, there were mills established in the Eastern States by the wonderful old chap known as "private enterprise." Those private enterprise mills were set up long before the Commonwealth mills were ever thought of. The private mills have been producing civilian cloth for years and years, and one would imagine that they would have been in a position to compete more than favourably with the Federal mills, where we are told the Government stroke obtains and men have fancy jobs. We have been told over and over again that the man who works in a Government enterprise is boss of his master; and all that sort of rubbish. Nevertheless we find that the mills established by the Commonwealth have been able to turn out cloth to be sold—as has been advertised—at 6s. 6d., 7s. 6d., and 8s. 6d. per yard. I myself have been offered 17s. 6d. per yard for my suit length, for which I paid 7s. 6d. Where is the profit going that the other mills are making? Is it not a clear case of profiteering? I do not blame the other mills. While we set up a system allowing those who manufacture anything to get as much as they can for it, I cannot blame them. But I do blame the men who decry State enterprise while such instances as this can be quoted to prove that State enterprise produces good results. What a rush there would be, even by some members of this House, if everyone could get a Commonwealth suit length! Unfortunately that is not the case. I wish to see Commonwealth mills established, not only in Victoria and New South Wales, but also in this State. As the men who have made so much money out of wool growing during the last three or four years have been so slow to move, I hope that the State Government, who have shown themselves in accord with the idea of State enterprise, will take action. I am sorry that in the Governor's Speech they have not given any indication of their intentions in this respect.

Hon. J. E. Dodd: Do you say that protection is necessary?

Hon. T. MOORE: We as a party believe in the new protection, but unfortunately, owing to circumstances over which we have no control, we have never been in a position to put that policy into effect.

Hon. J. Duffell: Is there any reason why the Commonwealth Government do not supply the cloth to civilians as well as to returned soldiers?

Hon. T. MOORE: The reason is that up to date they have not produced sufficient cloth to supply the soldiers. I believe even the hon. member who asked the question

will be satisfied that soldiers should be supplied first.

Hon. J. Duffell: Quite so; but let the Commonwealth establish more mills. They have the money.

Hon. T. MOORE: I am glad the hon. member agrees with me that State enterprise is a good thing. In that connection one hon. member said yesterday that if a State enterprise did not pay he was in favour of selling it. The hon. member mentioned the loss on the railways, but I doubt very much whether he really meant what he said—at least, I hope he did not. I noticed, further that while he was in favour of retaining such State enterprises as the railway system, the State Implement Works, and also the North-West steamers—which almost every man then in this Chamber decried when the service was instituted—he was in favour of selling the State sawmills. In my opinion the reason why he suggested their sale is that he is interested in a big timber concern with which the State sawmills compete. As a fact, that concern ought to be in a position to compete more than favourably with the State sawmills. In days gone by, the company of which the hon. member is chairman of directors mapped out for themselves—in those days they could map out these things for themselves—a huge area of country as close as possible to the seaboard. The company in question have all the favoured timber localities, and they have cheap means of transport, and therefore I say they are very favourably situated. There was one little piece of jarrah country left which, by some means or other, was missed. The Holyoake Co-operative Society obtained this piece of timber country and established a mill in the centre of it. It was put up for sale and the company, with which my honourable friend is associated, made a certain bid for it, but did not get it. Naturally, therefore, my hon. friend is not too keen on keeping enterprises which compete with him.

The PRESIDENT: The hon. member is aware that he must not impute motives.

Hon. Sir E. H. Wittenoom: Thank you, Sir.

Hon. T. MOORE: I am sorry.

Hon. A. H. Pantou: Speaking generally, though.

Hon. T. MOORE: It is rather a remarkable state of affairs. It is the one industry which to my mind will pay beyond a shadow of doubt, despite the fact that Millars' combine have all the favourable localities. I have been for many years connected with the industry, and I say that the State sawmills are paying and are going to pay handsomely as years go on. In connection with the steamers for the North-West, why was not the hon. member in favour of selling them? If we had not these boats on the North-West coast anyone with an unbiassed mind must admit that we would not have any steamers there at

all. In dealing with the question, Sir Edward Wittenoom said that, owing to the fact that a competition line was installed on the North-West coast, the fine steamship service already arranged there left. I do not think other hon. members would believe that this is the case, because there is still plenty of room for others there. What has happened between Fremantle and the Eastern States? I have seen the hon. member's firm, Millars' Coy., crying out week after week for boats in order to take timber from Fremantle to the Eastern States. Was there any State line there competing with them and driving them away? What has happened in connection with the trouble is this: that it takes a ship a long time to come from the older countries to this country. It takes three times longer to go from here to Liverpool than it does to go there from the Argentine. Many of the ships trading on our coast before the war are now trading between America and England, where they can get higher freights than they can from us. When the shipping control was lifted the Prime Minister, Mr. Hughes, said he felt that many of our ships would leave us, and they have done so. He also pointed out that over-seas freights had gone up a thousand per cent., and naturally ships were going away where their masters could make more money out of them. If we had not bought these steamers for the North-West I honestly believe that we would not have had any boats there at all.

Hon. Sir E. H. Wittenoom: It was a long time before the war when the Government started competition.

Hon. T. MOORE: It was a good thing we did get the boats before the war.

Hon. Sir E. H. Wittenoom: That is a matter of opinion.

Hon. T. MOORE: If we had waited until now, we would not have got them at all. If we started to develop our secondary industries now, how much more would it cost to do so than it would have cost before the war? That is my argument, namely that we have been too slow, too content to allow other parts of the world to provide things for us. The rich men of this State, and of Australia, have not been alive to their responsibilities. Someone has said somewhere that citizenship brings certain responsibilities. I believe that when men who are in a position where they can employ capital, and have plenty of money to use, refrain from doing something to push their country ahead, they are dodging their responsibilities. I am pleased to see that the forests are to be looked after in a better way than heretofore. It is time we got down to facts, and the sooner a greater use is made of the timber I have referred to, instead of its being sent out of the State in the way it is, the better it will be for the State and the people. Seeing that I have only been in the House for a week, I hope hon. members will not take me to task as they did when I had

the audacity to get on my feet. I am sorry that one or two hon. members were not present when I made those remarks. I hope they will forgive me if they think I was in any way impertinent on that occasion, but having listened to the remarks of some hon. members, who have been here the longest—

Hon. J. W. Hickey: You still think you have a chance.

Hon. T. MOORE. I have come to the conclusion that I have little to learn from them. If after years of experience in this Chamber—I do not know that I shall have them—I remain satisfied to allow things to drift on in the State in the way they are drifting, I shall be disappointed with the time that I have spent in this House.

On motion by Hon. J. Cunningham debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 5.22 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 26th August, 1920.

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

QUESTION—TECHNICAL SCHOOL INSTRUCTORS.

Hon. P. COLLIER (for Mr. O'Loughlen) asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, Is he aware that the part-time instructors at the Technical School were not parties to the recent strike and have not shared in any of the concessions secured? 2, Is he aware that these instructors were locked out on the first day of the strike? 3, Is he also aware that these instructors were given a holiday without pay during the Prince's visit? 4, As other services received payment, why did the Department discriminate? 5, Is he aware that a number of the students have paid fees for special instruction and are

desirous of making up the time lost? 6, As some of these instructors are disabled, owing to war services, will he agree to pay these instructors for the period they were locked out?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: 1, The Government have no knowledge of the attitude of part-time instructors at the Technical School during the recent strike. No increases have been proposed for, or granted to, such instructors. 2, No. Owing to the absence of students, the classes conducted by these instructors could not be held during the period of the strike. Advertisements were inserted in the Press, informing instructors that their services would not be required until further notice. Payment will be made to such instructors as were listed for duty on July 12. 3, The Technical School was closed during the week of the Prince's visit, but arrangements have been made for the lessons which were missed to be given later in the year. 4, Answered by No. 3. 5, Students have paid fees for self-supporting classes. These students will receive the full number of lessons for which they have paid. Additional classes will be held later on in the year. 6, Part-time instructors are paid at a higher rate of remuneration than full-time teachers, as their services are required only for certain periods. Payments are made according to their periods of service. See answer to No. 2.

QUESTIONS (4)—RAILWAY EXTENSIONS.

Nyabing, provision of funds.

Mr. PIESSE (for Mr. Thomson) asked the Premier: When is it the intention of the Government to provide funds for the extension of the Nyabing Railway, as authorised by Parliament in 1914?

The PREMIER replied: This proposal will be considered when the railway construction policy of the Government is being determined. The Railway Advisory Board's investigations are not yet completed.

Nyabing, Rails and Fastenings.

Mr. PIESSE (for Mr. Thomson) asked the Minister for Works: When will rails and fastenings be available for the extension of the Nyabing Railway?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: The supply of rails owing to the existing conditions and prices is a difficult one to arrange. The Engineer-in-Chief has just returned from the East where he has made inquiries, and his report is now in course of preparation.

Corrigin-Eastward.

Mr. HICKMOTT asked the Premier: 1, Is it his intention to honour the promise he made to the people at Corrigin, to send the