

ment very long to blossom forth as wholesale cattle dealers, in which line they have made a very good start indeed. But, to be successful in that line, they must act on the suggestion I have just offered them. This is a most unfortunate piece of business, and it is impossible to foresee what the end will be. A grievous wrong has been done to the old customers of the State Steamship Service, who have been victimised for the benefit of the princes of monopolists; for the benefit of absentee owners who take all their profits out of the State. The committing of that wrong has given a new lease of life to the old meat ring, which we all thought had been effectually scotched. The action taken in this matter comes with very bad grace indeed from Ministers professing grave concern for the advancement of the North-West, Ministers who only recently stated that they proposed to appoint a commissioner for that portion of Western Australia, Ministers who have promised that the North-West shall play a prominent part in their immigration policy. One of the objects of the establishment of the State Steamship Service was the encouragement of pastoral settlement in the North. The Seaddan Government considered that if investors could rely upon getting their stock to market at reasonable rates of freight they would take up country and stock it and so add to the wealth of the State. But that is not now likely to occur. The administration of the State Steamship Service by the present Government has broken faith with the existing settlers, and the announcement of the Government's future line of policy—that they will no longer be carriers of cattle, but buyers of cattle—is likely to create serious alarm among the producers in the Northern portion of this State. The final result of such a policy may be that very soon someone else will have to step in for the purpose of protecting the Northern producers from the State Steamship Service and the voracity of the Government, by providing competition. The Colonial Secretary stated that he had no objection to laying on the Table of the House the papers asked for by this motion. In my opinion, it is a pity that the hon. gentleman did not do so straight away, in which case we would be in a position to judge of the merits of

the transaction. But the merits, whatever they may be, do not, in my opinion, affect the question under consideration. They cannot excuse the Government for having cruelly abandoned the men who have stood by the State Steamship Service in the past, or for having extended preferential treatment to the men who have never given any assistance whatever to that project. To sum up the whole situation in one sentence—the friends of the State Steamship Service have been thrown to the wolves in order to provide a safe seat for the enemies of that enterprise.

On motion by Hon. Sir E. H. Wittenoom debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 6.14 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 21st November, 1916.

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

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Honorary Minister: By-laws of the City of Perth.

By the Premier: Reports of Advisory Committee on the funding of the deficit.

QUESTION—ROTTNEST ISLAND.

Mr. CARPENTER asked Hon. J. D. Connolly (Honorary Minister): On what date is it proposed to open Rottneest Island to visitors for the coming summer season?

The HONORARY MINISTER replied: It is anticipated that the island will be open to visitors from the beginning of next month.

QUESTION—FREMANTLE HARBOUR TRUST, ANNUAL REPORT.

Mr. CARPENTER asked Hon. J. D. Connolly (Honorary Minister): When will the report of the Fremantle Harbour Trust for the year ended 30th June, 1916, be laid upon the Table of the House?

The HONORARY MINISTER replied: It is anticipated that the report will be laid on the Table of the House this week.

QUESTION—RAILWAYS, CARRIAGE OF GOODS ON GREAT SOUTHERN LINE.

Mr. SCADDAN (without notice) asked the Honorary Minister: Will he make inquiries with regard to the alleged abnormal delays in the carriage of goods on the Great Southern railway, owing to the restriction of the train service?

The HONORARY MINISTER (Hon. J. D. Connolly) replied: Yes.

SELECT COMMITTEE WHEAT MARKETING BILL.

Extension of time.

On motion by Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY (Honorary Minister) the time for bringing up the select committee's report was extended to Wednesday, the 29th inst.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS, PRECEDENCE.

The PREMIER (Hon. Frank Wilson—Sussex) [4.37]: I move—

That for the remainder of the session Government business shall take precedence of all motions and Orders of the Day.

I wish to say that the leader of the Opposition has spoken to me in regard to the motions already on the Notice Paper. I can assure the House that I will give every opportunity to have have those motions dealt with.

Mr. SCADDAN (Brown Hill-Ivanhoe) [4.38]: I would like to know whether the Premier will give an opportunity for the reasonably early discussion of the motion standing in the name of the member for Leonora (Mr. Foley) in respect of the raising of railway freights and passenger fares. It is an important question, and I think we might at least enter on the debate at an early date. The motion will probably lose some of its effect if it be left until the closing days of the session. The subject is agitating the minds of the electors along the Murchison and other goldfields railways and I think the Premier should undertake to give a reasonably early opportunity of discussing the motion.

Mr. CARPENTER (Fremantle) [4.39]: A motion of this kind usually indicates that we are nearing the end of the session. If the moving of the motion may be taken as such an indication, I think the House should know what motive the Premier has in bringing the motion forward. It certainly is one which should not be moved unless we are near the end of the session. It would be very unfair if, after passing such a motion, tacitly preventing members from introducing or discussing private business, the House were to continue sitting for two or three months, during which time members would be at the sweet will of the Premier as to whether or not they should discuss private motions. The privilege of a member ought not to be lightly treated. Unless we have some idea of when the session will close, we ought not to pass a motion of this kind, and prevent ourselves from discussing some important subject that may demand discussion. The Premier should take the House into his confidence and tell us what he proposes as regards the length of the session and when we may expect the session to end, seeing that he is asking us to do something which usually presupposes that we are near the end of the session.

The PREMIER (Hon. Frank Wilson—Sussex—in reply) [441]: I may say I had some conversation with the leader of the Opposition. The motion which I have moved arises out of the conference which has been called to meet in Melbourne. The Prime Minister wished me to leave last Saturday in order to attend an urgent conference on Friday next. In reply I pointed out how difficult it would be for me to leave, and said that if he would put it off till Christmas I would endeavour to get through and attend. He replied that it was very urgent and must be held early in December, and asked would I make arrangements to be there at that time. After discussing the matter briefly with the leader of the Opposition I wired back that I thought I might be able to leave at the end of next week and attend the conference on the following Friday, the 8th December. I have not had a definite reply from the Prime Minister, but I have seen it announced in the Press that the conference is fixed for that date, so I presume, if it is the wish of the House, I shall have to attend that conference. It is most necessary, for it touches the very vital spark of our existence. The conference, I understand, is to discuss arrangements which we are to make with regard to finance and loan moneys, so I am making every endeavour to clear off the Notice Paper by the end of next week. I want to give hon. members an opportunity, if they wish, to get through and close up Parliament by the end of next week. I admit it will be a heavy task, and that we shall have to sit early and late next week.

Mr. Taylor: And throw over a lot of what is on the Notice Paper.

The PREMIER: We might have to sit earlier, but if hon. members wish to get through they can do so. If we cannot get through we can only do our best, and then adjourn over the holidays. All the business will be on the Notice Paper to-morrow. Notice has been given to-day of two or three Bills which complete the list, so far as I know. After we shall have dealt with the Estimates I do not think the taxation proposals will take much discussion. Hon. members may disagree, may even throw them out, but there need not be any laboured discussion of those measures. I do not desire to rush hon. members unduly: I

want to give them every facility. If we are not able to conclude our business by the end of next week I shall have to ask them to adjourn until the middle of January, or if we can adopt the Federal custom, a date can be fixed by his hon. the Speaker. In that way I shall have a free hand to arrange the finances of the State in conjunction with the Prime Minister and the Premiers of the other States. All the Bills which the Government intend to introduce will be on the Notice Paper by to-morrow and hon. members, if they so desire, can curtail discussion on them and deal with them. However, I am entirely in the hands of hon. members. The member for Leonora (Mr. Foley) will be given an opportunity of moving the motion which stands in his name. That is all I can say at the present time.

Mr. Carpenter: If we do adjourn we may have two months more of the session, and with your motion carried you will block the business of private members.

The PREMIER: If the necessity arises we can annul the motion. I can assure the hon. member that if we do adjourn till the middle of January he can have every opportunity he likes. If we close next week we shall have to make the most of every moment.

Mr. Foley: Will there be anything to prevent the House meeting in the absence of the Premier? The House carried on business last year in the absence of the late Premier when he had to go away to Melbourne.

The PREMIER: The then Government were in a very different position. The party to which the hon. member belongs could afford to give away a Premier or two and go on serenely.

Mr. Foley: You are not taking notice of the *Sunday Times*, are you?

The PREMIER: I have not noticed what they have said. I was busy with the Budget all day on Sunday.

Mr. Foley: If you go away and we adjourn it will make it appear to the country that your's is a one-man Ministry.

The PREMIER: At the present time the Minister for Industries is in Melbourne, where he has been detained longer than he anticipated.

Mr. Scaddan: He has not been missed so far.

The PREMIER: Indeed he has been missed very much. The Minister for Works is ill in bed, I am sorry to say, and we have lost our Whip. That is the position.

Mr. Taylor: I am afraid you are in troubled waters, and that you are likely to strike a mine at any time.

Question put and passed.

BILL—TREASURY BONDS DEFICIENCY.

Message from the Governor received and read recommending the Bill.

Bill introduced by the Premier and read a first time.

BILLS (4)—FIRST READING.

- 1, Land and Income Tax.
- 2, Dividend Duties Act Amendment.
- 3, Land and Income Tax Assessment Act Amendment.

4, Entertainments and Retail Sales Taxation.

Introduced by the Premier.

BILL—STAMP ACT AMENDMENT.

Report of Committee adopted.

BILL—STATE SALARIES (COMMONWEALTH TAXATION).

Second Reading.

The PREMIER (Hon. Frank Wilson—Sussex) [4.53] in moving the second reading said: This is a small measure for the purpose of enabling the Commonwealth to tax the salaries of State servants, Ministers, members of Parliament, judges, and others holding any office or employment under the State Government.

Mr. Angwin: Are you making any exemptions?

Mr. O'Loughlen: Is it retrospective?

The PREMIER: It is not retrospective. The only exemption is His Excellency the Governor. The Bill is a short one of four clauses. It is a copy of the Victorian Act of 1915 which was presented to Parliament for their approval as an outcome of the

Premiers' conference held in May last at which the ex-Premier, now the leader of the Opposition, attended and concurred in the resolution then passed that legislation of this description should be submitted and passed.

Mr. Scaddan: The civil servants themselves asked for it.

The PREMIER: This is an excellent proposal inasmuch as in 1907 the Commonwealth passed an Act enabling the State to tax the salaries of Commonwealth employees. The necessity for that action arose because an appeal had been made to the High Court and that court held that such taxation on the part of the State was unlawful and an interference with the powers of the Commonwealth. I think it was at the request of the Victorian Government that the legislation was passed, and since that time we have exercised the right to tax the salaries of Commonwealth servants and others employed by the Commonwealth Government. I commend the Bill for the acceptance of the House, and move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. SCADDAN (Brown Hill-Ivanhoe) [4.57]: I desire to lend my support to the Bill introduced by the Treasurer. He has stated the position quite clearly. The State servants have demanded that any tax that is introduced during the period of the war shall be made to apply to all.

Mr. Heitmann: Has the Commonwealth imposed a tax in regard to Commonwealth officers?

Mr. SCADDAN: Yes, they did that in 1907. There is no reason why taxation should not be borne by every member of the community. In this case the civil servants themselves have asked for this legislation and have stated that they were quite prepared to bear their share of the burden with the rest of the community.

Mr. ANGWIN (North-East Fremantle) [4.59]: Perhaps this may be the proper time to bring under notice of hon. members, and particularly the Treasurer, the differential treatment in this State in regard to the income tax. The State civil servants and others contributed to what we termed the War and Unemployment Distress Fund. Under the terms of the Federal income tax any subscription which is given exceeding

£5 to any fund brought about by the war would be exempt from taxation.

The Premier: Up to £50.

Mr. ANGWIN: No, it is £5. So far as this State is concerned, the taxation department has decided that the War and Unemployment Distress Fund, which we had in Western Australia, had nothing to do with the war and was brought about by the drought, and they are refusing to make exemptions in regard to contributions made to the fund as far as income tax is concerned. No doubt at the commencement of last year the State civil servants and others contributed very fairly to this fund.

Mr. Foley: It was the best fund in the State.

Mr. ANGWIN: And the fund was used wisely. I think those who contributed to it are entitled to exemption on the amount they contributed just as would be done in the case of other war funds in Australia. Instructions have already been issued in Melbourne that no allowance is to be made on the income tax in regard to the contributions to this fund. Whether it has been done in the Eastern States or not I cannot say, but that has been made to apply to this State. I thought this was a general tax when the Premier first spoke, but I find that it only refers to the State and Commonwealth civil servants, Ministers of the Crown, and I suppose members of Parliament, and the position is that it does not apply generally. I certainly think that so far as the Commonwealth authorities are concerned they are taking up a wrong attitude in regard to this State in not granting this exemption. This may have been allowed here last year—I do not know—but this year it has not been allowed. At the same time if a tax is to be imposed upon private individuals it should also be imposed upon public servants as well.

Mr. FOLEY (Leonora) [5.3]: In support of what the member for North-East Fremantle (Mr. Angwin) has said I wish to express the opinion that it is an injustice to the people who contributed to this fund, which was the best fund we had in the State. I was a member of the executive controlling this War and Unemployment Distress Fund from its inception, and I can assure the

House that a very large amount of money was given away. There was one thing about this fund, that the greater part of the money which was controlled and administered by the fund was worked for and not given away as a charity. Throughout the war up to the present almost the whole of the monies of the fund since its inception were given away, but certainly after a while anyone who was suffering as the result of distress caused by the war was assisted. It was, however, almost wholly and solely a war and unemployment distress fund. Had it not been for the war that unemployment and distress would not have occurred, and it is an unfair thing to wish to tax any of the civil servants who gave money, or anyone else in the State, who gave so well and in some instances gave part of their salary week in and week out for the betterment of the fund. This fund in turn was administered for the benefit of those who were most in need of assistance in the State. It does not matter what measure of distress was relieved so long as that was caused by the war and I contend that that money should be deleted from taxation proposals. The point brought forward by the member for North-East Fremantle was a wise one.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Mr. Holman in the Chair; the Premier in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1, 2, 3—agreed to.

Clause 4—Salary of Governor:

Mr. SCADDAN: Why was it necessary to put this clause in the Bill? I should say that the special Act that provides for the payment of salary to the Governor provides also that it shall not be taxed. Unless it was specifically mentioned this clause would not over-ride the Act.

Mr. Gardiner: The Governor's salary is not taxable according to the Constitution.

Mr. SCADDAN: So that it does not require to be mentioned here unless it be intended that it should be taxed and that could only be provided for by an amendment to the Constitution. Of course it might have been desired to draw attention to the fact that he was the only person who was not intended to be taxed.

The PREMIER: That was not the intention. Under our Constitution we cannot tax the Governor's salary ourselves. When we are giving power to an outside body, such as the Federal Government or the Government of any other State, to do something in the way of taxation within our State in regard to all persons who hold office under the State Government then I think it is necessary to make sure that their salaries are not to be touched in this way. We are taking care that the Governor shall enjoy the same immunity under Federal taxation as he does under State taxation.

Mr. Collier: Why should he not pay, anyhow?

The PREMIER: I am not prepared to argue that point.

Clause put and passed.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

BILL—FIRE BRIGADES.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the 16th November.

Mr. HOLMAN (Murchison) [5.10]: In supporting the second reading of this Bill I do not intend to delay the House very long. Special efforts were made by the Fire Brigades Board in 1912 in drafting amendments and placing them before the House, and many of the amendments have been partly if not wholly embodied in the Bill. Forty representatives of municipalities and other local authorities were present at a conference and many of the proposals brought forward by them have been adopted. Further, the other Act has been working for so long that most of its defects have been found out. In view of these circumstances, therefore, I do not think it is necessary to debate this matter at any great length. The main principle of the Bill, or the main alterations of the present Act, give the local authorities a great deal more control over their own fire arrangements. In the past there have been many complaints as to the extent to which the Fire Brigades Board has been able to control matters in connection with the fire brigade movement.

Another complaint has been that the local authorities have had to subscribe certain amounts which had been spent in other districts. The proposals in this Bill do away with that almost entirely, because they allow for the splitting up of the State into various districts, and each local governing body will be permitted to watch its own local interests. After that is done they make recommendations, and if any alterations are desired they will be dealt with by the board; and if that is unsatisfactory to the local authority, there is power to refer to the Minister. All fire brigade work in Western Australia in my opinion must of necessity be carried on to a great extent under the volunteer movement. We have endeavoured to encourage that at all times. Unfortunately, however, we were not able to get a majority of members on the board to see eye to eye with us in that direction. When the first Fire Brigade Board was appointed in Perth, I think that was in 1898, it controlled Perth and Fremantle and the balance of the fire brigades were without any Act to govern them. In 1909 the District Fire Brigades Act was passed and this brought in the whole of the fire brigades in Western Australia under the control of the Fire Brigades Board. At present I consider it would have been much better had the volunteer movement been kept to a greater extent separate from the permanent brigade, as is in the case of Victoria. When the select committee sat in 1909 I placed that phase of the question before them, but unfortunately they would not be guided by our desires at that time. It has been found since that the movement has grown to a great extent into a permanent fire brigade movement instead of mainly into a volunteer movement as should have been the case. In all probability any person at the head of these brigades would naturally desire permanent men under his control the whole of the time, because he would then have men who were more highly trained and who would be more directly under his command. At the same time it must be said that this is a very costly arrangement. A great deal of our fire brigade work must of necessity be done by volunteers, because it is impossible to pay a sufficient number of men to look after the

fire interests throughout the whole of the State. The difference between the permanent board of Melbourne and the country fire brigades board of Victoria is very considerable. I consider the country fire brigades board of Victoria is an example of good and economical administration. Here we should endeavour to foster more than we have fostered in the past the fire brigades movement. I may mention that the Western Australian Fire Brigades Association have considered the Bill, and they desire to have a country brigades board. But they fear it may not be possible to get such a board at the present time; and, in the circumstances, they wish that this Bill should go through with a few minor amendments. One matter which should receive attention is the question of the property of the fire brigades being rated by the various local governing bodies. While a great deal of the work is being done by volunteer fire brigades, their property should not be rated by local authorities. A request is made that a clause to that effect should be inserted in the Bill, and I hope the Minister in charge of the measure will, when we are in Committee, accept an amendment in that sense. Not many local governing bodies have in the past attempted to levy rates on fire brigade property: but a move has been made in that direction, and if one local authority rates fire brigade property all the other local authorities will follow suit. I therefore hope particularly that the Minister will accept the suggested amendment. The alterations in the existing law proposed by the Bill relate mainly to machinery matters. There is no great alteration proposed in the principles of the existing law, apart from giving the local authorities a good deal more control than they have enjoyed in the past. We shall have to look at this phase of the question, in view of the great improvement in fire brigade appliances during the past five years. It may be, as the result of that improvement, that the various stations can be run with only one or two permanent men. The introduction of motor appliances has made a vast difference. Where four or six permanent men have been engaged hitherto, it may be possible to do with one or two permanent men, the remainder of the bri-

gade to consist of volunteers. In the country districts of Victoria—at such places as Eaglehawk, for instance—one finds a single fire station keeper, or perhaps two men on a station. At the Bendigo fire brigade station there are two permanent men. I do not see why places such as Subiaco and Victoria Park should need three or four permanent men. One station keeper should suffice at either of those two places. I am satisfied that with more encouragement the volunteer fire brigades could have been kept up to the same standard as existed here prior to the enactment of the legislation of 1909. To show what great advantage results to the men from being trained as firemen, I may point out that nearly 60 per cent. of the firemen of Western Australia have gone to assist our Empire in her fight. That in itself constitutes a splendid record. The membership of the fire brigades of Western Australia at the end of last year totalled 543, and of that number over 300 have enlisted during the two and a half years the war has lasted. I am satisfied that with more encouragement to the volunteers a large number of young men could be induced to do the work at the fire stations, that when the measure is passed the local authorities will take up the work in a proper spirit and do their share towards fostering the volunteer movement in the various centres. It will be an utter impossibility for the board to attend to the requirements of the 40 centres in Western Australia which have fire brigades. A good deal of work must necessarily devolve on the local authorities. It may be possible for the board to appoint a volunteer organiser to assist the local authorities. My own opinion is that this would be a good move provided the right man is appointed. There has been complaint that the expenditure of the board has been too high, but I would point out that the efficiency of the Western Australian fire brigade movement compares fairly with the corresponding efficiency in other States. The expense imposed on the local authorities, however, has been too great, considering the other calls upon them; and I am convinced that in Western Australia the use is not being made of volunteers which ought to be made. Therefore I am pleased that the opportunity offers of prov-

ing that we can carry on with a larger number of volunteers than in the past.

Hon. J. D. Connolly (Honorary Minister): That is the best way to reduce the expenditure of the smaller localities.

Mr. HOLMAN: There is no doubt about that. There are some local authorities in the country districts who consider that they can carry on with practically no permanent men.

Hon. J. D. Connolly (Honorary Minister): Under the Bill they are allowed to be judges of that.

Mr. HOLMAN: Yes; and that is a very good provision, so long as there is somebody in authority over the local bodies to ensure the efficiency of the staff. Some protection must be given to the various other organisations that subscribe money towards the upkeep of the brigades. Still, the local authorities will, under this measure, be allowed ample opportunity of deciding what class of brigade they wish to have. There may be some difficulty in bringing the new conditions proposed by this Bill into operation, having regard to the large number of districts. It appears that every roads board mentioned in the schedule is classed as a district. Cue and Day Dawn I know will combine, and other districts may also club together. It is possible, however, that elsewhere there may be trouble in classifying the various brigades. The State of Victoria for the purposes of fire brigades is split into several divisions, and the brigades are bunched in the various districts. I daresay, however, that this phase of the matter has been considered; and no doubt any defects which may disclose themselves on the change of administration will be overcome. The proposed representation on the board, to my mind, is fair and reasonable—three insurance representatives, three representatives of the local governing bodies, two Government representatives, and one representative of the volunteer fire brigades. There has been a desire to alter the contributions of the various bodies; but, in my opinion, the present arrangement is fairly reasonable.

Hon. J. D. Connolly (Honorary Minister): If the contributions were reduced, the representation would have to be reduced also.

Mr. HOLMAN: Certainly.

Hon. J. D. Connolly (Honorary Minister): And that means giving the control to the insurance representatives.

Mr. HOLMAN: Yes. To my mind, the insurance companies in this State have, so far, largely escaped paying their just dues. Up to the enactment of the present Fire Brigades Act, they contributed nothing to the country brigades or the outside brigades; and only since 1898 have they paid anything towards the upkeep of the Perth and Fremantle brigades. Thus the insurance companies have had a very fair deal in Western Australia. It matters not what extra taxation is put on the insurance companies; they are not in the business for love of the game; they pass that extra taxation on to the public.

Mr. Foley: That view is not borne out by the result of taxation in the Eastern States.

Mr. HOLMAN: It is borne out by the circumstance that the insurance companies want to make their business pay.

Hon. J. D. Connolly (Honorary Minister): Of course, the more expenditure the more protection for the insurance companies.

Mr. HOLMAN: Certainly. It would be much better for the insurance companies to have a permanent brigade in every town where they have risks; for, in the event of a fire, the insurance companies have most to lose and most to gain. At the present time they are taxed up to three-eighths of the total expenditure on fire brigades, and they have three-ninths of the representation. Thus their taxation is on a somewhat higher level than their representation. Volunteers, on the other hand, are not taxed by payment of money, but by the best tax of all, namely, their personal service. The volunteer fire brigades, by reason of their membership, are fully entitled to all the representation they have, and perhaps a little more.

Member: What about the chairmanship?

Mr. HOLMAN: I myself am not particularly wedded to the proposal that the Government should appoint the chairman of the board. I do not think it would be wise to limit the selection of the chairman to two in a body of nine. That is my personal view. I was not at the meeting of the board when the matter was discussed, but that is the opinion I hold. There may chance to be a re-

markedly good man on the board outside the Government representatives, a man who could administer the affairs of the board as president or chairman much better than either of the Government nominees could. At the same time. I pay regard to this phase of the subject, that it might not always be wise to have as chairman or president a man who is directly interested by reason of the fact of his being in business. It might not always be wise to entrust to such a man the administration of fire brigade affairs, in which a great deal of money may be involved. I make this statement while giving every credit to the insurance representative who was chairman for several years. A better chairman than that gentleman it would be hard to obtain. I refer to Mr. Murray. That gentleman held very strongly the view that the permanent brigade was the better system, and every time when other members sought to advance the volunteer system they found him in opposition to them. As regards Mr. Murray's exercise of his powers as chairman, he did only what was reasonable and right on each and every occasion. Personally, I dislike the proposal to limit the appointment of the chairman to the two Government nominees. The Government say, of course, that they desire to have the administrator at hand in order to control the affairs of the board; but, in my opinion, the men sitting round the board table are best qualified to select their chairman. Still, it is not a matter of much moment, because members of the board will attend to their duties, and do their utmost to administer the board's affairs to the best possible advantage of the State, and to afford the various sections interested all the protection possible. I have looked through the amendments proposed by the Bill, and find that many of them embody proposals made in June, 1912. Moreover, the Bill includes several amendments desired by the municipal authorities. The question of the representation of the various municipalities may give rise to some discussion. The conference decided that local authorities under £500 should have one vote; over £500 and under £1,000, two votes; and over £1,000 three votes. I claim that under this Bill the North Coolgardie and the Murchison goldfields should have representation and sim-

ilarly that all local authorities throughout the State should have representation. But in the Bill it is proposed that the Perth City Council shall have one representative. I do not know what form of election will be adopted, whether each authority will have one vote, or whether the system will be placed on some other basis.

Hon. J. D. Connolly (Honorary Minister): Each local authority will have a vote.

Mr. HOLMAN: That so far as it goes appears to be satisfactory; but the Eastern goldfields will not have a representative on the board.

Mr. Scaddan: Do you agree that the Perth City Council should have a representative of its own and all the suburbs only one representative also? What about such places as Albany and Geraldton?

Hon. J. D. Connolly (Honorary Minister): On the score of valuation they are entitled to it.

Mr. Scaddan: They are not. What about Fremantle and many other places?

Mr. HOLMAN: The only reason for such representation arises from the fact that Perth has to contribute a great deal more than other municipalities towards the upkeep of the brigade. We have to bear in mind that whilst Perth will have a representative on the board there will be as many as 40 permanent men in the brigade in Perth.

Mr. Scaddan: Which is a big expense.

Mr. HOLMAN: Yes; that is so. But it also has to be borne in mind that the brigade will have jurisdiction over outside centres as well.

Mr. Foley: The expenses of the board will be charged up to the district.

Mr. HOLMAN: No; they have not been charged up.

Mr. Scaddan: They got more help from outside than from Perth, that is why the expenses were not charged up.

Mr. HOLMAN: I agree that it might be better to have representation on the board from the whole of the metropolitan area. Then we would have a representative of the metropolitan district, a representative of the goldfields, and another representative of the other portions of Western Australia. I was touching on that point when the leader of the Opposition interjected. I think it would

be better if, instead of a single representative from the Perth City Council, the whole of the metropolitan area were represented jointly. It will surely be conceded that the ratepayers of the metropolitan area outside the city boundaries are entitled to representation. The Cue district has been merged with Kalgoorlie, then why should not Fremantle and the suburban areas be given representation with Perth? I do not think a great deal of harm would be done if such an alteration were made in the Bill. A few other minor amendments were also suggested by the conference, amongst others one dealing with the question of attendance of firemen, but mainly small matters requiring adjustment in the 1912 Act. Regarding the question of the position of the insurance companies, can the Honorary Minister in charge of the Bill tell us whether Clause 44 deals with the question of contributions? In reading through the clause it is not quite clear to my mind and I should like the point made clear at any rate before the Bill passes through Committee. To me it is not clear whether the districts are the districts referred to in the schedule, and I do not see any other place in the Bill from which the point can be exactly decided as to what are the amounts to be contributed. The Minister, however, may be able to give some information on the point when in Committee. I admit that there are certain volunteer fire brigades in Western Australia which might be improved upon, but I trust that it will not be found necessary to interfere in any way with the permanent men at present employed. Those men have proved themselves loyal and patriotic and have done good work in connection with our brigades. Most of the permanent men at present engaged are married. It is our duty to do whatever we can to foster and encourage the fire brigades and with the purpose of doing my share to this end I am giving my hearty support to the Bill, which I trust will be carried with certain necessary amendments. And when the Bill has passed into law I trust the local bodies will deem it to be their duty to encourage the brigades in their centres and assist the board to bring about more economic and more efficient brigades. The fact that many of our young men have enlisted may probably militate against the im-

mediate success of the Bill. There has been a heavy drain on the manhood of Western Australia, and it has to be remembered that the men who have volunteered are mostly young men. About 60 per cent. of the total number of members of brigades in Western Australia have joined the colours, and probably there may be some difficulty in that respect. Still we may hope that the war will not last much longer and that those men will come back to us. It is the duty of every man in the country to do whatever he can in the direction of saving life and property from destruction and with a view to encouraging that I give my support to the Bill.

Mr. FOLEY (Leonora) [5.38]: In supporting the measure now before the House, I shall endeavour to touch on one or two points which the member for Murchison (Mr. Holman) has omitted to refer to. Although this Bill is in a large sense what the recent conference of fire brigades representatives at Subiaco desired, there are phases of the question which the Government in its wisdom has not seen fit to give effect to.

Mr. Scaddan: That is owing to the Government's lack of wisdom.

Mr. FOLEY: We are all agreed that taxation should be made as nearly as possible comparable with representation; and I contend a few amendments of this Bill are necessary in order to give equitable representation to local bodies who pay the greatest amount of money towards the upkeep of fire brigades. The insurance companies certainly pay a large sum, but they get a good deal of representation; and, after all, an efficient fire brigade, no matter whether it be in the City or the country, must be of benefit to the insurance companies. I trust that when the question of the rates of contribution are being discussed in Committee the Honorary Minister will listen to arguments used for desired amendments in the direction of providing greater representation for local bodies.

Mr. Scaddan: We do not want greater representation, we want fair representation.

Mr. FOLEY: My opinion is that the interests of the insurance companies are the same throughout the State. The insurance companies' representative on the Fire Brigades Board represents the insurance com-

panies' interests no matter in what part of the State those interests are to be conserved. The position is different in regard to the representation of local bodies. Under the Bill the Perth City Council will be entitled to elect one representative, and one representative would be elected by the whole of the other local bodies. This despite the fact that the majority of money to be subscribed will come from those bodies in the metropolitan area who are outside the jurisdiction of the Perth City Council altogether. The interests of the ratepayers in the metropolitan area are the same throughout that area, and I hold that every ratepayer in a municipal or roads board district should have a voice in the election of the representative on the Fire Brigades Board. No difference is made as to the amount each has to pay. They each have to pay 1½d. whether living in Leederville, Subiaco, or the City of Perth itself. Their interests being the same, I contend that better representation would be obtained if all these local bodies were represented on the board by the same person.

Hon. J. D. Connolly (Honorary Minister): Elected by the ratepayers as a whole?

Mr. FOLEY: Yes, make it one district instead of three. The City Council's representative on the board would represent only the City Council; he would report and be responsible to the City Council only, and all he need do would be to keep sweet with them and he would be right for a job for life.

Hon. J. D. Connolly (Honorary Minister): He would have to be elected every two years.

Mr. FOLEY: Quite so; but I maintain he would be right for life. The people outside the City have a right to a voice in the election of that representative because they are all rated alike. I contend it would be more equitable.

Hon. J. D. Connolly (Honorary Minister): Do you advocate that the representative of the local bodies should be elected by the ratepayers direct voting as one district?

Mr. FOLEY: Yes.

Mr. Scaddan: He means that the schedule should be amended so that the municipalities shall elect a representative and not the City of Perth only.

Mr. FOLEY: In the Bill the administration is split up into three parts. All that is required is that a new schedule shall be drafted, embracing the same places and the same ratepayers in one district instead of three as at present suggested. I contend that if all representation for the several districts were elected by one body we would get the opinion of the local bodies, which we have not to-day. Some of the municipal bodies just outside Perth are paying a greater amount than they should do for the services received from the fire brigade. Last year Subiaco obtained about £620 from the Government by way of subsidy. Their assessment this year of the amounts they have to pay back to the board is £612. If the Government are to give the money with one hand and take it back with the other, it would be just as well for them to run the fire brigade system altogether. It is contended that even at the present time for that £612, which the ratepayers have to provide on their annual value, they get, not the five permanent men specified, but only two permanent men. If they can do without five permanent men there at present, it is proof positive their estimates were higher than was justified. The ratepayers should not be charged for more than the two permanent men, who, with a team of 20 volunteers, would be able, not only to look after their own fires, but to assist the central brigade.

Hon. J. D. Connolly (Honorary Minister): They will have a voice in that.

Mr. FOLEY: Still, at the same time, in view of all the circumstances, the Subiaco people contend that if the subsidy is to be taken from them, the Government may as well take over the whole administration. The fire brigades do not wish the taxation to be any greater upon the Government, who are paying fairly well at present. It is contended that the municipalities do not reap a very great deal from the fire brigade system. It is held that the insurance companies are almost the only people who benefit by a good fire brigade system, and that therefore the taxation should be even greater on the insurance companies than it is on either the municipal bodies or the Government.

Mr. Angwin: What difference would it make?

Mr. FOLEY: The member for Murchison (Mr. Holman) has said that it will make a big difference, because if they are taxed to any great extent the insurance companies will pass it on to the policy holders. Western Australia is the only State which has allowed the insurance companies to do this. The fire brigades conference wished to amend the Act in the direction of giving the Government power to levy more from the insurance companies than at present and so bring them up to the proportions paid in the other States. In New South Wales the municipalities and the insurance companies pay each one-third; in Victoria they pay one-third; in South Australia the Government pays three-ninths, the municipalities two-ninths, and the insurance companies four-ninths. Some members hold that we should be taxed to a greater extent than are the other States. For some time we have been receiving less from our insurance premiums than have the people in the other States. In Sydney the insurance rate for dwellings is 2s., less 10 per cent. In Melbourne it is 2s., less 10 per cent.; in Adelaide 2s. 6d., less 10 per cent., and in Perth 3s. net. Then, take the rates for factories: in Sydney it is 7s. 6d., in Melbourne 5s., and in Adelaide 6s., all less 10 per cent.; but in Perth it is 9s. 6d. net. In the suburbs of Sydney, for the same class of insurance, the rate is 2s. 6d., less 10 per cent. In Perth it is 4s. net. If the people of this State think they are harshly treated by the insurance companies, and the Government find that the insurance companies intend to pass on any extra taxation, it is, in my opinion, the best argument that could be used in favour of State insurance. Let the Government take over the insurance and reap the sole benefit. Some of the municipalities, as, for instance, Kalgoorlie, are on an exceptionally good wicket in respect of representation.

Mr. Green: We are in the same boat now.

Mr. FOLEY: No. But if we go a little out of Kalgoorlie, where the people have to depend on the brigades to do the work among the dwellings of the workers, I am sure the member for Hannans (Mr. Munsie) will agree that they are not getting the best work out of the present system, that the

smaller brigades are not giving the best results to the people, some of whom have to struggle very hard indeed to keep their insurance premiums paid. The member for Murchison said something about the chairman of the board. I contend that the Government representative should be the chairman. He has no axe to grind, and he is above anything petty. If he is not, the Government should put another man in his place.

Hon. J. D. Connolly (Honorary Minister): He holds the balance between the local authorities and the insurance companies.

Mr. FOLEY: Certainly no one could say he is actuated by any but the best motives. Notwithstanding what the member for Murchison has said in regard to the unquestionable integrity of some of those who have held the position, I hold that by themselves appointing the chairman the Government will obviate a great deal of criticism which will otherwise be levelled against the Fire Brigades Board. It has been said that the outside bodies will have to go to the head fire brigades for assistance. Against that, it has been definitely stated that under this system the outside bodies will not require the services of the Perth fire brigade at all. At all events if they do they should get them. On the other hand under the partly volunteer system the volunteers will give a hand with any fire in the environs of the City. In regard to the present representation, we can see that Fremantle has been left out altogether. I am very much surprised that after all these years Fremantle has not forged ahead in regard to representation.

Mr. Scaddan: They are satisfied so long as they are not attached to Perth.

Mr. FOLEY: Fremantle and Perth would be about as compatible as Subiaco and Perth. In regard to the re-arrangement of the various districts in the schedule, I see they have Albany and Fremantle bracketed together; then from Beverley they go right down to Guildford and right up to Kellerberrin. Will anyone tell me that the proposed representation in this schedule is fair?

Hon. J. D. Connolly (Honorary Minister): How do you propose to get over it?

Mr. FOLEY: I intend to move an amendment in Committee in respect of the schedule.

Perth has levied on it for 1916 the sum of £4,620, and has an expenditure of £10,762 5s. 3d. That is under Part I. In the second schedule they put all these places in together and we get Fremantle in with the suburbs of Perth. As a whole they are to pay £4,547 8s. 4d., and their expenditure is £11,210 13s. 7d. They have joined the roads districts to them and increased the levy to £4,944. That was the levy for 1916 and the expenditure was £22,373. On top of that there is the district called the municipal district under Part 3 with an expenditure of £5,214 and a levy of £1,969 to pay. When we take those figures and compare the different centres and see the money that is derived from them, it will be found that much of the expenditure in the outside districts is unwarranted. When the head executive officer goes to a certain place I do not suppose the cost of the visit is charged to the Perth district. I expect it is charged to the district he visits. In one of the towns I represent, namely, Leonora, taxation is very large. The municipal body there have been paying £44 16s. a year. Before the present system was in vogue the volunteer system was run at practically no expense to the council. It was carried on by the good-will of the people backed up by the energy and efforts of the local volunteers, and it was just as good a system then as the present system is now. Before the present system came into force there were always one or two men living at the station, yet the total levy for that year was only about £112. For that sum of money it was possible to run a very good system, but while we have the existing expenditure on fire brigades, it stands to reason that the insurance companies must charge big premiums. If we can reduce the cost of the fire brigade system, as the Bill will undoubtedly do, it is the duty of Parliament to help to pass it in order to bring about that reduction.

Mr. ANGWIN (North-East Fremantle) [6.5]: In looking through the Bill I notice that the Minister has provided for local committees. Whether that has been done for the purpose of throwing dust in the eyes of the local authorities or not, I do not know.

Hon. J. D. Connolly (Honorary Minister): That is provided for in the existing Act.

Mr. ANGWIN: It has been the desire of a large number of local authorities in this State to revert back to a large extent to the volunteer system.

Hon. J. D. Connolly (Honorary Minister): The Bill gives that power.

Mr. ANGWIN: But there is no power for the local authorities to do so. Local authorities after they have become local committees under this Bill can only do what the Fire Brigades Board will allow them to do. The board has already decided not to go back to the volunteer system which proved such a success.

Hon. J. D. Connolly (Honorary Minister): That is the primary object of the Bill.

Mr. ANGWIN: I admit that is the intention of the Minister, but local committees can do nothing without the consent of the board.

Hon. J. D. Connolly (Honorary Minister): But you can have only one governing authority.

Mr. ANGWIN: Then it comes back to the old position. So far as this Bill is concerned, if an attempt is made by the local authorities to bring about the volunteer system they will be blocked immediately by the board.

Hon. J. D. Connolly (Honorary Minister): It is quite the reverse.

Mr. Holman: The local authority will have power to appeal to the Minister.

Mr. ANGWIN: We must remember that brigades are already formed. There is nothing in the Bill which says that the permanent men must be removed. Local committees will have no power to say to the board that it will be of advantage to a particular district to form a volunteer fire brigade instead of keeping up the permanent brigade. The local authorities will not have the power it is proposed to give them because the Fire Brigades Board will remain practically as it is at present.

Mr. Holman: The local authorities can make recommendations to the board, and if they are not accepted by the board an appeal can be made to the Minister.

Mr. ANGWIN: I do not value the appeal to the Minister one farthing, because if a local authority appeals to the Minister and the Minister is backed up by the Fire Brigades Board and the officers of that board, the Minister is likely to favour the board more than the local bodies.

Mr. Holman: Those who are supporting the volunteer movement can assist the local authorities.

Mr. ANGWIN: I would prefer to see in the Bill a definite clause enabling the local authorities to demand that a volunteer fire brigade shall be brought into existence.

Hon. J. D. Connolly (Honorary Minister): You would not suggest that every local authority should be the judge of a good and efficient fire service?

Mr. ANGWIN: These interjections will strengthen my case. The Minister's interjection has borne out what I stated, that the appeal to the Minister will be useless because the local authorities will not be expected to know what is required.

Hon. J. D. Connolly (Honorary Minister): We would not expect them to be the sole arbiters.

Mr. ANGWIN: Several amendments are required to be made to the measure and when we are in Committee it is my intention to move one or two. I cannot agree with the member for Leonora (Mr. Foley) that it is going to make much difference to the people who contribute to the funds of the Fire Brigades Board. We have had experience of that before. We know that immediately the Fire Brigades Board was formed the insurance companies raised their premiums, and whether people who own property pay to the insurance companies or pay to the Government or a municipality it all comes from the pockets of the people.

Mr. Scaddan: Then the Bill is useless, because you want State insurance.

Mr. ANGWIN: That is another matter which the Bill does not provide for. There is no doubt that State insurance has been very successful in New Zealand, and if it were adopted here it would be equally successful. I think that if a demand is made by various local authorities—and it was made to the previous Government—that the Government should share in providing

money for fire brigade work, it would not relieve them much of the liabilities they had to carry because, although my friend, Mr. Holman, is a member of the board, I was very much disappointed with the board as a whole. I have had the pleasure of introducing Bills to amend the present Fire Brigades Act and on every occasion I was assured that if the measure was passed there would be a reduction in the annual payments. Instead of the reductions, however, there were increases. That shows clearly, so far as the board are concerned, that the more money we give them the more they will spend. There is no doubt about it that the Fire Brigades Board has been a costly undertaking. The subsidy has been increased annually and I hope the Minister, if he does get the Bill through, will be able, not only to reduce the expenditure of the Government, but also that of the local authorities, and that at the same time he will provide as good a service at a cheaper rate. I do not want to say one word against the men who are employed at the present time. They are all sticking to their duty and doing good work. The present brigade at East Fremantle cannot be excelled, and there, too, they have been working very satisfactorily.

Mr. Scaddan: I can say the same about all in my district.

Mr. ANGWIN: I trust before the Bill goes through it will be put into good shape and that more power will be given to the committees when formed.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. GREEN (Kalgoorlie) [7.32]: I do not desire to take up the time of the House on this Bill, but there are one or two phases of it with which I desire to deal. So far as the Kalgoorlie fire brigade district is concerned, some curtailment of representation is proposed as compared with the previous measure; but so far as I can see, Kalgoorlie has not fared too badly in the Bill, and I have no fault to find in that connection. Much has been said to-night on the question of volunteer brigades, and the member for Leonora (Mr. Foley) has pointed out that Subiaco could do with a lot fewer permanent men. I do not pretend to be an authority on fire brigade matters, but having

read some authorities on the question, I may say that those authorities hold the opinion that in metropolitan areas there should be one large fire brigade in a central district so that, should a fire occur anywhere in the metropolitan area, the up-to-date appliances of a large brigade can be called into use. That I take to be the reason for the proposal to have a large brigade and a large station here. It is all very well to say that Subiaco could do with two men merely because no serious fires have occurred in that district; but if, by way of example, a large block of shops in that district were menaced I am satisfied that a great amount of work would fall on the central brigade. That is the reason why all modern fire fighting authorities agree there should be one large central station. It seems to me absurd to suggest that the municipality in such a case as I have mentioned should bear the whole of the cost. I trust the Honorary Minister will agree to consider the suggestion I now have to make with regard to the constitution of the board and the number of members. I should like to see provision made whereby not only volunteer firemen should be represented on the board, but also the permanent firemen. It is generally recognised now in those countries which are industrially well ahead that the services of men engaged in a particular industry should be secured if possible on boards of this nature. It must be obvious to members if they will think over the point a little, that if a permanent fireman were allowed a seat on the board, it would be advantageous, not from an industrial point of view so as to tie the board's hands in any way, but because he would be able to place the position from a fireman's point of view, and to advise the board as to the necessity or otherwise of any proposal.

Mr. Taylor: You have the superintendent on the board now.

Mr. GREEN: The superintendent is not a member of the board. The chief, as he is called, is there by invitation of the board to supply information if required.

Mr. Taylor: Is he not a qualified man?

Mr. GREEN: Yes; but the hon. member will agree that in any large industry or in a Government department, the man working in a particular branch is qualified to advise

the Minister with regard to the duties of any particular man in the service. Any man working in a particular industry is able, if he has any brains at all and is worth his salt, to make valuable contributions to the debate. I am satisfied that this proposal, which would involve only a very small expenditure, would be an innovation which the Minister might welcome. And it is not without a precedent. We have the principle adopted in the case of the Fremantle Harbour Trust, one of the members of which is a representative of the union, and he is a valuable member. The board as at present constituted is composed of a large number of men who have no practical experience. I say that with all due deference to the present members. And in my opinion, a direct representative of the firemen on the board would probably result in the saving of hundreds of pounds. I trust the Honorary Minister will allow this amendment to be placed in the Bill. I recognise it is a matter of money and that unless the Minister is agreeable there is little prospect of the Bill being amended in the desired direction. Therefore, I would like his co-operation, and I believe that if he gives the matter consideration, the suggestion will commend itself to him as one calculated to improve the Bill.

Hon. J. D. Connolly (Honorary Minister): I am prepared to give consideration to any suggestion by the hon. member.

Mr. GREEN: I am pleased to hear the Honorary Minister say that he is prepared to do that. I disagree with the proposals in the Bill with regard to the contribution by the insurance companies. The proposal is that the Colonial Treasurer shall contribute three-eighths, the local authorities three-eighths, and the insurance companies three-eighths. I have no wish to saddle the Government with a larger contribution than is proposed in the Bill, but I think that the proportion might well be—Colonial Treasurer one-fourth, local authorities one-fourth, and fire insurance companies one-half. As has been already pointed out to-night, it is to the interest of the fire insurance companies more than that of any other body that there should be an efficient fire fighting service. In the circumstances I think the companies might well pay for that efficient service. Were it

not something new, and were it not for the fact that I am viewing this question from a detached view point, I might say I fail to see why the insurance companies should not bear the whole of the cost.

Mr. Bolton: The premiums would be high then.

Mr. GREEN: The fact that the companies are contributing only a small proportion of the cost now does not mean that premiums are necessarily low. As a matter of fact, they are very high indeed, and presumably are based on what is considered to be an adequate payment for the risk taken. In my opinion, there is something in the nature of a "ring" here in the matter of fire insurance. The rate for the insurance of a residence in Sydney is 1s. 9½d. whereas in Perth it is 3s., and one hon. member interjected to-day that he is paying 4s. The comparative rates are—Perth, 3s. 9d.; Melbourne 1s. 9½d.; Sydney 1s. 9½d.; Adelaide 2s. 3d. The position in Adelaide is very much the same as in this State. I think the contributions by the fire insurance companies should be one-half and by the local bodies and the Government one-quarter each.

Mr. Allen: They would never agree.

Mr. GREEN: They would have to agree if the Government brought forward a Bill fixing those proportions. I would point out in support of my contention that in South Australia where the rate is 2s. 3d., as against 3s. in Perth, the companies pay nearly one-half the total contributions. The rates are—insurance companies four-ninths; Government three-ninths, and the municipalities two-ninths. The House has now an opportunity of seeing that the insurance companies pay their legitimate share of the cost of fire protection, and that legitimate cost in my opinion is one-half. There is another aspect to which I wish to draw attention while on the Fire Brigades Bill. It has been stated that the cost of upkeep of brigades to the municipalities here is higher than in the Eastern States, while wages are very much lower in this State for permanent firemen than in the East. The permanent man serving his probationary period here, who is equivalent to a fourth class fireman in the East, is paid £2 4s. per week against the rate for fourth class fireman in New South Wales and Victoria of £2 19s. 6d. Members will

agree that the cost of living is not higher in the Eastern States, or the conditions of life less desirable, than in Western Australia.

Mr. Collier: They have more work to do in New South Wales.

Mr. GREEN: That is so, perhaps, in the City. The hon. member must recollect that fire brigades are distributed all over the State, and that this is a schedule of the wages. In the second class the firemen here get £2 15s. per week whereas in New South Wales they get £3 6s. 6d. and in Victoria £3 3s. The third class firemen only get £2 9s. 6d. here, whereas in New South Wales they get £3 6s. 6d. and in Victoria £3 0s. 3d. The first class firemen here get £2 17s. 9d., whereas in New South Wales they get £3 10s. and in Victoria £3 8s. 3d.

Hon. J. D. Connolly (Honorary Minister): That is a matter for the board. It is not governed by the Act.

Mr. GREEN: Quite so. This affords me an opportunity of having the whole matter of cutting down the expenses with regard to fire brigades boards discussed, and also to point out that any curtailment in regard to expenditure must be sought for in another direction than that of curtailing the wages of the men. We must count in the immediate future on the men having better wages than they now receive. A weekly wage of £2 4s. for a fourth class fireman in Perth is a very poor wage when we come to consider that in Victoria and New South Wales the same class of fireman gets 15s. 6d. per week more.

Mr. Taylor: How long do they remain in the fourth class?

Mr. GREEN: According to when the vacancies occur. In this State there is really no fourth class fireman. He starts as a probationer. There is an allowance made in this State after a man has been for a certain time in the service, by which, after five years' service, he gets an extra 5s. per week. There is, however, not a very large number of men who have been in the service for over five years. After a man has served for five years he is fully entitled to that amount. The present wage paid to firemen here is miserable indeed, and will serve to indicate the reason why such a large number of firemen have left the service after being in it for a year or two. The main reason why I

got up was to impress upon the Honorary Minister the desirability of seeing that there is on the board a representative of the firemen, more particularly from the point of view of the benefit it will be to the board to have this evidence in connection with the working of that particular industry.

Mr. MUNSIE (Hannans) [7.47]: A good deal has been said by the various speakers that this Bill is to make amends to some extent for the Act now on the statute-book and that it is for the purpose of encouraging volunteer fire brigades. I only hope the measure will fulfil the object predicted by hon. members. I do not think that the representation on the board is altogether fair under existing circumstances, neither do I think the representation provided by the present Bill is fair. I fail to see why the insurance companies should have equal representation with the local governing bodies, who are practically the people resident in those districts, and who have to pay. It is said that according to the Bill—I know it is laid down in the present Act—that the insurance companies shall pay the same quota as the local governing bodies. Unless the Government are prepared to introduce, in conjunction with this Bill, a State fire insurance, then the people who pay the premiums will pay the lot. I want to quote an instance of what I mean. On the goldfields, in Kalgoorlie and Boulder, one could get insurance at as low as 6s. 3d. per £100. Just prior to the coming into operation of the present Act, insurance went up to 12s. 6d. per £100. Immediately the present Act came into operation it sprang from 12s. 6d. to 19s. 9d. minimum. The insurance companies were paying their three-eighths, but as a matter of fact people who were taking out the policies were paying the lot. They paid extra for their premiums to make it up to the insurance companies. They got less advantages from the money expended, and the Government quota came out of the pockets of the people on every occasion. With the present system in operation, it is immaterial to me whether we make the representation more or less so far as insurance companies are concerned. It is also immaterial to me as to what quota the insurance companies pay because, under existing circumstances, they will make the

people pay on every occasion. On the other hand, if the State took on the insurance, the State could give the people the benefit, if there was any to be derived. I trust that something will be done in many of these districts in which, just after the introduction of the present Act, the board practically abolished the whole of the volunteer fire brigades. In one of the districts I represent, which happened to be in the road board territory of Kalgoorlie and Boulder, there was a brigade constituted which had got practically everything required as a result of their own efforts. When the Act came into operation, not only was the whole of the gear which that brigade had got together taken away, but the right of the brigade to be a volunteer brigade was also taken away and the building was commandeered. Now they say they are going to encourage volunteer fire brigades. In my opinion it is rather late in the day, after having taken away from many of the eastern goldfields districts the voluntary brigade appliances, and especially, in the case I have quoted, after a good brigade had been established in Kalgoorlie and Boulder.

Hon. J. D. Connolly (Honorary Minister): The insurance companies had to pay a third of the cost.

Mr. Angwin: They did not pay anything for the building.

Mr. MUNSIE: The insurance companies did not pay for the building, neither did the Government. So far as South Kalgoorlie, Williamstown and Brown Hill were concerned, the brigades were practically abolished when the present Act came into operation. I trust, when this Bill comes into operation as an Act, something will be done in the direction outlined by the member for North-East Fremantle (Mr. Angwin) in the way of giving the local governing bodies more authority than they have at the present time. It is all very well to say the Government are going to give the local governing bodies the right to indicate what class of brigade they are going to have. Under the present Act they can suggest what class of brigade they shall have but that is as far as they can go. If the board say they cannot have it, that is an end of it and the local governing body has no power to enforce it.

When the Bill is in Committee I hope the Honorary Minister will agree to something more definite being put into it in order to give the local authorities more power. If the main object of the Bill is to encourage voluntary fire brigades, and this added power is not given to local authorities, then the Bill will fail, and fail miserably.

Mr. SCADDAN (Brown Hill-Ivanhoe) [7.55]: This Bill is simply a pious attempt on the part of the Government to introduce economy into what might be termed one of the side departments attached to the Government. The Minister, in introducing the measure, gave us little or nothing of any value with regard to fire protection. It is true he told us that the local authorities have certain representation, and pay a certain amount by way of contribution to the board, and that the fire insurance companies, and the Government likewise, have to contribute an increasing amount each year by way of contribution from the Consolidated Revenue Fund. What we are entitled to know is the amount of premiums paid by policy holders to fire insurance companies, and the amount that is being paid by policyholders to insurance companies, and together with that the cost of our fire protective system. I want the House to recognise that, after all, an efficient fire service is beneficial essentially to insurance companies, and that the local authority has little or nothing to gain from an efficient service or a poor one. It is true they represent the ratepayers, but the ratepayers are represented, or should be, on the board through the Government. The whole of the taxes paid by the community, irrespective of where they reside, is proportionately distributed upon the board for the purpose of having sufficient fire protection afforded out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund. I repeat what I said by way of interjection, that we can pass this Bill in its entirety and we will not improve the position to any extent until such time as we have a State fire insurance system, which will enable those people who are contributing towards a better fire protective system to get the protection that they deserve, and I think in many cases desire. We have two Government representatives on the board. One of these will, in his capacity as Government repre-

sentative, require in a large measure to be neutral. He will have the casting vote. We have a second Government representative, who will possibly be connected with the board from time to time and will bring forward the methods previously adopted. We have three representatives of municipalities. The Perth City Council, for some reason which has not yet been explained, has a representative all to itself, whilst all the other suburban municipalities are lumped in with the rest of the municipalities and roads boards, other than the goldfields, in appointing another representative. Even Fremantle is included and Subiaco, which adjoins Perth itself, and these are lumped together for the purpose of appointing another representative. It has been proved that the only representative on the board, other than the Government representative, who has the courage of his convictions and who is continually voting against adding to the expenditure of the board for the purpose of getting a perfect fire protective system, which is undoubtedly to the advantage of insurance companies, is the one representative of the municipalities. He has to answer for the greater portion of the State and not to one set of councillors, and he has to give some evidence when he seeks reelection of the work he has performed in trying to introduce economies on the board. But the elders of the City Council, on the other hand, will almost inevitably sit side by side with the representatives of the insurance companies, these being interested in the big properties in and around the city of Perth. These have already nine members, excluding the chairman, which only leaves four members against them. The result is that they will continue the policy of adding to the expense which has to be contributed to largely by the Government and the municipalities, and only to a small extent by the insurance companies. If we had State insurance, the responsibility of the provision of a proper fire protective system would devolve upon the community at large. The better the system the less would be the payments the policy holders would have to make. The community has either to get the advantage of a better protective fire system, or get the advantage of paying less premiums on their fire policies. Under this

system the expenditure of the board is added to by the expense of providing a fire system which is not generally required. In the case of a big outbreak of fire in populated centres it might, of course, be necessary for the best appliances to be ready to hand. It is not the municipalities or the Government which should pay the increased amount but the insurance companies, and yet the insurance companies have been able to get it as low as they are to be in the position of getting it under this measure. Of the total amount of £31,550, the estimated expenditure of the board in 1916, the insurance companies paid £11,831, the municipalities a similar amount, and the Government £7,888. After all it is a magnificent investment for the insurance companies. They can afford to expend even a greater amount, because for every pound they expend, something like 35s. is expended by the general community, who get only an indirect advantage. May I urge on the Minister that he give us some reason why the city council should be favoured with special representation on that board. I have never seen any advantage in it from the point of view of better fire protection. Their interests lie in having a magnificent fire station in the centre of Perth, splendidly equipped and well provided with men, no matter what the cost. After all, the insurance companies are largely interested within the city boundaries, because the bulk of their insurances are there, with the result that the four representatives make a fairly solid body on the board and are always fighting for a huge station in the City, irrespective of the country districts. It is true the board occasionally go into some of our larger towns and provide them with fine stations, in order, chiefly, to put a stop to the grumbling against expenditure in the City. Nevertheless, the expenditure has been centralised in Perth, without any advantage to those providing the bulk of the revenue. If we could take the metropolitan area as a whole and make it into one fire district, the member representing that district would be keener in seeing that the money was expended in accordance with the risk of outbreak of fire. Take the question of contribution: I still urge that under the existing system the insurance companies have everything to

gain and nothing to lose by huge expenditure on fire protection, and they should bear the bulk of the cost.

Hon. J. D. Connolly (Honorary Minister): They will only pass it on to the policy holders.

Mr. SCADDAN: Only while we perpetuate the present absurd system of leaving it to a number of private companies who are not in competition with each other, who have to fix their rates according to the directions of the Underwriters' Association. They are not a free body, but only a company with certain moneys to invest from which they hope to get a better return than they could get in other directions; they are not there to do philanthropic work on behalf of the citizens, but are there for the purpose of getting a good return for their money. They are purely and simply an investment concern. If we had State insurance, then if there were any profits, instead of their being divisible among a great number of people who have interests in the companies, they would go into Consolidated Revenue and thus reduce the premiums or, alternatively, provide better protection, and the general community would get the whole of the advantage. At present they have to pay the cost plus the cost of policies, plus the cost of administering the board, and plus the profits made by the insurance companies for the holders of their stock. I would suggest that the Minister make inquiries in regard to the State insurance system of New Zealand. He will, I think, discover that it has worked magnificently to the advantage of all concerned, and that its introduction in Western Australia would be acceptable to the great bulk of the community, and to the general taxpayer, who has to pay the whole of the cost. It would be to the advantage of the State. I believe, further, we shall never make any advance worthy of the name—we might reduce the expenditure in some directions and heap it up in others—so long as we continue the methods prescribed in the Bill. Not indeed until we have the check afforded by State fire insurance, will we get the results we are attempting to achieve.

Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY (Honorary Minister—Perth—in reply) [8.5]: I do not intend to delay the House in replying: still,

that is not to be taken as any slight upon those who have spoken on the second reading. After all, there is not a great deal to reply to, most of the speakers having agreed in the main with the principle of the Bill. That principle has been in force since 1909. The Bill is merely an amendment of the existing Act where that Act has been found wanting in its administrative sections, and also perhaps in regard to the contributions by local authorities and the insurance companies. The speakers generally have complained that the insurance companies do not contribute sufficient. However, if they were to be further taxed they would put up the rates, and so pass the tax on to the policy-holders.

Mr. Scaddan: Are they not getting the benefit of the protection?

Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY (Honorary Minister): I agree that the more protection we can give, the better will it be for the insurance companies; but we will not get over the difficulty by increasing the contributions of the insurance companies, because that will come back to the policy holders.

Mr. Scaddan: Why should the taxpayer pay for fire protection and get no advantage?

Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY (Honorary Minister): The safety of life and property comes in there. It is a general protection for everybody, and not merely for the policy holder or the property owner. It means the protection of every person in the State.

Mr. Scaddan: There are hundreds of places in the State where no fire protection is afforded.

Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY (Honorary Minister): But not in thickly populated areas. The provisions of the Act do not apply to the country.

Mr. Scaddan: But the contributions do.

Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY (Honorary Minister): Only to certain parts of certain districts.

Mr. Scaddan: To all, through the general revenue of the State.

Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY (Honorary Minister): That applies all round. Stress has been laid by the leader of the Opposition on

the special representation granted to the city of Perth. The hon. member's own district has very special representation. The position is that the city of Perth, a very populous area, has an annual ratable value of between £600,000 and £700,000, and has one representative. Kalgoorlie, North Kalgoorlie, and the Murchison goldfields, have a representative under the Bill, although their ratable value is only £260,000, or a little more than a third of that of Perth. So, if there is any special representation, it is with the goldfields. Again, the total annual value of the other municipalities and local bodies is something over £700,000, so on the annual value basis there is nothing to cavil at in the representation of Perth.

Mr. Scaddan: Take the basis of their contributions to the cost of the board.

Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY (Honorary Minister): Their contributions must be in ratio with the figures I have mentioned. It is all taken on the annual value. After all, it is scarcely necessary for me to say anything further. This is an amending Bill, and its principal aim is to give better protection and better representation to the local authorities, whose status will be considerably improved by the Bill. Let me repeat that the measure is largely based on the recommendations of a conference consisting of 40 local authorities. It is a decided improvement on the existing Act. I intend to give full consideration to the suggestions that have been made. The member for Kalgoorlie smiles; he must not infer that all his suggestions will be adopted. He has made some which are good, and some which are indifferent, but all alike shall receive consideration. Detailed information concerning the Bill can be better given in Committee.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES.

Message from the Governor received and read transmitting the Annual Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the financial year 1916-17 and recommending appropriation.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1916-17.

In Committee of Supply.

The House having resolved into Committee of Supply for receiving the Annual Financial Statement, Mr. Holman in the Chair.

The PREMIER and TREASURER (Hon. Frank Wilson—Sussex) [8.19] said: In rising to submit the Annual Estimates for the consideration of the Committee, I venture to think that at no time in the history of the State has a Treasurer been faced with such difficulties as exist at the present time. When I delivered my last Budget, in 1910, I had the pleasure of expressing my gratification at the prosperity of the State, and the soundness of the State's finances. To-day I am faced with a huge deficit on the Consolidated Revenue Fund, of over £1,500,000; a declining revenue; a maximum rate of expenditure on Consolidated Revenue account; and an abnormal public debt of over £34,000,000, equal to almost £110 per head of the population. I am also faced with demands for financial assistance from every direction; and with uncertainty in respect to the raising of future loan moneys, and, on top of all this, with the dislocation of trade and commerce, caused by this terrible and unprecedented war—a war which, unfortunately, is being brought home to us daily by the death of many of our gallant sons on the battlefield. And whilst I feel, naturally, anxious concerning the State's welfare, and am conscious of the responsibility devolving upon me and the Government, I wish to say at once that I still have the greatest faith in the wonderful resources and recuperative powers of this grand State of ours. I feel confident that, with a continuance of the blessings of the Almighty in good seasons and bountiful harvests, and with the hearty support and co-operation of all classes of our people—which at this juncture is demanded—we shall pull through all right. My task to-night is to deal with the finances; and our first duty is to endeavour to stop the drift to leeward in respect to the finances of the State, and, with the assistance of Parliament, to endeavour to place them on a satisfactory footing.

The late Government's administration.

Before attempting to explain the position in respect of the finances of the current financial year, it is essential to go back to the time when I last occupied the position of Treasurer, in 1911, and to give a brief retrospect of the five years' administration of the late Government. In order to obtain some idea of how the huge deficit of £1,360,965, as disclosed by the Public Accounts at the 30th June, 1916, was built up, it is necessary to go back to the financial year I have mentioned, 1910-11, when a surplus was shown, and to briefly review and compare the financial operations year by year up to the 30th June last. In the year 1910-11 the revenue totalled £3,850,440, and the expenditure £3,734,448, resulting in a surplus for that year of £115,992. At the commencement of that year there was a deficit of £102,692, which was wiped out, leaving a small surplus of £13,299. In the following year, 1911-12, the revenue totalled £3,966,673, and the expenditure £4,101,082, disclosing a deficit of £134,409 for the year. It will be noticed, when comparing the revenue and expenditure of that year with 1910-11, that the revenue showed an increase of £116,233—due principally to increases in taxation and railway and Commonwealth revenue—while the expenditure also increased by no less a sum than £366,634. In other words, the Treasurer went to the bad to the extent of £250,401, namely by converting the surplus of £115,992 of the previous year into a deficit of £134,409 in the following year. In the year 1912-13 the revenue reached £4,596,659 and the expenditure £4,787,063, showing a further increased deficit of £190,404. This particular year, when compared with 1910-11, shows an increase in revenue of £746,219, and an increase in expenditure of £1,052,615. Here again, as in the previous years, all branches of the public service showed enormous increases in expenditure. The year 1913-14 shows a further deficit of £135,411. These figures, when compared with 1910-11, show an increase in revenue and expenditure of £1,354,903 and £1,606,306 respectively, the trading concerns, of course, being largely responsible. The position in 1914-15 showed a deficit for the year of £565,817. These figures, when

compared with 1910-11, show revenue and expenditure increased by £1,290,285 and £1,972,094 respectively. The cause is the same as in previous years—large expenditure in all branches of the public service. It will be noticed that there was a decline in the revenue of 1914-15, when compared with the previous year, 1913-14, of £64,618; but the expenditure in 1914-15 showed an increase of £365,788 over the previous year. No attempt was made to effect economy in order to meet the decline in revenue. To come to last year, ended on the 30th June, the position was as follows: revenue £5,356,978; expenditure £5,705,201, leaving a deficit for the year of £348,223.

The Deficit.

This deficit is, however, understated. An advisory committee, consisting of the Auditor General, the Under Treasurer, and the Commissioner of Taxation, went into the question of the deficit as at the 30th June, last. I have laid the report on the Table, in fulfilment of my promise to the leader of the Opposition. The committee reported that certain items, totalling £93,072, and representing expenditure incurred prior to the 30th June, 1916, should have been included in the deficit for the year 1915-16. The correct amount of the deficit, therefore, for this year was £441,295. The items making up the £93,072, for which I must provide in the current year's expenditure, are as follow:—1, Fremantle Harbour Works, Victoria Quay strengthening, £10,365 0s. 2d.; 2, Commission for Control of Trade in War Time, loss, £45,071 5s.; 3, Special survey of steamer "Western Australia," £5,987; 4, London payments-in-suspense, £7,271 5s.; 5, Kalgoorlie Mechanics' Institute, being amount paid to the A.M.P. Society under guarantee for repayment of loan, less certain credits, £1,838; 6, Shipment of cattle from North-West, being expenditure paid in June last which should have been included in the deficit, £9,858 8s. 4d.; 7, Expenditure in connection with shipment of cattle from the North-West, incurred prior to June, but not paid until afterwards, £12,630 16s. 1d. These items make the total I have mentioned of £93,072. Items 1 to 6, inclusive, were actually paid during last financial year, but

not debited to Consolidated Revenue Fund. Item 7 represents expenditure incurred prior to the 30th June, for which vouchers were on hand but not paid. The outstanding feature of items 6 and 7, cattle purchases, is that the whole of the proceeds of sales of these cattle, amounting to £26,835, was taken to credit of the revenue account last year, whereas the cost of the cattle had not been charged up, and provision has therefore had to be made in this year's Estimates of expenditure.

Revenue and Expenditure, 1915-16.

The revenue and expenditure for 1915-16, when compared with 1910-11, the last year of the previous Liberal Government, show increases of £1,506,538 and £1,970,753, or equal to 39½ per cent. and 52¾ per cent., respectively. With the exception of the Lands and Mines Departments, which show small decreases in administration, all the departments of the Public Service had large increases in expenditure as compared with 1910-11.

Revenue and Expenditure per head of Population.

If the revenue and expenditure of 1910-11 and 1915-16 are calculated on the basis of the population of the State in each of the years mentioned, the following result is obtained and it is a result that the Committee will do well to dwell upon:—In the year 1910 our population was 271,162 and the revenue per head of population was £14 14s. The expenditure per head of population was £13 15s. 6d. In 1916, the population was 314,687.

Mr. Seaddan: We got up to 330,000.

The PREMIER: Of course, but we lost many people through one cause and another. The revenue in 1916 per head of the population was £17 0s. 5d. and the expenditure was £18 2s. 7d. The increase of population in the six years amounted to 16 per cent. and the increase in revenue per head of population in the same period was nearly 20 per cent., while in the expenditure it was 31.6 per cent. The expenditure on education in 1910-11 on the basis of the population, was equal to about 15s. per head, whilst in 1916, the expenditure represented £1 0s. 2d.

per head, or an increase of 34 per cent., as against an increase in population during the period of only 16 per cent. These facts and figures I have quoted, together with the accumulated deficit, show conclusively a very unsatisfactory state of affairs. The point that the Committee has to consider to-night is that we must endeavour to stop this "drift to leeward." Dead expenditure—that is, non-producing, in respect to interest and sinking fund charges, the enormous increase of expenditure in the Education Department and Colonial Secretary's Department, and the increases generally in all departments in respect to administration, together with the loss arising from land rents and other revenue, and also Commonwealth revenue, must be made up by the introduction of fresh taxation, and by the exercise of the most rigid economy throughout the service.

Mr. Scaddan: You heard me say that once or twice.

The PREMIER: The hon. member did not act up to it.

Mr. Bolton: Nor will you.

Financial Transactions for 1915-16.

The PREMIER: We now come to the financial transactions for 1915-16. A record of these transactions for last year will be found in the "Public Accounts" which have been made available for hon. members, and also in a condensed form and with some additional information in the usual Budget returns which have been handed round with the Estimates. I purpose making a short review of these returns, in order that the Committee may glean an insight into the operations of last year. Taking return No. 1, which is a comparative statement of the revenue and expenditure compared with the Estimates, it will be seen that the Treasurer's estimates of revenue of £5,504,259 was not realised to the extent of £147,281; also that his estimate of expenditure of £5,739,852 was £34,652 more than the actual disbursements, with the result that the then Treasurer's anticipated deficit on the year's transaction of £235,593 was increased to £348,222, being £112,629 more than was estimated by my predecessor, and which,

added to the accumulated deficit of £1,012,743 of the previous years of his administration, brought the accumulated deficit up to £1,360,965. But in arriving at these figures, no account has been taken of the items of expenditure previously referred to which were not charged up in the year's accounts, viz., £93,071.

Mr. Heitmann: That is an old game of yours.

The PREMIER: The late Government took jolly good care that the revenue did not come in because they collared it last year. This makes the deficit for the year £441,294 and the accumulated deficit on 30th June last £1,454,036. In the return the various differences between the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure are set out in detail, as hon. members can see, the outstanding feature of which is a decrease in the estimated railway revenue of £145,750, with a corresponding decrease in the expenditure of only £57,722. The falling-off in the railway revenue was, I understand, due to the retention of large quantities of wheat in the country districts and loss of freight accordingly, also, as the ex-Treasurer has pointed out on another occasion, to the cessation of the carriage of material for the Trans-Australian railway, and a general falling-off in shipping. The trading concerns also contributed largely to the increased deficit. For instance, the revenue of the Implement Works was over-estimated by £39,547 against which the reduction in the expenditure was only £12,952; and the other trading concerns—sawmills, steamships, brickworks, implement works, fish supplies, quarries, ferries, hotels, meat stalls, dairy farm, and batteries—taken as a whole, contributed £38,566 to the increased deficit, that is, when compared with the estimates, going to show, as was pointed out at the time, how unreliable the estimates of revenue and expenditure for these concerns were.

Mr. Angwin: Mostly guess-work under present conditions.

The PREMIER: I quite agree with the hon. member. An item in the return, which assisted in relieving the position is "Shipment of cattle from the North-West—£26,835," being underestimated revenue,

against which no expenditure appears, the reason being, as previously stated, that the expenditure was omitted from the year's accounts. The remaining items in this return are general, and do not call for any special comment, except perhaps the £28,000 odd over-estimated for interest. This, I conclude, may be taken as evidence that the Treasurer's ambition to increase the public debt was not realised, and it probably explains the falling-off in his Loan Expenditure, to which I will refer later.

Treasurer's Balance Sheet.

Return No. 2 is a synopsis of the Treasurer's balance sheet, the figures for the previous year being shown for comparison. It will be seen that the "liabilities" have increased from £11,997,333 to £12,907,340, the items making up the increase being:—Sinking Fund £459,544. This represents an increase in the State Sinking Fund arising from:—contributions from revenue amounting to £258,276, interest on investments £145,070, and discounts, less brokerage, £61,298, making a total of £464,644, less redemptions £5,100, bringing the figures to £459,544. The redemptions consisted of the 1881 to 1884 4 per cent. debentures under the system of annual drawings in lieu of an accumulated Sinking Fund as in the case of Inscribed Stock. With the exception of £265,605 invested in Treasury bills, the Sinking Fund investments are either in our own stocks or those of other British possessions. In view of my attitude in this House towards the principle of the investment of Sinking Fund contributions in Treasury bills, which I am strongly opposed to, I desire to inform the Committee that shortly after assuming office I instructed the Agent General that no further Treasury bills were to be issued, and, therefore, the bills current are those forwarded to London by my predecessor. I find that during the two last years, Treasury bills were issued to the trustees for a total of £332,980 at 4½ per cent., and that during last year £67,375 were paid off, but further issues for £178,980 were made, thus leaving an issue of £265,605 current at the close of last year. Further issues for £52,500 were made in July last, which makes a total of £318,105 still current, and

which it will be necessary to redeem when funds permit.

Mr. Gardiner: What is the currency?

The PREMIER: I have it here. It has only a short currency, two years, I think.

Mr. Scaddan: Twelve months.

General Loan Fund.

The PREMIER: The next increased item is the General Loan Fund, the increase being £536,131. In arriving at the balance of the General Loan Fund, I find that the balance from the previous year was £1,278,341, and that the borrowings for the year, less redemptions of Treasury bills, were £2,122,154, providing a net sum of £2,120,774—thus making a total credit in the fund of £3,399,115. The expenditure for the year was £1,584,642, resulting in a balance of £1,814,473 as shown in this return. This huge balance of unexpended loan money actually requires some elucidation; but the explanation is simple. On the one hand the Treasurer purported to have £1,814,473 of loan money at 30th June last, but on the other hand the revenue account was overdrawn to the tune of £1,360,965, according to Treasury accounts. Therefore it must be apparent that his deficit was financed from loan funds, particularly as I find that after providing for stores £504,979, he was compelled to use trust funds to the extent of £51,471, to balance. The question of placing the deficit on a more satisfactory basis is one I will deal with a little later on.

Mr. Underwood: Can you make a deficit satisfactory?

The PREMIER: No; but I hope to put it on a more satisfactory basis. Trust and Deposited Accounts show an increase of £207,589, but this is general, as will be seen from page 5 of the Public Accounts. There are two items showing decreases, one of which is the Savings Bank, the decrease being £58,257, this being due principally to a decrease in deposits, a condition which I am pleased to say has since improved, the deposits being now on the increase.

The Savings Bank.

In connection with the business of the Savings Bank, the following details illustrating the fluctuations in the bank's business dur-

ing that year will be of interest:—Increase of withdrawals over deposits. In the month of July, 1915, the withdrawals exceeded the deposits by £36,625; in August, by £53,389; in September, by £36,353; in October, by £25,440; and in November by £12,931. In the next year, 1916, January, £29,949; February, £37,460.

Mr. Gardiner: It became chronic.

The PREMIER: From then onwards the position became reversed and the deposits exceeded the withdrawals as follows:—1916—March, £8,394; April, £30,909; May, £11,602; June, £35,904. From the foregoing I maintain it is evident that a certain element was acting detrimentally to the interests of the institution, and that the action taken by my predecessor as affecting the manager of the bank, and the subsequent action taken by this Government was justified in the interests of the State. The matter is one, however, which will come up for discussion when the Estimates of the Savings Bank are being reviewed. Another decreased item is "Advances—£235,000," this being brought about by the repayment of temporary loans obtained by the Agent General, and which were current in the previous year. The details are:—Government of Victoria, £150,000; London and Westminster Bank, £45,000; L. Robinson, Clarke & Co., £10,000; Melbourne Trust Co., Ltd., £30,000; total, £235,000. Under the item "Assets" the principal item is the cash, which, including remittances-in-transit, totalled £959,696 against £686,323 for the previous year. The former includes £301,992 represented by wheat certificates, which, being recoverable on demand from the Commonwealth Bank, are treated as cash. These certificates carry 4 per cent. per annum interest from one month after date of issue, and the Treasury by holding them until further advances are required by the local Wheat Marketing Board means that the wheat pool only pays the 4 per cent. interest, whereas had they been cashed immediately the Commonwealth Bank would have charged 5 per cent. The farmers therefore receive the benefit of the 1 per cent. in the ultimate settlement. The last item in the return is the consolidated revenue fund deficit, which has been increased

from £1,012,172 in 1915 to £1,360,965 on 30th June last. As previously pointed out, that is not a correct figure. The amount should be £1,454,036.

Loan Authorisations and Flotations.

I now come to return No. 3. There was an increase in the authorisations of £1,245,000, being the amount of the Loan Bill passed last year. The flotations total £39,879,951, this being a net increase of £2,122,154 compared with the previous year, leaving a balance available for flotation of £1,473,222. The gross flotations during the last financial year were £2,453,379, against which Treasury bills for £331,225 were redeemed, making the net issues £2,122,154. The flotations were as follow:—£140,000 at 5 per cent. This was issued in London for the purchase of the steamer "Kangaroo." The stock having a currency of 20 years only, a special sinking fund of 3¼ per cent. dating from the date the stock was issued, namely 19th February last, is to be provided for, being one of the conditions of the loan, and which, until the statutory sinking fund commences, will be a direct charge against the revenue of the State Steamship Service. After that the matter will be adjusted. Another item is £178,980 at 4½ per cent. These are Treasury bills issued to the Sinking Fund Trustees. I have already made special reference to this subject. Then there is £34,680 at 4 per cent. local stock, issued at £97 per cent. The next item is £750,000 at 5¼ per cent. This was an advance by the Commonwealth against Loan which was subsequently issued by the Imperial Government for the Australian States. It is probable that this money will cost the State 5½ per cent., but the final adjustment has not yet been made. A further issue was for £1,291,669 at 4½ per cent. This amount is the balance of a loan of £3,100,000 from the Commonwealth. The amount is covered by Treasury bills, the first of which falls due next month; but arrangements have been made with the Commonwealth for the renewal of the whole amount for another year. The last issue was £58,050 at 4½ per cent. Treasury bills issued locally; making a total of £2,453,379. The redemptions included Treasury bills paid off to the Common-

wealth for £243,750, and the gross public debt of the State, which on the 30th June, 1915, was £37,022,622 therefore increased by £2,122,154, less the annual redemption of 4 per cent. debentures issued in 1881-4 of £5,100, making the gross public debt £39,139,676, against which we have, of course, the sinking fund amounting to £4,528,432, thus leaving the net indebtedness of the State £34,611,244, being equal to £109 19s. 9d. per head of the population, an increase of £8 6s. 11d. for the year, and of £36 9s. 6d. per head since 1911.

Loan Expenditure.

Return No. 4 furnishes a comparative statement of our loan expenditure over a period of five years. It discloses that the expenditure last year amounted to £1,584,642, being the lowest expenditure on Loan Account during the period stated, and amounting to £4 18s. 3d. per head of the population, as compared with £10 17s. 6d. for the year 1912-13, in which year it is noticed the previous administration reached its maximum high water mark of loan expenditure, having expended in that year no less than £3,409,213. For the year 1910-11, the loan expenditure was £1,503,090, and in 1909-10 it was £1,044,523. In returns No. 5 and 6 we have the various loans with their respective sinking funds set out side by side and the details of expenditure shown. It will be seen that against the total debt of £39,139,676 an accrued sinking fund of £4,528,432 was current and applicable to £24,329,438 of the whole amount, leaving, therefore, a balance of £14,810,238 of the debt, carrying no sinking fund at the present time. Of this amount £10,127,613 is inscribed stock for which the sinking fund has not yet commenced (four years after the issue), and £4,682,625 in Treasury bills, which are not subject to a sinking fund. These two sums with an additional £1,000,000 floated in December, 1911, upon which the sinking fund commenced last year, less £1,566,000 represented by the conversion of Agricultural Bank bonds, practically cover the whole of the borrowings by the Labour Government. In this connection I wish to point out that the revenue will be required during the next few years to considerably augment the contributions owing

to the sinking fund commencing to accrue upon the large loans issued by the previous administration, and in the Estimates now before the House an increase of £10,850 has to be provided on that account.

Business Undertakings and Trading Accounts.

Return No. 7 is a statement of the cash basis of the results of the principal business undertakings and trading concerns which have been financed from loan funds. After charging interest and sinking fund the return shows a cash deficiency for the year of £331,196. The railways, which are our principal business undertaking and national asset, show a deficit of £192,745. In 1910-11, on the same basis, the railways made a profit of £70,570; therefore the position of our railways for last year was £263,315 to the bad, as compared with the year just mentioned. The Perth trams show a profit of £9,233. The Goldfields Water Supply shows a loss of £57,779. In 1910-11 the loss was only £34,176.

Mr. Angwin: Owing to agricultural extension.

The PREMIER: The State Batteries show a slight improvement as compared with 1910-11, the loss being £14,059 in comparison with £15,337 in 1910-11. The Fremantle harbour works show a profit of £10,416 compared with £15,031 in 1910-11, the profit for last year just balancing the loss on the Fremantle dock, caused by the interest and sinking fund on the loan money expended.

Mr. W. D. Johnson: These comparisons convey nothing seeing that you are dealing with war time instead of with peace time.

The PREMIER: The comparisons convey a great deal, seeing that several years had elapsed before any war was even dreamt of. On the Bunbury harbour works there was a loss of £6,354, in 1910-11 there was a profit of £12,399, but in this instance the loss for last year was brought about by unprecedented conditions affecting the trade of the port.

Mr. Angwin: That affected Fremantle similarly.

The PREMIER: Of the new trading concerns the following show cash deficits.

Mr. Gardiner: Is that a deficiency after taking stock on hand into account?

Mr. Scaddan: No, that is cash.

The PREMIER: It is cash. The new trading concerns show the following cash deficits: sawmills £3,828, implement works £65,965, fish supply £4,417, brickworks £914, dairy farm £653, a total of £75,777. The redeeming features were:—The cash surplus on the steamers was £11,066, on quarries £2,035, and on the ferries £583, a total of £14,284, the net deficit being £61,493. There was, therefore, a net loss of revenue of £61,493 on these undertakings, against which of course, there are stocks on hand.

Mr. Scaddan: Would you like to repeat that?

The PREMIER: I am merely stating facts and putting the position as I find it. The State's total interest and sinking fund bill last year was £1,664,137, towards which these undertakings contributed only £965,410, that is the difference between their revenue and expenditure, or a little more than half of the total interest and sinking fund bill for the State. In 1910-11 the interest and sinking fund was £1,046,236, towards which on the same basis the Railways, Fremantle Harbour Trust, Goldfields Water Scheme and Public Batteries contributed £856,046. Therefore, in 1910-11, the four principal undertakings provided about 82 per cent. of the total public debt charges, whereas last year the same group with the addition of the new trading concerns provided only 55 per cent.

Mr. Angwin: I see that on Return No. 9 there is a surplus on trading concerns of £166,000.

The PREMIER: The hon. member can make his own calculations and prove my figures incorrect if he cares to. They are figures which were supplied to me by the experts of the department. He will have his work cut out to disprove them.

Mr. Angwin: I am pleased to see it, seeing that you want to sell the trading concerns.

The PREMIER: This is evidence of the unproductiveness of the loan expenditure of the Labour Government.

Estimated Revenue and Expenditure for 1916-17.

I now wish to draw attention to the estimated revenue and expenditure for the year 1916-17. It will be seen that the State Trading Concerns, set forth in the schedule of the State Trading Concerns Act, 1916, now before the House, have been excluded from the general Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure. They are submitted separately in anticipation of the Act becoming law. The estimated revenue shown on page 2 of the Estimates for the present financial year is £4,680,490. This includes the amount to be collected from the Commonwealth, £595,963. The estimated expenditure on the other hand is £5,176,169, leaving an estimated deficit for the year of £495,679, after deducting the sum of £93,072, an amount which should have been included in last year's expenditure. This sum, £93,072, it is proposed to fund, together with the deficit as at the 30th June last, viz., £1,360,965, giving the total to be funded of £1,454,037. To go towards this estimated deficit of nearly half a million I propose to raise, should Parliament approve, of course, the sum of £237,000 by increased taxation.

Mr. Scaddan: What is the balance of the deficit left if you get your Bills through?

The PREMIER: If I get my Bills through it will leave £258,679 to be funded at the end of the year if these figures are correct.

Mr. Gardiner: Without your extra taxation it would be nearly half a million more.

The PREMIER: Yes. My predecessor is responsible for the major portion of it. Indeed, I think he is responsible for the whole lot. I hope by the increased stamp duties, provision for which the House has already agreed to, to raise £15,000, and by the Totalisator Duty Bill, which I hope the House will pass, to raise £17,000.

Mr. Bolton: No chance.

Outline of increased taxation.

The PREMIER: The following is an outline of the increased taxation of which I have already given notice. The increased stamp duties should realise £15,000, and the totalisator duties £17,000. This amount has been

decreased since the Totalisator Bill was introduced to the House, owing to the decision of the Government at the request of the clubs to permit the bookmakers to ply their calling until after the New Year's meeting—

Mr. Scaddan: A weakness, is it not?

The PREMIER: And also it having been decided to accept an amendment to the Bill permitting the clubs to retain half the fractions. From the income tax I hope to get an additional £30,000, and from the Dividend Duty Act I expect to get during the balance of the year £10,000. It is proposed to increase the income tax and dividend duty by 2d. in the pound, that is to say, the graduated income tax which now begins at 4d. in the pound and ends with 1s., will begin at 6d. in the pound and will end at 1s. 2d., and the dividend duty will be increased from 1s. to 1s. 2d. in the pound. The general exemption under the land and income tax of £200 will be reduced to £100 in the case of unmarried persons with no dependents, and to £156 in the case of married persons, or unmarried persons with dependents. From the amusement tax I expect to get £15,000.

Mr. Gardiner: Are you going to take that into general revenue?

The PREMIER: We are putting it on specially in an endeavour to raise our contributions towards the repatriation fund, but it is going into general revenue, and will be paid out of general revenue.

Mr. Scaddan: You are not providing a repatriation fund year after year.

The PREMIER: I will keep the tax on until it is no longer required. I expect to get £30,000 out of the tax next year.

Mr. Scaddan: You are using the soldiers for the purpose of trying to cover up your tracks.

The PREMIER: I have to make some provision for squaring the ledger next year. I expect to get from the retail sales tax a sum of £150,000. In regard to the amusement tax, it is proposed to charge on admission to entertainments, as provided in the Bill, 1d. up to 6d., and 1d. for every additional 6d. or part thereof. And where no fixed charge is made, 2d. in the 1s. on what is collected. It is pro-

posed to charge 15 per cent. on the retail sales of luxuries, such as intoxicants (ale, spirits, and wines), non-intoxicants, such as aerated waters, cordials, etc., tobacco, and smokers' requisites, jewellery, musical instruments, etc., thus leaving an estimated deficit of £258,679 to be dealt with under the provisions of the Treasury Bonds Deficiency Bill, in other words to be funded, subject to Parliament authorising the issue of the necessary bonds after the exact shortage is ascertained at the close of the year.

Mr. Heitmann: Will motor cars be included as luxuries?

The PREMIER: I cannot say; I should think it would be a very suitable line to tax.

Estimated Revenue for 1916-17.

In order to compare the estimated revenue for the current year of £4,850,490 with last year's revenue of £5,356,978, it is necessary to deduct the net revenue of the trading concerns shown on page 7 of the Estimates, for the reason that separate estimates are submitted for the trading concerns this year. If therefore we deduct the sum of £448,749, as shown on page 7, from £5,356,978, a total of £4,908,229 is obtained. The difference between this total and £4,680,490 is £227,739, which represents the shortage in the estimated revenue as compared with the actual revenue last year. This shortage is due to a shrinkage in the following items of estimated revenue, namely, railways £193,304, and timber £19,746, taxation £16,108, Commonwealth £20,142, State batteries £5,154, Water Supply £2,080, Royal Mint £2,815, sundries £9,504, a total of £268,853 shrinkage, less sundry increases, as per page 7 of £41,114; making a difference of £227,739. The main item is Railways, which is accounted for by:—1, Anticipated falling off in wheat traffic. Although the harvest prospects are very good, it is anticipated that the Railways will handle only a small portion of the harvest during the present financial year, owing to shipping difficulties and the large quantity of wheat already stored at Fremantle and other ports. 2, The fact that the haulage of material for the construction of the Trans-Australian railway is almost complete. 3, A further falling off of local timber traffic.

4, Abolition of the terminal charge, and a decrease in the fertiliser freights. But for the increased rates on goods under classes 1, 2, and 3, and the increase in passenger fares of 1d. on a single ticket and 2d. on a return ticket, this shortage on the Railways would have been increased by £63,000. The shortage in the anticipated revenue from the Commonwealth is due to the fact that so many of our men have volunteered for the Front. The total loss from this cause since the outbreak of war up to the end of the financial year is approximately £35,000. It is perhaps not realised that the Commonwealth return of 25s. per capita is based upon the population at the 31st December in each year. Not only is the State suffering from the depletion of its young manhood by the loss of their productiveness, but also the revenue suffers directly by the loss of the per capita amount of 25s.

Mr. Gardiner: Recently Western Australia was called upon to make good the shortage in the South Australian reinforcements.

The PREMIER: I think this should be borne by the Commonwealth, more especially when it is realised, as the hon. member has interjected, that just recently Western Australia has been called upon to make good the shortage in the South Australian reinforcements. I have made representation to the Prime Minister in connection with this matter, and I hope our claim will be received in a national spirit. The State is undoubtedly entitled to the full payment, and should not be penalised for the temporary absence of a portion of our population assisting in the defence of the Empire.

Mr. Scaddan: They took our interned Germans and Austrians to New South Wales to which State they paid the 25s. per capita in respect of them.

Estimated Expenditure for 1916-7.

The PREMIER: As will be seen from page 13 of the Estimates the expenditure last year was £5,705,201. Deduct from this sum the expenditure on the trading concerns, £613,029, which are now submitted under separate estimates, and we have a net expenditure of £5,092,172, as against an estimated expenditure for the current year of £5,269,241, or an increase of £177,069. This

increase is more than covered by the following items, over which I have no control:—Expenditure under special Acts due principally to increased interest and sinking fund charges, £98,802; increases in salaries, due to the 7.89 per cent. reduction in salaries last year, and now provided in full, £12,720; statutory increases and salaries under regulations, £11,000; refund of taxation revenue, in accordance with a recent legal decision, £5,624; Wooroloo Sanatorium—this institution only started last year and the expenditure is already incurred—£11,324. Then there is new expenditure as follow:—Standard weights and measures ordered last year to be used by the University who undertake the work for the Police Department £2,000; venereal diseases treatment, under the Health Act Amending Act, 1915, £2,600, or a total of £144,070. To this must be added the items paid last year but not charged up, namely, £93,072, making a total of £237,142, which more than covers the increased expenditure I have referred to. There are, however, several items of decreased expenditure as shown in the outside column of page 13 of the Estimates, and these total £57,090; which, deducted from the items before mentioned, leaves £180,052 representing dead expenditure over which I have no control as against the increase of expenditure, £177,069, just referred to. If we add this £180,052 to the estimated shortage in revenue of £227,739, we get a total of £407,791, which represents the greater part of the estimated deficit for the current financial year. The point is that the increased expenditure shown on the Estimates for the current year is beyond my control, and a legacy from my predecessors, and no one will argue that I am responsible for the shrinkage in revenue.

Primary Industries.

To come back to Return No. 8: The information contained in this return is of considerable value, as it indicates the progress of the State over a period of seven years. One of the most satisfactory items is the increase in the production of wool, which has grown from a value of £969,904 in 1910 to £1,273,183 last year. In 1915, which was our year of drought, it fell as low as

£817,630, which is the lowest for the whole period under review. Wheat, which is our next staple industry, of which only 3,600,000 bushels were produced in 1910, shows a production of $18\frac{3}{4}$ million bushels last year, 1915-16. For the previous year, 1914-15, the production was only 2,600,000 bushels, owing to the drought, but in 1913-14, which was a normal year, the production was 13,331,000 bushels. Therefore, there was a gain of 5,000,000 bushels in the last two years, which I think may be accepted as evidence that the land policy instituted by the Liberal Administration is bearing fruit, which will be of assistance in meeting increased demands of the United Kingdom as well as bringing a satisfactory return to our State. If my friends opposite wish to claim that this increased production is due to their efforts I am prepared to listen; but I am also prepared to take an opportunity of replying to those claims and showing how erroneous they are. The production of gold shows a falling off, but nevertheless it reached a value of upwards of £5,000,000 last year.

Mr. Gardiner: Which of you is responsible for the falling off?

The PREMIER: My friends are responsible for all that is bad. The export of timber has necessarily decreased for the time being, owing to the lack of tonnage and the war. The production of coal shows some improvement. The area of land for cultivation has practically doubled itself since 1910, and the area under crop has grown from 722,000 acres in 1910 to 2,190,000 acres last year.

Exports and Imports.

The exports and imports show an improvement over the previous year, but there is still enormous room for improvement. In 1914 the imports exceeded the exports by £2,900,000 odd, but last year the excess of imports was reduced to less than £1,000,000. Although improved condition is brought about to some considerable extent by the fluctuations in the gold export, it is gratifying to note that the improvement has been due mainly to the increased value of our wool and wheat production. The most vital item in the return is that of population, which

shows reduction; but I need not inform the House that this is brought about by the fact of our soldiers leaving the State to fight abroad in the Empire's battles. Return No. 9, as will be seen, gives a comparison between the actual receipts on revenue account during last year and the estimated receipts shown on the present Estimates.

Mr. Gardiner: Those estimated receipts do not include receipts anticipated from additional taxation, do they?

The PREMIER: No. Returns Nos. 10 and 11 are analyses of the estimated expenditure for the current year.

Departmental.

Now I propose to touch briefly on the various departments as shown on these Estimates. It will be noted that the Treasurer shows an increased expenditure of £61,686. The principal item is under Miscellaneous, being £46,000 loss on the operations of the Royal Commission for the Control of Trade, namely, on the importation and sale of wheat and flour. Provision is also made for the following Royal Commissions:—Agricultural Industry, Alien Labour in Mines, and Esperance Lands, £3,750. There is also provision for depreciation on Government Stores £1,000, which ought to have been written off last year.

Mr. Gardiner: Does £1,000 cover depreciation on Government stores?

The PREMIER: So I am informed.

Mr. Gardiner: Perhaps that is the balance of depreciation over appreciation.

The PREMIER: I do not think the Government have adopted a system of writing up their stores. That item of £1,000 represents another little legacy left by my friends opposite. The next item represents an increase in the grant to the State War Council for expenses, £950. The Taxation Department shows an increase of £7,204, being mainly refunds of revenue, £5,624, under a decision of the Supreme Court. The Departments of Land and Agriculture, it will be observed, show a slight decrease. The Agricultural Bank and the Industries Assistance Board show an increased expenditure of £6,670; but the whole of this is recovered from the funds of the Institutions, as will be seen on page 8 of the Estimates, under the heading of departmental. The

Colonial Secretary's Department shows an increase in expenditure of £25,441, the principal items being an increase of £15,537 in Medical and Public Health, principally due to the Wooroloo Sanatorium previously referred to, for which a full year's provision is made; and, of course, in this department, as in all other departments, there has been the abolition of the 7.89 per cent. deduction in salaries, together with the statutory increases and increases under the regulations. Education shows an increase of £16,100, mainly due to the reinstatement of the 7.89 per cent. deduction, and increased provision has been necessitated by the reduction of the number of children required for the establishment of a school from ten to eight, and also by the increased facilities for driving children to school. The Works Department shows an increase in expenditure of £25,500, mainly caused by provision of the item for renewing the quays at Fremantle—£10,366—which ought to have been charged up last year, and also by the fact that during the last two or three years maintenance works other than those urgently necessary have been deferred, with the result that an accumulation of urgent maintenance work has to be faced this year. As a matter of fact, no provision is made on the revenue Estimates for a single new work. The Minister for Mines shows an increased expenditure of £4,077, of which £2,504 is in connection with the Mines Department, due principally to the appointment of workers' inspectors under the amendment of the Mines Regulation Act made last year. There is also the abolition of the 7.89 per cent. deduction of last year, and then there are the statutory increases. Woods and Forests show an increase of £1,573, due to the appointment of the Conservator of Forests and of additional inspectors under him. The Attorney General shows a decrease of £2,512.

Business Undertakings.

Business Undertakings show a net decrease in expenditure of £51,280, the principal item being the railways, £69,480, consequential on the decreased revenue estimated, and decreased expenditure in connection with the operations of the Yandanooka estate £7,645; whereas, on the other hand, it will be noticed

that we have an increased expenditure in connection with the Electric Power House of £8,389. It is expected that these works will be in partial operation early in the New Year. There is an increased expenditure under the Metropolitan Abattoirs and Sale-yards of £11,844. Both the increases are counterbalanced by revenue.

Sale of Government Property Trust Account.

The Sale of Government Property Trust Account is shown on pages 106-111 of the Estimates. The details of the Government Property Sales Fund appear on pages 106-7-8, and show that from the inception of the fund in July, 1904, to the 30th June last, receipts totalled £499,383 12s. 8d. Of this sum £141,947 15s. 2d. was available for re-appropriation on the 1st July last. To this amount should be added the estimated receipts from the repayments by householders of sewerage house expenditure amounting to £49,817, which will be available to the Water Supply and Sewerage Department for re-appropriation during the currency of the year, making altogether a total of £191,764 15s. 2d., which will be appropriated as follows:—Public Works, as per statement on page 110 of the Estimates, £55,362; Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage, £63,000; advances on ore and working expenses in connection with smelters at Ravensthorpe, £73,300. This appropriation, it will be observed, leaves a small balance unappropriated of £102 15s. 2d.

State Trading Concerns.

The summary of estimated revenue and expenditure of State trading concerns is submitted separately. The trading concerns are those comprised in the Trading Concerns Bill now before the House. It will be seen that the total revenue anticipated amounts to £787,200, and the expenditure to £703,392, leaving a net estimated cash surplus of £83,808. It will be noticed that in preparing the estimates provision has been made not only for working expenses, but for interest on fixed and working capital, depreciation, and all other charges in connection with the undertakings. Pre-

viously, the working expenses of these trading concerns were only included in the Consolidated Revenue Estimates. Such charges as interest, sinking fund, depreciation, etcetera, were not shown against the separate trading concerns, these being included in special Acts. It is, therefore, obvious to members of the Committee that the present estimates show a much clearer position, and a more definite result of the operations of the trading concerns; that is to say, from returns prepared on a cash basis. It is estimated that the surplus transferable to the Consolidated Revenue Fund will amount to £106,832. This amount has been taken to credit on page 9 of the Consolidated Revenue Estimates, together with the amount of £49,500, which covers interest, depreciation, and other departmental charges. These figures, it must be understood, do not represent the actual results which may possibly be disclosed on the balance sheets at the end of the year. They are estimates only. For instance, in the State sawmills the deficiency of £23,024 will probably be more than covered by stocks on hand. The Estimates are submitted in order that Parliament may appropriate the necessary money to carry on the undertakings during the financial year. The estimated profit transferable to Consolidated Revenue, it will be noticed, is principally provided by the State Steamship Service, and by the sale of cattle purchased by the Government. The estimated profit on the steamers will be mainly earned by the motor ship "Kangaroo" on account of the high rates of freight obtainable for oversea carriage. The "Western Australia" for the first time in her existence will, it is hoped, contribute some portion of the profit, as a result of her charter to the Imperial Government as a hospital ship. Any further information required in connection with these undertakings, as also the departmental Estimates, will be provided by the Ministers in charge.

Taration Proposals.

Let me point out that the position taken up by the Government is this: there are only two courses open in the present condition of affairs, either excessive or wholesale retrenchment, which would create a serious dislocation in the administration of the

country's affairs and cause serious distress among civil servants, or else additional taxation, asking the people to provide a reasonable amount of revenue to meet the necessary expenditure.

Mr. Bolton: But you put too big a burden on the people, you know.

The PREMIER: The responsibility for the burden on the people is not mine. That burden belongs to my predecessors. The Government prefer the latter of the two expedients I have mentioned, and they consider that they would be neglecting their duty if they did not insist upon additional taxation. I anticipate that, if my taxation proposals become law, I shall be able, after next year, to submit estimates of revenue which will balance the expenditure.

Mr. Bolton: You will not be there next year.

The PREMIER: That is subject of course to the present Government being on these benches next year, and subject to there being no further dislocation of the trade of the State, and also subject to the country's being blessed with a good harvest. I believe the vast majority of the people realise their responsibilities in this connection, and are prepared to give the Government the necessary funds. We have been careful to distribute the burden fairly in our proposals, according to the capacity of the individual to pay; and, moreover, we are asking those who have the means to indulge in luxuries, to contribute something more than they have done in the past. We are avoiding, as far as possible, imposing taxation upon the necessities of life, and are leaving the food supplies of the people untouched. Indeed, our action in securing an ample supply of cattle for next season will, I believe, put us in a position of being able to guarantee the meat supplies of the people at a reasonable price. All must be prepared to help to carry the burden during these strenuous times, recognising that our burden is infinitesimal compared with that of the people who reside in the Motherland. All through these last two years of the dreadful war, we in Australia have enjoyed immunity from attack, and practically little or no interference with our daily lives. Notwithstanding some increased cost of living, we have been able

to enjoy a full measure of security, freedom, and immunity from anything approaching to want. Indeed our home lives have gone on their peaceful courses uninterrupted, with the exception of those near and dear to us who have gone to fight the Empire's battles in Europe and elsewhere. I am not asking the people to bear any undue burden. To-day we are the lowest taxed people of the whole Commonwealth. Take Mr. Knibbs' figures (page 749) for the year 1914-15, which show taxation per head:—New South Wales, £1 11s. 8d.; Victoria, £1 4s. 8d.; Queensland, £1 8s. 2d.; South Australia, £1 6s. 8d.; Tasmania, £1 16s. 6d.; Commonwealth, £1 8s. 4d.; Western Australia (at the bottom of the list), £1 3s. I know that the Commonwealth intends imposing largely increased taxation, more especially on business men and property owners, for war purposes, but, nevertheless, as the people of Western Australia have shown that they are no slackers when it comes to providing men for the fighting ranks of Great Britain's Army, so am I satisfied that they are not going to prove themselves slackers in connection with the adjustment of the State's finances. It is a duty, although a comparatively small one, that honourable people cannot afford to shirk. The position is not of my creating, and the financial obligations entered into by my predecessors in the name of the people must be honourably provided for.

The Public Service.

I refuse to specially penalise the servants of the State, but I know full well they are anxious and willing to bear their fair share. I regret it was impossible at this period of the financial year to do otherwise than make provision for the annual increments of the lower paid branches of the Service under statutes and regulations passed by my predecessors in office. This has been done, and I am hopeful that a more equitable system may be inaugurated next year. I have already intimated my opinion that the whole Service should be put upon an equal footing; increments should be provided according to the classifications, and then, if the necessity still exists, an all-round percentage deduction should be agreed upon. A contented civil service, realising their respon-

sibilities, and determined to do their duty to the State to the utmost, is what should be aimed at, and this we hope to bring about. During the past year numbers of officers under the Public Service Act have been granted leave of absence to join the forces. Up to date 380 officers out of 998 eligible by age have enlisted—nearly 40 per cent. Owing to this withdrawal temporary appointments have increased, but care has been taken to keep these appointments down to the lowest possible number. Those who have gone to the Front are, of course, guaranteed their old positions when they return. Much difficulty is being experienced in satisfactorily working the various departments in consequence, and of necessity this will become more acute as time goes on. To win the war is our first consideration. Difficulties and inconvenience will be put up with cheerfully, and those who remain behind are prepared, I am satisfied, to do their part by increased energy and application in the different departments in which they are employed.

The Pearling Industry.

I want briefly to refer to a few of our industries as shown in the returns. Last year the pearling industry resulted in 17,500 cwt. of shell being fished, the approximate value of which was £129,250. This industry, which has suffered more perhaps than others owing to the war, gives prospects of a revival, owing to the prices of shell being higher, and indications of a possible market for the sale of pearls. Every effort is being made to facilitate the shipment of shell, and it is not anticipated that there will be any insurmountable obstacle in this connection during this year.

The Whaling Industry.

The operations in connection with the whaling industry have been highly successful, 37,000 casks of oil, equalling 6,150 tons, valued at £110,000 having been produced.

Mr. Scaddan: Why did we not carry on the industry ourselves?

The PREMIER: We have had such splendid results from our industries.

Mr. Scaddan: I do not mean by the Government, but by our own people.

The PREMIER: Why did the hon. member give away the whole of the coastline to the Norwegians? Why did he not keep it for our own people?

Mr. Seaddan: The whole of the coastline is open to us now.

Immigration and Population.

The PREMIER: The great desideratum is increased population. The year 1914 showed our highest record, 323,462. The outbreak of war immediately caused a drain so that to-day our population is reduced to 314,000. Immigration has practically been at a standstill during the past year. Only 206 State-aided immigrants were introduced. Of these 194 were nominated and 12 assisted, and of the total, 173 were women and children. Recognising that much improvement cannot be expected during the term of the war, the Government is endeavouring to formulate a scheme and to organise with a view to the establishment of a proper system of repatriation for our returned soldiers, and the introduction of immigrants in considerable numbers, who it is anticipated will be available from the Motherland at the termination of the war.

Mr. Angwin: I am afraid you will not get them.

The PREMIER: The Imperial Government is already seized of the importance of the immigration problems, and communications have passed in connection with the matter. The Minister for Lands, Minister for Industries, the Honorary Minister (Mr. Connolly), and the Colonial Secretary have conferred, with the result that His Excellency the Governor has forwarded a despatch outlining the views of the Government. The report was duly published, and no doubt hon. members have perused it. It of course is only the beginning of negotiations which we trust will result in a large accession to our population immediately after the war, to the mutual advantage of the State and the Empire. We have the land and there appears to us no possible reason why we should not obtain the people.

Mr. Angwin: They objected to it before the war.

The PREMIER: Whether they objected to it before the war or not, I can assure the hon. member they are only too anxious now to co-operate with us in that respect. They have had a Commissioner inquiring into the matter already, Sir Rider Haggard.

Mr. Seaddan: That statement is quite incorrect. Sir Rider Haggard came out here without any recognition whatever by the Imperial Government. The Colonial Institute sent him here.

The PREMIER: Why did not the hon. member say so before? Sir Rider Haggard came here accredited by the British Government.

Mr. Seaddan: He did not.

The PREMIER: Land settlement has been affected by the war to a very marked degree. Large numbers of men who, in ordinary times, would have settled on the land, have joined the forces, and others have left their holdings for this purpose.

Repricing of Land.

During the year the amending Act of 1915 was brought into force, and a review of the prices charged on conditional purchase land taken up since 1st January, 1910, as also the re-pricing of the pastoral land taken up since 1st January, 1905, has been put in hand. The re-pricing of land in the wheat belt is practically completed. To the end of the last financial year 6,204,542 acres have been reviewed, and deductions to the amount of £301,077 have been allowed. The effect on the annual revenue of the Lands Department through these deductions amounts to £36,000 per annum. In all cases where selectors have joined the forces, and have applied for protection on account of rent, it has been granted, and in this connection over 800 settlers have received protection, which, of course, means a temporary loss to the land revenue. These factors are responsible for the following figures, which show a considerable shrinkage in revenue:—In 1914-15 it was £336,195; and in 1915-16 it was £331,882, and the estimate for the present year 1916-17 is £312,100. The difference between the estimated revenue for this year and the actual revenue received last year is nearly £20,000.

Area under crop.

It is estimated that this year we have the following area under crop:—Wheat and wheat and hay, 1,767,275 acres; oats and oats and hay, 186,307 acres; barley and barley and hay, 13,610 acres. In connection with our farming operations a scheme has been inaugurated for the purpose of bringing boys from the goldfields to work on the farms in the agricultural areas. This scheme, although strongly condemned by the *Kalgoorlie Miner*, gives promise of proving very successful. Over 140 applications were received from well-known farmers for lads at wages of from 15s. to 30s. per week and their keep. Up to the present 28 boys have been despatched to the agricultural areas, and further lads are being placed weekly. Letters from those already placed express themselves as well pleased with their new environment.

Fruit Growing.

Fruit growing shows a very gratifying increase. Crops are assured, and over 1,000,000 cases will be the result and the exportable surplus will be about 200,000 cases. Shipping space has been promised by the Naval Department for 190,000 cases, which will insure our growers getting their product to the market. The prospect of a good harvest and the wider recognition of the improved results to be obtained from mixed farming, give promise of a steady revival in land selection. Under the repatriation scheme, surveyors are already engaged in the South-Western districts classifying the land with the object of closer settlement and a more systematic culture when our soldiers come back from the war.

Railway Construction.

Intimately connected with all land settlement is the question of railway construction. No new lines have been handed over to the Railway Department during the past year owing to financial stringency delaying operations. Two hundred and thirty-four miles are under construction. It is expected that the Kukerin-Lake Grace railway (25 miles) will be handed over before the end of the year, and the Wyalcatchem-Mt. Marshall (52 miles) shortly afterwards. The

Bolgart extension (34 miles) should be completed before the end of the financial year. The Wagin-Bowelling line (62½ miles) cannot be finished until next financial year. An Advisory Board has been appointed consisting of the Surveyor General (Mr. F. S. Brockman), Commissioner of the Wheat Belt (Mr. G. L. Sutton), and the Chief Traffic Manager (Mr. W. Lord), who will report for the information of the Government and Parliament on all railway projects. The board is now inquiring into the following proposals:—Yilliminning-Kondinin, Yorkrakine-Dale River, Narrogin-Dwarda, South of Bridgetown, Ongerup-Needilup.

Local Control of certain Government Undertakings.

There is one matter to which I must refer before I conclude. It will be noted that conferences have been held recently in connection with the proposal to transfer the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage to a board composed of representatives of the local governing authorities concerned. A conference has also been held in connection with the proposal to transfer the control of the tramway service to representatives of the municipalities. Both these questions are of considerable importance. The Government are of opinion that they should not be interwoven with the functions of State administration, but are functions which essentially belong to the ratepayer's through their representatives. The responsibility for these undertakings is not national, and should be carried by the representatives of the people for the benefit of whom the undertakings have been established. Of course, the negotiations have only just begun, and it is a question of coming to a common understanding as to the details and conditions upon which the proposed transfers can be carried into effect. Preliminary meetings have been held, and it now remains for the local authorities to suggest for the Government's consideration the lines upon which they are prepared to accept these responsibilities. When definite terms are concluded legislation will, of course, be necessary, and Parliament will then have an opportunity of reviewing the whole question.

Mr. Bolton: Hear, hear.

The PREMIER: In the meantime full information is being obtained as to the systems of control adopted in the Eastern States for the guidance of all parties. It is hoped that the business will be sufficiently advanced to enable the necessary legislation to be introduced next session.

Harbour Extension.

The harbour extensions at Bunbury, Geraldton, and Fremantle are proceeding, but the continuance of works at present in hand, and the starting of new works depends entirely upon our ability to raise the necessary funds. I regret I am not in a position to give any definite information as to our prospects in the immediate future. Immediately after the new year it will be necessary to obtain further funds. Under our agreement we can only borrow through the Commonwealth. We have a balance of £980,000, which ought to be made available before 31st December. This is the balance of Western Australia's proportion amounting to £2,080,000 under the £7,940,000 loan, which the Commonwealth undertook to raise for the States under the agreement made in November last year. Under the same agreement the Commonwealth undertook to raise a sum of £7,450,000 annually until one year after the termination of the war. Western Australia's proportion is estimated at about £1,500,000 per annum. At present, however, it is doubtful whether the full £980,000 can be made available by the end of December next; and further, some question has arisen as to the future supplies. This, I understand, is the urgent business that I am called to Melbourne upon. Our first consideration must be to find sufficient capital for the Agricultural Bank and the Industries Assistance Board, in order that we may keep our great agricultural industry going.

The Mining Industry.

The mining industry, notwithstanding the falling off during the past 12 months, shows an output of considerable magnitude. The year 1915 showed a value of £5,140,228, and this year the product should be worth from £4,500,000 to £5,000,000. Coal shows a slight increase, whilst other minerals have held

their own. The whole mining industry, together with the other industries of the State, has felt acutely the strain upon its manhood for the services of the Empire.

Timber Industry.

The export of timber, which had reached over £1,000,000 in the year 1913, has suffered seriously owing to the shortage of tonnage due to the war, and I regret very much to state that this position is likely to continue for some time yet. We have, however, notwithstanding all difficulties, been able to export timber to the value of £442,014 during the last financial year. The export of sandalwood and mallet bark, on the other hand, almost holds its own. There cannot be the slightest doubt that when the tonnage shortage can be overcome a very prosperous future is ahead of our timber industry.

Pastoral Industry.

The pastoral industry is flourishing, owing to abundant rains and plentiful feed, and the almost incredible increase in prices obtaining for wool. Seven and a-half million acres of country were taken up during the year, and notwithstanding that our cattle herds have slightly decreased, the fact that our sheep show an increase of nearly 350,000 is evidence that we may look forward to greater strides in the future. During the financial year ended 30th June, 1915, our wool export was valued at £817,000. For the year ended 30th June last it was valued at £1,273,000, showing an increase of £450,000.

Conclusion.

And now, Mr. Chairman, I have completed my task, and in conclusion would like to remark that I have endeavoured to place before the Committee the true financial position of the State, believing as I do that nothing should be held back, nothing hidden, and that in order to effect a remedy the first essential must be to obtain a complete grasp of the position as we find it to-day, and a true prospective view of what we may expect in the future. This, I think, can be gathered from the figures placed before the Committee; and whilst the financial position as disclosed is not one to be proud of, we may comfort ourselves with the old adage,

that nothing is so bad but that it might be much worse. The terrible war in which we are engaged in common with all parts of the Empire is likely to continue for some time yet, and the heavy burden we are called upon to carry has not yet reached its fullest extent. Nevertheless, the achievements of the Motherland and her dependencies up to the present constitute to my mind the most marvellous record of financial stability that the world has ever known. The fact that Great Britain still rules the seas, that her stalwart sons have sprung to her assistance from all quarters of the Empire and are

fighting with a stern determination to secure a final and complete victory over her enemies should nerve us in turn to fulfil our obligations to the utmost extent, should strengthen us to shoulder our burdens and face our difficulties with an equal determination to overcome them. It is in this spirit of hopefulness that I now submit the Estimates for the approval of the Committee. I beg to move the first item—

His Excellency the Governor, £1,555.
Progress reported.

House adjourned at 10.8 p.m.

*APPENDIX TABLES, Nos. 1 to 11, referred to in the Treasurer's
Financial Statement.*

[Return No. 1.]

Revenue and Expenditure, 1915-16, compared with the Estimate.

| REVENUE. | | | | | | £ | £ |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|-----------|---------|
| The Treasurer's estimate for the year was | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5,504,259 | |
| The actual amount received was | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5,356,978 | |
| Or a total net over-estimate of | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | | 147,281 |

| EXPENDITURE. | | | | | | £ | £ |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|-----------|--------|
| The Treasurer's estimate for the year was | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5,739,852 | |
| The actual amount expended was | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5,705,200 | |
| Or a net over-estimate of | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | | 34,652 |

DETAILS.

| HEADS. | REVENUE. | | EXPENDITURE. | |
|--|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| | Over- Estimate. | Under- Estimate. | Over- Estimate. | Under- Estimate. |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| TAXATION— | | | | |
| Land Tax | .. | 7,716 | .. | .. |
| Licenses | 602 | .. | .. | .. |
| Income Tax | .. | 11,667 | .. | .. |
| Dividend Duty | .. | 8,584 | .. | .. |
| Totalisator Tax | .. | 442 | .. | .. |
| Stamp Duty | .. | 858 | .. | .. |
| Probate Duty | .. | 9,284 | .. | .. |
| Commonwealth | 1,910 | .. | .. | .. |
| DEPARTMENTAL— | | | | |
| Special Acts | .. | .. | a 28,957 | .. |
| Colonial Treasurer | .. | 37,914 | .. | 1,633 |
| Minister for Lands | 52,610 | .. | 4,711 | .. |
| Minister for Mines—Mines | 72 | .. | 760 | .. |
| Minister for Mines—Woods and Forests | 7,006 | .. | 1,115 | .. |
| Minister for Education | .. | 121 | 5,285 | .. |
| Minister for Agriculture | 1,631 | .. | 1,132 | .. |
| Agricultural Bank | .. | 6,557 | 605 | .. |
| Attorney General | 4,645 | .. | 793 | .. |
| Colonial Secretary | 21,119 | .. | .. | 10,134 |
| Minister for Works | .. | 2,127 | 6,597 | .. |
| Residue | .. | .. | 538 | .. |
| TRADING AND BUSINESS— | | | | |
| Railways and Tramways | 145,750 | .. | 57,722 | .. |
| Fremantle Harbour Trust | 8,766 | .. | .. | .. |
| Bunbury Harb'our Board | 9,000 | .. | .. | .. |
| State Batteries | 10,376 | .. | 15,393 | .. |
| Water Supply and Sewerage | 10,420 | .. | 5,075 | .. |
| State Saw Mills | .. | 48,018 | .. | 61,912 |
| State Steamships | .. | 43,167 | .. | 36,754 |
| State Brickworks | 3,780 | .. | 2,574 | .. |
| State Implement Works | 39,547 | .. | 12,952 | .. |
| State Fish Supplies | 4,945 | .. | .. | 340 |
| State Quarries | 1,899 | .. | 2,616 | .. |
| State Ferries | 1,391 | .. | 544 | .. |
| State Hotels | 8,449 | .. | 2,933 | .. |
| Meat Stalls | 3,728 | .. | 7,009 | .. |
| State Dairy Farm | 1,300 | .. | 649 | .. |
| Shipment of Cattle from North-West | .. | 26,835 | .. | .. |
| Yandagooka Estate | 16,304 | .. | .. | 7,651 |
| Metropolitan Abattoirs, etc. | .. | 2,497 | .. | 2,538 |
| Royal Mint | .. | 1,215 | .. | .. |
| Tourists, Cave Houses, etc. | .. | 1,814 | .. | 2,522 |
| Residue | 847 | .. | 176 | .. |
| Totals | 356,097 | 208,816 | 158,136 | 123,484 |
| Net Over-estimates | 147,281 | | 34,652 | |

a Mostly interest on loans.

[Return No. 2.]

Synopsis of Balance Sheet for 30th June, 1916, and previous year.

| | | 1916. | 1915. |
|--|---------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | Dn. | £ | £ |
| Sinking Fund .. .. . | .. .. . | 4,546,682 | 4,037,138 |
| General Loan Fund .. .. . | .. .. . | 1,814,473 | 1,278,342 |
| Savings Bank .. .. . | .. .. . | 4,024,820 | 4,683,077 |
| Trust and Deposits Accounts generally .. | .. .. . | 1,921,365 | 1,713,776 |
| Sundry Advances, London .. .. . | .. .. . | .. | 235,000 |
| | | <u>12,907,340</u> | <u>11,997,333</u> |
| | Cr. | £ | £ |
| Advances to be recovered .. .. . | .. .. . | 204,463 | 375,226 |
| Investments and Sinking Fund .. .. . | .. .. . | 9,877,237 | 9,355,317 |
| Stores on hand .. .. . | .. .. . | 504,979 | 567,725 |
| Cash in hand— | | | |
| Treasury .. .. . | .. .. . | 77,775 | 4,236 |
| Wheat Certificates Advances .. .. . | .. .. . | 301,992 | .. |
| Current Accounts .. .. . | .. .. . | 71,730 | 157,906 |
| Trust Accounts .. .. . | .. .. . | 80,411 | 19,032 |
| Eastern States .. .. . | .. .. . | 78,434 | 77,906 |
| London .. .. . | .. .. . | 9,582 | 9,194 |
| Remittances in transit .. .. . | .. .. . | 339,772 | 418,049 |
| Consolidated Revenue Fund— | | | |
| Deficit .. .. . | .. .. . | 1,360,965 | 1,012,742 |
| | | <u>£12,907,340</u> | <u>£11,997,333</u> |

[Return No. 3.]

Loan Authorisations and Flotations.

| | £ | £ |
|--|------------|-------------------|
| Authorisations to 30th June, 1915 | 40,008,173 | |
| Do. for 1915-16 | 1,245,000 | |
| Total Authorisations | | 41,253,173 |
| Flotations— | | |
| General Loans | 27,078,253 | |
| Local Debentures | 246,100 | |
| Local inscribed Stock | 7,872,973 | |
| Treasury Bills | 4,682,625 | |
| | | 39,879,951 |
| Balance available for Flotation | | 1,373,222 |
| Actual Loan Indebtedness— | | |
| Gross Debt on 30th June, 1915 | 37,022,622 | |
| Flotation during year— | | |
| London Issues (Treasury Bills) | 178,980 | |
| Do. inscribed Stock | 140,000 | |
| Local Treasury Bills | 2,099,719 | |
| Local Stock | 34,680 | |
| | | 39,476,001 |
| Less Redemptions— | | |
| Bonds, Loans, 1878, 1881-4 | 5,100 | |
| Treasury Bills (London) | 67,375 | |
| Do. Local | 263,850 | |
| | | 336,325 |
| | | 39,139,676 |
| Less— | | |
| Sinking Fund (as on 31st March) | | 4,528,432 |
| Net Indebtedness, 30th June, 1915 | | 34,611,244 |
| Net Public Debt per head of population on 30th June, 1916 | £ | s. d. |
| Do. do. do. 1915 | 109 | 19 9 |
| Do. do. do. 1914 | 101 | 12 10 |
| Do. do. do. 1913 | 94 | 4 11 |
| Do. do. do. 1912 | 85 | 17 2 |
| Do. do. do. 1912 | 77 | 6 11 |

[Return No. 4.]

Loan Expenditure for 1915-16, compared with previous years.

| Undertakings. | 1915-16. | 1914-15. | 1913-14. | 1912-13. | 1911-12. |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Railways and Tramways, including Land Resumption | 447,553 | 693,118 | 1,166,584 | 1,903,991 | 1,320,309 |
| Fremantle Harbour Works | 53,704 | 106,055 | 66,142 | 77,379 | 35,813 |
| Fremantle Dock and Slip | 14 | 1,291 | 1,868 | 11,330 | 80,842 |
| Harbours and Rivers generally | 55,510 | 58,014 | 21,860 | 61,790 | 69,109 |
| Sewerage—Perth and Fremantle | 47,268 | 120,473 | 140,682 | 160,931 | 93,572 |
| Water Supply | 118,275 | 127,669 | 191,528 | 234,184 | 31,417 |
| Development of Goldfields | 19,142 | 47,263 | 50,659 | 78,143 | 92,345 |
| State Smelter, Ravensthorpe | 78,967 | 60,000 | .. | .. | .. |
| Development of Agriculture | 165,727 | 79,271 | 156,752 | 155,432 | 362,406 |
| Assistance to Settlers | 199,890 | 602,110 | .. | .. | .. |
| Immigration | 4,640 | 16,665 | 56,218 | 63,447 | 96,805 |
| Steamships | 141,065 | .. | 5,907 | 100,000 | .. |
| Workers' Homes—Working Capital | .. | 97,500 | 278,000 | 150,000 | .. |
| Saw Mills | 511 | 29,069 | 126,416 | 43,691 | .. |
| State Hotels | 10,000 | 6,546 | 17,091 | 17,580 | .. |
| Agricultural Bank —Working Capital | 172,335 | 271,612 | 506,638 | 259,808 | .. |
| Agricultural Implement Works | 4,627 | 18,436 | 43,070 | .. | .. |
| Brickyards | 547 | 11,507 | 13,710 | 1,121 | .. |
| Ferries | .. | 5,974 | 2,000 | 4,993 | .. |
| State Fish Supply | 3,031 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Public Buildings | 40,661 | 81,004 | 44,166 | 38,699 | 91,707 |
| Roads and Bridges | 6,152 | 5,026 | 6,167 | 37,818 | 23,106 |
| Perth-Fremantle Road, Re-instatement | 7,663 | 21,198 | .. | .. | .. |
| Purchase of Plant and Stock (Suspense Account) | .. | 55,000 | .. | .. | .. |
| Fremantle Road and Railway Bridge | 4,622 | 1,582 | .. | .. | .. |
| Sundries | 2,738 | 5,225 | 17,652 | 8,881 | 12,121 |
| Totals | 1,584,642 | 2,521,608 | 2,913,010 | 3,409,218 | 2,309,552 |
| Loan Expenditure per head of mean population | £4 19 3 | £7 15 8 | £9 1 8 | £10 17 6 | £7 16 11 |

[Return No. 5.]

Public Debt and Sinking Funds.

| Loan. | | | Sinking Fund. | | Remarks. |
|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------|---|
| Year. | Amount. | Maturity. | Rate per cent. | Accumulation. | |
| LOANS CARRYING SINK- ING FUNDS. | | | | | |
| Inscribed Stock. | | | | | |
| | £ | | | £ s. d. | |
| 1899-1915 .. | 998,353 | 1934 | 1 | 469,971 8 2 | G.S.R. Purchase. Coolgardie Water Scheme. |
| 1896 .. | 1,500,000 | 1935 | 1 | 355,452 15 2 | |
| 1897-1900 .. | 3,500,000 | 1935 | 1 | 713,033 16 1 | |
| 1897 .. | 1,100,000 | 1936 | 1½ | 472,785 9 9 | |
| 1896 .. | 2,500,000 | 1927 | 3 | 1,444,584 18 3 | |
| 1900-1902 .. | 680,000 | 1935 | 1 | 96,559 12 2 | |
| 1902-1905 .. | 2,600,000 | 1935 | 1 | 332,138 8 2 | |
| 1907-1908 .. | 2,000,000 | 1947 | 1 | 114,866 6 2 | |
| 1909 .. | 1,445,000 | 1955 | ½ | 19,434 10 8 | |
| 1910 .. | 1,342,000 | 1955 | ½ | 10,453 16 8 | |
| 1911 .. | 1,650,000 | 1955 | ½ | 57,192 18 11 | Issued * for redemption of £1,876,000 stock; balance taken from Sinking Fund. |
| Local Inscribed Stock. | | | | | |
| 1907 .. | 250,000 | 1917 | 1½ | 437,695 12 9 | Amount of £437,695 12s. 9d. also includes Sinking Fund on Debentures for £246,100. |
| 1903 .. | 556,550 | 1923 | 1½ | | |
| 1904 .. | 322,470 | 1924 | 1½ | | |
| 1911 .. | 1,922,305 | 1926 | ½ | | |
| 1912 .. | 1,380,540 | 1932 | ½ | | |
| 1914 .. | 144,735 | 1934 | ½ | | |
| 1915 .. | 78,185 | 1935 | 1½ | | |
| Debentures. | | | | | |
| 1872-1888 .. | 113,200 | .. | 1 | 4,262 7 2 | Redeemable by Annual Draw- ings. |
| 1904 .. | 246,100 | 1924 | 1 | .. | Sinking Fund above. |
| | £24,329,438 | | | £4,528,432 0 1 | |
| BALANCE OF DEBT. | | | | | |
| Various .. | 14,810,238 | Various | .. | .. | Consisting of Inscribed Stock for which the Sinking Funds have not commenced, and Treasury Bills which carry no Sinking Fund. |
| Total Debt | £39,139,676 | Accrued Sinking Fund | | £4,528,432 0 1 | |

[Return No. 6.]

Loan Flotations, Debt, and Expenditure on 30th June, 1916.

| Works and Services. | Flotations. | Actual Indebtness on Works. | Actual Cash spent. |
|--|-------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Railways and Tramways | 18,948,423 | 18,585,155 | 17,634,640 |
| Harbours and Rivers | 3,761,986 | 3,708,436 | 3,434,604 |
| Goldfields Water Schemes | 2,903,078 | 2,901,829 | 2,689,824 |
| Water Supply Generally | 1,411,875 | 1,411,343 | 975,535 |
| Sewerage | 1,255,451 | 1,255,449 | 1,075,136 |
| Erection of State Batteries | 296,734 | 296,734 | 267,598 |
| Development of Goldfields and Mineral Resources | 1,467,382 | 1,449,756 | 1,430,492 |
| Development of Agriculture | 3,526,524 | 3,523,761 | 3,310,354 |
| Telegraphs | 278,721 | 231,947 | 269,308 |
| Roads and Bridges | 396,612 | 373,270 | 353,104 |
| Public Buildings | 819,657 | 812,514 | 756,175 |
| Immigration | 63,314 | 60,248 | a 56,392 |
| Workers' Homes—Working Capital | 570,109 | 570,109 | 525,500 |
| State Hotels | 57,842 | 57,842 | 51,217 |
| State Steamships | 249,972 | 249,972 | 246,972 |
| State Saw Mills | 203,436 | 203,436 | 199,687 |
| Agricultural Bank | 1,471,939 | 1,471,939 | 1,210,393 |
| State Implement Works | 75,211 | 75,211 | 78,777 |
| South Perth Ferries | 13,371 | 13,371 | 12,967 |
| State Milk Supply | 4,590 | 4,590 | 4,496 |
| State Brickyards | 25,769 | 25,769 | 26,886 |
| State Quarries | 5,249 | 5,249 | 4,061 |
| State Fish Supply | .. | .. | 3,031 |
| Crawley and Dalkeith Estates, Aborigines Stations, Savoy House, and Purchase of Land at Nedlands | 82,782 | 82,782 | 70,632 |
| Stores and Stock Suspense Account | 99,107 | 99,107 | 55,000 |
| Miscellaneous | 103,897 | 103,857 | 63,352 |
| | 38,091,031 | 37,573,676 | 34,806,133 |
| Redemptions | .. | 517,355 | .. |
| Cost of Raising | .. | .. | 1,470,425 |
| Unexpended Balance | .. | .. | 1,814,473 |
| | £38,091,031 | 38,091,031 | 38,091,031 |

a An additional amount of £333,594 was expended upon Agricultural Immigration from Development of Agriculture.

Reconciliation with Return No. 3.

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Flotations as above | £ |
| Converted Bonds under Agricultural Bank Act (£1,566,000) and Local Stock issued for redemption purposes (£222,920) included in Return No. 6 under "Flotations" | 38,091,031 |
| | 1,788,920 |
| Flotations in Return No. 3 | £39,879,951 |

Return of Business Undertakings, and Trading Concerns, financed from Loan Funds on a Cash basis, for the Year 1915-16.

| | General Expenditure. | Interest. | Sinking Fund. | Total Expenditure. | Revenue. | Cash. | |
|--|-------------------------|-----------|------------------|------------------------|-----------|----------|-------------------|
| | | | | | | Surplus. | Deficiency. |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Railways | a 1,530,172 | d 644,765 | 116,112 | 2,291,049 | 2,098,304 | .. | 192,745 |
| Tramways, Perth Electric | 84,786 | 24,927 | .. | 109,713 | 118,946 | 9,233 | .. |
| Goldfields Water Supply | 111,093 | 97,143 | 77,475 | 286,611 | 228,832 | .. | 57,779 |
| Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage | 82,308 | 42,858 | 11,148 | 136,314 | 149,469 | 13,155 | .. |
| Fremantle Harbour Works | .. | 67,893 | 17,925 | 85,818 | 96,234 | 10,416 | .. |
| Banbury Harbour Works | .. | 9,818 | 2,716 | 12,534 | 6,000 | .. | 6,534 |
| State Batteries | 71,839 | 10,434 | 1,800 | 84,073 | 70,014 | .. | 14,059 |
| State Saw Mills | 231,862 | 8, 84 | .. | 240,646 | 236,818 | .. | 3,828 |
| State Implement Works, etc. | 150,875 | 3,543 | .. | 154,418 | 88,453 | .. | 65,965 |
| State Quarries | 8,884 | 182 | .. | 9,066 | 11,161 | 2,035 | .. |
| State Fish Supply | 14,702 | 270 | .. | 14,972 | 10,555 | .. | 4,417 |
| State Hotels | 26,497 | 1,353 | .. | 27,850 | 27,051 | .. | 799 |
| State Ferries | 4,476 | 550 | .. | 5,026 | 5,609 | 583 | .. |
| State Brickworks | 9,926 | 1,208 | .. | 11,134 | 10,220 | .. | 914 |
| State Steamship Service | 139,592 | 6,909 | .. | 146,501 | 158,167 | 11,666 | .. |
| State Dairy Farm | 3,152 | 201 | .. | 3,353 | 2,700 | .. | 653 |
| Harvey Estate | 211 | 1,047 | .. | 1,258 | 420 | .. | 838 |
| Atteridgeville Cattle Station | 4,426 | 750 | 100 | 5,276 | 3,012 | .. | 2,264 |
| Agricultural Bank | 14,303 | b 113,145 | .. | 127, 53 | 112,915 | .. | c 14,538 |
| Workers' Homes Board | 4,554 | 23,647 | .. | 28,201 | 28,201 | .. | .. |
| State Farms—Bacon and Butter Factories | 12,226 | 1,833 | 245 | 14,304 | 4,547 | .. | 9,757 |
| Abattoirs, Cold Storage, Markets, and Refrigerating Works | 15,778 | 7,507 | 318 | 23,603 | 20,409 | .. | 3,194 |
| Total | £2,522,567 | 1,068,767 | 227,839 | 3,819,173 3,487,977 | 3,487,977 | 47,088 | 378,284 47,088 |
| Net Deficiency | .. | .. | .. | £331,196 | .. | .. | £331,196 |

a Includes Railways under Construction and Pensions.

c Represents unpaid interest.

b Excludes £25,092 arrears from previous year, paid 1915-16.

d Includes interest on Railway Stores.

[Return No. 8.]

Trade, Production, Population, etc.

| | 1909-10. | 1910-11. | 1911-12. | 1912-13. | 1913-14. | 1914-15. | 1915-16. |
|--|------------|------------|-------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Railway Revenue | £1,649,397 | £1,858,914 | £1,896,579 | £2,047,823 | ¶ £2,382,022 | ¶ £2,163,790 | ¶ £2,217,250 |
| Railway Mileage | 2,145 | 2,376 | 2,598 | 2,854 | 2,967 | 3,332 | 3,332 |
| Wool produced (exported) | £969,904 | £1,047,456 | £1,008,858 | £964,938 | £907,363 | £817,630 | £1,273,183 |
| *Wheat produced (bushels) | 5,602,368 | 5,897,540 | 4,358,904 | 9,168,594 | 13,331,350 | 2,624,190 | 18,236,355 |
| *Hay produced (tons) | 195,182 | 178,891 | 299,695 | 255,751 | 278,585 | 156,932 | 395,172 |
| Gold produced | £6,553,314 | £6,003,789 | £5,634,004 | £5,493,072 | £5,478,932 | £5,195,732 | £4,803,206 |
| Timber produced (exported) | £907,702 | £932,800 | £1,001,593 | £965,308 | £1,142,280 | £808,392 | £442,014 |
| Coal produced | £114,487 | £104,016 | £121,109 | £150,184 | £153,374 | £137,575 | £140,338 |
| Other Minerals (exported) | £328,471 | £153,277 | £150,490 | £195,764 | £215,819 | £169,095 | b |
| †Number Sheep | 4,731,737 | 5,158,516 | 5,411,542 | 4,596,958 | 4,421,375 | 4,456,186 | 4,803,850 |
| †Number Cattle | 793,217 | 825,040 | 843,638 | 806,294 | 834,265 | 863,835 | 821,048 |
| †Number Horses | 125,315 | 134,114 | 140,277 | 147,629 | 156,636 | 161,625 | 163,006 |
| Area of land selected (acres) | 1,904,780 | 1,922,112 | 1,973,565 | 1,408,108 | 998,851 | 502,551 | 308,590 |
| Area of land leased (acres) | 10,330,373 | 9,314,310 | 11,595,445 | 21,170,037 | 8,622,488 | 7,855,984 | 8,175,594 |
| *†Area of land for cultivation (acres) | 4,683,007 | 5,309,832 | 5,650,628 | 6,717,226 | 7,320,533 | 7,548,768 | 8,056,952 |
| *Area of land under crop (acres) | 722,086 | 855,024 | 1,072,653 | 1,199,991 | 1,537,923 | 1,867,547 | 2,190,034 |
| Tonnage Shipping, Inwards | 2,279,852 | 2,408,803 | 2,597,156 | 2,767,276 | 3,381,304 | 2,366,855 | 2,485,265 |
| Tonnage Shipping, Outwards | 2,271,879 | 2,419,078 | 2,618,952 | 2,755,500 | 3,375,282 | 2,794,822 | 2,489,955 |
| Exports, including Gold | £8,576,659 | £8,177,272 | £10,443,570 | £8,846,039 | £10,415,095 | £5,352,140 | 8,040,484 |
| Exports, excluding Gold .. .. . | .. .. . | .. .. . | £3,300,473 | £4,549,126 | £5,429,954 | £3,062,276 | 4,795,062 |
| Imports | £6,932,731 | £8,450,835 | £9,283,722 | £9,589,745 | £9,727,473 | £8,301,280 | 8,982,334 |
| Savings Bank's Deposits | £2,400,099 | £3,170,345 | £3,504,626 | £3,716,184 | £4,551,872 | £3,743,135 | £3,640,874 |
| Savings Bank's Withdrawals | £2,070,776 | £2,667,377 | £3,316,113 | £3,684,046 | £4,600,884 | £3,878,854 | £3,828,189 |
| Excess of Arrivals over Departures | 3,487 | 11,632 | 9,418 | 5,852 | 3,851 | c 7,752 | c 13,563 |
| Population § | 271,162 | 287,826 | 302,341 | 313,940 | 323,952 | 322,526 | 314,687 |

*Seasons ended 28th February. † Years ended 31st December, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914 and 1915. ‡ Area cropped, cleared, fallowed, ringbarked, etc. § As on 30th June. ¶ Including Perth Tramways. a. Preliminary figures, liable to revision. b. Information withdrawn from publication at the request of the Customs Department. c Excess of departures over arrivals.

[Return No. 9.]

Estimated Receipts for Year ending 30th June, 1917.

| Heads. | Receipts for Year 1915-16. | Estimated, 1916-17 |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| STATE. | | |
| | £ | £ |
| Land Tax | 47,716 | 40,000 |
| Income Tax | 91,665 | 90,000 |
| Dividend Duty | 103,585 | 100,000 |
| Totalisator Tax | 12,442 | 12,500 |
| Stamp Duty | 64,858 | 64,000 |
| Probate Duty | 44,284 | 42,000 |
| Licenses | 43,448 | 43,500 |
| Land | 322,671 | 305,000 |
| Mining | 23,408 | 23,400 |
| Timber | 35,367 | 33,300 |
| Railways | 2,098,304 | 1,905,000 |
| Tramways, Perth Electric | 118,946 | 120,000 |
| Electric Works (Power House) | | 11,366 |
| State Batteries | 70,014 | 64,860 |
| State Ferries | 5,609 | |
| State Hotels | 27,051 | |
| Shipment of Cattle, North-West | 26,835 | |
| State Fish Supplies | 10,555 | |
| State Meat Stalls | 30,272 | |
| State Steamships | 158,167 | 156,332 |
| State Implement and Engineering Works | 88,453 | |
| State Sawmills | 236,818 | |
| State Brickyards | 10,220 | |
| State Quarries | 11,101 | |
| Yandanooka Estate | 23,696 | 38,000 |
| Avondale Estate | 4,163 | 4,000 |
| Harvey Estate | 420 | 300 |
| Albany Cold Storage | 1,199 | 1,200 |
| Aborigines Cattle Station | 3,012 | 3,250 |
| State Dairy Farm (Claremont) | 2,700 | 2,700 |
| Perth City Markets | 1,754 | 1,700 |
| Metropolitan Abattoirs and Sale Yards | 9,197 | 22,000 |
| Refrigerating Works | 3,813 | 4,000 |
| Tourists, Cave Houses, etc. | 10,414 | 7,000 |
| Kalgoorlie Abattoirs | 4,444 | 4,000 |
| Water Supply and Sewerage | 414,580 | 412,500 |
| Harbour Boards | 102,234 | 102,500 |
| Royal Mint | 29,215 | 26,400 |
| Reimbursements, Fees, and other Services | 427,026 | 421,719 |
| Law Courts | 21,217 | 22,000 |
| | 4,740,873 | 4,084,527 |
| COMMONWEALTH. | | |
| Financial Agreement, etc. | 591,620 | 571,477 |
| Interest on Transferred Properties | 24,485 | 24,486 |
| Totals | 5,356,978 | 4,680,490 |

[Return No. 10.]

*Revenue and Expenditure Estimates, Year 1916-17.**Analysis of Expenditure.**Administrative and Revenue Producing Expenditure.*

| | £ | £ |
|---|---------|---------|
| <i>Special Acts—</i> | | |
| His Excellency the Governor, Ministerial Salaries, etc. | 10,900 | |
| Pension, Sir John Forrest | 500 | |
| Aborigines | 10,000 | |
| Annuities | 250 | |
| Auditor General | 800 | |
| Commissioner of Railways | 2,000 | |
| Commonwealth Pensions | 3,500 | |
| Court of Arbitration | 800 | |
| Judges' Pensions | 2,000 | |
| Judges' Salaries | 7,100 | |
| Land Improvement Loan Fund | 26,000 | |
| Parliamentary Allowances | 25,400 | |
| Pensions under Superannuation Act | 18,000 | |
| Public Service Commissioner | 850 | |
| Tramways Purchase Act | 3,600 | |
| University of Western Australia | *13,500 | |
| | | 125,200 |
| <i>General—</i> | | |
| Government House | 1,555 | |
| Parliamentary | 12,173 | |
| Executive Council | 45 | |
| Premier's Office | 1,331 | |
| Treasury | 12,426 | |
| Audit | 8,986 | |
| Compassionate Allowances | 4,110 | |
| Savings Bank | 23,139 | |
| Government Stores | 9,892 | |
| Government Motor Cars | 500 | |
| London Agency and Indenting Office | 7,407 | |
| Retiring Allowances | 600 | |
| Public Service Commissioner | 1,642 | |
| Refunds | 500 | |
| Taxation | 21,598 | |
| Workers' Homes Board | 3,474 | |
| Lands and Surveys | 44,587 | |
| Woods and Forests | 10,138 | |
| Agriculture <i>a</i> | 44,315 | |
| Agricultural Bank | 16,709 | |
| Mines <i>b</i> | 65,198 | |
| Carried forward | 290,325 | 125,200 |

a Includes Rabbits and Vermin Boards. *b* Includes Explosives, Geological Survey, Machinery Inspection, and Mining School.

* See £700 additional under Sundry Grants.

Return No. 10—continued.

| | Brought forward | £ | £ |
|--|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| <i>General—continued—</i> | | 290,325 | 125,200 |
| Crown Law Offices <i>a</i> | | 72,015 | |
| Education | | 333,756 | |
| Colonial Secretary <i>b</i> | | 31,146 | |
| Aborigines | | 9,710 | |
| Charities | | 89,027 | |
| Fisheries | | 4,719 | |
| Gaols | | 22,346 | |
| Harbour and Light | | 24,703 | |
| Lunacy | | 61,872 | |
| Medical and Health | | 134,435 | |
| Police | | 130,627 | |
| Lithographic | | 20 | |
| Printing | | 105 | |
| Parliamentary Expenses | | 3,065 | |
| London Westminster Bank, Commission | | 4,500 | |
| Royal Commissions | | 4,845 | |
| Police Benefit Fund | | 2,400 | |
| Incidentals | | 21,837 | |
| Royal Commission for Control of Trade—Loss on operations | | 46,000 | |
| Public Works and Buildings | | 16,650 | |
| | | | 1,304,103 |
| <i>Revenue-producing Expenditure—</i> | | | |
| Royal Mint | | 22,500 | |
| Electric Works | | 8,389 | |
| Railways | | 1,435,913 | |
| Tramways | | 83,314 | |
| Refrigerating Works, Abattoirs, Cold Stores, etc. | | 27,556 | |
| Avondale and Harvey Estates | | 5,250 | |
| Water Supply | | 239,603 | |
| Public Batteries | | 71,168 | |
| State Dairy Farm | | 3,176 | |
| Yandanooka Estate | | 25,377 | |
| Tourists Resorts and Cave Houses | | 9,959 | |
| Aborigines Cattle Station (Moola Bulla) | | 4,517 | |
| | | | 1,936,722 |
| Total Administration | | | 3,366,025 |

a Includes Electoral, Land Titles, Stipendiary Magistracy, and Supreme Court. *b* Includes Observatory, Friendly Societies, Immigration, Labour Bureau, Public Gardens, and Registry.

[Return No. 11.]

General Expenditure for Year 1916-17.

| | £ | £ | £ |
|--|--------|--------|------------|
| Interest and Sinking Fund on Public Debt | .. | .. | 1,772,261 |
| Subsidies to Municipalities | .. | .. | 8,800 |
| <i>Public Works—</i> | | | |
| Roads and Bridges Generally, including Grants to Roads | | | |
| Boards | 28,000 | | |
| Roads | 1,500 | | |
| Bridges—Revotes, etc. | 1,856 | | |
| Total Roads and Bridges | | 31,356 | |
| Miscellaneous | | 1,550 | |
| <i>Public Buildings, etc.</i> | | | |
| Hospitals and Quarantine | 3,936 | | |
| Gaols and Quarters | 300 | | |
| Police Stations, etc. | 725 | | |
| Court Houses, etc. | 970 | | |
| Mechanics' Institutes, Halls, etc. | 750 | | |
| Harbours and Jetties, etc. | 21,922 | | |
| Various Buildings, etc. | 22,696 | | |
| | | 51,299 | |
| <i>Railways—</i> | | | |
| Relaying Great Southern Railway | 12,570 | | |
| Total Works and Buildings | | 12,570 | 96,775 |
| <i>Sundry Grants, etc.—</i> | | | |
| Benevolent | 3,000 | | |
| Fire Brigades | 7,800 | | |
| National Grants | 80 | | |
| Cemeteries | 100 | | |
| Parks and Recreation Grounds | 3,100 | | |
| Land for Schools | 1,000 | | |
| Public Libraries | 5,600 | | |
| W.A. Museum and Art Gallery | | | |
| Zoological Gardens | 3,500 | | |
| Mechanics' Institutes | 400 | | |
| Acclimatisation of Fish, Birds, etc. | 100 | | |
| W.A. University | 700 | | |
| | | 25,380 | |
| Total General Expenditure | | | £1,903,216 |

Summary.

| | £ |
|---|------------|
| Expenditure in Return No. 4 | 3,366,025 |
| Expenditure as above | 1,903,216 |
| | 5,269,241 |
| Less Transferable as per page 13 of Estimates | 93,072 |
| Total Expenditure | £5,176,169 |