

sown is 42 acres, and the number of cows carried averages four per holding. On Group 12 there are 20 holdings retained. The average expenditure, including stock and equipment, is £2,671. The average acreage cleared is 47 acres, the average acreage sown is 50 acres, and the cows average three per holding. I have here a complete list of these examples, but the average is very much the same throughout, and I do not wish to weary members by reading the whole of the list.

Hon. A. Lovekin: But will they appear in "Hansard"?

The CHIEF SECRETARY: They are in "Hansard" now, in the report of the proceedings in another place. I have compared this list with what is already published in "Hansard," so I know they are the same. A study of these figures will impress members with a sense of the necessity for fixing a fair capitalisation. They will also recognise that some body should be appointed to carry out the task, and that that body should be composed of men qualified for the work, and men in whom all parties concerned will have confidence. A fair deal to the settlers and a fair deal to the State should be the objective. I trust the Bill will be passed without any undue delay, in order that the work of capitalisation may be gone on with. The Government are very anxious to proceed with the work, so that the settlers may know where they are, and everyone concerned will be acquainted with the situation. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. A. Lovekin, debate adjourned.

BILL—PERMANENT RESERVE (KING'S PARK).

Order discharged.

Order of the Day read for the third reading of the Bill.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: I move—

That this Order of the Day be discharged from the Notice Paper.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 8.25 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 16th October, 1928.

	PAGE
Auditor General's Report	1201
Question: S.S. "Koolinda"	1201
Bills: Health Act Amendment, 1A.	1201
Hospital Fund, 1A.	1201
Wheat Bags, 3A.	1201
Abattoirs Act Amendment, returned	1203
Town Planning and Development, select com....	1203
Education, 2A.	1203
Pearling Act Amendment, 2A., Com. report ...	1205
Annual Estimates: General Debate concluded—	
Votes and items discussed	1207
Legislative Council	1207
Legislative Assembly, Joint House Committee,	
Joint Printing Committee, Joint Library Com- mittees	1234
Premier's Department, Governor's Establishment, Executive Council, London Agency	1234

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

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have received from the Auditor-General, in pursuance of Section 53 of the Audit Act, 1904, the 38th Report, for the financial year ended the 30th June, 1928, which I now lay on the Table of the House.

QUESTION—STATE SHIP "KOOLINDA."

Mr. COVERLEY asked the Minister for Agriculture: 1, Is it a fact that the motor vessel "Koolinda" on the last trip South again ran twenty-four hours ahead of scheduled time to Shark Bay? 2, If so, will he insist that in future the vessel is kept to schedule?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE replied: 1 and 2, The vessel was scheduled to leave Shark Bay on the 7th October, and left on that date.

BILLS (2)—FIRST READING.

- 1, Health Act Amendment.
- 2, Hospital Fund.

BILL—WHEAT BAGS.

Third Reading.

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE
(Hon. H. Millington—Leederville) [4.40]:
I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time.

HON. SIR JAMES MITCHELL (Northam) [4.41]: I hope the House will reject this measure. Since it was introduced I have had an opportunity of consulting farmers on it, and without exception they are opposed to it. I hope the Minister will realise that those who buy wheat can achieve their object by insisting on branding. We do not need to pass any law to protect the buyer in that respect; he can do it himself. And so can the wheat pool. If the pool want the bags branded, they will simply not take any bag that is not branded. It is ridiculous to pass a law of this kind, which can do no real good. It is no protection against wrong-doing. Whenever a bag of wheat is delivered to the pool or a mill, it is sampled and weighed, and a receipt is given for it, and that is final. If, a month after, some impurity be discovered in it, how can that be traced to an impurity placed in the bag by the farmer? It cannot be done. If there was some "down" on a farmer, an impurity could be introduced into the bag. The buyer of the wheat can protect himself and ought to protect himself. Under this Bill and other measures we propose to say to people that they need not be careful in buying things. We ought to tell them to be most careful. The present Bill will entail a great deal of cost and inconvenience on farmers. The Ministers has said frankly that the idea of the measure did not originate with him. He has had a request for the Bill, and has very obligingly put the measure up to Parliament. In this the Minister is entirely wrong. He should be convinced that the law he proposes to the House is absolutely necessary.

The Minister for Agriculture: I am.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: It is too late for the Minister to say that now. This is the third reading. We discussed the matter on second reading and in Committee, and the Minister made it quite clear that those who receive wheat desire this protection. The farmers could not wish it. Such things as potatoes and apples might be branded, because they vary in quality tremendously. In any case, potatoes and apples are branded only for export; and it is impossible to examine a whole bag of potatoes or a whole case of apples. It has been stated that there has been carelessness in weighing wheat, and that bags which ought to have returned 160 lbs. have weighed up

to 180 or 190 lbs. In that respect it is not more than our duty to see that the scales are accurate; and the people who employ others to receive wheat must see that they get men who are honest about the matter and weigh correctly. We think too lightly about giving additional trouble and causing extra cost. If the Minister said that in the event of a buyer requiring it, the bag must be branded in accordance with the measure, even that would be going too far, but it might be done. The Bill, however, says that even where the transaction is finished by the farmer with the miller, the bag must be branded. Such a law is wrong, and the House would act improperly in agreeing to it. It is certainly not for the benefit of those struggling in the back country to grow wheat. They are not considered. If the Minister wished to protect them, he would say that the wheat must be properly taken care of when first received, and must be properly protected, and duly accounted for. I have protested against this kind of legislation before; and I protest now, in the name of the farmers of Western Australia, against the Bill. I hope the Minister will not insist that we pass the measure. I had thought of moving that the Bill be read a third time this day six months, but I shall content myself by voting against the measure. If the Minister is going to oblige everybody who has anything to do with the farmer, we shall have little to do except pass Bills of this nature. I protest against the provisions of this Bill, and I am very sorry the House has been asked to consider it. There is no good reason for it. Moreover, it is an irritating, costly thing aimed against perfectly innocent people dealing with their own produce, and in 99 cases out of 100 not deceiving in the slightest degree those to whom they sell their produce.

Question put, and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	..	..	..	24
Noes	..	..	..	7
				—
Majority for	..	..	..	17
				—

AYES.

Mr. Angelo	Mr. Ferguson
Mr. Brown	Miss Holman
Mr. Chesson	Mr. Kennelly
Mr. Clydesdale	Mr. Lamond
Mr. Collier	Mr. Latham
Mr. Corboy	Mr. Lindsay
Mr. Coverley	Mr. Lutey
Mr. Cunningham	Mr. Marshall

Mr. McCallum
Mr. Millington
Mr. Munsie
Mr. Rowe

Mr. Sleoman
Mr. A. Wansbrough
Mr. Willcock
Mr. Wilson
(Teller.)

NOES.

Mr. Barnard
Sir James Mitchell
Mr. Sampson
J. H. Smith

Mr. Taylor
Mr. Teesdale
Mr. North
(Teller.)

Question thus passed.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

BILL—ABATTOIRS ACT AMENDMENT.

Returned from the Council with an amendment.

BILL—TOWN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT.

Referred to Select Committee.

Order of the day read for consideration of the Bill in Committee.

MR. CLYDESDALE (Canning) [4.50]: I move—

That the Bill be referred to a select committee.

Question put and passed.

Ballot taken and a select committee appointed consisting of Messrs Kenneally, North, Stubbs, Withers and the mover (Mr. Clydesdale), with power to call for persons and papers, to sit on days over which the House stands adjourned, and to report on Tuesday, the 6th November.

BILL—EDUCATION.

Second Reading.

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (Hon. H. Millington—Leederville) [5.2] in moving the second reading said: The Education Bill now before the House has already been assented to by another place. The measure is for the purpose of consolidating the law. The original Education Act was passed in 1871, and since then there have been ten amendments. Consequently a consolidation of the Act and its amendments is long overdue. Certain amendments that have been found necessary by the department have also been embodied

in the Bill. I do not know that any of them is of outstanding importance, but their enactment will certainly assist in the administration of the law. It is proposed to give the Minister statutory power to do what he has always done in the appointment of officers and in the establishment and maintenance of schools. The present Act does not provide for that, but in practice it has been found necessary and advisable to give that power. An amendment is sought regarding the time for the submission of a reasonable excuse under the compulsory provision. This has been varied by the insertion of the words "or within such extended time as the court may deem to have been reasonable in the circumstances." At present, the parent of a child prevented from attending school by sickness must, within seven days of the occurrence, notify the teacher; otherwise the excuse is not entertained. The amending provision is desirable because, in the country districts, a parent might be prevented by sickness in the home or other good reason from communicating with the teacher. The court should have discretionary power to accept an excuse lodged after the expiration of seven days. Under the existing law, exemption from attendance at school may be given for children between the ages of 12 and 14 years. There have been very few requests for exemption of children under 13 years of age, and it is now considered advisable to raise the lesser age to 13 so that applications for exemption will be entertained only for children between the ages of 13 and 14. Another slight alteration relates to school boards. At present parents and teachers' associations or parents and citizens' associations are distinct from school boards appointed under the Act. It is now desired that the officers of parents and citizens' associations should carry out the functions of school boards.

Mr Sampson: Are school boards still in existence?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Yes.

Mr. Sampson: I thought they had all ceased to function.

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Generally, when parents and citizens' associations have been formed, school boards have been elected from their members, but in the eyes of the law they are distinct bodies.

Mr. Sampson: Under the amendment a school board will be a separate body.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Yes, but composed of the same people. I think this amendment will be a distinct advantage. I suppose most of us have had some experience of parents and citizens' associations. Their members are the people who take an interest in the children and are anxious to work for the children. It is not advisable to have two distinct bodies devoting their time to this class of work in an honorary capacity, and the proposed amalgamation should have a beneficial effect. A slight alteration has been made in the law dealing with religious instruction in schools. According to the existing Act, a portion of each week may be set apart for religious instruction, but the department desires that the law be altered to conform with the existing practice, under which religious instruction is imparted on a given day.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: Why alter the law if it is not necessary to do so?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: The law should provide for what is desired. If it is found in actual practice preferable to have a certain day reserved for religious instruction, it is well to provide for that instead of "a portion of each week."

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: For all religious denominations?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: I understand there will be no difficulty on that score. When a portion of a day is set apart and representatives of the different denominations visit the school, arrangements can be made for the instruction to be imparted. I see no objection to stipulating portion of a day instead of spreading it over more than one day in the week.

Mr. Sampson: Will all possible consideration be given to the representatives of different denominations?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Yes; I have been advised that there will be no difficulty in that respect, and the alteration will make for the better organisation of the school work.

Mr. Sampson: So long as the day is fixed to suit the convenience of the clergy.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: That has been done, and no difficulty is likely to arise. Under the Bill, it is proposed that regulations will be made, not by the Governor-in-Council, but by the Min-

ister. The regulations, however, will be subject to the approval of the Governor-in-Council. This alteration in procedure is rendered necessary because the regulations affect the classification of teachers and their salaries, which matters are subject to appeal under the Public Service Appeal Board Act. The Solicitor-General states that obviously, with that right of appeal, the regulations must be made by the Minister, since there can be no appeal from a regulation made by the Governor-in-Council. The Act of 1889 provides for efficiency in private schools. The subjects required for an efficient school under the Act are defined as reading, writing, arithmetic, spelling and geography. The wish of the department is to substitute English, arithmetic, history, geography and drawing. Of course, spelling and writing are included in the term "English." The variation will serve to improve the status of private schools. The Minister now possesses power to determine a scale of fees for children attending school after they have attained the age of 14. Many children in excess of that age do attend the primary schools and no fee has been charged. Therefore that provision should be eliminated so that children over 14 will be treated just the same as children under 14.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: I suppose such children never have paid fees?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: No.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: That has not done any harm, as the Premier would say:

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: No, but it is just as well parents should know that their children need not necessarily leave school on attaining the age of 14. In recent years there has been quite an agitation to get the school age raised, while on the other hand there appears to be an idea that children should not attend school after reaching the age of 14. The Bill will make it clear that children over 14, while not coming under the compulsory attendance provision, may continue to enjoy the advantage of free education.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: I agree with that amendment.

Mr. Kenneally: That is an improvement.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Yes, and the fact should be widely advertised so that parents may keep their children

at school, wherever possible, after the age of 14 has been reached. Another amendment deals with the furnishing of returns by private schools. The proprietors of private schools are required to furnish the department with monthly returns setting forth the names of scholars who have not made at least four-fifths of the possible half-day attendances. It is now proposed that the returns should apply to children who have been absent on any occasion without satisfactory excuse. This will save a good deal of difficulty and needless work in respect of children attending private schools. The Bill is mainly a consolidating measure. The amendments I have outlined are not of a very important character, but they will make for the better administration of the Education Act. They have already passed another place. There is no need for me to explain the provisions of the Education Act, which have been in force for so many years. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. Sir James Mitchell, debate adjourned.

BILL—PEARLING ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from 6th September.

MR. TEESDALE (Roebourne) [5.17]: Several amendments have been made during the last few years to the Pearling Act, but apparently some loopholes for fraud still exist. The Bill now before us has been approved by those interested in the industry, and has my support. Some years ago, when I was acting as locum tenens for the member for Kimberley, I introduced a deputation to the Premier, now the Leader of the Opposition. We had a representative gathering, and came away with the idea that we had vested in the inspector ample powers to stop any attempt at dunnyming. The Bill deals with that, though it does not say so. We thought we had given every power to the inspector, even to inspecting the books of pearlers, ascertaining the banking account, and entering upon the premises. Apparently, some people up there are smart enough to meet all that. I was interested in the dissertation that took place in the Legislative Council when this Bill was being dealt with. The remarks of some

members there afforded me some humorous reading. One member admitted that he knew nothing about the mater, but in the course of his remarks he led people to believe he knew a lot. He said he was quite willing to sit at the feet of those experts who were thoroughly conversant with and in close touch with the industry. I am afraid no member of another place would fill that bill. When it comes to making unreliable and incorrect statements, no doubt some members there fill a lot of bills. The public were informed that the industry was better off now than it had been for many years—a most extraordinary statement. The member in question no doubt met men in the smoke rooms of steamers, and one informed him he had the best balance sheet he had had for years. I know how these balance sheets are made up. They are not unconnected with pearls, either those belonging to the rightful owner, or to someone else. A pearler can open tons of shell and never get enough out of it to pay for a bottle of pump oil. Pearls are like angels' visits, and the pearlers sometimes have visions of a trip to the Continent. One or two buyers get together and when the pearlers find out what they are being offered, bang goes the Continental trip. The industry is in a parlous state, and we should do all we can to protect the genuine pearlers, who year in and year out have had a bad time. It costs about £170 a ton to fish pearl shell and pack it ready for sale. The shell is now being sold at £180. It is apparent even to the layman that the industry is not paying.

Mr. Stubbs: It is sold for that in New York, is it not?

Mr. TEESDALE: I think that is the Broome price. It is very regrettable to think that the insatiable octopus, America, has the industry nobbled, completely in the bag. With their pelf, which they get from Great Britain every 12 months, their blood money, the people in America are in a position to put our buyers out of the market. They have most of the pearlers in such a position that they have to sign contracts to deliver their shell at £180 a ton. There is of course a problematical surplus that may come when the shell is sold. This shell is sold in America, and no one representing the industry is present to see how it is sold. At any rate, these American buyers first of all take 11 per cent. to re-

coup themselves for the charges they pay and for selling the shell. The pearlers receive £180 a ton, and a wonderful promise of surpluses to come later. I have never heard of anyone getting any surplus, but I have had to make a refund once or twice. This business is all "readied" up. The pearlers may get their surplus, but they certainly do without the 11 per cent. to meet the charges I have mentioned. A member in another place said there had been too much legislation, and that this had driven the boats away from the State. That was an amazing statement. We have been legislating in the best interests of these people, and apparently we have been so misguided in our ideas that we have driven them out of the country. We have so damned the industry that pearlers have gone to Darwin for refuge. That is a lovely place to go to. People talk about falling out of the frying pan into the fire. There are 86 boats working in the Broome fleet to-day, whereas 14 years ago there were 320. When the war started, many pearlers, to their great credit, left their boats on the beach and went out to fight. Possibly they left many storekeepers' accounts behind, and some of these are only now being settled. There may be some wonderful balance sheets, and the industry may be very successful, but there are now only 86 boats when there were 320. The leasing conditions are easier at Darwin. They may not be so harrassing as they are in Broome. The inspector at Broome is a capable man. I did not get on very well with him when I was there, but I know he is doing his best. They have an easy way of doing things in Darwin and one or two of our fellows have gone there. In two years we have lost only 17 boats to Darwin, which works out at a little over eight boats per annum. I think we shall be able to stand that strain. We are not going to panic because a few boats have gone away. The member in another place said he had heard that a certain Asiatic had secured a license for a pearling boat. This shows how thoroughly out of touch he is with the industry. The Asiatic has had a license for 14 years, and will continue to get it so long as he acts within the law. He was in the State before the Act came into force, and is quite justified in looking for his license each year. This particular Asiatic, however, went into partnership with another man in a boat, therefore doing something which is not allowed. The Bill is designed

to tighten up things in that respect. This man had a license to fish with only one boat. This is one of the ramifications of dummying. A person may go to another and say he will put £500 into a boat. The inspector knows nothing about it, and one man can therefore share in two boats, contrary to the law. The magistrate dismissed the case owing to the manner in which the Act was worded. The defendant was represented by a solicitor who knew how to deal with the case, and the magistrate had no option but to dismiss it. That was regrettable for it offers a loophole for that sort of thing to happen again. Apparently the Bill has been drafted to prevent that. The same member in another place said there had been several hard cases where Australian Asiatics had been refused a license. He must have been a little conscience stricken. Some time ago I tried to get a license for one of the best behaved Australian Asiatics in Broome. He had gone through the Christian Brothers' College, and held splendid references from the brothers. He was not altogether a scoundrel. The boy's father had licenses for his own boats, and hoped to retire, leaving his son to carry on the industry. For doing what I did I was accused of having accepted a bribe. It was said that a pearling boat, or some pearls, had been given to me. That is what I got for trying to help these people. The father is an Australian Asiatic, and has held a license for years. It certainly is rather hard that some of these young fellows cannot get their licenses. I would carefully scrutinise any case before I did anything to help. I am thinking at the moment of several people who have been resident in the country for many years. We know they are good citizens and have contributed their share towards everything that is going. They live according to Western ideas. The Inspector of Fisheries has sufficient power to deal with anything that can occur. He can go into a bank and demand to see a pearler's account. One would think that was autocratic enough. It is, however quite apparent that this legislation has to be brought down in order to close the loopholes that at present exist. Any suggestion that is advanced by the pearlers having for its object the assistance of the industry, will certainly have my advocacy, and I shall support the amendment that is embodied in the Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Mr. Lutey in the Chair; the Minister for Agricultural Water Supplies in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 and 2—agreed to.

Clause 3—Amendment of Section 33:

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: The effect of the amendment proposed is that if the law is deficient, the Minister can become the law and say what shall obtain.

The Minister for Agricultural Water Supplies: That provision is contained in the present Act, and that has been the law for a long time.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: Evidently something has gone wrong, and so the Minister suggests making the position more definite. It would be simpler if he repealed the existing legislation and asked the House to pass a Bill of one clause that would set out that the Minister in Perth shall decide everything.

The Premier: Of course, this is an extraordinary industry.

Hon. G. Taylor: And extraordinary people are concerned.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: It is an industry that cannot be altogether run by white men alone, and I do not know that the whites who own the boats get a fair return out of the industry.

The Premier: The object of the Bill is to preserve the industry for them.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: And that is quite right. I support the Minister and the member for Roebourne in this matter. At the same time, I wish to point out the extraordinarily wide powers that are vested in the Minister. It has occurred to me that there is something strange about it in that, I am informed, the boats operating higher up the coast secure a return to the owners that is considerably better than is obtainable by the pearlers under our system at Broome. If that is the position, I do not know why the whites at Broome do not give consideration to effecting some change that will secure to them a more reasonable return on the money they have invested. I confess I do not know much about the industry apart from what I have been told. Does the Minister know why there is the difference between the return secured by the owners of boats operating further north and

those secured by pearlers at Broome. Perhaps the former are subject to the operations of the Federal law.

The Minister for Agricultural Water Supplies: Yes, but I do not know that the Federal law contains any provisions so exacting regarding dummying as we have in our law.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: I was getting away from dummying for the moment, and referring more to the profits made by the white owners of pearling boats. I understand that they operate further north under the Federal law, and they are there able to make more money from the use of their boats, and still have control over them.

The Minister for Agricultural Water Supplies: I understand the weakness is that whereas we restrict the Asiatic holder of a license to those who held a license prior to 1912, they can enter into a partnership with another party.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: I did not know that; I knew there was some difference between the two sections. I know the industry is rather complicated and is rather difficult to control. If the Minister has not received any representations from the pearlers, I suppose we need not worry.

The Minister for Agricultural Water Supplies: What is embodied in the Bill represents the only request that has been forwarded.

Clause put and passed.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment and the report adopted.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1928-29.

In Committee of Supply.

Debate resumed from the 11th October, on the Treasurer's Financial Statement and on the Annual Estimates; Mr. Lutey in the Chair.

Vote—Legislative Council, £1,700:

HON. G. TAYLOR (Mount Margaret) [5.40]: There are two or three small matters to which I desire to draw the attention of the Premier and which I wish to bring under the notice of the Mines Department. Before dealing with those points, I will refer to the Budget Speech, in the course of which the Premier intimated that he ex-

pected to finish up the year with a deficit of £94,298. When he delivered his financial statement for the previous year, he asserted that he would conclude the twelve months with a surplus of £34,199. As a matter of fact, that particular financial year finished up with a deficit of £26,456, so that the Premier was, roughly speaking, £60,000 to the bad. That must be regarded as rather strange when we consider the amount of money that has been available and the conditions in which the State has been operating during the period the Premier has been in control of the finances. The Premier has enjoyed an increased revenue as against that obtained during a similar period by the Mitchell Government. During the regime of the latter Administration, the average revenue income for a period of five years was £6,926,000, whereas for a similar period the present Government have enjoyed an average revenue income of £9,394,000. That represents a very large increase. Then, if we take the loan expenditure over the same period, we find that the Mitchell Government's loan expenditure averaged £3,006,000 per annum. As against that, the average loan expenditure per annum for a corresponding period during which the present Government have been in charge of the finances, amounted to £4,242,000. Then we find that under the two headings of expenditure, loan and revenue, the present Government have spent £3,704,000 more per annum than the Mitchell Government. The Mitchell Government spent £9,932,000 as against £13,636,000 spent by the present Government. These figures are astounding, and become more so when we realise the actual position of the State during the last four years, in the course of which more loan funds have been spent and there has been a considerably more buoyant revenue. Despite that, the unemployment difficulty has been greater by far during the last few years than ever before in the history of the State. That is all the more remarkable when we consider that under the Mitchell Government the expenditure was much smaller, but under Sir James Mitchell's regime, as the revenue increased so the deficit decreased. The position is just the reverse under the administration of the present Premier, for with increased revenue we find increased deficits. When we consider the claims that are made as to the careful financial administration of the present Govern-

ment, I am at a loss to understand how those claims can be advanced. During the time the Mitchell Government were in power, it was with great difficulty that the unemployed were able to muster a team to go down to the Esplanade to deliver speeches on various subjects. We know that advertisements were inserted by the Trades Hall asking for the unemployed to make themselves known. Those advertisements appeared over the name of the present member for Menzies (Mr. Panton), as secretary of the A.L.P. Whereas the unemployed could be counted in their tens and twenties while Sir James Mitchell was in power, they can be numbered by their thousands now that the Labour Government are in office. No difficulty is found now in getting together a large and enthusiastic body of unemployed, without the necessity of any advertisements from the Trades Hall. The pinch of hunger drives the unemployed to the Esplanade to tell the Government they have not delivered the goods. For this great expenditure there must be some reason and I hope the Premier will be able to give it to us. If it cannot be avoided, we should know, but certainly we cannot go on spending huge sums of loan money in the way we are doing and taxing people and so increasing our revenue year by year. We are getting more unemployed than we ever had, and that position cannot continue. The Premier should give us an explanation for this state of affairs. The Auditor General's report, I am glad to say, has been submitted to us to-day. We were informed that the Auditor General hoped to have it on the Table of the House by the middle of the month, and he has fulfilled his promise. Unfortunately, however, one is not able to study it in an afternoon. I must therefore content myself by perusing it at my leisure and referring to it when, at a later stage, we deal with the various departments. It will then be possible to offer more legitimate criticism. The Premier will find that on account of the difficulties that have been encountered since he framed his Budget, he will not realise his Estimates in full. The difficulty on the waterfront must have a serious result, whilst the season, which I am sorry to learn is not likely to come up to expectations, will also affect the position. We are all aware of the loss that has been suffered on account of the postponement of the September wool sales. Mr. Field, of Elder Smith and Co., in a statement pub-

lished in the "West Australian" on the 5th October, had these remarks to offer—

The loss to graziers caused by the necessary postponement of the September wool sales is estimated at between £40,000 and £50,000.

Those figures, I presume, are based on what the price of wool would have been in September against what the price is likely to be at this week's sales. If that be the loss to be sustained by Western Australia, where we have only 8,000,000 sheep, we can imagine what will be the loss in the Commonwealth which accounts for over 100,000,000 sheep. Not only will the Treasurers suffer, but everyone must be seriously affected. The Premier knows well that once an industry, no matter how small, is closed down, or is compelled to reduce the number of its hands, and consequently its output, the revenue of the State is affected. Still, I hope the position will not be as bad as we have been led to believe it will prove. When the Premier prepared his financial statement, these contingencies were not before him. I have no wish to say anything further on the finances, but will have some remarks to offer when we reach the various departments. I desire to refer to a mining matter which, though it does not actually affect my own electorate, has come under my notice by reason of the individual concerned having been known to me for a great number of years. In the absence of the member for Murchison (Mr. Marshall), the person in question whose name is Lawson, came to me and explaining his difficulty, asked me to bring it under the notice of the Mines Department. I interviewed the Under Secretary who agreed to investigate the matter. A lease which had been held by Charles Finch had become liable for forfeiture. The case came before the warden's court, and the warden recommended six months' exemption. In the absence of the Minister for Mines, the Premier dealt with the warden's recommendation and naturally approved of it. I would have done exactly the same in similar circumstances. Lawson, who opposed the exemption, failed by not communicating by wire immediately with the member for Murchison and requesting him to interview the department. If that had been done, and the member for Murchison or I had approached the Minister at the outset, I feel confident that the warden's recommendation would

not have been approved. I have since seen the file and I know that the Premier had no option but to approve of the warden's recommendation. The Premier could not be expected to read the file as I did. No Minister could be expected to go through every file that is put before him. Before the exemption had expired on the 7th August, Finch sold the lease to De Bernales. The case was not heard for some time as the warden could not get out there, but protection was granted. About the 8th, 9th or 10th of August the exemption was supposed to have run out, but protection had been granted without Lawson knowing. Lawson at the time was watching the property, knowing that the exemption had expired. The lease should have been manned, but there was no one there and no notices about protection were posted anywhere on the lease. Naturally, Lawson thought it was open to forfeiture and he put in another application. The file shows that though Lawson made a search about that time, the registrar at Lawlers had notified the department in Perth that protection was granted on those particular days. Lawson argues that it was not under protection at that time and that exemption was granted on the 13th. I am speaking from memory now.

The Minister for Mines: Arrangements were made for protection on the Sunday; the notification had reached Perth on the Saturday before.

Hon. G. TAYLOR: Finch dropped out of it and Urquhart on behalf of De Bernales applied for further protection. Lawson says Urquhart went to Lawlers on the 12th to get the necessary protection. I have no doubt that protection was granted in the proper manner. My point is, that under the Mining Act when protection or exemption is granted to a person, that person must put up a notice on a peg at a certain height from the ground and in a conspicuous place. To make certain, it is the custom to put up several notices so that they cannot be missed. The law says that notice of extended protection must be put up, and in this case it was never put up. The department urge that insistence on the putting-up of protection notices would occasion hardship to numerous people, and it has become a custom not to put them up. Law-

son had to go to Lawlers, and eventually to come to Perth, before he could thoroughly acquaint himself with the position. In company with the member for Murchison I had the pleasure of introducing Mr. Lawson to the Minister for Mines, who took great interest in his statements and said he would go into the matter and do all he could to right anything that was wrong. The only point in Mr. Lawson's favour was that the notice had not been posted up, and that he had been put to expense in consequence of that neglect to carry out the law. To my knowledge Mr. Lawson has been a genuine prospector for 30 years. When the case was being heard, the warden pointed out to him that the lease had been worked by a company years ago, and that to unwater the shaft would be expensive. It was not, however, Mr. Lawson's idea to unwater the shaft. He had found several small lodes on the outer side, away altogether from the main lode which had been prospected by the company. He thought, and still thinks, that he could work those small lodes profitably. I understand from him that the warden said to him, "This is very difficult for you to work. Mr. De Bernales will be able to unwater the mine." Mr. Lawson replied, "I am not going into the old workings. I know I can get good crushings outside the main lode altogether, on some small lodes that are possibly unknown to other people." The warden then asked, "Why cannot you get a tribute from Mr. So-and-so?" That question made Mr. Lawson very cross. The property was held out against him all this time. In my opinion it is something that would not be tolerated by any Government if they knew the allegations to be true. I am only repeating what Mr. Lawson told me; I am not sure that the warden did say so. During the hearing of the case in the warden's court a letter was produced from a man certifying that he had received an amount of wages for working the show on days when it was stated to be held in non-fulfilment of labour conditions. That man went out to find the lease, and could not find it; therefore he never worked on it at all, not a day. The man is in Perth now. Upon his return to Wiluna, it is stated, he received a wire from his people in Perth saying that his mother was ill and asking him to come home. This is the story. He came home to Perth, and the

letter to which I have referred was read in the warden's court—a letter stating that he had fulfilled the labour conditions upon the days on which the case hinged. He now says that he never did a tap on the lease. His statement is, "I just sent the letter because I thought it was to help the man." And that letter was one of the strongest points on which the warden's decision was based. Probably the Premier would have hesitated to confirm the warden's recommendation if I had put him in possession of the facts earlier, when the man's statements could have been tested. If necessary—I hope it will not be necessary—I shall enlarge on this matter when the Mining Vote is reached. Now I come to what is a direct attack on the Premier himself in connection with that section of the sandalwood business which is controlled by the Mines Department. An agreement was made between certain sandalwood purchasers and the Mitchell Government, and that agreement has been administered by the present Government. I wish to say that I personally never had any difficulty with the administration of either the Forests Department or the Mines Department until this business arose. The board controlling the proportion of sandalwood-getting allocated to prospectors acted exactly on the conditions laid down. The people concerned in the case live at Edjudina. After the first meeting of the allocation board I went to the Mines Department and ascertained what orders had been approved for prospectors, and also the applications deferred and the applications refused. Amongst the refusals were these people residing at Edjudina, two brothers.

The Premier: Was that the case of the storekeepers?

Hon. G. TAYLOR: Yes. I had been negotiating in the matter with the department from January up to two or three weeks ago, and had been unable to get any further forward. I have here copies of correspondence with the two brothers. When I found that they had no order, I wrote to them. That was on the 29th January. At the first allocation they were refused an order because they had not fulfilled the condition that to obtain a prospector's order for 12 tons one must have done six months' prospecting during the year. The brothers say they have done that, but the Mines Department's advice is to the contrary. Upon that matter I was engaged.

from January, when I wrote to the brothers saying that there was no hope of their getting an order for sandalwood as the Mines Department were not satisfied that they had fulfilled the condition as to prospecting.

The Premier: As you know, the object of giving a prospector an order for sandalwood is to keep him going as a prospector and not as a sandalwood-getter.

Hon. G. TAYLOR: Quite so. In the end I received a long letter, which I handed to the Premier to read. The Premier thereupon said, "It is a very hard case, is it not?" I replied, "Yes, very hard indeed." Thereupon the Premier said, "If there is any sandalwood to be allocated out of the other vote, we might be able to do something for these people." As the result of the Premier's intervention, an order for 15 tons was secured for the brothers. They were entitled to 12 tons each under the Mining Vote. However, they were very pleased with what they secured as the result of the Premier's intervention, and they wrote to me expressing thanks for what had been done. I hardly think that I would have done any better if I had gone to the Premier earlier, because, to be candid, the brothers did not like to expose their poverty in writing. When I showed their letter to the Premier he said at once, "Something will have to be done." The letter, dated Edjudina, 6th February last, reads as follows:—

We received your letter of the 29th January notifying us of our application for sandalwood orders being refused on the ground that we did not fulfil the conditions rendering us eligible to receive an order, namely six months' prospecting. I now state that we have done fully six months' prospecting within the past year. In January, February, and March of last year we were prospecting in different places. About the middle of March our application was granted for a prospecting area. On that we have worked more than three months, and we are working on it at present. The six months' prospecting forced on prospectors who receive sandalwood orders is nothing less than a severe form of slavery, as in many cases the prospector can only make very little more than his own tucker and feed for his horse; of course, there are exceptional cases where they may make wages by working long hours.

It must be remembered that these men, dwellers in the bush, felt aggrieved.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Hon. G. TAYLOR: Before tea I was reading a letter from Clifford Bros. of Edjudina. It continues as follows:—

Now, for instance, if the prospector can make so much money clear from his 12-ton order that the Government is entitled to force him to do six months' prospecting, without any compensation whatever, what must the men of the sandalwood association be making when they have been getting double the quantity, and in every way being better equipped for the getting of sandalwood and delivering of it at the railway? There are no restrictions on them except that they must not employ black labour, but the prospector got these restrictions as well as six months' hard labour without compensation. The majority of these men are not able to make a reasonable living because the price of sandalwood is too low, so that's proof enough to show that the prospector getting the small order of 12 tons with a penalty attached to it, that he must do six months' prospecting within the year, is altogether a cruel imposition. For our two orders of 12 tons each for last year, the Government took £216 for royalty. The penalty of six months' prospecting is a cruel weapon, put into the hands of the Advisory Board to be used against certain prospectors when it suits certain members of that board. We have plenty of proof in our possession to show that we have been victimised through the powers given to this board, which are used against us in our absence. As you are our member and representative in the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia, we ask you to act on our behalf, and place before the Mines Department our request for sandalwood orders, which have been already applied for in proper form, and all conditions in connection with them complied with.

That is the letter they wrote to me on the 6th February in reply to my letter of the 29th January of this year telling them that their application had been refused. Now here is another letter they have sent along to me. I desire to read it. I desire also to give my views to the Premier on these matters, since he is administering the Forests Department. I do not want to make any comment beyond what I believe to be fair and reasonable, and arising out of my long experience on the goldfields amongst the prospectors, and my knowledge of their requirements. This letter, dated 11/2/1927, was addressed to J. Clifford of Edjudina and is signed by Mr. A. McParlin, the secretary of the Prospectors' Sandalwood Association. It reads as follows:—

The prospectors' sandalwood advisory board met again in Perth on the 4th inst. and dealt with all remaining applications. The following men from Edjudina were granted orders of 12 tons, and I am instructed to write and ask you to be good enough to join our association, and act as secretary for your district,

so as to try and induce the others to join, and send along any suggestions or complaints.

We are struggling hard to improve prospectors' conditions, and I am pleased to say we are succeeding each year for more wood. We have branches now in Bulong, Kurnalpi, Kanowna, Mt. Monger, Coolgardie, Broad Arrow, Ora Banda, Siberia, Bardoc, Menzies, Beria, Burtville, Sandstone, Murrin Murrin, Paynesville, and Mulline, so you see we are fairly well represented. Still it is manifestly unfair for members of this association to do all the fighting and paying, while others take the benefits free, though, of course, in the past we could not get in touch with everyone. This year we intend to do all we can to get everyone to join, so that we can again approach the Government for a much higher price for wood. Should you not feel inclined to act as secretary, would you call a meeting and elect one, or hand this letter on to one of the four whom I have mentioned, and please let me have a reply at your earliest.

I forgot to say that our fees are for 1927, 5s. membership and 2s. per ton payable after each truck is paid for. Please note that it is sometimes inconvenient to pay the 5s. at once, so, if necessary, it can be paid with royalty. I have another long letter to read, one which I think will be more successful in supporting the effort I am making to assist these unfortunate men. It will be remembered that in the letter I have read, the writer pointed out there was on the board somebody who victimised the prospectors. Mr. McParlin is a member of the board, and so I think we are safe in reading into the first letter the source of the suggestion that they are being victimised.

Mr. Panton: Mr. McParlin is a member of the board.

Hon. G. TAYLOR: Yes. From all inquiries I have made about Mr. McParlin, from his colleagues on the board and from men who knew him both prospecting and sandalwood getting, he appears to be a fine, decent man.

Mr. Panton: He is a very fine man.

Hon. G. TAYLOR: That is what I have heard. I want it to be clear that I am merely reading the opinions expressed by Messrs. Clifford Brothers. Speaking on behalf of the men in my own district, I do not think there is any necessity for this association. In my opinion associations and unions are designed to protect the employee and improve his conditions, probably against the desire of the employer; for if the employer were giving the employee all that he wants, there would never be any union. As in this instance the Government are the employers, and are handling this sandalwood through the Mines Department and under a board of management appointed

by the Government, I do not think these few prospectors living hand to mouth in the bush, and getting a newspaper only once in a blue moon, should be called upon to pay 5s. to a union.

Mr. Panton: It is not exactly a union. It is an association.

Hon. G. TAYLOR: I appreciate that. At all events there is a demand on the prospector for 5s. as entrance fee, and for 2s. per ton royalty, which, from a 12-ton order, would be 24s. So the 5s. entry fee would bring it up to 29s. In other words, the prospector is expected to pay 29s. to be a member of an association for which there cannot possibly be much necessity. Certainly the association is not necessary, for the Premier knows full well that the board will do the right thing. The Premier, in administering the department, does not need any organisation to protect the dryblowers.

Mr. Panton: They have their own member of the board. That is one advantage.

Hon. G. TAYLOR: Yes, I realise that. There is another association, which I do not want to confuse with this one. It is for the general sandalwood getters, about whom the Mines Department has nothing to say. They are controlled by the Forests Department. Whatever justification there may be for that association I am not discussing, but I do not think there is any justification for this first one, or for the Premier recognising it as an association in the light that it is going to protect these prospectors, some of whom are even old-age pensioners. I know two or three odd ones in my district. Because of those pensioners, there is now a provision for a 5-ton order. That was not there in the first year. I had long interviews with the heads of both the Mines Department and the Forest Department, and put up a case to them and it was agreed to. The price those old chaps get is over and above their pension. A number of them are too old to work on a mine. The job is too strenuous for them, and is not there even if they wanted it. For there is hardly a mine working in those districts. Those men can no longer follow that laborious work, and so they do a little prospecting and, in addition, get an order for sandalwood. Most of the reefs out-cropping our out-cropping reefs have been knapped by the prospectors. But these old fellows are experts at loaming. If they get any sign of a colour they follow it up, and if it leads to anything they test it out by costeening. As I say, the great bulk of

our out-cropping reefs have been napped and tried, but a great number are still carrying a burden of cement and earth over them, and the only way they are discovered is by loaming. Those men do that sort of work, and they should receive all possible consideration. They do receive consideration, but the unfortunate part of the business is that the Mines Department has only a limited number in its quota. While the department can supply 140 or 160 men with 12 tons each, applications are received from 300 men. The department has to use some discrimination and perhaps it was exercised in the two cases I have quoted.

The Premier: Last year's output was low, too.

Hon. G. TAYLOR: Yes, on account of South Australia coming into the business.

The Premier: We fixed on 6,000 tons and 4,800 tons came in. That forced further restriction.

Hon. G. TAYLOR: I did have particulars of the number of applications received and the number granted. I suggest that it might be necessary to reduce the tonnage to give all the applicants a chance, but that is a matter I shall discuss with the Premier later on. I do not think there is any necessity for the association or for those people to be taxed to the tune of 29s. per year in order to get 12 tons of sandalwood. I do not mind the tax, but I do not think there is any justification for it. Why should it be necessary to have an association to deal with a Government department about the allocation of sandalwood? Can the Premier tell me that an association would be of any advantage to men so scattered in the bush that they cannot possibly meet to discuss questions affecting them? Perhaps half a dozen could gather where the secretary happened to be located and decide the policy. What policy they have I do not know. I believe unions are a fine institution; there is nothing better for men working for an employer, and such employees should have protection, which they can get only by belonging to a union. If I can be convinced that there is any justification for this association I will withdraw my opposition to it. If the Premier was a private individual handling the wood, I would say that he as a business man would want to make as much as possible out of the sandalwood, while the men pulling the sandalwood for him would

want the best conditions they could get. Scattered as they are in twos and threes throughout the back country, they could not put up their case unless they had an association, and there would be need for an association to protect them. But as the industry is controlled by a Minister of the Crown he could have no desire to enforce conditions that would be irksome to the men. As a matter of fact the Government that entered into an agreement with private purchasers to buy sandalwood secured a quota for the prospectors.

Mr. Panton: The prospectors came a long time after that.

Hon. G. TAYLOR: I do not think so.

Mr. Panton: The prospectors were not recognised until the present Government took office.

Hon. G. TAYLOR: I admit that that provision did not operate until the present Government took office. It was only finalised at that time. The whole matter was discussed and hung up for about 10 months owing to opposition from supporters of the then Government as well as members of the then Opposition. The result was that the buyers got about £60,000 of royalty that the Government would have got if the matter had been dealt with earlier in the year. That, however, was the fault of Parliament. Some of us were opposed to handing over all the sandalwood to an individual company, and so were the members of the then Opposition led by the present Premier. It was only later in the year that the matter was finalised. However, I do not think there is any necessity for this organisation. If there is, perhaps the Premier will be able to enlighten me. I have a long letter I wish to quote because it is the letter I gave the Premier to read, and it enabled him to urge that some steps should be taken to assist those people outside of the prospectors' quota, seeing that they had been put out of court by the Mines Department. The letter was written on the 15th August, 1928, and addressed to me, as follows:—

We have received your letter of the 6th inst. enclosing letter from the Under Secretary for Mines. In that he states he has received a report in connection with the Clifford Bros., of Edjudina, and that it is stated therein they have not complied with the prospecting regulations necessary to qualify them for a prospector's sandalwood order for the current year. For that reason he states he is unable to re-open our case with the Forests Department.

I was urging at the time that the case should be re-opened.

But it seems he has not given the full contents of the reports. If he did it may give us a chance of protecting ourselves from the falsehood in that report. It is very plain that the Government are determined to do us out of our rights. So far they have succeeded in forcing us into debt. This we could avoid if we were granted the sandalwood order which we were entitled to. We hold licenses to pull sandalwood, but we are warned that we must not pull before we are granted an order. Now, sir, we wish to show you something of what we have done in prospecting. There are three shafts opposite our camp, not more than 100 yards away. Those shafts are in a straight line, and sunk to a depth of 60 feet each, and are connected by a drive which is more than 300 feet long. Those shafts are still in good order. The drive is also in good order—as good as when we left it. This was a new line of reef. We crushed from it about 170 tons of stone, but it was of too low a grade to be payable. We paid in wages, during the time we worked it, a sum of £200, so we then abandoned the lease. We then started to sink prospecting shafts in abandoned ground south and west of the abovenamed shafts. We sunk nine prospecting shafts, and from each of them we have crosscutted, the amount of crosscutting averaging 40 feet from each shaft. That sinking and crosscutting, if paid for in wages, would have cost no less than £300, though we have not received the value of one penny from it.

There is no doubt that the three shafts connected by driving will be put into use, perhaps by those that are not yet born. We hope they will have better luck than we have had. Later on we shifted down the line and sunk several shafts to water level. Some we had a crushing from and some we had none. We put in more than 12 years continuous prospecting. We always worked at our own expense, and we never asked the Government for any assistance. In asking them for a sandalwood order, the prospector is assisting the Government, as they take from the results of his labour for the 12 tons a sum of £108. They call it royalty; we think its most deserving name is blood money. We have good reason to think that the orders we had for sandalwood last year would help us out. We had to pull every stick of it over a flooded and boggy lake. It was enough to make one curse the day he was born, because, even by working part of the night as well as the day, we were unable to make an eight-hour wage. It is worse still to know that the Government are trying to make us believe we did not do enough prospecting.

It can be seen by our statements that we have done more than our share of prospecting in our past life; in fact, many others have done a large amount of prospecting at our expense. We are placed in the position in which we find ourselves at present through the unwise legislation of the Government, and we may add, unjust legislation. A prospector who is allowed to pull 12 tons of sandalwood is forced to do six months' prospecting without any compensation what-

ever. At the same time another section of the community gets double that quantity, but no penalty is attached to them. The Government must think that the prospectors are a very inferior class of people, and that anything is good enough for them. If six months' prospecting is a benefit to the Government, how much more must 12 years of it be. The prospector should be allowed at least £75 from the royalty kept by the Government from the results of his labour in pulling and cleaning his sandalwood order. That would still leave the Government £33 for royalty. Then the prospector would be relieved from the cruel form of slavery imposed upon him at present. He could do six months' prospecting with a light heart. At present he goes to work with a broken heart, knowing that he is a slave and that he is not allowed the means to do six months' prospecting, and so he must kill time in the best way he can. We are not making this statement at random, nor yet for boast. We are making it through experience dearly bought. We thank you very much for your kindness in placing before the departments of the Government our correspondence. D. & J. Clifford, Edjulina.

There is a lot of other correspondence, but I thought it necessary to read what I have read in order that the Premier, when we come to the Estimates of the Forests Department, may make some statement that will alleviate the feelings of those men. I am confident that members who have been in the back country for any length of time must realise how those men feel. Isolated as they are at Edjulina, they get a mail only once a week and can reply once a fortnight, and added to that disadvantage they are in straitened circumstances. Those men are very steady, saving, quiet chaps. The member for Menzies met them when he was travelling through there with my opponent.

Mr. Panton: I met so many I cannot remember them.

Hon. G. TAYLOR: Those two brothers have kept a store there for years. They have stood by the prospectors. They have been unsuccessful themselves, because the prospectors cannot pay them. They have thousands of pounds lying out, and have now no money at all. I have a letter showing that they have had to get assistance from friends to tide them over a difficult period. I hope it will be possible to improve matters for these people. Some reorganisation is necessary, and I trust an arrangement will be made that will be satisfactory in the circumstances. Those people who were not granted orders on application were denied them because they told the truth. They were asked if they had

been six months prospecting, and they replied in the negative, although they were within a short time of completing the six months. Others who were more competent to look after their own interests saw to it that the position as stated did not militate against their chances.

Mr. Panton: There is not enough wood to go round. Too many men are going after it.

Hon. G. TAYLOR: That is because of the position that was set up in regard to the price of sandalwood. That commodity is now worth £33 a ton at Fremantle.

Mr. Panton: The men have to go a long way for it.

Hon. G. TAYLOR: They would have to do that in any case. Hardly anyone would go in for it before, when sandalwood was worth between £7 and £8 a ton. It is not possible to cart sandalwood 120 miles when only £7 or £8 a ton is paid for it.

Mr. Panton: It costs about 1s. 6d. per ton per mile to get it to the rail.

Hon. G. TAYLOR: Yes. Between Southern Cross and the limits from which sandalwood is now brought, there is no chance of the industry continuing for long unless the men get an increased price for the wood. That is because of the long distance over which the wood has to be carted. The cost works out at between 1s. and 1s. 6d. per ton per mile. Any increase that was allowed would have to be allowed for the cost of cartage. I do not think we can reduce the price now allowed to the cleaner of £16 a ton. If there was any reduction, he would not continue in the industry and pay the cartage. I know the association has not had much trouble in persuading the Government to give the prospector a fair deal. I have been in as close touch with the Mines and Forests Departments on the subject of sandalwood as has any other member of the House. I could not have expected to get better treatment than I received. I judge it is the desire of the Government to meet the wishes of those people who are getting sandalwood, and make their position as good as possible. It is not necessary to have an organisation to deal with sandalwood. The A.W.U. is represented on the ordinary sandalwood board, and the Prospectors' Association has a representative in Mr. Parlin on the prospecting board.

Mr. Panton: There is an advantage in that.

Hon. G. TAYLOR: The secretary of any organisation must find work for himself. He must be busy looking after the requirements of the members. In Parliament we have a House Committee. It never thinks it is doing its duty unless it is looking after the interests of members, and finding fault with someone.

Mr. Chesson: And others find fault with the Committee.

Hon. G. TAYLOR: That invariably happens with all organisations. The sandalwood can well be left in the hands of the Government. It is not necessary to have any association to act for the cutters or cleaners. I wish to revert to the case of Mr. Lawson to which I have already referred. Owing to the neglect of the department, Mr. Lawson had to spend about £50. The case went against him. This would not have happened if the regulations had been complied with. The matter was not pleaded before the warden in a straightforward manner. The property was subsequently sold for £400. In my opinion, Mr. Lawson should be compensated because the Act and the regulations were not carried out.

Mr. Marshall: He had the alternative of manning the lease.

Hon. G. TAYLOR: It was very hard upon him. Not only did he lose that money, but he had to come to Perth and had a lot of anxiety over the matter. No one likes to be defeated in a rightful claim. If people are convinced of the justice of their claim they will stick to it to the last penny. I am sorry I cannot suggest any method by which he can be compensated.

[Mr. Angelo took the Chair.]

MR. SAMPSON (Swan) [8.10]: I am surprised that, notwithstanding the increase in revenue, the Premier anticipates a deficit at the end of the current financial year. One almost questions the correctness of the soubriquet "Lucky Phil." I do not know if the Premier will be justified in retaining that title. We have had a series of good seasons and liberal assistance from the Federal Government. Large sums of money have also been given to us for road construction. In the circumstances I am amazed that we have had so much unemployment.

Mr. Sleeman: I thought you told the Maltese there was no unemployment here.

Mr. SAMPSON: I said that in my opinion the Maltese would make suitable migrants for the North-West. That territory is not being adequately used. The Maltese are white, consequently their admission would not interfere with the White Australia policy. They are also British.

Mr. Sleeman: We admit that. Did you not advise them to come out in large numbers because there was no unemployment in the State?

Mr. SAMPSON: I said that in the primary producing districts of Western Australia there was practically no unemployment. That was true then, if it is not true to-day. When the late Government went out of office there was no unemployment in the State.

Mr. Sleeman: Was there not?

Mr. SAMPSON: The records will prove that.

Mr. Sleeman: You have a bad memory.

Mr. SAMPSON: I wish to show the amount that is now being derived from the land tax. In 1923-24, the last year of office of the late Government, £71,449 was produced from this source. Last year, 1927-28, the amount produced was £162,906. That is £10,008 more than double what was previously collected. It represents an increase of approximately 114 per cent. This is sufficiently serious to cause members to give the matter grave consideration. It is admitted as a truism that taxation of land is in the form of a double tax. The farmers pay income tax, and to impose a further tax on land, the implement by which the income is produced, savours of collection on two counts. My recent trip abroad gave me an opportunity to observe many things. I noticed the comparatively large consumption of fruit and vegetables on the Continent and in Canada and California. I particularly noticed the popularity of fruit. Every restaurant, cafeteria, and hotel provides for its customers a wide selection of fruit. The slogan "Eat more fruit" is certainly lived up to in those parts of the world. In the British Isles, particularly in London, great attention was given to Empire marketing. Wherever the visitor goes he sees Empire marketing signs such as, "Eat Australian fruit"; "Eat Australian apples; British to the core," and other notices of the kind. London is the greatest market in the world for food stuffs. There arrive in London daily food-

stuffs to the value of £1,300,000. When we contemplate the enormous trade that is available, we must become bewildered by the tremendous importations of food supplies into Great Britain. Importations are made from practically every country in the world. Apples are imported from Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, the Continent, the United States of America and, of course, from Australia. The apples from the Continent are poor in quality, but there are immense supplies of them. Under the heading of citrus fruits, supplies are received from South Africa, Spain, and U.S.A., while other countries also forward supplies. From the Canary Islands bananas are obtained, and from a number of countries Britain draws her potato supplies. Even Malta supplies her quota.

Mr. Lindsay: Of what?

Mr. SAMPSON: During my investigations in London I was surprised to find that Western Australia did not provide a greater proportion of the food supplies of the Homeland. Western Australia enjoys a good name for the quality of her products. Western Australian wool and wheat are very highly prized, and the apples from this State rank as of the highest quality of all the apples that reach the Mother Country. We enjoy a particularly good name for our products, better than that of any other country, including of course, the Eastern States of Australia. There is very little to complain about concerning our exports, but I have a few suggestions to make, particularly in regard to the casing of apples. It was regrettable that the supply of Western Australian apples was short this year. We sent some of our apples to the Continent, but not nearly in such large quantities as in previous years. The reason for this was that the crop last season was a scanty one. The market in Britain is always available for Western Australian fruit, because our lines reach London at the right time. I venture the opinion that London will lend money to develop this State and therefore developmental work may be taken up here with greater vigour than in recent years. Our interest bills need not be paid in money but in the shape of foodstuffs. Thus we have a most attractive and certain market for our supplies, and we have the most attractive means by which payments can be made. Last year the im-

ports into Western Australia totalled about £18,000,000, and our exports reached about the same figure. On top of that, we have £3,000,000 payable annually on account of interest. If we develop our State, as it can be developed, and produce lines for which there is such a splendid market abroad, it need not overtax the imagination to picture a fleet of vessels running regularly from Western Australia to the Old Country, laden with the produce of the State. When in London I had the pleasure of meeting Major E. G. Monro, who is the head of the big fruit marketing concern of G. Monro, Ltd., at Covent Garden. Major Monro was good enough to give me several interviews, and subsequently he furnished me with a letter in which he set out some suggestions that may be helpful to Western Australian growers. In the course of his communication Major Monro said—

In answer to your request for a few suggestions to improve the results the West Australian grower receives for his fruit, the most important thing is the marketing. In my opinion, the best way to do this is for your growers' federation to send a salaried man over here, consign all your fruit to him, and give him a free hand to distribute to those brokers he finds best.

When we realise that this gentleman is the head of a big fruit broking firm, hon. members will believe that he did not write those words in a selfish spirit but with the interest of this part of the Empire very close to his heart. He realises that our present methods are not 100 per cent. efficient, and so he puts forward these excellent suggestions. At a later stage I shall refer to the action New Zealand has taken. Major Monro continued:—

The brokers selected should be spread over England, and there should not be more than one in a small town and up to three in a city. The greater number of people selling on commission in any market, the less control the brokers can have on the prices.

It is gratifying to have this endorsement of statements made by those who believe that more orderly marketing can be brought about by the assistance that could be rendered by someone who would devote his efforts to that end. Major Monro proceeded:—

The representative should have the books of all brokers handling Western Australian fruit examined by a chartered accountant. Handling all fruit from the State, he would be in a position to divert to or from the Continent. Account sales could be handed to him or sent

direct to Australia, as is desired. Cases: The red-wood case is liked here, but many apples are found to be bruised. I think if the wood was cut thinner for the sides, top and bottom, this would allow a certain amount of give, and the fruit would travel better. The liability of the red-wood to split could be counter-balanced by wiring. Wrapping paper: There is no doubt that wrapping paper branded with a nice design adds to the attractiveness, and, consequently, the selling value of the fruit.

The suggestion Major Monro makes regarding our jarrah cases is very helpful because, while the apples arrive in London in comparatively first-class condition, some of the fruit is bruised on account of the hard sides of the cases. The flexibility that would be gained by adopting Major Monro's suggestion would be helpful, particularly as he gets over the splitting difficulty in his suggestion for wiring. In addition to producing good fruit, we should be concerned about the marketing of our articles. Australian fruit, and particularly Tasmanian fruit, is unattractively cased. Other countries, such as California, New Zealand, and the United States of America generally, place on their cases attractive lithoed labels. The question of labelling cases has often been discussed, and it has sometimes been stated that this would have no effect upon prices. It was suggested that as the fruit was not sold from the case, the consumer would not be interested. I went into this matter with brokers at Covent Garden, and one gentleman said, "I most decidedly attach importance to the proper labelling of cases. This helps much in the sale of fruit. Uniformity is all-important, because the buyer then knows what he is buying." It is a commonplace to say that packing is of great importance. I am informed that in South Africa the growers have a great advantage over those operating in other countries because the natives do this work. Their operations are practically mechanical, and they do as they are told. The result is that one case is the replica of another. The broker I refer to also said, "The South African packing of deciduous fruits is the best in the world. The fruit comes in first-class condition; claims for damages are very rare, and all South African fruit is pre-cooled." I do not suggest that our fruit should be packed by natives; our natives are not built upon lines that would make for success in that direction. It means, however, that we must adopt the latest and best methods of grading fruit by machinery. That has been done in some of

the larger centres such as Bridgetown and Mt. Barker, as well as at Karragullen. That method should become more general. As this broker pointed out, South African fruit is pre-cooled. It must be appreciated that it is high time Western Australia established a pre-cooling refrigerator on the Fremantle wharf. Some such provision has been promised for upwards of a quarter of a century, and I hope, now there is a move towards increased harbour accommodation, that these facilities will be provided. To send our fruit away without pre-cooling it is to invite disaster. Under existing conditions fruit is sometimes not reduced in temperature until it has been on the water for two or three weeks. I also made inquiries among the Covent Garden brokers to ascertain the esteem in which Australian fruit is held. I was advised that Tasmanian fruit was regarded as bad. I refer particularly to apples, and they certainly appeared to be most unattractive. The cases were soiled and were constructed of wood that showed stains. The whole appearance was most unattractive in the cases, while the fruit itself was far from prime. I was also told that the condition of Victorian fruit had improved, and that New South Wales fruit was good. I am pleased to state, however, that they informed me the Western Australian fruit was the best of all. One difficulty that has arisen has been occasioned by the irregularity of Western Australian supplies. As the result of the short crop last year, the brokers who handle Western Australian fruit in London were compelled to take another line and they supplied their clients with New Zealand apples. That was all right for the New Zealand growers, but was most unsatisfactory for the Western Australian producers because the latter, having established a fine reputation for their produce, will naturally suffer because of the irregularity of supplies. We may recall the words of the ex-Agent General, Sir Hal Colebatch, when he referred to the high regard in which the red-case—Western Australian—apples were held. The New Zealand grower has a big advantage over the Australian grower in that the New Zealanders are helped by an officer who is located in London during the apple-growing season. Mr. H. E. Stephens is a member of the New Zealand Export Control Board and he has been appointed London representative. I had the pleasure of meeting him when I was in London and was impressed with the common-sense view he took

of the business. When I left I was more than ever impressed with the fact that the appointment of an officer having full power over the selling of fruit was in the highest degree desirable in the interests of the producers. Mr. Stephens has full power over the destination of New Zealand fruit sent overseas. He has the power to divert the fruit from one port to another. Members will readily realise that, since the whole market might alter in the course of a few days, the fact of New Zealand's representative having four to six weeks advantage over Australian shippers in determining the destination of the fruit is of tremendous value to the Dominion. New Zealand is indeed profiting because of that. Some 12 months ago, I might recall, the Australian growers had an opportunity to vote for or against bringing into operation a Federal Fruit Export Act. The Federal Minister for Markets, Mr. Paterson, visited Western Australia and explained the measure, and to the credit of growers in this State let me say they were wise enough by vote to approve the proposal that Australia should appoint a representative in London with similar power to that exercised by the New Zealand representative. The Tasmanian growers, I regret to say, were not as wise as our growers; they preferred to continue the old system that had obtained from the time when apples were first shipped abroad. Instead of supporting a system that would enable them to determine the destination of their apples at the latest possible moment, they preferred to determine it in Hobart or other point of shipment. It is obvious, therefore, that New Zealand must benefit seeing it has the advantage of being able to divert its fruit to the market that, in the opinion of the London representative, is most favourable at the moment. I realise, as I am sure, most growers do, that Australia is worse off because of that decision. I hope another opportunity will be given to the growers to consider it, and if it is I am convinced they will not repeat the mistake. When I was in Ottawa I discussed this matter with an acknowledged expert, and he expressed the opinion that the Australian growers had made a huge mistake in not taking the opportunity presented to them. London is the best market in the world for all fruit—I dare say it is the best market for most things—but the care exercised in Covent Garden and other markets in the handling of fruit is an eye-opener. Fruit is handled as carefully as if it were

a new-born baby; in fact a new-born baby could not be handled with greater care. Potatoes from the Channel Islands reach the market packed in fine-ground peat and no risk is run in respect to maintaining the potatoes in good condition. The peat is dampened from time to time and thus the shrivelling of the potatoes is avoided. Imagine such care being taken in Australia! We certainly are not accustomed to anything of that kind. With such care it is possible to hold potatoes in first-class condition for a period up to four months. Tomatoes from Teneriffe are packed in sawdust. Hot-house peaches arrive on trays, each peach in a separate cell. Others from Spain, France, Italy and Belgium are packed in wood wool, as though they were eggs, and in grading they are as alike as peas. What I have said of fruit applies also to vegetables, which also are treated with the greatest of care.

Hon. G. Taylor: You are not suggesting that we should ship vegetables to England?

Mr. SAMPSON: Not at present. But as the science of refrigeration advances, there are some vegetables that may be shipped from Australia. The views I have expressed are well supported by Mr. P. V. Mauger, of the Overseas Farmers' Co-operative Federation, London, who was good enough to write me on the subject. In his letter Mr. Mauger said—

My investigations of the fruit marketing position here lead me to the conclusion that to achieve any degree of success, exporting States must in the first place establish a high reputation for the quality and pack of the products, and having achieved that, must rigorously and jealously maintain that standard, thereby creating a keen and continuously growing demand for that fruit. The imperative necessity for this becomes increasingly manifest when it is realised that the huge imports into the United Kingdom from practically all over the globe, are on an increasing scale, both as regards bulk and range of varieties and kinds, which, the public's greater discrimination in the selection of their purchases, renders the prospect of profitably marketing other than prime fruits—except on comparatively rare occasions when supplies are very short—very poor indeed. And this, notwithstanding the satisfactory results already achieved and still being obtained from the intensive propaganda of "Eat More Fruit" campaign.

It is with some justifiable pride I can say that Western Australia is second to none in the reputation she has deservedly won for her apples.

Regarding distribution: It is very necessary that each State or dominion growers' organisation should have a representative in London possessed of an intimate knowledge

of markets and conditions obtaining both here and overseas. Such representative should, of course, have complete control of consignments, with full discretion regarding distribution, allocation, and time of disposal.

It is my definite conviction that there are far too many direct receivers of Australian fruits here, as, under such conditions, among many important and even vital considerations, the tendency is for competition to develop excessively with sellers rather than with buyers, with obvious consequences. I consider it of first importance that disposal of consignments be confined to a reasonable number of good, sound, and reputable firms, and that brokers and salesmen should not be placed in the position of financing growers in anticipation of realisations.

Representatives of each State or dominion whose products are being marketed simultaneously should, and could, work in full co-operation so as to avoid or mitigate the over-feeding of certain markets and the starving of others, as well as many other difficulties and pitfalls.

With respect to ports of discharge for all vessels, it is, of course, too early, when booking space or even when actually loading, accurately to forecast prospects of markets nominated to be served when the vessel is scheduled to arrive. Much could be done by the London representative when the ships are within a week or so of destination, provided sufficient weight of stuff was being concentrated through the one channel. Of course, many obstacles have to be overcome before such a desirable state is achieved; nevertheless it will have to come, and the measure to which the United States of America and even New Zealand are at present doing this is one of the many advantages they have secured over Australia. New Zealand is making remarkable progress in her export, and personally I frankly admit I like her methods here, which I consider are being proved to be both efficient and economical.

Just a word regarding varieties: most States export far too many, and the sooner they appreciate the immense value of confining their exports to a few of the most favoured varieties (by commencing judicious and systematic grafting) the better it will be for individual and the trade generally.

It is noteworthy the support Mr. Mauger gives to the statements of Major Monro. Those gentlemen are connected with businesses quite separate, and they are two gentlemen of many who expressed similar sentiments to me. The investigations I was able to make justify me in saying without the slightest mental reservation that those viewpoints are typical of those of the leaders of fruit marketing in London, and as such should be taken to heart by Australian growers generally. During my stay in London I had an opportunity to visit the Smithfield meat market. There I found that Argentine chilled beef predominates and controls the market for imported beef. Some

of the reasons given for that are—(1) the superior quality and regular grading of the Argentine article; (2) the low prices of Argentine beef; (3) the fact that the meat is chilled, and consequently is as near to the fresh killed state as possible; (4) regularity of supplies. The butchers of the Old Country can rely upon receiving weekly supplies, and also on excellent quality being available at a reasonable price.

Mr. Marshall: Would not you infer that the regularity of supplies is due principally to Argentine's geographical position?

Mr. SAMPSON: No.

Mr. Marshall: Of course it is.

Mr. SAMPSON: I will explain that presently, and I am sure the hon. member will then agree with me that, no matter how close Australia might be to the market, the present condition of its stock would make it impossible for us to provide regular supplies that would compete with Argentine chilled beef. Argentine beef is sold at a reasonable price, but yet gives a good margin of profit. In London chilled meat holds the domestic trade. Frozen meat is unpopular, and is unsaleable when chilled meat is available.

Mr. Stubbs: Why is frozen meat not popular?

Mr. SAMPSON: It does not compare in quality with chilled meat. I have some notes on that subject to which I shall refer later. The frozen meat supplied by Australia and New Zealand is required principally for the army and navy. There is also some market for it on the Continent. In all contracts price counts for very much. The same thing applies to the Continent where the struggle for existence is very severe compared with what it is in many parts of the British Empire. I would like to indicate the grip the Argentine meat packers have on the world's markets. On the s.s. "Largs Bay," on which I travelled as far as Malta, Argentine beef was supplied. It was certainly excellent in quality, and it would be impossible to find fault with it. I had an opportunity at the Smithfield meat market, of comparing the Argentine and Australian beef. Argentine beef is wonderfully uniform in character. The quantity sent forward by the shippers or packers is carefully controlled. This means that reasonable prices are maintained. The Australian beef sent to Smithfield was very mixed in quality, and there was no grading done. The Argen-

tine beef is scientifically bred. One has only to see the beef to realise that however well done the dressing may be, dressing alone can never take the place of breeding. Last year not five per cent. of the Australian beef marketed in London was first grade. Variation in quality is disastrous. Before Australia can compete with the Argentine, much must be done. It is stated that our liability to drought is one of the obstacles. That is not the real obstacle. The opinion expressed by a gentleman who, I believe, is thoroughly qualified to give an opinion, was that it was necessary to improve our breeding of stock. If that were done, grading would be possible, and the general out-turn of beef would be improved. As the Wyndham meat works are at the last port of call, unless unexpected delays at other ports occur, the meat from that establishment would arrive in the Old Country in good condition. Experimental shipments of chilled meat have been made during recent months. I was advised that these were very successful. They arrived from Wyndham in perfect condition. If it were possible to ship chilled meat direct and maintain a regular weekly supply, it is certain that a big market for Australian meat could be secured, provided that the breeding and consequently the grading of the beef were given due consideration. It is not considered advisable to cool store chilled beef. In Smithfield and other English markets it is the custom for Argentine shippers to clean up the market, no matter what price may be obtained. It is with the object of maintaining a reasonably good price that consideration is given to the quantity shipped to London each week. I am advised that there is at present a shortage of beef in the United States, and that New Zealand has sent forward several shipments to that country. I am also informed that the United States are disinclined to import Argentine beef because of the fear of foot and mouth disease. It is possible, however, that if the shortage becomes more acute there will be no alternative but to depend upon Argentine for beef. Before that happens Australia should be given the opportunity to tap the United States market. Foot and mouth disease is reported to be in existence in Holland, and in consequence the importation of meat from the Continent is prohibited. It is quite possible also that the importation of

Argentine beef into England will be prohibited. Since the disease is carried in frozen as well as chilled meat, much anxiety is felt in England. If Australia cannot supply beef equal to that of Argentine, either in a frozen or chilled state, it may mean that, notwithstanding the fear of foot and mouth disease, the importation of the Argentine article may continue. There is undoubtedly a big future in Europe for Australian beef. The question the producers of beef have to ask is, whether those concerned will take the necessary steps to improve the breeding, as well as increase the numbers of their stock. However good the beef may be, there must be regularity of supply in order that the market may be held. We might ask what action the State Government propose to take. The time has arrived when our cattle should be improved in quality and our meat should be better graded. It is necessary, too, that ample supplies of first-grade quality should be available.

Mr. Marshall: You are aware that the Government have already imported stud bulls for the cattle growers.

Mr. SAMPSON: The Government have done something, but will have to do more if the industry is to make that progress which is essential for its proper development.

Mr. Marshall: What about the individual grower helping himself?

Mr. SAMPSON: If individual growers realised the position, I think they would take such steps as were necessary to remedy the defect. Western Australia can never become a beef-producing country, and the growers can never prosper unless they breed scientifically. Almost all the meat that comes from the Wyndham meat works is of second grade. An improvement in the breed of the cattle is a first consideration. To bring this about, it will be necessary to make a sustained effort over a period of years. I have said before that Wyndham is the last port of call for Australian beef. If the suggestion that has been put forward is adopted, a successful and profitable business is quite possible. It may be implied from my remarks that I am criticising the management of the Wyndham meat works. I should like to express the view that London people have concerning the manner in which the Wyndham meat is dressed. These are the exact words given to me by a leading dealer: "Mr. McGhie, who controls the

Wyndham meat works, knows the problems he is up against only too well, and I know he has the interests of your State at heart. I must say in spite of his difficulties, there are no freezing works in Australia that turn out their products in better shape than Mr. McGhie is doing at Wyndham, and the works are certainly worthy of the support of all growers." It is very gratifying to learn that the manager of the Wyndham meat works enjoys such a good reputation. He is regarded as one who turns out meat in the best way possible. Dressing, however, cannot make up for lack of breeding. Hence the importance of giving consideration to the suggestions I have put forward. Another subject inquired into was the export of lambs to London. Last season a small consignment was sent forward from the Fremantle freezing works. This turned out remarkably well. The importance of combining the production of fat lambs with farming was pointed out. I have no desire to pose as one who is teaching his grandmother to suck eggs. I am not trying to teach the farmer his business, but, as these views are not my own, I venture to express them. The importance of combining the production of lambs with wheat growing and other kinds of farming will no doubt be recognised more and more. The combined interest of farmers in this subject would, I believe, lead before long to the receipt of substantial returns by those engaged in the industry. I have referred to the importance of migration within the Empire. That was in answer to an interjection by an hon. member. A contented people is an employed people. If our North-West were peopled as it will be some day, far more work would be available for others who live in the State, for our secondary industries, and associated industries. It is our duty to take the initiative. If we fail to do this of our own free will, it may be done for us by others.

Mr. Marshall: The first thing to do is to repeal the 1917 Land Act.

Mr. SAMPSON: There is no shortage of land in Western Australia.

Mr. Marshall: There is not a foot of suitable land within reasonable distance of a railway or seaport.

Mr. SAMPSON: More railways are needed to develop the country. Surely it is unwise that we should hold these big areas in comparative idleness.

Mr. Marshall: The land is too far away. It is unprofitable to work.

Mr. SAMPSON: The manager of a factory would not allow portion of his equipment to lie idle if he could help it. If he did, he could not compete with others in the same industry. How long could we stand up in competition with the needs of the world in respect of area? Population in many countries is growing rapidly, and if we are to live in peace we must occupy our territory. So far as the North is concerned, we are not progressing as rapidly as any one of us would wish, and therefore I venture to put forward the suggestion as to the employment of the white people of the Mediterranean, the Maltese, who are Britishers, as a possible solution. Those who express the opinion that the North should remain in idleness—

The Premier: Any number of our own people are willing to take up land in the North.

Mr. SAMPSON: Then I wish they would take it, and occupy it, and develop it. It is an immense territory, in which the island of Malta could be lost for years. It is so enormous a territory that the mind is almost staggered to contemplate it—1,000,000 square miles with only 40,000 people. And here is another British territory, the island of Malta, containing 150 square miles and carrying a population of between 200,000 and 250,000. Whatever suggestion is put forward will be criticised, and a very good thing that it should be; but I feel that I should be lacking in my duty, realising the position as I believe it to be, if I failed to express my opinion in regard to the need for populating the northern part of our State, and populating it with white people, British people, at the earliest possible moment.

[Mr. Panton took the Chair.]

MR. BROWN (Pingelly) [9.3]: The Premier budgets for a deficit of £94,000 in a highly prosperous year. The last financial year, too, was one of the most prosperous this country has known. It is greatly to be regretted that last year our finances should have gone to the bad by £34,000, and that they are expected to fall behind to the extent of £94,000 in the current year. This year's revenue is estimated by the Treasurer at £10,227,000 and the expenditure at £10,317,000. One matter as

to which I am somewhat dubious is the amount of £850,000 placed to suspense account. Are our obligations being fulfilled, and is due provision being made for sinking fund? What would be the result if the Financial Agreement were rejected? I suppose we would have to float a loan and so make up the deficiency. The present position is peculiar, because in a few weeks the financial referendum will be before the people.

Mr. Latham: They will not know what they are voting on.

Mr. BROWN: What is the attitude of the State Government on that question? They introduced the measure to ratify the Financial Agreement, and that measure was passed. However, we know the attitude of the Labour Party in the Federal Parliament. They are advising the people to turn down the agreement, and they promise in that event to restore the per capita payments.

Mr. Kenneally: You do not know what you are talking about.

Mr. BROWN: The people will have to be enlightened as to the actual position, and urged to vote in favour of the Financial Agreement. Do the State Government intend to take any stand in the matter?

Mr. Kenneally: The people will not be voting on the Financial Agreement.

Mr. BROWN: Certainly. The referendum will be on the Financial Agreement.

Mr. Kenneally: No. The people will be voting on the question of the alteration of the Federal Constitution, and not on the Financial Agreement.

Mr. BROWN: The people will have to ratify the Financial Agreement. From the Press we know that the Prime Minister is now advising the people to vote in favour of it. Yet the member for East Perth says the Financial Agreement has nothing at all to do with the matter.

Mr. Lindsay: He is facing both ways: Federal and State.

Mr. BROWN: What will be the effect on State finance if the agreement is not ratified? As regards Western Australia it will make no difference, provided the other States ratify the agreement. There must be a majority in four States. If two States turn down the agreement and four States vote in favour of it, it will make no difference. Still, the position is most peculiar from a financial aspect. Perhaps the system of per capita payments would be

best for Western Australia. We were all satisfied with that. Still, Mr. Bruce distinctly tells us that the per capita payments will not be reinstated in the event of his Government being returned to power. To my mind there is every indication of such a result.

Mr. Kenneally: Mr. Scullin has told you definitely that Labour, if returned, will reinstate the per capita payments.

Mr. BROWN: But he has not told us that he will give us the 25s. per head.

Mr. Kenneally: Yes. He is pledged to that.

Mr. BROWN: Neither has he told us how he will make up the deficiency in the Federal finances, what extra taxes he will have to impose in order to make it up. I am indeed pleased that the strike which has threatened Western Australia's prosperity is nearing its end.

Mr. Sleeman: The lock-out, you mean, not the strike.

Mr. BROWN: Something should be done as regards the Arbitration Act. What is the use of an Arbitration Court hearing both sides and delivering an award, if one side or the other will not abide by it?

Hon. G. Taylor: What do you suggest?

Mr. BROWN: I know this is a Federal matter. Still, we too have an Arbitration Court.

Mr. Sleeman: What would you do with a Government that would not allow the men to work when they were willing to work under the award?

Mr. BROWN: So far as I know, work was always available for the men under the laws of the land. In my opinion, work was not being done under those conditions.

Mr. Sleeman: The men agreed to work under the award, and the Federal Government would not allow them.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. BROWN: However, the matter is now likely to be settled, and strife should not be stirred up again. In a few weeks all our ports should be working and our shipping and commerce no longer held up. Now let me say a few words regarding State finance and our future prosperity. Undoubtedly Western Australia is a pastoral and agricultural country, and depends entirely on the prosperity of the agricultural and pastoral industries. There are now indications that as the result of want of rain the yield from some of our wheat lands will not be as good as was anticipated. This is,

in a sense, a calamity; but Western Australia is by no means faced with a failure. This country has perhaps the most assured rainfall in the whole of Australia. Undoubtedly our agricultural and pastoral returns have been good for a long period. The history of the Eastern States shows that they have passed through dry seasons in almost every three or four years. Here the seasons have been excellent for the last eight or ten years. Even if we have a dry season this time, it will be the first for a very long period. Still, it will reflect on State finance if the wheat crop, instead of being 40,000,000 bushels, amounts to only 20,000,000. If the farmers and sheep growers should receive £3,000,000 or £4,000,000 less this year than last year, the people of the towns, and especially the people of so large a town as Perth, are bound to suffer. All our towns depend directly upon the prosperity of our wheat and stock lands.

Mr. Sleeman: Cheer up and hope for the best!

Mr. BROWN: I have known times when there was doubt as to the harvest and October rains came along to put a different complexion altogether on things. Let us hope for that this year. In ten years our wheat yield has increased from 9,303,787 bushels to 35,187,195 bushels. During the same period of ten years the export value of our wheat has risen from £437,709 to £6,994,528.

Hon. G. Taylor: And still the farmers are grumbling!

Mr. BROWN: They are not grumbling.

Mr. Marshall: Well, their representatives are.

Mr. BROWN: I am not grumbling. I wish to point out that many of us would not be here to-day but for the farmer outback, the man who goes pioneering. I do not like to see so much wheat exported from Western Australia. I would rather see a greater quantity of flour exported. Last year Western Australia sent away 52,132 tons of flour. If we could export ten times that quantity of flour, it would leave us a quantity of bran and pollard with which we could do a great deal in the raising of pigs and in the development of the dairying industry. Western Australia last year had to import £198,000 worth of bacon and hams, and £500,000 worth of butter and cheese. It would be greatly to the advantage of this State if we ground much more flour and kept the offal. The value of our livestock has increased materially, but one

has to deplore the fact that at to-day's wool sales there has been a drop of about 15 per cent. on last year's values. This will reflect materially on our finances.

The Premier: I am glad you are aware of these things. You will understand that it will not be my fault next year if things do not turn out well.

Mr. BROWN: The Premier should be extremely careful that no extravagance occurs in the finances of the country.

The Premier: This is a good defence in anticipation.

Mr. Lindsay: The Premier gets the good years, and must take the others too.

Mr. BROWN: Western Australia would be different from all other parts of the world if it did not pass through lean years, though we have not had an absolutely lean year so far. I admit that 1914 was a very bad year. What has kept our railways busy? The railway system of Western Australia is the only one in the Commonwealth that is paying. There was a splendid man at the head of affairs, and he had a splendid staff under him, and the result was that our railways, notwithstanding their enormous mileage, proved payable. That fact alone shows that our country is progressing. If the Government only keep an eye on the finances, they will be giving every encouragement to the people on the land.

Mr. Teesdale: Cut down the freights for the country areas?

Mr. BROWN: I am sure the Minister for Railways will bear me out when I say that our freights and fares are lower than those charged by railways in other parts of Australia.

Mr. Teesdale: You have done your dash now! You will never get them down any lower!

Mr. BROWN: I do not altogether attribute that fact to the good administration of our railways, but rather to the prosperity and energy of the people in the backblocks. There are a number of new railways that have to be constructed and improvements to existing lines that have to be carried out. As these will be dealt with under the Loan Estimates, I shall not refer to them at this juncture. The main object I had in rising to speak on the Estimates was to refer to a phase of our land problem. This year has been an object lesson for us. I was surprised and hurt when I heard the Premier remark the other night that we must not make any

more loans on light land; that a man had no business to take up light land unless he had cash with which to work the land.

The Premier: I did not say that at all.

Mr. BROWN: To my great surprise, the Leader of the Opposition supported the Premier.

Mr. Teesdale: I do not think either of them said anything of the sort!

Mr. BROWN: Let any practical man travel throughout the wheat belt, and he will find the best crops on light land.

Mr. Sleeman: Does not the Agricultural Bank advance on light land?

Mr. Griffiths: Yes, up to 50 per cent.

Mr. BROWN: I can give hon. members a specific instance to prove my statement that the Bank does not make advances on light land. If the bank makes a practice of advancing on some light land propositions, why should not the trustees advance money on other light land, basing their decision on the merits of each block? I realise that it would be a mistake to interfere with the policy of the Agricultural Bank Trustees, and I know that if Ministers interfered in that direction it might lead to disaster. At the same time, I think the Government could introduce legislation to enable light land blocks to be dealt with on their merits. Two or three weeks ago an instance was brought under my notice, and I was asked to interview the managing trustee of the Agricultural Bank. The facts were that a widow had been left with eight children. The boys were young, but they struggled hard and put in 385 acres of crop this year. The block is nearly all fenced and a 1,500-yard dam has been put down. There are 1,400 acres in the block and the widow sought a loan from the Agricultural Bank of £200 for the purpose of erecting a house in which she and her children could live with some degree of comfort. The land around the farm is worth from 30s. to £2 an acre, and I question whether the land in the widow's block could be bought for 30s. an acre. Yet the request of this widow was refused! I have not the slightest doubt that any of the associated banks would have jumped at the chance to make the necessary accommodation available, but mortgages under which the associated banks would advance the money would have to be renewed at the end of six months and so on, whereas money obtained from the Agricultural Bank is allowed out for much longer periods. I

am told that the crop on the widow's farm is the best in the district and yet the Agricultural Bank Trustees were not prepared to grant her a small loan. I maintain that sort of thing is wrong. Every block should be dealt with on its merits. At the opening of the Cresco works the other day it was pointed out that the description of "sand plain" was rather a misnomer. If we were to peruse statistics, we would find that better average returns are secured from the light land than from the heavier type of holdings. Point is lent to that remark by the fact that producers in the heavy gimlet and salmon gum country do not advocate keeping all the eggs in one basket, but urge the advisability of having a proportion of light country in each block. That being so, I think it emphasises my point that the Agricultural Bank Trustees would not endanger their funds if they advanced a little money to help people on the light land. If we went into it thoroughly we would find perhaps more than half our agricultural land in Western Australia can be classed as light land. In my opinion there is a wonderful future before our light land areas. A season like that which we are now experiencing, serves to prove that we get a much larger average crop on the light land than on the heavier holdings. If that is so, I think the Agricultural Bank Act should be amended to permit the trustees to deal with all blocks on their merits.

Mr. Lindsay: Do they not now?

Mr. BROWN: No, otherwise the widow with her farm of 1,400 acres would have received some consideration.

Mr. Teesdale: According to what you have said, she has plenty of security to cover the £200.

Mr. BROWN: Yet she was turned down!

Mr. Teesdale: There was not much risk about it.

Mr. BROWN: There is one other matter to which I desire to refer. I am pleased that the Government have decided to engage an eminent engineer from the Old Country to consult with our Engineer-in-Chief regarding the harbour extension scheme. Sometimes I feel that if I were a member of the Government I would consider no one, but take the Stileman report and go ahead with the Engineer-in-Chief's scheme. Only the other day I read the report of a meeting at Fremantle at which the speakers said they were agreeable to the Stileman scheme

so far as upriver extensions were concerned, but they objected to any extension of the harbour in a northerly direction. They considered that it should be extended in a southerly direction. That shows that vested interests and considerations of self are at work. The people in South Fremantle have no objection to the harbour extensions—provided those extensions are taken in a southerly direction! What do they care whether the harbour is extended upriver or not? All they are concerned about is that the harbour shall be taken to the south. I hope that when the eminent consulting engineer has had an opportunity of conferring with the Engineer-in-Chief, a definite scheme will be evolved that will be acceptable to everyone. In conclusion I wish to express the hope that our seasons will continue to be good, and that our land settlement will progress. We have plenty of virgin country yet to be taken up, and I have great faith in Western Australia. I believe that the State will become one of the greatest wheat-producing portions of Australia. That being so, I once more urge upon the Government the advisability of making provision for granting assistance to settlers in the light land areas.

MR. ANGELO (Gascoyne) [9.23]: I wish to follow up remarks made by the member for Swan (Mr. Sampson) regarding the cattle industry. The member for Swan brought us valuable information from London, and his information served to confirm what I heard last year from Mr. J. D. Cramsie of Sydney. Mr. Cramsie is the Chairman of the Metropolitan Meat Board of New South Wales, and he showed me some letters he had received from a gentleman holding a somewhat similar position in Canada. In those communications he conveyed information similar to that which we have heard to-night. He pointed out that the beef supplies of the United States of America were getting very short indeed. Beef supplies had been short in Canada for some time, and he predicted that both the U.S.A. and Canada would be looking to the Argentine for a certain proportion of their meat supplies in the future. That will have a tendency to create a shortage in the supplies available for Great Britain, and the gentleman in Canada pointed out to Mr. Cramsie that this was Australia's opportunity, and that now was the time to

increase our beef herds. Mr. Cramsie agreed with the views expressed by his correspondent in Canada, provided the work among our herds was carried out on proper lines.

Mr. Teesdale: By improvement or merely by increasing our herds?

Mr. ANGELO: He approved of the suggestion that we should improve our herds, provided it was done on right lines. We heard the member for Swan say that one of the great essentials was to improve the breeding of our herds. According to Mr. Cramsie that is perfectly correct.

Mr. Teesdale: If they shot half the cattle in Kimberley, it would not matter!

Mr. ANGELO: I agree with that, but what I suggest is one of the essentials. To a great extent the cattle-raising will be done in the far North-West and one of the important things that have to be done before we can improve the beef industry of the State, is to secure the proper supplies of fodders and holding paddocks adjacent to meat works. That is necessary so that not only shall we improve the breed of our cattle, but shall fatten them quickly and hold them in a fat condition right up to the moment the animals are slaughtered. Just as the world has taken more to lamb than to mutton, so the consumer has taken to eating baby beef rather than the flesh of older animals. A great deal can be done to provide the necessary young beasts provided we go about it in the right way. When Mr. Cramsie took over his position in New South Wales, he pointed out the state of the industry to the Government and asked that they should make available a prize of a hundred guineas for the best three steers of two years of age that had been bred for export purposes. In the first year the three animals that took the prize averaged 576 lbs; last year the three animals that were successful had got up to an average of 802 lbs.

Mr. Teesdale: That beats the American average!

Mr. ANGELO: It shows what results can be obtained when we start out on the proper lines. There is a splendid opening for the beef industry in the far north of this State, but we must not only improve our herds very considerably, but provide the necessary fattening fodders and holding paddocks as is done in the Argentine.

Mr. Lindsay: They feed the stock on lucerne.

Mr. ANGELO: That is so.

Mr. Lindsay: How can you get over that difficulty?

Mr. ANGELO: I suggest to the Government that they should take the first steps necessary in the development of the industry, and I believe that if they work along the right lines, it will develop into a very big industry for Western Australia. First we must find out how many rivers in the north can be dammed so that the waters can be conserved. We must also find out which of the rivers has the necessary area of good country adjacent to it, so that we can make use of that country for the growing of alfalfa and other fodder plants. We can go in for irrigation, and so increase production. I have made similar suggestions for the last seven or eight years, when the Estimates have come up for discussion, and I repeat my suggestion again. I urge the Government to secure from some other Dominion or State the loan of an irrigation engineer, who is accustomed to conserving water. We have in New South Wales and Victoria engineers who have been doing a lot of conservation work on the Murray and other rivers. Could not we get the loan of one of those gentlemen for six months or a year? It would probably mean only the paying of his salary, which might be £2,000.

Mr. Taylor: A mere bagatelle.

Mr. ANGELO: We are glad to have found to-day that the Government have carried out their promise to the House and secured the services of an engineer to inquire into the Fremantle harbour scheme. I ask them most earnestly to do the same in respect of the North-West. We often hear it said by people, and see it written up in the newspapers, that the North-West will be a great country for the production of fodders and tropical growths. But I have come to the conclusion that we must try to produce up there something that will find a ready market. Beef will find a ready market. The world is getting shorter and shorter of beef every day. If we can produce beef, we shall not only have for it a market here and throughout Australia, but also in other countries, including the Far East, and probably there will be necessity to send our beef to the Old Country; that is, if this shortage in other dominions continues, and they have to draw on the Argentine. Setting aside the necessity for grow-

ing more beef, if we could get an engineer up there to tell us which of the rivers are capable of being dammed and of conserving water, and if we could get his visit followed up by an agriculturist, or perhaps could get an agriculturist to accompany him, considerable benefit would result. After the engineer has told us that certain rivers are capable of being dammed for conserving water, if the agriculturist then tells us that the land adjacent to those rivers is capable of growing fodders, just consider the employment it would give to a vast number of people! A little while ago I heard the member for Murchison (Mr. Marshall) interject that we would not be able to populate the North without curtailing the tenure of the leases. But our Act allows of resumption for the purposes of agriculture. We have in the North some 40,000,000 acres, part of which could be devoted to the growing of fodders. Then we could breed and fatten our cattle, and they could be kept fat all the time, thereby enabling them to be killed as baby beef, for we would have holding paddocks adjacent to the meat works.

Mr. Teesdale: With no 200 miles of droving.

Mr. ANGELO: With no 200 miles of droving, no losing of condition in the dry season, because the lucerne will be green all the year round.

Mr. Ferguson: Will lucerne grow in the North?

Mr. ANGELO: Yes. Wherever it has been tried in the North it has been a success, although only in experimental plots. It remains to be done in a big way. In my opinion the first thing to be done to open up the vast North-West and get the industry going properly is to have a report by a reliable expert to tell us which of the rivers we have are suitable for the purpose of conserving water and irrigating. And, as I have said before, I do not think the cost of obtaining the services of such an expert would be very great. If the other States could not lend us a man, there is the other British Dominion of India to whom we could apply. There the engineers have been converting deserts into fertile provinces by damming the dry rivers that run through the land.

Mr. Clydesdale: Have we ourselves not such a man?

Mr. ANGELO: I do not know. But there is another thing necessary. In the same

way as I objected to the expenditure in Fremantle of a huge sum of money on the advice of one man, so it would be advisable to have a preliminary survey to determine which of the rivers are suitable. Then we could go properly into the question. If we could get a report from a reliable man stating that we have such rivers, and that those rivers have the necessary suitable land adjoining them, land on which we could produce fodders, then if the State Government had not the money to go into the scheme, I am certain the Federal Government would come along and assist.

Mr. Clydesdale: Why do not the squatters do it themselves?

Mr. ANGELO: They are doing as much as they can, and this is a national work. If something of that kind could be done we could increase our population up there by many hundreds per cent. To-day probably a holding of a million acres is giving a livelihood to 30 or 40 persons, whereas if we had intense culture for the fattening and carrying of big stock under irrigation conditions, we would probably have a thousand persons on the same area. And we must not lose sight of the fact that we have to get more people up there. Since the financial debate of last year, the population of Japan has increased by double the extent of the population of Australia.

Hon. G. Taylor: Whose fault is that?

Mr. ANGELO: And since our financial debate last year, the populations of the other countries adjacent to Australia have increased by six millions, equal to the whole of the population of Australia. We cannot close our eyes to the fact that there is a menace there. Something has to be done to populate and use our vast North, or somebody else is going to use it. The Premier has always said he is pleased to have suggestions made. The one suggestion I desire to make on this debate is that he shall do something not only for the North, but for the whole of Western Australia, by getting from a reliable man a report as to how many of those northern rivers could be used for irrigation purposes.

MR. TEESDALE (Roebourne) [1938]: I wish to support the hon. member, who has made out a strong case. I myself have made out similarly strong cases. When in London I was assured we were sending to

the Old Country the best prepared beef that came on to the London market, that it was lacking only condition and quality, and that if only we would breed a better class of bullock we would have a very big say in the London market. That came from one of the largest operators in Smithfield. For the last 10 years I have been wearying the House with long dissertations on the neglect of the North. I am not going to do so to-night, but I do want to say a little on the subject. Nobody down here ever cares about the North. From time to time we have visiting the State men of great reputation and big standing, including journalists from all over the Commonwealth; yet nobody ever gives them any information about the North. I have read their speeches and taken notice of all the functions they have attended, yet never a word is said about the North. One would think that no such place existed. What a state of affairs to contemplate, when that large district up there passes unnoticed! Surely a country like the North has some grounds for being spoken about. Surely there must be someone who could have given those visitors a bit of an idea that there is up there a country in which 55 Perths could be effectually hidden. Is the North of no consequence at all? Surely those men could have been supplied with some detailed information regarding the North. I myself forwarded about 15 foolscap sheets, and I got a nice complimentary note informing me that already they knew something about the North from people they met on the mail boat. I suppose what they knew was something about the natives up there, and the way they are said to be treated. It was like the £500 prize story in the "Bulletin," inferring that a lot of people up there kept gins. A nice thing that, to win a £500 prize! I have never heard anything like it in all my life. Fancy giving £500 for that sort of thing! There is money for anything discreditable to the North, but nothing for anything to its advantage. In this prize story we get nothing to give people an idea of those huge waterways. We need not ask anyone for information about them, for we know that those waterways do exist, and we know that countless millions of gallons of beautiful fresh water runs out of those rivers every year. Nobody conserves a gallon of it, although a few months later one could not get a drink in the creek that

is left. I do not suppose anyone has ever taken the trouble to go into the question, but during the last 15 years there has been a great diminution of the population up North. What is driving those people away? Is it because the Government take no interest whatever in the North? I am not assailing this Government, nor any particular Government, for in that regard they are all as bad as each other. My chief, the ex-Premier, did give me an up-to-date jetty at Beadon, and the Premier has now promised me another. I hope he will redeem the promise before the elections. It is the first time I have made that remark, and I am not going to weary the House by dwelling upon it. But I want to let the House know that all those men of standing and repute who, after visiting here, will go Home and tell the people there about Western Australia, will not be able to tell them a word about the North.

MR. DAVY (West Perth) [9.43]: I do not propose to keep the House any length of time, but to-night we have had laid before us the Auditor General's report, and I note in it one comment which indicates that the Government are persisting in what they did last year and what has been going on ever since they have been in office.

The Premier: And which was started before we came into office. I know to what you are going to refer.

MR. DAVY: What I am going to refer to was not started before this Government came into office.

The Premier: Then perhaps I am thinking of another fault.

MR. DAVY: I find that in the Auditor General's report for last year attention is called to the fact that from the beginning of the time this Government came into office revenue has profited out of the 1 per cent. money. The Auditor General's report for last year called attention to the fact that in their first year of office the estimated gain to revenue by a process of charging loan fund this cheap money at the full rate per cent. and debiting it at 1 per cent. resulted in a net gain to revenue—which I think no one will suggest gave a true idea of the position—of £19,000 odd, and in the next year of £29,000 odd, and in the following year of £59,000 odd, and last year of £103,000 odd. This year we find—I had expected it would be even more since it

it has been going up and up—it has now got back to £25,000. The Premier estimated a surplus of some £34,000 a year ago, and got a deficit of about £26,000. The comment of the Auditor General—it was impossible for anyone to work it out without the figures he had available—shows that the deficit for last year should have been £26,000 plus £25,000, a total of £51,000, just considering that item alone. I suggest to members that the time has come when we ought really to show our figures in a way to give the true position. I do not think the Premier himself would suggest that at present we are making a profit out of the one per cent. money. Yet year by year certain portion of the cheap money—the difference between one per cent. and the rate of five or six per cent. charged—is credited to revenue. Until we really inform ourselves of the position, and how we arrive at the surplus or deficit as the case may be, we shall not be in a position to face our obligations and take the proper steps to square the ledger. Whether in the estimate the Premier gave us a few days ago he has taken into account an intention of again enabling revenue to profit in this manner, we do not know. We did not know last year, and it was impossible until we got the Auditor General's report to find out whether it had been done. We could not tell by an examination of the Budget figures. If we are to exercise in an intelligent manner the powers delegated to us, we should have the figures put before us in a manner that will show exactly where we stand from year to year. As it is, the figures presented to us year after year are very difficult to follow. I do not know of any business concern that prepares or presents its accounts anything like the State prepares and presents its figures, and I am prepared to state without fear of contradiction that any board of directors that received a report from its auditors showing that this kind of thing had been done, if it did not get, it would certainly merit very severe criticism from its shareholders if they were able to follow and appreciate what had been done. I suggest it is time we revolutionised our book-keeping methods and methods of presenting accounts to the House and to the public generally.

MR. GRIFFITHS (Avon) [9.48]: I do not intend to prolong the debate to any extent, but I wish to say a few words before

the general discussion on the Estimates is finally closed. Coming in at the tail-end when most of the important things have been said, one is in quite a good position. The finances have been dealt with fully by the Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of the Country Party, and other members on this side of the House. One thing that strikes me is that to get an intelligent idea of the Estimates or to be able to understand them at all is almost impossible for any layman. There are four documents to peruse and a man would need a month or so to study them. What with the Estimates of revenue and expenditure, the Auditor General's report, the public accounts, and the general review of the finances, it is really impossible for the ordinary man to grasp it all. As to the mass of figures presented one hears outside the House talk of such things as has been mentioned by the member for West Perth, with the comment that Parliament does not wish the public to understand the figures.

The Premier: If the public outside have been talking in that way, they must have anticipated what you were going to say.

MR. GRIFFITHS: Such things are said and the Premier knows it as well as I do. The people say that we put up a mass of figures and try to obscure the real position so that no one can understand it. That sort of thing is repeatedly said. When we hear statements by members that certain sums of money have not been allocated to the right accounts and that revenue has been swollen to make it appear better than it is, how can the public possibly ascertain the financial position? More than that I do not wish to say regarding the financial part. Let me refer to the season's prospects and their probable effect on the finances. A harvest of 40,000,000 bushels was forecast for this season. The member for Pingelly said the harvest was likely to be nearer 25,000,000 than 40,000,000 bushels. Such a reduction is going to have an appalling effect on the railway revenue, and other activities connected with the railways will likewise be detrimentally affected. The member for Toodyay the other night stressed a matter deserving of special emphasis by anyone interested in the development of agriculture. He pointed out what was taking place in the newer areas and suggested that the Agricultural Bank should assist in preventing bad farming methods from being adopted on the newer lands. The Agricultural Bank should make it possible for new

settlers to receive such assistance as would enable them to put land under fallow in the first year, instead of gambling as they are doing to-day. Sometimes the gambling in the first instance turns out successfully, and perhaps it is unfortunate for the settler in the long run that it should be successful. Many of the new areas in the Yilgarn district, particularly around Southern Cross and Bullfinch, returned phenomenal crops last year, although they had been put in very roughly. Many of those settlers have gone nap on the same system this year and they will be badly in the soup. I learn that the recent rain will improve the position somewhat. Most of the rain passed through the Yilgarn district and portion of the Avon electorate, but did not extend over the whole of the wheat belt. While referring to the newer country, I wish to revert to a certain matter that I urged in this Chamber when the Lake Brown-Bullfinch railway was being discussed. I pointed out distinctly that the railway was being taken through a large stretch of country that could be rightly described as semi-pastoral. I have gone to the trouble to obtain figures to show that when I advanced the claim that the railway should be run through areas that were properly farming areas, I was fully justified in my contention. I stated that there were large areas of 4,000 to 5,000 acres to be traversed by the railways. As a matter of fact, there are 15 blocks in sheets 1 and 2, Geelakin, of over 4,000 acres, the largest being 4,905 and 4,847. There are 12 blocks between 3,000 and 4,000 acres, 26 blocks between 2,000 and 3,000 acres and 24 blocks between 1,000 and 2,000 acres.

Mr. Corboy: How many under 1,000?

Mr. GRIFFITHS: On sheet 1 there are nine blocks of 1,000 acres and six blocks of less than 1,000 acres. On sheet 2 there are 10 blocks of 1,000 acres and 7 blocks of less than 1,000 acres. Two of the latter blocks, I believe, are of 500 acres only.

Mr. Corboy: How many blocks are there of 1,000 acres and under on the sheet east of that?

Mr. GRIFFITHS: Sheets 1 and 2 cover a big stretch of that railway.

Mr. Corboy: No.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: Yes.

Mr. Corboy: They do not even take in the agricultural country.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: That proves my contention at the time. I was flatly contradicted when I said there were blocks of 4,000 acres and over. I wish to make it

clear that there are 15 blocks of 4,000 to 5,000 acres each.

Hon. G. Taylor: They are big tracts of country.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: I have a reason for bringing this matter forward to-night. I am endeavouring to get the Minister for Lands to visit that area with me. He has promised to do so, but unfortunately his health has broken down and he cannot do so at present. I wanted to get him to investigate the position of the settlers on those areas. The Department of Agriculture has informed us that the areas are too large for a man without capital to develop. I have figures before me showing that the Agricultural Bank will consider advances on 14 of the blocks. Some of the men will get 75 per cent. under No. 2 zone conditions, and there are others that will get No. 2 zone conditions, but there are 12 blocks on which no advance will be made. Men who have taken up those blocks have been battling on, but their position is impossible, and some of the blocks have been abandoned. I wanted the Minister to see what could be done for the settlers in those areas. I should like to bring under the Premier's notice a cordial invitation extended by the Yorkrakin race club to him to attend the race meeting there next week when the people would like to interview him about the construction of the Yarramongy railway.

Mr. Teesdale: Now you have done yourself in.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: If the Premier can manage to attend, I am sure he will be only too glad to do so. I can assure him that he will have a good time.

The Minister for Works: If he went up there I am afraid they would put him on to a "dead-un."

Mr. GRIFFITHS: I do not think so. There are a lot of items upon which I intend to speak when they come under consideration, but on the general discussion I have nothing more to add.

[Mr. Lutey took the Chair.]

MR. LATHAM (York) [10.0]: The discussion to-night has been mainly upon the balance sheet of the State's finances. From a superficial glance at the balance sheet it may seem that everything is satisfactory. I regret that very little opportunity has been given to members to check the balance sheet with the Auditor General's report and the

Public Accounts, which were presented to the House to-night. I know the Premier is not responsible for the time when the Auditor General's report comes down, for that officer is a servant of Parliament and not of the Government. The Premier showed that the deficit last year was £26,466. When we examine the Auditor General's report, Appendix 4, we find that accounts amounting to £29,761 were not paid, and ought to have been charged against last year's revenue.

The Premier: That is the regular thing every year. The accounts had not come in up to the end of the year. You will find that sort of entry over the last 20 years.

Mr. LATHAM: If that is so, it is all right.

The Premier: Those are cases where the accounts have not come in by the end of the month.

Mr. Davy: In many cases no explanation is given.

Mr. LATHAM: It is a considerable sum of money, and makes the total deficit for the year £56,000. The probability is that the matter will adjust itself.

The Premier: It is adjusted, one year with the other.

Mr. LATHAM: With regard to interest charged against loans, I do not know how the Premier will explain the entry on page 6 of the Auditor General's report. He says that the interest on expenditure is charged to loan fund and credited to revenue fund, and he sets out different items amounting to £316,507.

The Premier: That is a principle which has been adopted for years.

Mr. Davy: The money comes in on one side and goes out on the other.

Mr. LATHAM: We are taking money from Loan Fund, and building up our revenue account from it. The report goes on to state that the Treasurer has also excluded a sum of £1,201,000, which is charged against groups, concerning which a debit is evidently going to be made against these unsatisfactory properties. There is also a sum of £110,000 in the case of the Peel Estate.

The Premier: Interest only on the estimated value has been taken in, and not on the total expenditure. The £1,201,000 has been excluded because this is regarded as loan money.

Mr. LATHAM: But interest has to be met out of revenue.

The Premier: It is a proper charge.

Mr. LATHAM: Everything in the garden is not as lovely as the balance sheet would seem to make out. I do not propose to delve too deeply into those accounts, because I have not yet had the opportunity to do so.

The Premier: The interest is only £110,000 on the Peel Estate, where over half a million pounds has been expended.

Mr. LATHAM: In the first case the Auditor General showed a sum of £316,507, and in addition a sum of £1,201,000 which is not a charge against anything from which we can get interest. Besides that, there is a sum of £110,000 charged against the Peel Estate.

The Premier: Well?

Mr. LATHAM: The people have to make good that interest.

The Premier: Of course they have. Do you say they should not pay interest?

Mr. LATHAM: No, but we do not appear to have shown that in our accounts as submitted through the Estimates. This money will have to come out of revenue, though it is not interest-earning. It is not clear whether this has been charged or not.

The Premier: It is not taken on the total expenditure.

Mr. LATHAM: How long are we going to make this charge against loan funds? There must be a day of adjustment.

The Premier: When loan funds cease to be expended on the work.

Mr. LATHAM: Then we will capitalise the whole thing, and revenue will have to provide the interest. We have passed through a fairly prosperous time. In times like that a good Government ought to set aside a reserve fund for the lean period. Very little has been done in this State in that respect. This year the revenue may be fairly buoyant, but next year it is probable there will be a reduction, and the Premier may find it difficult to balance his expenditure with his revenue.

The Premier: You mean that in a good year we ought to carry over a surplus?

Mr. LATHAM: That is so. If we cannot do it in good times, how can we do it in bad times?

The Premier: Any amount that is a surplus over £50,000 has, under the Act, to go towards the redemption of loans.

Mr. LATHAM: Our accumulated deficit is piling up all the time. If we were reducing our deficit, I would have no com-

plaint to make. We are passing through prosperous times. That has been the case for the last two years, but there must be a day when we shall not have so much revenue. We will have to face a dry period and a needy period. Our markets will not be as available to us as they are to-day. In those periods I am afraid the Treasurer will have difficulty in getting enough money from the taxpayers to enable him to pay his way.

The Premier: I quite agree. If I did not turn down expenditure every day I would have a deficit of a million.

Mr. LATHAM: I am not complaining of the Treasurer.

The Premier: The expenditure is necessarily tremendous.

Mr. LATHAM: The sooner people realise that every pound that comes out of the Treasury has to be put back, the better it will be for them.

The Premier: I agree that people want to spend too much money.

Mr. LATHAM: If borrowed money were always spent on reproductive work, the position would be somewhat relieved. I am going to make one or two suggestions whereby the Premier may be assisted to get better value for the State's money. I suppose the Premier will say the first suggestion is opposed to the policy of the party he represents, but it was the people of the State who sent him here. I suggest we would get greater value for our money if we did all our public work by contract. Every part of that work should be done by contract. If necessary, let us have petty contracts so that a man shall receive only what he earns. A system such as that would give us better value for the money we spend on public works. The second suggestion is this. To-day the State is called upon to find almost the whole of the money needed for the development of our primary and also our secondary industries. When I was abroad it was brought home to me that there was a good deal of money available for investment in Western Australia if we could assure the possible lenders that there would be no industrial trouble. The Minister for Works, I am sure, has heard the same thing. I am not going to say one unkind word of the Labour Party, but the probability is that we could bring about a better feeling between employers by abolishing the Arbitration Court.

Mr. Panton: Rats!

Mr. LATHAM: The hon. member may say "Rats" if he likes.

Mr. Panton: We would have ten strikes for one that we have now.

Mr. LATHAM: I think the hon. member will agree with me when I have said all I have to say. If employers and employees were permitted to meet at a table and discuss their various industries, agreement would much more readily result.

Mr. Panton: There is nothing to prevent them from doing that now, and it is done every day in the week.

Mr. LATHAM: It is done in some industries, and it is a wise policy.

Mr. Marshall: They can all do it.

Mr. LATHAM: Perhaps the Minister for Labour can explain why they do not all do it.

The Minister for Works: I cannot.

Mr. LATHAM: Neither can I. Two remedies are provided, and in my opinion the Arbitration Court is used when there is a belief that an opportunity presents itself to get something more than they are entitled to receive. Very often, when the award is against them, they are not prepared to abide by it, and the whole industry is thrown out. In such countries as Canada and the United States, where, and especially in the latter, there is an immense deal of industrial work, there are fewer disputes than here.

The Minister for Works: That is nonsense.

Mr. Panton: It is not so according to statistics.

Mr. LATHAM: It is just a matter of opinion.

Mr. Panton: It is not a matter of opinion, but of statistics.

Mr. LATHAM: I do not know where the hon. member gets his statistics.

Mr. Panton: You can look them up.

Mr. LATHAM: In Canada and the United States I was assured that the easiest way to obtain satisfaction for both sides was to hold round-table conferences. I sincerely hope that we shall not have a recurrence of the last strike. Instead of presidents of the Arbitration Court, we should have men who know something about the industry to meet employers and employees. In that way, I am sure, a better feeling and a better frame of mind would be brought

about. As soon as we can satisfy the people overseas that we are prepared to proceed on such lines, the Treasurer will be relieved of the necessity of going on the London money market so frequently. I am saying what I know is a positive fact, and I sincerely trust that our Labour leaders will try to bring about the good feeling I have indicated. However, I shall not isolate them in making that remark, but will express the hope that the employers will be equally ready to meet the other side.

Mr. Kenneally: That is all right after attacking the Labour people.

Mr. LATHAM: I wish the hon. member interjecting would be a little generous at times. I had no intention of making any accusations whatever against the employees, any more than against the Labour party. All I am concerned about is that we get the money available overseas for investment here, and thus relieve our Treasurer from the necessity of approaching the London money market so often as has been the case. I have no other purpose. I have no axe to grind.

Mr. Teesdale: We do not want Yankees here, or their money either. It is filthy, dirty money. It is a disgrace to us to take their money. We had to take it, because we could not help ourselves.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. LATHAM: Every hon. member is entitled to his opinion.

Mr. Teesdale: I am just talking to myself.

Mr. LATHAM: In Canada I noticed a great number of new works being opened with American capital. I do not think the hon. member would say one word in opposition if General Motors came here and established a big manufacturing works in Western Australia. We are now providing work in America for the men who make motors for that company. Would it not be better to have the work done in this country?

Mr. Sleeman: You would not patronise them.

Mr. LATHAM: An hon. member must be wearing smoked coloured glasses if he does not see the number of American cars in this State now.

Mr. Sleeman: I am not referring to that aspect.

Mr. LATHAM: If the American motor manufacturers came here with their money and established works in Western Australia, we would have less unemployment.

Mr. Teesdale: Cannot you substitute the word "English"?

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. LATHAM: I will substitute anything the hon. member pleases, so long as we get the money here. I would be glad to see British capital invested in Western Australia. I was merely instancing what is being done with capital from the United States in Canada. Another matter I wish to touch on is the wonderful amount of research work done in Canada, conjointly with the United States, for the prevention of disease in cereals. I hope that we shall avail ourselves of the result of that research work. During the last few week ends I have been going through the wheat districts and have noticed that "take-all" is responsible in some measure for the decrease in the yield. I am aware some means of overcoming that disease are known to our Agricultural Department, but I can assure the department that they do not know quite as much about it as do the research bureaus in America, whose knowledge we ought to utilise. They are also experts with regard to the disease septoria, of which we hear so much when we have bumper harvests. I do trust that we shall avail ourselves of the result of research work done in America. I have to compliment the Minister for Works on one idea he has brought back—the establishment of grain elevators in Western Australia. I noticed that in Press interviews he gave at Vancouver he said that he would recommend to his Government the immediate establishment of bulk handling. I am delighted to know that the hon. gentleman will recommend the expenditure necessary in that direction, because there is a time coming when we shall have great difficulty in marketing our wheat. Year after year industrial trouble spreads in India, and particularly in Calcutta, whence we obtain our jute supplies. Unless we are in a position to do something to market our wheat, when difficulties arise in Calcutta we shall be in a bad hole. While in Canada I gave a good deal of attention to the question of grain elevators, but I have not yet been able to work out a scheme whereby the system can be applied generally in Western Australia, as it is in Canada.

I trust that with the knowledge the Minister has gained and the advice that would be available to him from the countries in question, it will be possible to establish the bulk baulding system here. It will protect our people and act as an insurance against any difficulty we might experience in securing supplies of jute from Calcutta when we have perhaps a very good harvest. I cannot imagine what would happen if we found ourselves with a bumper harvest and the Calcutta market closed to us. I do not propose to weary the House any further. I sincerely hope the Premier will look into the questions raised by the Auditor General. It is important that if adjustments have to be made and mistakes corrected, we shall be given an explanation of what has occurred and a true statement of accounts should be placed before the people of Western Australia.

Vote put and passed.

Votes—Legislative Assembly, £2,792; Joint House Committee, £4,972; Joint Printing Committee, £1,246—agreed to.

Vote—Joint Library Committee, £375:

Mr. SAMPSON: It would be interesting to learn if it is possible to make the library more up to date. It is becoming increasingly difficult to secure volumes from the library. Books disappear and no one can say where they go. Unfortunately many of the books that are most often required by members are not available. I do not know whether it would be possible for the committee to have a stocktaking, with a view to ascertaining whether the missing standard works can be replaced and other books procured.

The Premier: I have found all the money that I have been asked for by the committee. They asked for £150, and I have made that amount available.

Mr. SAMPSON: That is a very good suggestion.

The Premier: I am not making any suggestion at all.

Mr. SAMPSON: I hope the committee will note the generous attitude adopted by the Premier.

The Premier: I did not say I would give them more if they asked for it!

Mr. SAMPSON: Many of the books have been missing for a long time, and it would be a good thing if a stocktaking were held. I do not make any reflection upon the

officers of the House, who render the greatest assistance possible to members who require books.

Mr. CORBOY: I may explain the position. It is very difficult for the Library Committee to prevent books that go out from not coming back. That is putting the position very mildly. The only way we could prevent it happening would be to have an officer located permanently in the library.

Hon. G. Taylor: And the library would have to be locked up when he was not there.

Mr. CORBOY: And if that were done, the library would not be of much value to members.

Hon. G. Taylor: That is what is done in New South Wales.

Mr. CORBOY: In the Commonwealth Parliament there is a staff of five officers whose duty it is to remain in the library and look after the books. Here the Librarian and the Assistant Librarian are undoubtedly doing valuable work, but they cannot devote the whole of their time to the library. Money that is made available from the Treasury can best be spent upon the purchase of new books and upon replacing valuable books that disappear. Money is not available to staff the library permanently in such a way as to prevent what we know has happened.

Vote put and passed

Votes—Premier's Department, £14,491; Governor's Establishment, £2,530; Executive Council, £5—agreed to.

Vote—London Agency, £13,280:

Mr. TEESDALE: This vote was formerly a red rag to me, and not without reason. On this occasion I desire to place on record my appreciation of the satisfactory work that has been carried out by Mr. Angwin.

Mr. Sampson: And by others.

Mr. TEESDALE: I did not mention his predecessor. I was often at Savoy House which has been spoken of at times in a very critical and hostile way. I have not seen anything to justify it. If there is one man who is doing his work as it should be done, it is Mr. Angwin. Perhaps I should be the last to say that because we had a fearful row the last time I was there!

Mr. Sampson: Your visit would not be complete without it.

Mr. TEESDALE: The work of the London Agency is now done as it was never done before, and I do not care upon whom I reflect in making such a statement. Mr. Angwin sees the people who want to see the Agent General; he has time for the migrant, whether he be high or low. He does not put in his time at the Savoy or the Metropole attending functions that I do not think are worth a tinker's curse to Western Australia.

Mr. Sampson: You do not refer to Savoy House?

Mr. TEESDALE: No, I refer to the Savoy Hotel. I know that Agents General must attend some of these functions where financial magnates congregate. I realise that that is necessary because of the positions they hold, but in the past too much time has been wasted, and too much money spent, on social functions that have not been worth twopence to this State. We now have in charge of the agency a man who demands to see people who call to inquire about Western Australia. When I realised how the agency is being run, I could not help wishing that we had the conduct of our own migration business. If we had that right, that business would be done more satisfactorily than at present.

The Premier: Hear, hear!

Mr. TEESDALE: If we were in charge of our own migration work at London we would not hear of people being turned down because of the lack of a little sympathetic treatment. I believe we shall have much better treatment from Australia House now that Colonel Manning is in charge of that part of the work. He is doing his level best and he is enthusiastic. He will see that Western Australia gets fair treatment, and we did not get that before Colonel Manning assumed his present position. In paying a tribute to the work of Mr. Angwin as Agent General, I declare that if it came to a vote to-morrow I would not cast mine in favour of shifting him, for he is doing his job well, and perhaps that is more than I can say for some of his fellow Ministers.

Mr. SAMPSON: I agree with the member for Roebourne. Wherever Mr. Angwin is, he will do his work thoroughly. He has a reputation to maintain, and has a habit of working hard. I think we have been very happy and successful in our choice of Agents General.

The Premier: Yes, if you do not go too far back!

Mr. SAMPSON: At any rate, I think that can be said regarding the two most recent appointees, Mr. Angwin and his predecessor, Sir Hal Colebatch. I am second to none in my admiration for Mr. Angwin, and I have an equally high regard for Sir Hal Colebatch.

Mr. Teesdale: But he did not see people like Mr. Angwin does.

Mr. SAMPSON: He made Western Australia known all over Great Britain because of his work in commercial and social circles. Both spheres count in London, and in both Sir Hal Colebatch was equally at home. I do not suppose any man who has been to London, not even excluding Sir James Mitchell and the Premier, could put up a better case for the State than did our ex Agent-General. I join with the member for Roebourne in expressing appreciation of the work that has been done, and is being done to-day. Moreover, we ought to pay a tribute to the Secretary, Mr. Rushton.

Mr. Teesdale: Yes, I agree. I am sorry I forgot him.

Mr. SAMPSON: He also is very helpful. In fact, the whole staff are ready and willing and capable of giving visitors who are inquiring about Western Australia, good and reliable information in respect of the State. I am glad the member for Roebourne referred to Colonel Manning. I was the guest of that gentleman at the training school at Brandon, where boys from all over the British Isles receive 14 weeks intensive training to give them some grounding for farm work, either in Canada or Australia. It may not be possible in 14 weeks to learn all that is necessary, but it is possible in that time to ascertain whether the lads in the school are likely to be able to stand up to farm work. No doubt the Premier and the Minister for Works in turn visited that school and were equally gratified with what they saw. It has been said by some that the work of the school is of no practical value, but I am sure the Premier would not take that view, any more than would anybody else who had seen what is being done. The lads are put through a severe training, and the boy who can go through it satisfactorily is likely to make good overseas.

Hon. G. TAYLOR: I seem to be about the only one who has not visited the London Agency. The Premier has been Home and seen the Agent-General's domicile, and so too have the members for Roe-

bourne and for Swan, and they all agree in eulogising the work that is being done in that office. Perhaps the Premier could make it possible for all members to have a trip to the Old Country in order to see this wonderful place. He would not then have any trouble in getting his Estimates for the Agent-General's staff passed by the Committee. I do not know anything about what is being done in the London office, but I do know that wherever Mr. Angwin may be and whatever his work, he will do that work in a most painstaking manner, in a manner creditable to himself and of distinct benefit to those whom he represents.

Mr. ANGELO: I am pleased to hear what members who have visited London have to say about Mr. Angwin. Our experience of him in this House led us to believe that he would do remarkably well as Agent General. I do not wish to begrudge the raising of his salary, but in view of the big increase I want to point out how futile it is for us to sit here and pass Estimates. Last year we passed for the Agent-General the sum of £1,500. Now we find that he has been paid £1,750 and that £2,000 is asked for him this time. Nobody begrudges the Agent-General's salary, but it is ridiculous for us to pass Estimates and then find that within a few months the salary has been increased by 33½ per cent. without the House being consulted. Probably it is these increases in so many items that have led to the increased expenditure revealed by the result of the year's operations.

The PREMIER: I think the hon. member would not have made those remarks if his memory were not at fault. If he will look up the "Hansard" report of the discussion of this item last year he will find that the opinion was unanimously expressed especially on that side of the House, that the salary was altogether too low and should be increased by at least £500.

Mr. Angelo: Then why did we not ask for it?

The PREMIER: The Committee did. I had the usual salary fixed, but the Committee expressed the opinion that it was far too low and ought to be increased. "Hansard" shows that every member who spoke expressed that opinion. So it was in conformity with the wish of the Committee that the salary was increased. The Committee asked for it as plainly as it could do except by voting; and since no member of the

Committee can move to increase an item, such a proposition could not be voted upon. But members expressed the view that the salary ought to be increased, and it was because of that it was increased. I am sure the hon. member's memory is at fault, else he would not have made those remarks.

Mr. Angelo: I do not begrudge the increase.

The PREMIER: No; but the hon. member said it was ridiculous for members to pass Estimates and then find that a salary had been increased by 33½ per cent. without the Committee being consulted.

Mr. Angelo: Well, let us hope we shall not see any more of that sort of thing.

The PREMIER: I would do it again if the Committee were to ask for it. The salary was increased in response to the unanimous wish of the Committee.

Mr. LATHAM: I, too, had an opportunity recently to see the work done by the Agent-General. I do not think anybody who could see that work would say he is overpaid. Of course that was not the attitude intended by the member for Gascoyne. The Agent-General has a very responsible position. It is not only what he has to do in his office, but he has to advise the Premier. Besides, everybody who knows Mr. Angwin, knows he is just the man to get right down to any work in which he is interested. I am sorry to say that while I believe Australia House has improved considerably under the new immigration officer, they are still very obsolete there in point of information regarding Western Australia. I went into the place and asked to see their plans. The information they had respecting land settlement in this State was obsolete. They still think that half of Western Australia is desert. Unlike many others who have gone into Australia House, when I pretended I wanted to go to Western Australia, I was not advised to go to Victoria. I said I was from South Africa.

Hon. G. Taylor: But he could tell you were an Australian.

Mr. Panton: Not on your life!

Mr. LATHAM: As a matter of fact I was asked if I was English and I could truthfully say that I was.

Hon. G. Taylor: He was only joking.

Mr. LATHAM: All people are not as jocular as is the hon. member.

The Premier: It has not improved since I was there.

Mr. LATHAM: Under the glass on the counter the map bore the date, I think, 1904.

The Premier: With "Great Australian Desert" printed across it.

Mr. LATHAM: Yes, it must be the self-same map. I suggest that up-to-date maps should be sent to Australia House with a request that they be used to replace the old ones.

Mr. Teesdale: If we paid for an office there they would be displayed all right.

The Premier: I think Colonel Manning will make an improvement there.

Mr. LATHAM: He has so much to do and, unlike Mr. Angwin, he does not seem to get down to detail. The officer in charge of emigration in London has a big and responsible job. I did not see an up-to-date map of Western Australia in the whole of Australia House. I entered a room marked "Western Australia" and saw a map of New South Wales instead of one of our own State, and I directed Mr. Angwin's attention to it. If the Government sent Home a few of the up-to-date maps from the departments here, they might be displayed instead of the older maps.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: The estimate last year for the Agent-General's salary was £1,500.

The Premier: I have explained that. You have come in late.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: I am rather pleased that the dignity of the position is being maintained and that an increase is being granted.

Mr. THOMSON: I have no objection to the increase to the Agent-General.

The CHAIRMAN: The Premier has already replied to that item.

The PREMIER: I have no objection to repeating the explanation. If the hon. member casts his mind back to last year I think he will recollect that he urged that the salary then being paid was not sufficient.

Mr. Thomson: That is so.

The PREMIER: Every member who spoke expressed a similar opinion. It was in response to the general wish of members that the salary was increased. A half year's increase of £250 was paid last year, and the full year's increase of £500 is provided for this year.

Item—Cost of living allowance to staff £751:

Mr. LATHAM: In view of the salaries provided for the clerical staff I cannot understand this item.

The PREMIER: It arose during the war. Instead of increasing salaries, as the cost of living went up we provided a cost of living allowance. It is based on an estimate that the cost of living to-day is 80 per cent. greater than it was in pre-war days.

Item—Upkeep of Savoy House, £2,000.

Mr. THOMSON: This item shows a reduction of £736. One would imagine that the tendency would be for it to increase.

The PREMIER: There were special renovations in the previous year that we are not expecting this year. Ground rent, rates, taxes and electricity account for £1,300, and other items include heating, sundries and portion of periodic renovations.

Mr. SAMPSON: Certain portions of the building are let. One portion is occupied by the Swan dining-room, and the upper floor is let to the Ludlow Typesetting Machine agent. Should not those items be shown on the receipts side?

Mr. ANGELO: The member for Kataning said there was a decrease in the items but as a matter of fact there is an increase of £300. The Estimates for the current year should be compared with the Estimates for last year, not with the actual expenditure. The vote of last year was exceeded by £1,036, and some explanation should be given.

The PREMIER: The member for Gascoyne is getting remarkably punctilious about increases. Does he imagine that anyone could accurately estimate the expenditure required for the upkeep of Savoy House? Sometimes after the Estimates have been passed a requisition is received and we have to carry out certain renovations. It may be under a contract with the owner of the property that was not foreseen. If the hon. member contends that no item on the Estimates should be exceeded because Parliament has not voted the money, it would be impossible to carry on the business of the country.

Mr. Angelo: A 60 to 70 per cent increase is rather high.

The PREMIER: That may be done in banks.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: Do not reflect on banks.

The PREMIER: I exclude the banks with which the Leader of the Opposition was associated. It is utter nonsense to say that the Government should live within every pound stated in an item that appears on the Estimates. This is only an estimate and nothing more. We do not guarantee that not a shilling more will be expended, and we do not say we will not spend any more. An item may be set out affecting expenditure in the North-West. Some good reason may then be shown why another thousand pounds should be expended on some important work there. The matter may be represented by the member for Gascoyne, for instance, and he may convince me that I should spend that money. If I said, "Parliament has directed me to spend not a pound more than the estimate," what would the hon. member say if the matter should be an urgent one? We cannot live within every pound mentioned in the Estimates. A willy-willy blew down a jetty in the North-West and this cost the State £30,000 or £40,000. The expenditure was not foreseen, and was not provided for on that year's Estimates. If the hon. member's proposal were adopted, half the public buildings in the State would be left in an incomplete condition.

Item—Exhibits for Savoy House, £100:

Mr. THOMSON: We are not making sufficient use of Savoy House. Justice has not been done to the exhibits that have been sent forward. The Agent-General should be able to make arrangements whereby our exhibits, and a better range of exhibits, may be shown in other parts of Great Britain. The authorities of Canada are represented by exhibits at nearly every agricultural show in the Old Country. It would be very much better for us if we, too, launched out in a bigger way. We should provide the Agent-General with sufficient funds to maintain the dignity of his position.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member may not discuss the dignity of the Agent-General on this item.

Mr. THOMSON: The same principle should apply to the exhibits at Savoy House. We should also have a report from the Agent-General every year showing where the exhibits have been sent.

Mr. Lindsay: We cannot do much on £100.

Mr. THOMSON: I cannot understand why Parliament does not receive a report from the Agent-General's office. We should know all the ramifications of the work that is done there.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is making a general speech. He should confine himself to the point at issue.

Mr. THOMSON: I am sorry the Chairman has interrupted me. I was going to say that if we had a report from the Agent-General we would see the necessity for allowing more money for these exhibits.

The CHAIRMAN: The item before the Chair has nothing to do with a report from the Agent-General. I cannot allow a general discussion under this heading.

Mr. THOMSON: If I could do so, I would move for an increase in the item.

Hon. G. Taylor: Why not move that the item be reduced by £1?

Mr. THOMSON: I do not want to do that. I have referred to the matter before. The amount has been increased this year, and I hope it will be still further increased next year.

Item—House allowance to Agent General, £500:

Mr. THOMSON: I consider that the State made a bad deal when the Agent-General's residence was sold.

The Premier: On a point of order. The Agent-General's house was sold some three years ago, and this item has nothing whatever to do with that sale. It provides only for the Agent-General's residence. A sale of property three years ago has no bearing on this item.

Mr. THOMSON: I propose to show that the State is losing money by the sale of the house.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must deal only with this item, as to whether it is too much or too little, and must not go into back history, which would be really general discussion.

Mr. THOMSON: I am dealing with a matter of £500 which previously cost the State only £180 by way of interest. I am not blaming the Premier or anyone else, but it is a pity that we sacrificed—

The Premier: I insist on the point of order. The hon. member is getting back again to discuss a transaction that took place three years ago. By a side wind or a subterfuge he is getting in a discussion to which he is not entitled on this item. I sub-

mit that any reference to the wisdom or otherwise of the sale of that house is not in order on this item.

The CHAIRMAN: When I ruled the hon. member out of order before, he had not made the comparison he now makes, but I am not going to allow him, in making the comparison, to raise the question of the wisdom of selling the house.

Mr. THOMSON: If you rule in that way, Mr. Chairman, you will compel me to move that the item be reduced to £220.

The CHAIRMAN: I have pointed out to the hon. member that he put himself in order when making the comparison. Earlier in the piece, however, he had not done so. While making that comparison, he cannot discuss the wisdom or otherwise of the sale of the house.

Mr. THOMSON: That is the object I have in view. The State would have been much better served if no alteration had been made. To-day our Agent General is living in a very small flat, which does not enhance either his comfort or the dignity of the State. The Agent General has to keep up a certain position, and he cannot do that if he lives in a suburban flat. Is it not possible to secure a permanent residence in London for our ambassador? The importance of the position will be much greater in future than it is now.

Mr. DAVY: The suggestion has been made that the cost of the Agent-General's house was only £180 annually. At 6 per cent. that would only mean £3,600.

Mr. Thomson: That was the price of the house.

Mr. DAVY: Can a good house be bought in London for £3,600?

The PREMIER: It was not a freehold property; it was only a leasehold.

Mr. DAVY: With rates and taxes the cost of such a house might work out at more than £500 annually.

Mr. Thomson: It did not; it could not.

Mr. DAVY: I should have thought £500 a year was the smallest rent for a house in anything like a close up part of London.

The PREMIER: I remember now that the change over saved the State money when all charges were paid.

Mr. DAVY: I should imagine that one could not get much of a house in London for £500 a year. Many flats in London would cost £10 a week, and not very high class flats at that.

Mr. Thomson: That is my point.

Mr. DAVY: I should not think that a flat such as the Agent General ought to live in could be obtained for less. From what I can make out, and taking into consideration the fact that we must allow for interest on the £3,600 and depreciation from year to year, due to the diminished life of the lease, the facts as presented to us would hardly indicate that the vote of £500 is not a cheaper proposition for Western Australia.

The PREMIER: I am sure it is.

Mr. Thomson: That has not been proved.

The PREMIER: There is no doubt about it in the world. When I first spoke on this subject after my return from the Old Country I explained the sale, what it meant to the State as compared with the arrangement that now obtains and I know, speaking from memory, that the £500 represented a saving on what it was costing the State. The hon. member spoke about living in flats and thought we should have a mansion more commensurate with the dignity of an ambassador from Western Australia. If we had such a mansion for the Agent General, it would cost him more than his salary to maintain the premises. The change over was made at the request of the then Agent General.

Mr. Thomson: How many rooms were there in the Agent General's house?

The PREMIER: So many that four servants had to be kept to keep the house clean.

Mr. Thomson: I went through the house.

The PREMIER: And so did I, and I saw that five or six of the rooms were not occupied.

Mr. Davy: Where was the house?

The PREMIER: In Putney. The upkeep of the house cost altogether too much, when we take into consideration the salary we were paying our Agent-General. Then again the house was too far away from the city.

Mr. Thomson: But the Agent-General could use a motor car!

The PREMIER: But it is impossible to travel through the streets of London at 20 miles an hour. I have often been half an hour in traversing a couple of miles, and the journey of 9 miles would occupy altogether too much time.

Mr. Thomson: Not at all!

The PREMIER: The hon. member knows everything! I am giving facts. The man who has occupied the job should know

whether or not too much time was spent in travelling, and he should be a better judge than a man who spends a day or two in London.

Mr. Thomson: The man who was previously in the job suggested the purchase of the house.

The PREMIER: But he was a wealthy man and could afford to spend the money if he so desired. It was a large house because that Agent-General had a large family.

Hon. G. Taylor: How would you like Putney as a residence if you were the ambassador representing this State?

The PREMIER: I would not care about it at all. I would prefer to have a flat that would be more convenient. The flat occupied by Mr. Angwin is that which was formerly occupied by Sir Hal Colebatch. I know both those gentlemen found it much more convenient.

Vote put and passed.

Progress reported.

House adjourned at 11.16 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Wednesday, 17th October, 1927.

	PAGE
Questions: Collie coal for power station ...	1240
Mining—ventilation ...	1240
Leave of absence ...	1241
Bills: Fertilisers, recom. ...	1241
Pearling Act Amendment, returned ...	1248
Railways Discontinuance, report ...	1248
Wheat Bags, 2s. ...	1248
Feeding Stuffs, 2s. ...	1250
Motion: Main Roads Board administration—to	
inquire by Select Committee ...	1251

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

QUESTION—COLLIE COAL FOR POWER STATION.

Hon. E. ROSE asked the Chief Secretary: 1, How many grades of Collie coal are purchased by the Government for use at the East Perth Power Station? 2, What

are the prices paid per ton for each on trucks at pit's mouth? 3, What is the cost of haulage per ton, including all shunting charges, from coal mines to East Perth Power Station? 4, Do the above charges include the cost of returning empty trucks from Perth to Collie?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied: 1, One—small coal. 2, 12s. 6d. 3, 12s. 4, Yes.

QUESTION—MINING, VENTILATION.

Hon. H. SEDDON asked the Chief Secretary: 1, What method of ventilation, other than natural, is employed on the mines of the Golden Mile? 2, What equipment has been provided to ensure an adequate supply of air to underground workers during their shift? 3, What mines have ventilating fans installed? What is the capacity and location of each? 4, Have measurements been taken in each mine of the quantity of air per minute passing from the upcast shaft during the working hours? If so, what were the figures in each case?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied: 1, The mines on the Golden Mile are ventilated mainly by natural ventilation, but also use the air liberated from the compressed air means to operate Venturi and other blowers and to work appliances such as drilling machines, Holman hoists, winches and air lifts, the air from which increases the ventilation. Air blown directly from the drill hoses is much used for ventilating foul ends. Fans, mostly driven by compressed air, are also used in various parts of the workings to assist the natural air currents. 2, Answered by No. 1. 3, The fans in use are mostly small "booster" fans, no mine on the Golden Mile yet having installed one large ventilating fan to take control of the whole mine ventilation. The small fans are in most of the larger mines, and their location is changed from time to time as required. To obtain particulars of the location and capacity of each fan it would be necessary to refer to Kalgoorlie, and the information when obtained would be of little practical significance and not worth the expense of preparation. 4, Measurements of the air currents in the mines are made frequently at such points as are best suited for obtaining them, and are largely recorded. The