

that some people may say that involves the appointment of political commissars such as Russia has or something like that but I do not see how we can hope for any greater show of efficiency in any other way, and we have to get efficiency. We cannot go on throwing men—that is, blood and guts—against steel and efficiency indefinitely and hope to be able to last out this war strong enough to win it in the end.

Hon. C. B. Williams: Hear, hear!

Hon. H. L. ROCHE: As I said at the beginning of this later portion of my speech, the Federal Government is not interested in our views. Yet the position is drifting all the time and if we cannot make some effort to bring matters before those who today are the authorities—that is, the people in Canberra—it seems to me that a very hopeless outlook is ahead of us when our real testing time comes and that time, to my mind, is certain to come, whether it be next month or next year.

On motion by Hon. F. E. Gibson, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 3.54 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Thursday, 13th August, 1942.

	PAGE
Questions (4): Traffic accidents	187
National Security Act, as to motor lights	187
Metropolitan milk supply, price	188
Butter production	188
Leave of absence	188
Address-in-reply, sixth day	188

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 2.15 p.m. and read prayers.

QUESTIONS (4).

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS.

Mr. MARSHALL asked the Minister representing the Minister for Police: 1, What is the total number of traffic accidents with fatal consequences which have occurred in the metropolitan area from 1st January to 31st July, 1942? 2, Of this total, how many verdicts of committal for manslaughter were the outcome of the Coroner's inquiry? 3, Did the offender, in each case, stand his trial according to law and the Coroner's verdict? 4, If not, the number in this total that escaped the law, and the reason for

the law not being enforced? 5, Of the total number of fatal accidents, how many open verdicts were given by the Coroner, and in these cases, how many were proceeded against for manslaughter, and the reason for not proceeding against each case if any were not dealt with accordingly? 6, In the grand total of fatal accidents in the period mentioned, and where no action has been taken by the Crown Law Department on a charge of manslaughter, have the police taken action under the Traffic Act and secured verdicts against the offenders?

The MINISTER FOR THE NORTH-WEST replied: 1, 66 (72 people killed). 2, Three (3). 3, No. 4, Three (3). Nolle prosequi entered by Crown Law Department. 5, (a) Four open verdicts given. (b) None proceeded against for manslaughter. (c) Referred to Crown Law Department who advised no action. 6, Police have taken action in six cases and secured verdicts in two. In the other four cases proceedings have not been finalised. In one case where the accused was committed for trial, he was transferred to the Eastern States by the R.A.A.F.

NATIONAL SECURITY ACT.

As to Motor Lights.

Mr. SEWARD asked the Minister for Mines: In view of the fact that regulation 16 of the lighting of motor vehicles order stipulates that no person shall manufacture, or sell, or offer for sale, any mask or type of mask which purports to comply with the provisions of this order without the written consent of the approving authority—1, Is he aware that masks are being sold which cannot give the prescribed amount of light allowed by the regulations? 2, Have purchasers of such masks any redress? 3, What, if any, action is being taken to prevent the motor-owning public being exploited in this way? 4, Is it a fact that experiments are being made with the object of adopting a more suitable type of mask? 5, If so, will he issue instructions freeing motor owners from the obligations to purchase any type of mask until the Civil Defence Council finally makes up its mind as to a suitable type of mask? 6, If not, why not?

The MINISTER replied: 1, Yes, but the order only prescribes the maximum amount of light. 2, No. 3, There is no exploitation. The order only requires the amount of light

to be not exceeded. 4, Experiments with the object of producing a mask allowing the maximum amount of light permitted have now been concluded. 5, No. The mask mentioned in (4) is a suitable type and is procurable locally. 6, Answered by No. 5.

METROPOLITAN MILK SUPPLY, PRICE.

Mr. McLARTY asked the Minister for Agriculture: 1, In view of the big increase in the price of superphosphate and additional cost of labour, goods, and services, resulting in greatly increased cost of production for dairy farmers, is it the intention of the Metropolitan Milk Board to accede to the producers' request for an increase in the price of whole milk? 2, If not, on what grounds is an increase in price being withheld?

The MINISTER FOR THE NORTH-WEST (for the Minister for Agriculture) replied: 1, and 2, This matter is under discussion.

BUTTER PRODUCTION.

Mr. SEWARD asked the Minister for Agriculture: 1, Will he supply a return showing the amount of butter produced in Western Australia during the years ended 30th June, 1941 and 1942, and the amount of each grade of butter produced? 2, How many factories complied with the regulations stipulating that not less than 30 per cent. of choice grade cream be made into choice grade butter? 3, Which factories did not do so? 4, What action was taken against the factories which did not comply with the regulation? 5, If no action was taken what was the reason for not doing so?

The MINISTER FOR THE NORTH-WEST (for the Minister for Agriculture) replied:

In reply to the hon. member I now lay a return on the table of the House.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

On motion by Mr. Wilson, leave of absence for two weeks granted to Mr. Withers (Bunbury) on the ground of ill-health.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Sirth Day.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

MR. J. H. SMITH (Nelson) [2.19]: Like other members who have spoken, I regret

the absence of our Premier, who is dearly loved and respected by all sections of this House. We trust that he will soon be restored to health, and be amongst us once again. I am not going to join issue, to a great extent, with the Government. I hope that legislation of a contentious nature will not be brought before Parliament. We are here to perform a certain function, and that is to do our utmost to win this war. To-day the most optimistic amongst us must realise that we are up against a very hard project indeed. I, for one, will not for a moment castigate our National Parliament which is making the greatest efforts that Australia and the Empire have known to keep our country free and white. If we disagree politically with many of the things done, let us for the moment forget our politics and be united in the one purpose—to keep our freedom and retain those things that we have known all our lives under the British flag.

I have read the Speech of His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor and, like the Leader of the Opposition, I have also read the leading article of "The West Australian." The Speech is very much the same in details, but what I regret is this: We seem to be going headlong into unification. If the National Government believes that uniform taxation will do something to provide the sinews of war then we, as an Assembly, or a House of Parliament, must suffer our little differences, and stand behind the National Government, irrespective of any form of politics. I am proud of the job being done by our Prime Minister. He is not the only sincere man in politics, but he is sincere as far as Australia is concerned. Our representation in the Federal Parliament is small, but we in this State have something to be proud of. At least we have sent men of ability to that Parliament. The Prime Minister is the representative for Fremantle. The Speaker in that National Government is Mr. Nairn; the Chairman of Committees is Mr. J. H. Prowse, and the President of the Senate is Senator J. Cunningham, who was at one time a member of this House. Those gentlemen have all been sent from Western Australia, as has also the Assistant Minister, Senator Fraser. Thus Western Australia has at least received recognition in the National Parliament and we as politicians, irrespective of the party to which we belong, must make

any necessary sacrifices. Perhaps many of us are not doing as much as we should be doing towards the winning of the war. Probably the State Government is not doing as much as it should be doing. Before I have finished my remarks, I might have occasion to castigate the Government for many of its actions. I consider that the State Government should be taking a lead instead of following the dictatorship of the Commonwealth. Members on the Government side of the House are staunch supporters of unification. That is their policy; it is enunciated in their platform.

Mr. Marshall: But by constitutional methods.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: Quite so, and constitutional procedure necessitates a referendum of the people. Still, I have not heard any protest from members opposite against the Commonwealth's uniform taxation proposals. The High Court has declared them valid and we must abide by the decision, but I maintain that we as a sovereign State must insist upon having our own economy. We must insist that this Parliament shall exist for all time, though in the present crisis we must sink our differences.

The outlook could not be much blacker from the viewpoint of the United Nations than it is today. Therefore, instead of indulging in carping criticism, members should use their influence as I have used mine in the direction of encouraging people to economise, save, and assist the war effort. Numbers of people in the back country have travelled many miles to make their contributions to the war loans. The middle and poorer sections of the community have contributed largely towards providing the sinews of war, and I have no hesitation in saying that others should do likewise.

The member for Perth made a thoughtful speech in the course of which he told us that unification could not be brought about except by a referendum of the people. But I point out that unification is already with us. There are very few members of the Commonwealth Parliament who do not constantly advocate unification and the adoption of one government for the whole of Australia. I presume that members here are unanimous in the opinion that Western Australia and, of course, the other States, must retain their sovereign rights and economy. The Commonwealth uniform taxation proposals, however, have secured the en-

dorsement of the High Court. But the Commonwealth has gone further; it has proposed at the recent conference of Premiers to adopt an entertainments tax. Thus the States will be left without avenues from which to raise revenue, apart from what they will receive from the Commonwealth Government. The Commonwealth has gone even further under its National Security Regulations. I understand that the Acting Treasurer attended the Premiers' Conference for a specific purpose, namely to discuss the liquor laws.

The Minister for Mines: No!

Mr. J. H. SMITH: That is the impression conveyed by the Press reports.

The Minister for Mines: He went East to attend a meeting of the Loan Council.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: That seemed to be the object of the Loan Council meeting. This Parliament has passed liquor laws that have given general satisfaction and we are the authority to alter those laws. Action should be taken by the State Government. If the Government has any consideration for people who have invested their capital, steps must be taken to protect licensees. These people have paid large sums by way of ingoing and are being charged high rentals, and yet are being restricted in the matter of supplies. So far there has been no redress in the matter of the money involved for ingoing, rents and license fees.

Mr. Marshall: What about licensees dummying for breweries?

Mr. J. H. SMITH: The hon. member may know something about the hotel at Wiluna.

Mr. J. Hegney: What about the breweries themselves!

Mr. J. H. SMITH: I do not know anything about them. A statement has been made that in the near future no liquor will be available. Scottish whisky is not being imported and we are told that no whisky will be made in Australia. It looks as if the manufacture of whisky, brandy, gin and perhaps even rum will be discontinued in Australia, and the latest proposal is that certain brands of wine will also be restricted.

Mr. Warner: Cut out lemonade and that will be the lot.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: Only beer will remain, and the quantity of beer has been reduced by one-third. Consequently, in the Commonwealth, we have a Government prepared to force prohibition on the country in this way. Summer is coming on and we

are to be limited to two-thirds of our usual beer supply. What is the State Government doing about it? I was disgusted, in the session that we had a few months ago, when the Government in its wisdom decided to close hotels at 6 p.m. because it said that would do away with the drinking evil. The Government did not understand the position then, nor does it now. If the Government were sincere in reducing trading hours of hotels from 12 to 9, why did it not bring in a Bill to provide compensation for the persons who had paid huge sums for leases and license fees? Why did not the Government bring in such a measure to protect the men it is ruining today? From the Press reports of the Premiers' Conference I notice that the Commonwealth Government is insisting upon a reduction of two hours per day in hotel trading, but the Premiers, in their wisdom, decided upon a reduction of one hour per day.

Mr. Berry: What are the trading hours in England?

Mr. J. H. SMITH: I am not concerned about England; I am dealing with Australia at the moment. Our liquor laws provide for 12 hours trading per day. On the gold-fields I believe the hours are 14 per day.

Member: Twenty-four hours.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: I do not know. I am discussing the Licensing Act, which is a particularly good measure. I do not know whether the Government will heed me or not, but I suggest that the one hour reduction should be in the morning: hotels should open at 10 a.m. and close at 9 p.m. That would be a reduction of one hour.

The Minister for Mines: The Premiers' discussion was based on the present hours.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: No! The discussion was on the trading hours permitted by the licensing laws of the various States. I listened with attention to the member for Brown Hill-Ivanhoe when he spoke last week. There was much commonsense in the arguments he adduced; but the Press and some members of the public selected from his speech those parts they wished to ridicule in order to pull his arguments to pieces. Under our Licensing Act no man or woman is allowed to enter the lounge or any other part of a hotel unless he or she is over 21 years of age.

Mrs. Cardell-Oliver: That is absurd.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: The member for Subiaco has not read the Licensing Act.

If the conditions of that Act are not complied with, are not the licensees penalised? I do not stand for abuses; I never did. It is the duty of the authorities to prevent such happenings. With other members, I regret the necessity for a vice squad in Perth; but I do not agree that the decent men and decent women carrying on hotel-keeping should, perhaps through no fault of their own, be scarified by public opinion. I also do not agree—and I castigate the Government on this score—that Magistrate Schroeder should commit girls of 16, 17, 18 and 19 years of age to gaol. That is a standing disgrace to the State.

The Minister for Mines: And to the people who serve them.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: I agree with that. It is a standing disgrace to our Government that we should have a magistrate committing girls to the Fremantle gaol for three months, thus making criminals of them, perhaps for an offence of which they may be innocent. It is a standing disgrace to the Government that it has not provided some institution to which these girls could be sent. I shall not speak further on the liquor subject or on the Premiers' Conference, except to say that I regret that the Government, which perhaps was assisted by its advisers, saw fit not to do something it ought to have done, and that was to submit these matters to the House for consideration. After all is said and done Parliament makes our laws, and Parliament should alter them, if necessary. That is my attitude.

I now wish to refer to the recent increase in the basic wage, by regulation under the National Security Act.

Mr. Cross: You agree with the increase.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: Yes, but I do not agree with the principle. Had my friend, the member for Canning, who is supposed to represent the workers, the principles I possess on this subject, he would long ago have moved the powers-that-be to call Parliament together to deal with the question. I spoke on this matter on the last Address-in-reply. I then said—I have not got "Hansard," but I think it is true; any member who wants to do so can refer to "Hansard" and possibly correct me—that I could not understand the attitude of the Government in allowing the President of the Arbitration Court to sidetrack the issue merely because the Commonwealth had said that

wages must be pegged. That was the excuse made by the President of the Arbitration Court. He went further and said that an increase would cause inflation; but he did not for a moment think that his decision meant deflation for the working man. After all, the Industrial Arbitration Act makes provision for the fixation of the basic wage on the basis of a man, his wife and two children; but I know of many men who have more than two children. What do we find? Despite the Government we have on our left-hand side—

Members interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. J. H. SMITH: The Government, instead of doing what it ought to have done, invoked the National Security Act to bring something into force. It is true, and cannot be denied. Every member of this Parliament stands by the Arbitration Court and has always done so. Men are appointed to that court to fix the basic wage and to provide a decent standard of living, but the Court has ignored its obligations. Then we talk about unification, about the Commonwealth Government taking away our powers! Why have our powers been taken away? Simply because the Government has not seen fit to move in the matter. There was a motion on the subject placed on the notice paper during the last session by the member for East Perth. Why did not the Government sponsor that motion? Why was it in such a desperate hurry to end the last session? The Government does not move until the workers are seething with discontent. Western Australian workers—I have thousands in my district—are so loyal that they would not do anything to embarrass the Commonwealth Government in its efforts to carry on the war. They would sooner make sacrifices. Nevertheless, they are filled with discontent. Eventually the Premier, at the last moment, took advantage of the National Security Regulations and decided to increase the basic wage by 4s. 6d. I wonder if it is to be made retrospective!

Mr. Cross: Would you be in favour?

Mr. J. H. SMITH: I would be in favour of giving the workers everything within reason. It is not men like the member for Canning, who live on the workers, that do any good, but the men who produce things from the land. The men who count in this world are the men who produce our wealth.

I am prepared to give such men anything in fairness. Why did not the Government attend to this matter? Why did it go behind the cloak of the National Security Act to make a change? It is said that we are rushing pell-mell into unification. What has created that position?

The Minister for Mines: Hard times!

Mr. J. H. SMITH: We cannot make any decisions for ourselves. We have to be bound hard and fast by what the people in Canberra tell us. I object to that. I can foresee the day—though God forbid it!—when the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the National Party will go out amongst the workers and say, "Your Labour Government has offered you £4 14s. 10d. per week as the basic wage. We are going to defy the Arbitration Court. Return us to power, and we will give you £5 per week." A precedent has been created that should never have been established. An alteration should have been effected by the Government through this Parliament.

Mr. J. Hegney: When you do what you just suggested the workers will take an interest in Parliament!

Mr. J. H. SMITH: The hon. member and his colleagues have the workers well organised; that is why members opposite are there. I turn now to the question of man-powering as it affects the industries of this State. I am chiefly concerned about having men released from the A.I.F.—in which direction I have not met with much success—to carry on shearing and dairying and other forms of primary production. I lay the blame first of all on the manpower authorities in this State. Many men enlisted who should never have been allowed to do so, and our trouble now is to feed the people who are fighting our cause. Soon there will be acute shortages. I spoke to the manpower officer in my town about this matter, and he said, "What can I do? I receive notes from these men to the effect that their brothers or fathers will carry on." These boys cannot be blamed for enlisting. Two or three families in my district have lost their menfolk at the war. There was one man with a wife and three children. There are 75 cows to be milked and the property comprises 1,000 acres. Two years ago that man said, "I have something to fight for. I do not want anybody to fight for me. I have land, a wife and three chil-

dren, and am independent, and I have something for which to fight." He enlisted and went away, but was killed. However, that is the spirit we like to see. Nevertheless, scores of men have gone away who should never have been allowed to join up, and I am endeavouring to have some of them released to carry on primary production.

A young shearer of my acquaintance named Harold Lunt joined the A.I.F. last December or January. A week before I came to Perth he returned to Bridgetown in civilian clothes. I asked him what had happened, and he said, "It is remarkable. On Monday afternoon"—the conversation took place on a Wednesday—"I was called into the office and was given my discharge." I asked him why, and he replied, "I do not know. I was told I was manpowered for shearing. I made no application, and I do not know of anybody who did so on my behalf. There are two others in a similar position to me." As a matter of fact, I learned today that there are 200 professional shearers, who made no application but have been discharged. The man to whom I spoke returned to his wife in Bridgetown—he had been married just before enlisting—and two days afterwards went away again to look for a shearing job. He was not given a badge to indicate that he had been discharged from the Army, and he wanted to know what he was going to do. He is carrying with him the stigma of being a young man who ought to be in the Army and is not. He rarely drinks or smokes and is an exemplary young man. That is one example of the way in which manpowering is being carried out.

The fear was expressed by members of the Country Party that there would be another National Security Regulation governing the supply of different factories with cream. I do not know whether this applies to the Sussex district, but I know that people in the Busselton area away down to Augusta and right through the Great Southern are sending cream to Watson's factory in Fremantle, because they are getting first-grade prices for it and are receiving an additional 1d. per lb., while the co-operative factories do not seem to be able to pay that price. Many primary producers are sending second-grade cream to Watson's and getting first-grade and choice-cream prices.

Member: That cream is properly tested and graded.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: The Minister for Lands, in his reply to a question by the member for Katanning, said that a proper test was made down there. I do not know whether that is so. I think you, Mr. Speaker, have some land in that district, and are going in for dairying, and you know that if second-grade cream is used within seven days for making butter, the butter is first-grade, but if kept for a longer period, the butter is second-grade. I understand there is talk of the introduction of a National Security Regulation to prevent suppliers of cream from sending butter-fat to Watson's and other places.

Mr. Doney: That is only talk.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: Before the Minister agrees to the regulation I hope he will go fully into the question whether the co-operative companies can pay the additional penny and give the producers a decent price for their cream. I take some pride in the fact that a large amount of cream comes from the Bridgetown district where I live. Within a radius of 10 miles dairying is carried on for only seven months of the year, but taking the year as a whole the district supplies more butter-fat than does any other part of Western Australia. That is probably news to members.

Mr. Cross: More than Harvey?

Mr. J. H. SMITH: Much more! Yet the remarkable fact is that the South-West Co-operative Dairy Society has established only a receiving depot in the Bridgetown district, and between 20 and 30 tons of butter-fat have to be taken from there each week to Manjimup or Bunbury, made into butter and then brought to Perth.

Mr. J. Hegney: What has the member for the district been doing?

Mr. Stubbs: Whose fault is that?

Mr. J. H. SMITH: The member for the district has fought hard to have a factory established there. Furthermore, a gentleman named Locke endeavoured to establish a cheese factory in the district but the Agricultural Department in its wisdom refused a license. Yet we need cheese in this State! There was, of course, a nigger in the woodpile. I interviewed the Under Secretary for Agriculture and asked why the license had not been granted. I was told that the Government had advanced many thousands of pounds to the other two factories and wanted to see that cleared up before a further license was granted.

Dealing now with our primary industries and post-war activities, one may be regarded as optimistic in suggesting such a topic. The position in regard to the war at the moment is very unsatisfactory, but nevertheless we must prepare for the future. In my electorate in particular there are more primary industries than in any other section of the State. Unquestionably the area is the wealthiest and most productive in Western Australia, and I will claim that it is the most productive and wealthy in the Commonwealth. The difficulty confronting the producers today is in procuring fertilisers for future operations. Many of the farmers complain about the inferiority of the superphosphate supplied, and I believe their contentions to be correct. If the Minister for Agriculture were present, I would ask him whether the superphosphate is ever analysed. I know its strength has been reduced, but I imagine it has been reduced down to less than 18 per cent. The farmers definitely claim that they have not been able to get results from the super supplied although they have manured as heavily as possible. I do not know whether other members have noticed that the super bags rot before they can be emptied.

Mr. Patrick: In my opinion, there is more free acid in the super than formerly.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: I think there is more sulphuric acid in the superphosphate with the result that the bags are burnt. Nowadays it is useless to endeavour to wash super bags.

Mr. Fox: They may have been used many times.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: I am referring to new bags as well.

Mr. Patrick: All the bags were like that some time ago.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: Take flax-growing! Last year, 3,000 acres were under flax, and we anticipated that 6,000 acres would be planted this year but, owing to the wintry conditions, I do not know whether that acreage will be planted. The production of flax requires large areas, and that involves several problems and the expenditure of much money. Practically as great an area is required for retting the straw as for growing the crop, which has to be carted a considerable distance in some instances to the mill, where the employees comprise black, white and brindle people. There are some foreigners, and a few Aussies, to-

gether with a few farm girls working in the industry. My concern is to know whether we are to have sufficient fertiliser to enable the industry to be carried on satisfactorily. Then there is the position regarding tobacco. We are up against a shortage of supplies, and even in Parliament House none is procurable. I do not know whether that is partly your fault, Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee, but we all know there is a definite shortage. I can remember the time when we could not get a bottle of beer here, and even now there is difficulty in getting whisky.

Mr. J. Hegney: That represents an attack on the privileges of members!

Mr. J. H. SMITH: It does! The problems of the tobacco-grower are serious, and labour is one of the difficulties. I agree with the member for Subiaco that the farm girls have done a wonderful job. She can tell those associated with the organisation in which she is interested that the producers in my electorate—tobacco-growers, fruit-growers and others—appreciate the work the girls are doing.

The Minister for the North-West: What about the hop-growers?

Mr. J. H. SMITH: Yes, the girls are doing well on the hop fields, and also in the dairying industry. The crops I have particularly referred to cannot be grown without fertilisers. The position is just as difficult in the dairying industry. In the fruit-growing districts, many hundreds of thousands of pounds have been invested in orchards, and the difficulty is to maintain the assets that have been created. Today, through the Apple and Pear Acquisition Board, the growers are receiving 1s. 10d. a case for apples.

Mr. J. Hegney: I had to pay 9s. 6d. for a case yesterday.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: That may be so, but the growers are receiving 1s. 10d. a case. That is not an adequate return, and in any case the orchardists cannot maintain their assets unless they have ample fertiliser supplies. My son-in-law has six acres under fruit trees, and that small holding represents a wonderful asset to him. Each year he produces about 2,000 cases of fruit. Under the acquisition scheme, he sent away 1,200 cases this year. Why is he able to produce such a large quantity from so small a holding? The explanation is that

he nurses and feeds his land. Each year he uses at least three tons of potato manure, or some other very strong fertiliser, in order to maintain the productive capacity of the land. This year he cannot get one bag of fertiliser for his orchard. I approached the Under Secretary for Agriculture, Mr. Baron Hay, and he informed me that he could not procure a bag. I asked whether six tons of superphosphate could be supplied, and finally the Agricultural Bank provided six bags. My son-in-law cannot maintain his asset with the use of only six bags of super. It behoves the Government to bestir itself and see that the position generally is rectified.

A problem about which I am most concerned relates to the men who are serving with our Fighting Forces, and I am wondering what we shall do for our boys when they return. I feel I would not be doing my duty to the lads oversea if I did not bring this matter forward in the interests of their future welfare. We do not want a repetition of what occurred after the 1914-18 war, when we saw so many returned soldiers walking the streets looking for food. We endeavoured to settle many on the land under the Soldier Settlement Scheme. The Government bought land from wealthy people and put on the holdings soldiers who were left to starve. Many of those who are still on their blocks are hardly any better off than they were 20 years ago.

Mr. J. Hegney: Many of them have left their holdings.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: Of course, thousands have gone off their properties. We must make provision now for the post-war requirements of our sailors, soldiers and airmen. Inevitably the Government will have to turn to the South-West for that purpose. In the electorates represented by the member for Albany, the member for Sussex and by myself, there are available many thousands of acres of the finest land with the best rainfall in the State. I remember fighting for years to secure provision on the Estimates for the construction of the Boyup Brook-Cranbrook railway. Finally success was achieved, and the legislative provision remained on the statute-book for years. Again, we fought for and obtained the passage of legislation authorising the construction of railways to link up the existing sections with the Nornalup line. A

change of Government was effected, and the present Administration in its wisdom scrapped the whole scheme for South-West development, despite the fact that it is the one bright spot in the State today. Through faulty administration, millions of pounds have been lost there in the past. Having scrapped the scheme the Government, advised by the present Agent General, Mr. Troy, who was then Minister for Lands, embarked upon what was known as the 3,500 farms scheme in the Southern Cross area. That section is now referred to as the marginal area country, and millions have been lost there too. All has been scrapped.

I have in mind post-war efforts now. Something must be done. I am convinced that Ministers are big enough to rise to the occasion. If they want advice from men who know the country from A to Z, surely the dignity of Ministers will not be lowered by asking for it. Let a thorough investigation be made into the relations between the Lands Department and the Forests Department. At present it is impossible to select land in the South-West of the State where the rainfall is assured—some of the finest country God ever made. Everything imaginable will grow there. Yet the whole of that wonderful country is held up by forestry restrictions. Not only is land carrying timber held up, but all Crown lands there are held up. Even if there is not a stick of timber on land proposed to be selected, that land cannot be granted until the Forestry Department has given its sanction. Let something be done to alter that state of things. Let there be some form of co-ordination between the two departments. Let efforts be made to secure better administration and a measure of co-ordination, to secure some provision for the future of lads who are now suffering hellish torments which we, sitting here, cannot even imagine. Let not those boys come back like some of our soldiers returned from the last war, to stand on street corners begging for a meal! I did not set out to make a speech, but I find myself going on and on. I hope I am not wearying members.

Members: Go on!

Mr. J. H. SMITH: I want to talk about what our railways are doing.

Mr. Patrick: Or not doing!

Mr. J. H. SMITH: I am glad the Minister for Railways is in his seat. Let me ex-

press my disgust at the attitude adopted by Mr. Ellis and his understrappers. There is no feeling of sympathy in the Railway Department. I will not draw comparisons, which are odious; but I must say it matters not how well some railway lines are paying, one cannot secure any concession for the people of the districts those lines serve. The Warren Road Board area, in my district alone has a population of 10,000; and it is situated at the extreme end. The population consists of timber workers and farmers and their wives and children, and they are the greatest producers in Western Australia. Investigation will show that the south-western lines of railway pay the department better than does any other portion of the system. Yet what do we find? A miserable service of one train per day, and for one portion of the district two trains per week! What satisfaction is to be obtained from the Commissioner of Railways? By me, none whatever! He ignores me all the time.

The member for Pingelly has spoken about refreshment rooms in his electorate. The people in my electorate have to leave Northcliffe at six in the morning, and they get to Kirup at 11 a.m. That is the first station at which they can obtain a cup of tea—men, women and children after five hours in the train! Again, at Kirup there are less than six feet of space available for passengers to obtain refreshments; and frequently three or four compartments have been added to the train to carry the people awaiting transport. At Kirup there is a stop of only six minutes, during which the hundreds of people who pass through there every week are supposed to be provided with refreshments.

I wrote to the Commissioner of Railways on this subject, and his reply was to the effect that there was any amount of accommodation at Boyanup, Picton and Brunswick. Passengers spend eight hours in the train before they can get a cup of tea. That is how our railway system is run. It is a national disgrace. I have tried time and again to secure a daily service between Perth and Pemberton, but have found it impossible. Compare that with the situation at Bunbury, Donnybrook, and Busselton, where there is not half the population to be served and the returns from freights and fares are nothing like those secured by the department in my electorate. Again, Albany has two trains up and down every day. I hope the Minister

is listening to this and will effect some reforms. I wrote to the Commissioner asking for various alterations and received a reply that no alterations were considered necessary. I wrote back expressing the hope that the Commissioner and his Deputy Commissioner and staff would come to Pemberton and see how they got on.

Now as regards Civil Defence and the blackout as applying to country districts! I wonder does the Minister's conscience ever prick him on reading in the daily Press accounts of accidents occurring day after day?

Hon. C. G. Latham: And night after night.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: Yes. More fatalities, more damage, and more claims for damage resulting from the blackout than will ever arise as the result of any air-raid taking place in Western Australia! Cannot the Minister do something? Surely, as Minister he must have control. I know the hon. gentleman to be of a domineering or, better, dominating character. When he puts down his foot and looks determined that is how he appears, although occasionally he smiles. Definitely, he must do something. The present state of affairs cannot be permitted to continue. A respectable member of the House was almost lost to us recently because—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member is not in order in discussing blackouts at the present time.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: Why not, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: I ruled last week that that subject was already on the notice paper in two notices of motion and could not be discussed on the Address-in-reply.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: You know, Mr. Speaker, that I would not digress intentionally. Had I known of your ruling, I would have made no reference to the subject. Would I be in order in discussing how the blackout affects country districts?

Mr. SPEAKER: No.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: Not anywhere?

Mr. SPEAKER: No. The hon. member will have plenty of opportunities to do so.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: You and I being very good friends, Mr. Speaker, I shall not move to disagree with your ruling. Let me turn to other aspects of the wonderful area I represent. Not only do we grow hops, flax, tobacco, dairy produce, and fruit, but we are also wealthy from a mineral aspect. I

have been interested in tin production since I bought a hotel out of the results of my efforts many years ago. I was a miner for five or six years in Greenbushes and know the game of tinmining from A to Z. I have spent thousands of pounds in backing up prospectors.

About 30 years ago we discovered tin some 20 miles south of Greenbushes and about 15 miles south-west of Bridgetown, at a place called Smithfield. The results of our work there were not encouraging, but I was not disheartened. The next place we tried gave results which involved me in the loss of a good deal of money. Then at Ross's Swamp the Mines Department came to my assistance. Some years later, about 1931, I got a bit tired of the venture, and some man named Donovan came along and took the place over and called it Nannup tin fields. Since then I have been going on, year after year, with some mates; and last of all we found something we thought worth while. Anyhow, I am going down there to-morrow in the hope of introducing a little capital into the mine, which I believe will prove satisfactory.

What I am interested in now is tinmining. The Minister for Industrial Development probably is not aware that I was working in that industry over 30 years ago.

The Minister for Industrial Development: You kept your tin light under a bushel!

Mr. J. H. SMITH: Messrs. Bowley, Wilson, and Forman are officers of the Mines Department. Mr. Forman, I understand, went down yesterday to look at the show. The question is one of finance; and, as I have already indicated, I believe I can induce capital to come in. The proposition is better than that at Greenbushes, but it has to be proved. I believe it will show good results.

We are also working a mica deposit which looks extremely promising. Just now mica is worth 38s. per pound, and I believe this show will supply first-class mica. My partners and I have located a mineral hitherto unknown in this State, namely kyanite, and are now working the show. Kyanite is used for hardening, and I believe will stand any blast. The bricks are worth 10s. 6d. each. The kyanite industry, if established, will do some good for Western Australia. Kyanite is a very hard mineral, with a resistance of 3,000 lb. In fact, it is almost unbreakable. It is used

for very heavy blasts. There is a graphite show in my district; and the Mines Department informs me that it carries 58 per cent. graphite and 15 per cent. pure flake graphite. During the time I was out of Parliament, some comrades and I did a great deal of prospecting in the Nelson electorate which may put it on the map. I shall not detain the House any longer. I set out to speak for ten minutes, and have occupied about an hour. I hope my remarks may have been of some interest to members. I trust I have not castigated the Government to too great an extent.

Hon. P. Collier: You were a little nasty about it at one stage.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: I hope it is sincere in its endeavour to prevent this State from losing its sovereignty.

Member: It has lost it already.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: I also hope it will take the initiative in any legislation that is brought before the House to bring about that result. I am aware that a friend of mine in another place was castigated in the Press for bringing up the question of the appointment of sessional Committees. I have no grouse on that score. I always thought that Parliament provided members with their food and liquid refreshments at cost price, as should be done. There is a vote to cover the other expenses. I sometimes think that sessional Committees are appointed without members being aware of how they are made up. I was ignorant on the point myself until you, Mr. Speaker, gave me some information. The Premier nominates the members of the Committees. I believe that should be done in a democratic way.

The Minister for Mines: Let us have a ballot.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: Yes, as is done with the appointment of the Ministry.

The Minister for Mines: We can do that.

Hon. C. G. Latham: These are unpaid jobs.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: Those are the jobs from which people usually get the most credit and profit. I know something about honorary directorships and these unpaid positions. For the future, before the Premier moves that such and such members be appointed to these Committees, it would be wise if he took the House into his confidence and enabled members to record their votes. If I thought the member for Subiaco

should be put on the Library Committee, why should I not bring forward her name and record my vote in her favour? If the member for Maylands thought I should be on the House Committee why should he not record a vote on my behalf? These Committees should be appointed in a democratic way by a vote of the majority of members of the Chamber.

The Minister for Mines: The Premier moves a motion for the appointment of these Committees, and it is open to any member to move an amendment or to nominate other members.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: The Minister knows that no one would do that unless he was antagonistic and was looking for trouble. Would the Minister like me to oppose the appointment of every member whose name had been put forward, and would he like me to delay the House for 10 or 12 hours on such a subject?

The Minister for Mines: I would be quite satisfied.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: These appointments should be made in a democratic manner. Let every member have an opportunity to put whom he likes on these Committees. No-one then would have any cause for complaint.

MR. SAMPSON (Swan): I listened with the customary politeness whilst the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech was being read. It proved to be a well-prepared document, but I admit that it made no lasting impression upon me. I have experienced the same feeling when similar speeches have been read as emanating from Governments made up of members from the opposite side of the House.

The Minister for Mines: That is a reflection on the reader.

Mr. SAMPSON: From the standpoint of members it would be appreciated if the Speech related to forthcoming legislation, and dealt with those matters which they fairly hope will come before them during the session. It is never the case, of course, that everyone is satisfied with the Governor's Speech. I remember, particularly during the regime of a previous Government, when the one-time member for North-East Fremantle (Hon. W. C. Angwin) was in the House, the predecessor of the present member for that district. That hon. member derived little or no satisfaction from any Speech he had to listen to when a Governor

of a different political faith from his was in office. We can and do consider the present outlook to be very grave. I am sure each one of us is doing all that is possible to ensure success for our side. Throughout the Commonwealth we depend very largely upon primary production. Whereas not long since we were able to ship our produce overseas, today that is impossible. Recruiting has greatly reduced the manpower available. The results of what has been done in that direction are very unsatisfactory. Early in July I received a document from Sydney dated the 2nd of that month which under the heading "Dairy Front in Call-up," contained the following:—

There has been great activity on the Dairy Front during the last two or three weeks. The present position is that no further call-ups will be made from dairy farms, while applications for release of good men from the army will receive sympathetic consideration.

That came from the office of the Director-General of Manpower, Prudential Buildings, 39 Martin Place, Sydney, and can be accepted as authentic. I am pleased to know that no further call-ups are to be made. Already there have been too many, and there has not been wanting evidence in the newspapers and in the remarks of members of the persistency with which men have been taken from the dairying industry. The whole position should be reviewed. If that were done it would be found that there are men who have been engaged in dairying, and are now in camp, who would do far better work and whose efforts would be far more valuable from the standpoint of the nation than would be the case in their present capacity. The supply of workers for the manufacture of munitions has made a further call upon our manhood and rendered the position still more difficult. I realise that men must be engaged on that class of war work, but I persist in the statement that to take men from primary production is in the highest degree unwise. Those who have been put into camp must be properly fed, and unless primary production is encouraged it will be impossible to feed them adequately.

As has been stated the dairying industry has specially suffered. Throughout the State herds have been dried off and far too many cows have been slaughtered. I believe the position has now been altered. It is certainly time that a change was made. The difficulties that have arisen because of the calling

up of men from the dairying industry in this State are by no means peculiar to Western Australia. They apply also to Queensland and to New South Wales, and possibly to other States. Those two States are great producers of dairy products. The position of those engaged in the industry is the cause of much anxiety. I understand there are to be no further call-ups of rural workers, and I shall be glad if that proves to be the case. We must have plenty of food not only for our civilians but for those who have gone into the Forces. The cheese industry should receive consideration. Cheese is one of the most important of foods, and if we do not give it attention the community will suffer severely.

The Minister for Mines: Did you attend the opening of the cheese factory at Bridge-town?

Mr. SAMPSON: No. I should be glad if the Minister were to visit the outlying primary producing districts.

The Minister for Mines: I have seen more of them than you have, and have carried my swag, too.

Mr. SAMPSON: A ministerial visit to those districts would be an encouragement to the producers. I have met men who have carried their swags but I would not trust them all, although that remark is no reflection on the Minister. The distribution of whole-milk is definitely a subject that calls for consideration. In place of the distribution being to the individual house or home I submit that the milk should be delivered to depots or shops. People in individual homes could then arrange to pick up their supplies from those sources. That would mean a big saving in petrol, tyres and labour.

Mr. Fox: A very popular innovation, I do not think.

Mr. SAMPSON: I read with some surprise of the action recently taken in the name of the Premier in regard to the variation of the rural basic wage. The rate was varied by 4s. 6d. It was perhaps justified. I think, however, that in usurping the powers of the Arbitration Court the Government, and the Minister for Industrial Development who has been given the credit or discredit for this action, were ill-advised.

We have an Arbitration Court and the matter could have been dealt with in the proper way. I certainly do not propose to give credence to the statements which

occurred in the Press that the Premier was responsible. Unfortunately our Premier was sick and is, I regret to say, still sick. I have not yet heard how the Arbitration Court views the matter, but it seems to me that in taking this question out of its hands something in the nature of an affront has been perpetrated. I wish to see the Arbitration Court retained, and it is no use the Government usurping its job because to do so is to bring about a bad state of affairs. Wages were pegged last February, and the well-established means whereby rates are varied have been disregarded. What has been done is certainly not helpful to the Government and, as referred to yesterday by the member for Katanning, has added to the growing impression that all matters must now be referred to Canberra, and that we must look to Canberra for legislation in order to secure any change.

I ask whether those not benefiting by Arbitration Court awards were given any consideration when this change of rate was adopted? I know they were not, but I claim that dairymen and others not working under an award should have received consideration. Because that consideration has not been given to rural workers something is done which encourages them to move from the country into the city. It is not to be wondered at that such a migration is taking place because those who work in the city are almost invariably well protected, whilst those who work in the country are, in many instances, left without any protection. Consideration should be given to many people such as vegetable producers, orchardists, vigneron and apiarists. All these growers face difficulties. They are all taxpayers and members of the community.

From the standpoint of production, the position is that the reduced quantity of food produce in Western Australia is brought about by the consideration given to other industries. Members will have noticed in this morning's "West Australian" that the volume of the vegetable crop in the United States is above the average output, and it is well worth noting what the position is, as reported from Washington, under date, the 11th August. The report is as follows:—

The Department of Agriculture has reported that the total volume of crops this year is expected to be 21 per cent. above the average

output for a decade. Prior to the adoption of the Federal crop control programme, crop yields per acre were expected to be 28 per cent. above the average of the 1922-32 period; also 6 per cent. above any past year for some time. North Dakota reports that wheatfields are bursting with the biggest crop in the State's history, which must be harvested this month. Ordinarily wheat would be going to the granaries along the Great Lakes and abroad, but the ships are now carrying war materials. The wheat is being held up. All valuable buildings and granaries are being enlisted in a dramatic 30-day race with the wind and sun.

It is interesting to realise that in spite of the grave difficulties faced by the United States of America, that country is giving consideration to the retention on the land of those engaged in primary production. That action might well be copied by other countries, and particularly ours. The United States have already set an example to the world by their capacity to produce war equipment. They have, however, done that without injuring an equally vital matter—the production of foodstuffs. It was Oliver Goldsmith who wrote these words—

... a bold peasantry; their country's pride,
When once destroyed can never be supplied.

Whilst these lines are known to all members, they are overlooked when it comes to the production of foodstuffs and consideration of retaining our workers on the land.

I draw attention to another difficulty, this time in connection with the production of lemons. Recently the Victorian Central Citrus Association was notified by the secretary of the Commonwealth Prices Branch that the payment for lemons would be £13 10s. per ton. Members who are unaware of the difficulties faced by citrus growers will be surprised to know that the best price for lemons in Western Australia—to the extent that sales are possible—is £9 per ton. It is a shocking state of affairs that here the grower obtains but £9 per ton, whilst in Melbourne or Sydney he receives £13 10s.; or 50 per cent. in excess of the Western Australian price. I noticed in "The West Australian" a few days ago an advertisement for young men. The advertisement stated that they were required urgently for the processing of citrus fruits, and that the work was of national importance, as supplies of citrus juices were urgently needed for the Defence Forces and the domestic requirements of the State. Why is it that as the lemon juice and the oil of lemon are required there should be such an enormous difference in the payments to

growers? It is £9 here and £13 10s. in Melbourne or Sydney. That is certainly not a Federal spirit. Steps should be taken to protect the growers in this State. We cannot expect people to continue producing fruit unless they have the same consideration and protection as are afforded in other parts of the Commonwealth.

One means towards insuring first-grade fruit and an improvement in prices is the erection of a standardised fruit-packing shed in each fruit district. This would be a big help to individual growers and would save a lot of money. Growers at present are required to provide their own sheds and packing equipment. A cleaning and grading machine is fairly costly. A thoroughly up-to-date packing shed, fully equipped, could be provided for £5,000, and would be a paying proposition to the State. Growers would be prepared, individually, to accept their responsibilities in regard to the matter.

Very properly the Government assists those engaged in goldmining by the establishment of State batteries. In fact, if such were not provided, I am quite sure that the goldmining industry in this State would not be as successful as it is today. Why not extend the principle and give those engaged in fruitgrowing the same consideration? If it were done it would have other good effects. It would eliminate fruit-fly, exanthema and other diseases, as it would be a simple matter to trace the contaminated fruit to the orchard from whence it came. In addition, orchard hygiene would thus be assured. This is an old cry, but unfortunately it has not yet received serious consideration. The time has come when the steady drift to the city of those engaged in orchards and other small farms, must cause us to think and do something to maintain them on their holdings. They should receive a reasonable return. It must be equivalent to that received in the Eastern States. Another thing, those engaged in the labour on these properties must receive a fair return.

A few words now regarding the Apple and Pear Acquisition Board. I regret that this effort to protect growers is by no means proving satisfactory. The grower today receives 3s. or 2s. per case. That is an average of 2s. 6d. per dump case of apples, a very low price which does not compare with the old average of about 6s. In those days a price of 6s. meant a net return of 4s. 6d., and the amount was paid without delay.

Mr. Doney: The member for Nelson said 1s. 10d., which I concluded was a first advance.

Mr. SAMPSON: The amount is 3s. or 2s. according to the quality of the apples. Extra fancy quality apples bring 3s. and the next quality 2s. In the old days payments were made promptly, but today many weeks may pass before payment is received. The apple and pear proposition provides an example of low returns to growers and high prices to consumers, and I am of opinion that to a large extent the board has failed in what it set out to do. From the standpoint of Western Australia and Tasmania, some marketing method was necessary to protect the growers, because the production of those two States far exceeds the local needs. With the absence of opportunity to ship overseas, something had to be done. Now it has been suggested that in those two States the average production for the last three years be taken and that the Commonwealth be asked to subsidise the fruit by 2s. per case—the dump case. If this were done, it is believed there would be a far greater measure of satisfaction amongst the growers and probably less cost to the Federal Treasurer. The idea at the back of the 2s. subsidy, based on the average of the past three years, is that the growers should dispose of their fruit as they thought best and it would be entirely their responsibility. This would be an easier proposition, and I believe would give much greater satisfaction than the present method.

Another important primary product is eggs. To our poultry farmers, we are greatly indebted. A few weeks ago as the Minister for Health knows, the price of eggs in the shops was about 3s. a dozen. Within three weeks the price dropped by 1s. a dozen, which was a tremendous decline. There was then a disinclination on the part of producers to sell and later of buyers to purchase, and the whole position of the industry was greatly injured. It was a serious setback to the industry. The position has since improved; prices have steadied, but I hope there will be no repetition of that experience. What is needed is stabilisation; we need an egg marketing board.

Mr. Cross: Members would not accept my Bill last year.

Mr. SAMPSON: To the best of my ability I gave the hon. member all possible encouragement.

Mr. Cross: I am not referring to you.

Mr. SAMPSON: I spoke soothingly and usefully to the measure.

The Minister for Mines: That is what settled its fate.

Mr. SAMPSON: If anyone was responsible for the defeat of that Bill, it was the member for Canning himself.

Mr. Cross: No; members of the Country Party!

Mr. SAMPSON: The hon. member showed too much personal animus and, for the great philosopher and psychologist I know him to be, that was a grave error. I regret that the Minister for Agriculture is not present. It is hopeless for a private member, even though animated by the most earnest desire to assist the industry—I believe this, generally speaking, applied to the member for Canning—to bring down a Bill that would be of any service. We appreciated that fact. There was great disappointment that the Minister for Agriculture himself did not undertake the task of introducing such legislation. It is a job for a fully qualified Minister and is beyond a private member, no matter how sincere he might be.

Mr. Thorn: You are not doubting the ability of the member for Canning are you?

Mr. SAMPSON: I have not doubted it for years; my opinion is along the line of certainty. Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria have egg marketing boards. South Australia has adopted a Marketing of Eggs Act. It is not many years since we in Western Australia regarded South Australia as a very backward State from the standpoint of marketing, but in recent years we have been very lackadaisical, very incompetent in our attitude to marketing matters, and now South Australia is leading us in the marketing of eggs. It is also leading in other ways that I need not mention at present. A marketing of eggs Act is certainly needed here. The constant fluctuation of prices to which I have referred is injurious both to producers and to purchasers. When the price is on the up grade purchases decline, and when on the down grade there is discouragement among shopkeepers, who are disinclined to buy. The fact of South Australia having enacted a marketing of eggs measure is very important. South Australia for years has been regarded with grave misgivings by primary producers of this State, because the product of South Australian growers frequently

came on to our market and secured sales when local producers were unable to compete. The South Australian Parliament, realising the position, took the matter up last session and passed the necessary legislation. There are six members on the South Australian board, three of them representing the producers.

The Minister for Mines: Who are they, the fowls?

[*Mr. J. Hegney took the Chair.*]

Mr. SAMPSON: I suppose, if we pursue the matter to the ultimate, the Minister is right; but I do not wish to introduce flippancy into what is, I trust, something of a useful nature. There is provision for three representatives of the producers, one of the wholesalers, one of the consumers, and a Government nominee to act as chairman. The Act establishes closer co-operation of egg marketing interests. South Australia is doing what is right. She has seen the error of her ways. She was backward for many years, but the progress made by that State is full justification for the steps she has taken to improve matters. It is high time Western Australia woke up and saw herself, and did what is necessary to give those engaged in these different producing industries an opportunity to make a living.

The Minister for Mines: What is the idea? To keep up the price of eggs?

Mr. SAMPSON: The proposal is to stabilise the price. I do not intend to be lured into believing that a man of the age of the Minister for Mines fails to know all there is to be known with regard to egg marketing.

The Minister for Mines: I am not sure whether you want to keep up the price.

Mr. SAMPSON: The South Australian Government had become concerned at the decline of egg production. It is interesting to note how the production has declined. In 1934-35 South Australia was shipping overseas 4,435,230 dozen eggs, but for the season 1941-42 the figure dropped to 1,680,930 dozen. A tremendous variation was shown there. While every State under control—and this surely is worth noting—had shown progress in export production generally, those States which were without control had not done so. Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria have been working under egg marketing board control for some years. Today we find that egg marketing has under-

gone a great change. South Australia formerly exported its surplus in shell, but shipping and storage problems have rendered that method impossible and have necessitated the surplus being dehydrated. The position in South Australia will improve greatly because of this legislation. I know that you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, are personally concerned in this matter; and I can only hope, with you, that there will be a realisation by this Government of the importance of giving those who are engaged on the land an opportunity to make a living out of their industries.

At present, when any public building, including railway buildings and schools and so forth, requires to be renovated, it is customary for an inspector to be sent out to make an inspection of the building, wherever it may be, and submit a report. I know that at present it is highly difficult for the Public Works Department to find all the labour necessary, and I think there will be ready agreement with me when I suggest that repairs to, for example, schools might well be done locally. In place of incurring the heavy expense of sending inspectors to, say, Bridgetown or even Armadale, the headmaster or a representative of the local parents and citizens' association might submit the needs of the school to the Director of Education and then if the matter is approved by the Public Works Department and so forth, local prices could be obtained for the work. If there is one thing we have to mend, it is the ramifications and maze of red-tape which have to be met and overcome. The method of sending a carpenter, or an inspector who would have to be a qualified carpenter, to Northam, say, for the mending of a window, for the replacing of a pane of glass or for putting in the ropes which carry the balancing weights, or some similar matter, is so wasteful as to stand self-condemned without another word being said.

Mr. Seward: Three men came to Pingelly to measure the postmaster for a uniform!

Mr. SAMPSON: That is another illustration of bowing down to and worshipping red-tape. The headmaster, or a representative of the parents and citizens' association, could do all that is necessary; and thereby a great deal of money would be saved. The Minister for Works, I feel sure, will give this suggestion his blessing and adopt it; and I can only hope that the wretched

principle or policy which now applies has not been so long in existence that it is impossible to root it out, and do what would be done if the public property concerned were the Minister's private property or my property. Members themselves would not be guilty of such shocking wastefulness. And so, as I have said, we must try to rise superior to the old red-tape barricade and do the job at lower cost. I could give details with regard to repairs of schools and the attendant cost of unnecessary inspection, but I do not know that there is any need for it and, in addition, I do not wish to say anything which might cast personal reflections on teachers at schools where a management policy as suggested by me would be helpful to all concerned.

The Minister for Mines: You would not suggest that many teachers were carpenters?

Mr. SAMPSON: No. I am afraid the Minister did not quite hear what I said. My statement was that the head teacher, or a representative of the local parents and citizens' association, might obtain prices from some local carpenter, a qualified tradesman, and have the work done. I take it the carpenter would report what the price would be, and he could then be instructed by the Education Department without the shocking waste of time and money and the shocking annoyance and trials generally which have to be put up with, all having the effect of involving months of time in carrying out little repairs that could well be effected at comparatively slight expense. If we can do something to eliminate the evils of circumlocution and red-tape so deeply rooted in this State, we shall have done something with which we may be justly pleased.

On motion by Mrs. Cardell-Oliver, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 4.21 p.m.

Legislative Council.

Tuesday, 18th August, 1942.

	PAGE
Leave of absence	202
Chairmen (Temporary) of Committees	202
Address-in-reply, seventh day	202
Adjournment, special	210

The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

On motion by the Chief Secretary, leave of absence for the remainder of the session granted to Hon. G. Fraser (West) on the ground of his enlistment in the R.A.A.F.

On motion by Hon. V. Hamersley, leave of absence for six consecutive sittings granted to Hon. C. F. Baxter (East) on the ground of ill-health.

CHAIRMEN (TEMPORARY) OF COMMITTEES.

The PRESIDENT: I have to announce that in accordance with the Standing Orders I have appointed as temporary Chairmen of Committees for the current session the following members:—Hon. V. Hamersley, Hon. H. Seddon, and Hon. W. R. Hall.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Seventh Day.

Debate resumed from the 13th August.

HON. F. E. GIBSON (Metropolitan-Suburban) [2.22]: Before addressing myself to the Speech delivered at the opening of Parliament by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, I desire to express my thanks for the very cordial reception accorded to Mr. Cornish and myself on taking our seats in this House. For years it has been my privilege to enjoy the friendship of many members of this Chamber and I sincerely hope that I shall continue to merit that friendship. With the tributes paid by the Chief Secretary and others to the memory of the late Hon. James Macfarlane I should like to be associated. I was acquainted with him for many years and was aware of his worth to the State. I know the loss the community has suffered through his passing.