

of a resolution, we all recognised that there was no possibility of getting legislation through another place in order to put that resolution into effect. And so to those who may be expecting to see something revolutionary with regard to the lands policy, I want to say that it will be some time yet, even though we have a majority in favour of it, before we can possibly hope to see that policy put fully into operation. As one who was not in the previous Parliament, I felt very much gratification at the action what was taken, on the instigation of the Labour party, I believe, to make a beginning, through the Agricultural Bank, in the encouragement of manufacturing in our own State. For some time past it has been a matter of concern to me that, while we were making such splendid progress in our agricultural development, we were not making corresponding headway in what are sometimes called our secondary industries. That term is, to my mind, a misnomer, because both are equally important to the State. I repeat that I was gratified to find that an attempt had been made through the Agricultural Bank to encourage the purchase of agricultural machinery manufactured in the State. Some five years ago I had the pleasure of going through an exhibition in Melbourne, where, of course, the exhibits were chiefly those of Victorian manufacture, and I made it my business to ask two or three manufacturers, or their agents, who I knew were doing business with this State, what was the reason for their not establishing branch manufactories in Western Australia, seeing that there was a prospect of such good business to be done here. The reply in each case was—"We do not want to establish workshops or factories in Western Australia so long as the Western Australian people will buy from us in Victoria." I am not so narrow as to say that we must not buy from the manufacturers in the other States.

Mr. George: We must buy if we want the machines.

Mr. CARPENTER: We are doing so at the present time, but, as those responsible for the development of our own

State, if we can by legitimate means encourage the establishment of those manufactories here, we are doing no more than our duty to our constituents. I am hopeful that either other means will be devised, or that the present provision in the Agricultural Bank Act may be extended, so that we may be able to give the same assistance to the manufacture of other products as we are giving to the manufacture of agricultural machinery. If we can do this, we will be helping forward the industrial production which plays a very important part in the prosperity of every State. I believe that the members of the party to which I have the honour to be attached come to the House with the highest zeal and actuated by the best motives for the progress of the State. I may say also that perhaps our opponents have the same object, and are fired with the same zeal; we differ merely as to methods, but whatever our difference as to the means by which that progress can be best assured, I am confident that in all essential things we shall find ourselves in harmony and co-operation in helping forward the prosperity of the State of which we have the honour to be representatives.

Mr. FOLEY (Mount Leonora): In opening my remarks I wish to compliment you, Mr. Speaker, on your attainment to your present high position and also to compliment the Chairman of Committees on his election. I hope, with the leader of the Opposition, that the experience you two gentlemen have had in this Chamber will lead you at times, when all the brain you possess is brought into requisition, to temper your justice with at least a little mercy. There are many questions that affect the State which we will be called upon to discuss from time to time. It is not my intention to speak on many of them but there are a few on which I, as representative of a mining constituency, may be able to enlighten the House, particularly as to the requirements of the goldfields. I might say with a great deal of truth that during the last few years the goldfields of Western Australia have been the land of promise. I trust that after the present Government have held the Ministerial benches for three years the gold-

fields will no longer be the land of promise, but that we, as their representatives, will have something more substantial than promises to take back to the people. The land question has been touched on by several of the speakers, and there is no need for me to deal with it, but nearly every speaker said that the conditions of the people of Western Australia should be bettered. I hope that at the end of its term of three years the House will have done something practical towards bettering the conditions. We are representatives of a British community and of Australian sentiment, and I know that if the policy of the present Government stands for anything it stands for Australianism pure and simple. I represent a constituency in which half of the actual mining population is non-Australian, and I consider that the work of this House will not be complete until something is done to better the conditions of the miners in this grand State of Western Australia. Four years ago I had the opportunity, I can not call it the pleasure, of stating what I knew to be the actual facts as to the conditions under which the miners were working at the Gwalia mine. The same conditions apply to all the mines in the outback centres that I represent, and I repeat that the work of this House will not be done properly, and the House will not have done its duty, until we can no longer go to any mine in this State, and find one Britisher working one one shift and three on another, and all the other employees in the mine non-Australians. I have no wish to insult other nationalities but if we depend on Australians to keep us in our position we, as Australians, should do something for the Australian community. The Mines Regulation Act deals with this matter, but I say that it has been the unsympathetic administration of that Act in the past that has kept the workers in the mines in the condition in which they find themselves at the present day. I am glad to know that up to the present the gentleman who now occupies the position of Minister for Mines has done something to show that he is in sympathy with those men. We all know that mining is a dangerous occupation and that a miner depends to the fullest extent on the men

working around him for his safety. It is imperative that a man should not only be able to speak English, but that he should be able to understand English when it is spoken to him; yet I have been working on a level in a mine where I was the only man in the mine who could speak English intelligibly. During the election campaign I went into the Waroonga mine at Lawlers and found there one Britisher on a shift, and I was told that I was lucky in arriving at that time, because had I arrived during the next shift there would have been four Britishers at work and I would not have had them to listen to me. The miners have no occasion for gratitude in connection with the past administration of the Mines Regulation Act, but I feel sure that we can leave it to the present Government to deal with this matter in a way that will meet with the desires of the mine workers. The member for Wagin stated that he wished to see the conditions of the worker improved, and I propose to show to what extent the present laws do that. Every hon. member that I have heard speak during this debate, and every candidate for Parliament at the last election, stated that it was his desire to see better conditions prevailing, and I am now going to ask for the co-operation of those members. The Workers' Compensation Act at the present time is absolutely devoid of anything of a humanitarian nature; it deals with only one class of worker. We, as a party, stand for equal opportunity to all, and any legislation that is put on the statute book should stand for equal opportunity to all, whether it is going to accrue to the Government side or the Opposition side. Under the present Workers' Compensation Act, as it applies to miners, 10 men might be descending a mine in a skip, eight of whom come under the Workers' Compensation Act and two do not. A few months ago I had the misfortune to be working on a mine on which a skip accident took place and, whilst eight out of the ten men injured had a chance to claim under the Act, the other two, because they happened to be a surveyor and a surveyor's assistant, were not qualified to do so, and their dependents had to go without compensation and be dependent



on the mine. They had no chance of getting anything under the Workers' Compensation Act. It is often said that the Labour party are a pick and shovel party. I say that they are not a pick and shovel party, and if they do not show it right out they will have me up against them. I only hope that the Workers' Compensation Bill, which was brought forward by one of the members on the Ministerial side of the House, will have the fullest consideration of members, and that at least from a humanitarian point of view it will be shown that members of Parliament in this State, no matter on what side they are sitting, are willing to do something for the betterment of the conditions of the workers in the mining industry. As regards Sunday labour on mines on the goldfields, when I first went to the fields it was immaterial which day of the week it was, Sunday or Monday were just the same. The men were not considered after they had worked six days, and whether they needed some recreation or rest on the seventh day did not enter into the question, and it was only on the point of the bayonet that the Labour party were ever able to obtain anything. I can say as a practical miner on the goldfields, irrespective of whether it be Kalgoorlie, the Murchison or the Northern fields, that there is too much Sunday labour, and if we wish to improve the conditions of the men, the more they can be kept out of the mines the better it will be for them, and any Government which will have this end in view will be doing a duty to the State. I hope the House will do something to remedy that which I consider to be one of the worst evils in the State. In the Mines Regulation Act there are various anomalies that need to be deleted from it. If one reads that Act he will conclude that if a breach was committed it would constitute an offence which would be punishable, and not only that, it would be thought that if a breach was committed by the company, and that through an accident an unfortunate worker should be killed, his widow would have some recompense. The Mines Regulation Act as it is constituted at present practically means that the occurrence of an accident is not

*prima facie* evidence of neglect. This was taken out of the Mines Regulation Act, and when the present Workers' Compensation Act was framed it was not put in there. There was another clause, the common employment clause, which practically means that if you are sent into a place to work by the manager of that mine, or the shift boss, and it happens to be a dangerous place and you refuse to go there, the result will be a tramp for miles. Men have always had to pay the penalty, in many cases by victimisation. I will ask every hon. member if he believes in the betterment of the conditions of the worker to study the Mines Regulation Act, and at least take notice of the men who have lived their lives in mines and know the actual wants of the miners. When the common employment clauses were before the House they were put before members by a gentleman who is not now a member of the House. These clauses mean that if a man is sent into a dangerous place to work and he is injured while performing the duties he is sent to carry out, he has no chance of obtaining damages or compensation from the company other than workers' compensation, because he is in common employment with the man who sent him there. When framing the Workers' Compensation Act, and going through the Mines Regulation Act there was a case which had cost the miners' unions of this State several thousands of pounds, and the administrators of the Act knowing this put one clause into that measure which I hope to see deleted. That clause did away with every vestige of chance of a man obtaining anything except workers' compensation for any accident. So far as the question of the workers' compensation is concerned, when that comes before the House we can deal with it, but there is another question, the Arbitration Act. This is a matter which, as far as the miners are concerned, has been of very little value. I have the honour to represent a district where an award under the present Act was given, and a mine which was paying its way was ordered to pay a certain rate of wages for a certain class of work. There was another mine whose leases adjoin this



paying mine, and because it was not paying its way, the award declared that it was not to pay the same rate of wages as the other mine. That is the interpretation put on the Arbitration Act by one judge. There are other judges who have sat as presidents of the Arbitration Court who have had different ideas as to what should constitute an award. I think no good can come from arbitration until this House takes a decided stand as to the basis of an actual fair rate of wages, or the standard it shall be based upon. If one goes into the Criminal Court it will be found that the various legal gentlemen who have charge of the case will declare what constitutes an offence; the various opposing lawyers will go through the case and decide to what extent that offence has been committed, and there is a penalty laid down according to the degree of the offence. Parliament and the people should say that there should be a standard for a fair rate of wage, and not a living rate, which is always driven home by the Arbitration Court. If that is done the judge will merely have to adjudicate on it, and there will not be that responsibility thrown on him which should be kept on the people of this State through their representatives in Parliament. Reverting back to the Mines Regulation Act there is one section at the end of it that I hope to see deleted. It is said that it is an injustice to the Minister to throw on him the blame for this, but I say it is an injustice to the people of the State to put a man in the position to undo the good that we as legislators all hope to do, and I hope to see this section deleted from this Act, and similar clauses from other Acts, which are administered by other departments. I have been told that past Ministries have stood for the State control of the liquor traffic. We as a party say that we believe in the nationalisation of the liquor traffic; we also believe in the nationalisation of anything that it is possible to nationalise. The Premier of Queensland lately said that the profits accruing to the State hotel in Western Australia were the result of Sunday trading. I give that a denial. I have lived in the town where the State hotel is for a

number of years, and I say that the hotel, from the point of view of respectability, is run, I will not say altogether according to the Act, but very much more closely on the lines set down by the Act than many of the hotels in various parts of the State. The only fault that can be found with it is not in the actual management but in the administration of its affairs. There is one little point that might surprise several of the gentlemen sitting in Opposition. The former Minister for Mines certainly had charge of the affairs of the State hotel, and the Government had the chance of still furthering the idea of establishing State hotels by starting one at Bullfinch. It has been urged that if the State had put up an hotel at Bullfinch it would have been an absolute failure. There are many places though in the State where a State controlled hotel would have been a success, and I hope that the party which is at present in power, before they have done with the question, will put the machinery into motion and show the people that this can be done. When the Lancefield mine was started, after having been shut down, there was never a greater chance of establishing a State hotel from a profitable point of view than at this particular place, yet we find that the past administration gave private enterprise the opportunity of putting up the hotel, and that several hundreds of pounds were spent in its erection. Mr. Millbank, who has the hotel, has declared that he took £4,000 there in the first three weeks. I have that on the authority of the manager of the State hotel at Gwalia, who made the offer to the former Minister for Mines that he would manage the hotel at Gwalia and a State hotel at Lancefield. He declared that he could secure the services of a competent man to take charge of the Gwalia hotel, and he urged the ex-Minister to establish a State hotel at Lancefield, and showed him that there would be no difficulty in making a handsome profit; yet we find the Minister for Mines declined to agree to it. I have asserted that the Minister for Mines has never been in sympathy with the State control of the liquor trade, and he showed that by the

way in which he administered the affairs of the Gwalia State hotel. I hope that if in the farming districts hotel accommodation is needed, the Government will lose no time in establishing State hotels, and give the people a chance of at least controlling what we all regard—no matter what we say about the question of control—as an evil. There is another mining question I wish to speak about, and that is that on the various goldfields the men have not in the past been considered to the extent that should have been done. The men work mostly under unhealthy conditions. It is well known that it is impossible to find a healthy mine in the State, and when they come up after doing a shift it is found that the places set apart, which are alleged to be change houses, are nothing better than pigsties in many instances. The member for Hannans stated that whenever an inspection is about to take place the staff of the particular mine are notified, and it was a very prominent matter when the members of the present Phthisis Commission was about to visit one of the centres I represent, the miners' union there had been, not for one week, but for at least seven months, trying to drive home the necessity for improved change houses. Yet we found that it was not until just on the advent of that Commission that any improvement was made in the change houses of the mine. I would commend to the Minister for Mines that he sees, as far as possible, that the regulations in respect to changing houses be carried out; for, after all, if mining is an unhealthy employment at least we, as representatives of the people, should do all we can to take away the worst conditions and make it as satisfactory as possible under the circumstances. There is one matter which affects a district such as I represent, and by affecting that district affects most of the State; we have all heard lately, and many of us discussed, the question of the meat supply. I do not mean a meat supply for any one district, but for Western Australia. Several thousand pounds have been spent in sending men out to cut tracks and make them fit to bring cattle along to the centres of popu-

lation. I am glad to see that up to the present time the Minister for Mines, as far as my district is concerned, has exercised a sympathetic administration, and has improved the conditions of the wells, and I have reason to believe that in the near future he will be in a position to see that the wells along most of the stock routes are in a fit condition for the carrying of stock. Now, if we are going to bring cattle from the various districts down to the centres of population, and bring them under good conditions through having a good water supply on the track, the people in the congested centres will be benefited by being able to get meat at a cheaper rate. As far as the State battery system is concerned, many of the alleged batteries are of an obsolete nature. Every report I have received from the various places with which I have communicated says that the batteries are in an unfit condition to crush stone. At the Mount Ida battery this obtains, and at various other batteries. Much as the late Minister for Mines wished to help prospectors, the prospector can never be helped once he has the stone out unless you give him good crushing facilities. As far as that battery is concerned, there is no cyanidation there, and I have received a letter saying that private enterprise has now put in a cyanide plant, with the result that the prospectors have to pay whatever the private enterprise firm demands. I hope the Minister for Mines will be in a position in the near future to see that the State battery system is put on a good and solid basis. At many of the State batteries which are in a good condition as far as machinery is concerned, we find that when men bring stone in to be treated it has to come in as back-loading with the teams, and is left some distance from the boxes in which it has to be prepared for treatment. At some of these batteries, especially that at Leonora, after a man has paid exorbitant charges for carting the stone—stone which has been raised at a high price—one would think the Government would afford good conditions for the crushing of that stone. Yet in one instance there is a further impost of 1s. 6d. per ton



after the stone has been put down at the mill to be treated, this 1s. 6d. being for further handling of the stone. If you are told you have to pay 10s. a ton to cart the stone from Mt. Stirling to the Leonora battery you generally suppose that all charges are included in that; but there is this further impost of 1s. 6d., because they cannot put the stone into the battery from where it is dumped. Yet it only requires a belt conveyor, or some other device of the sort, to do away with the impost. If the Government wish the men to prosper they should show their gratitude for the prospecting work done by improving the conditions at the State batteries. I daresay that at a later date the conditions of crushing at these batteries will be taken into consideration. This is a question I would recommend every member of the House to study. I hope members, after much boasting of what they have done and intend to do for the prospector, will at last do something for him. It can be done in various ways. At a later date I intend to bring in a measure dealing with mining boards. However, there is no need to go further into this matter at the present time. I hope that the deliberations of the House will result in permanently improving the conditions of Western Australia generally.

Mr. A. N. PIESSE (Toodyay): If there is any part of the policy of the Government which appeals to me, it is that in which they propose to build various agricultural railways. That, I maintain, is the most important part of the policy, because the development of the State depends on the development of its agricultural resources, and I fail to see how those resources are to be developed other than by an extensive construction of agricultural railways. It is the duty of the Government to, as far as possible, carry out the promises of the past Government in so far as these railways are concerned. Those promises were given in good faith, and were largely responsible for the extraordinary settlement of the land in the back districts. The people took up those lands under anything but the best conditions in respect to rainfall, and any member who has a know-

ledge of the difficulties to be contended against in settling the land must realise that these people are entitled to special consideration. To-day they are faced with serious difficulty in respect to the water supply, and undoubtedly it is the duty of the Government to assist those people to the utmost of their ability. At the same time I feel that had the late Government remained in power those people would have received special consideration, probably more than has been extended to them in the circumstances.

Hon. W. C. Angwin (Honorary Minister): How do you know?

Mr. A. N. PIESSE: With all due respect to the present Government, and I feel that they are in earnest, I maintain that the position is almost identical to-day with what it was a week before the elections. I do not intend to speak in any way ungratefully, because I believe the Government mean to help these people. They are doing their best, and I am hopeful that in the near future the difficulty will have been largely overcome, if only temporarily. Now it is necessary that the question of water supply be taken in hand, and as speedily as possible be overcome by a big permanent scheme. The country fully justifies it. This year we have seen extraordinary crops raised on a very short rainfall. We were told that the crops at Dowerin were a failure, but I am glad to say they are scarcely that. Some crops away east of Dowerin are a failure, but in Dowerin the crops are fairly good. Yet with scarcely a water supply of any sort there is very little complaint from the people in that district. Great consideration is due to them, and I hope it will be extended. There is large settlement going on in the north of the Cowcowing district, and I hope the Government will see their way to take the promised railway through that district. It is due to these people, for they are an able and energetic class, and entitled to every consideration. If there is any matter in the Government policy which does not receive my approval it is the proposed amendment of the land regulations. I give the Minister credit for honesty of intention, and I feel sure that if left