

Travelling in the train recently I conversed with a gentleman who told me that a friend of his in England, a manufacturer, had written to him to say that he had bought wool two months previously and had not seen anything of it yet. Surely the transport trouble in England is causing very great difficulties. All those factors tend to produce high prices, and we have very little control over those factors. I fear the carrying of this Bill will do very little good. However, for the reasons given by Sir Edward Witenoom, I shall support the measure. If this Bill does not pass, the people will say that we are standing behind the profiteers. I repeat, however, that I would much prefer, to this Bill, a short measure to prevent restraint of trade by combinations and trusts which are against the interests of the general community.

On motion by Hon. J. J. Holmes debate adjourned.

BILL—MINING ACT AMENDMENT.

Received from the Legislative Assembly, and read a first time.

House adjourned at 9.35 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Wednesday, 12th November, 1919.

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

QUESTION—WATER FOR AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS.

Mr. HUDSON asked the Minister for Water Supply: 1, Have the Government recently reduced the price of water, to be supplied from the Goldfields Water Scheme to

consumers in the agricultural districts? 2, Is it intended to reduce the various prices charged in the mining districts? 3, If so, when and to what extent? 4, If not, why not?

The MINISTER FOR WATER SUPPLY replied: 1, Yes. 2 and 3, The whole question of the incidence of water charges will be dealt with when the Coolgardie Goldfields Water Supply Loan Act Amendment Bill becomes an Act. 4, Answered by 2 and 3.

Mr. Hudson interjected.

The MINISTER FOR WATER SUPPLY: The hon. member had better give notice of another question if he requires further information.

QUESTION—REFORMATORY TREATMENT, CASE OF LARNER.

Hon. T. WALKER asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, What treatment for his wound is Larner receiving? 2, What reformatory is he at? 3, What prospect is there of his speedy recovery and release?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: 1, The same treatment as he was receiving at the Base Hospital. 2, At Fremantle. 3, His prospect of recovery is good; release depends entirely on himself.

QUESTION—WHEAT CARTING, NORTH BAANDEE.

Mr. HARRISON asked the Premier: 1, Has he been advised that wheat harvesting has been commenced at North Baandee? 2, Does he know that two or three months of carting is necessary each year to deliver crop to existing railways? 3, Seeing that the period occupied in carting should be spent in preparation of seed bed, will he authorise a selection of sites for wheat dumps, pending railway connection to Yorkrakine and North Baandee areas?

The PREMIER replied: 1, Yes. 2, Yes. 3, This cannot be done.

QUESTION—PASTORAL LEASES, SANDSTONE.

Mr. ANGELO asked the Minister for Lands: 1, Referring to answers given by the Minister to questions asked on 10th September re P.L. 2740/97 of 600,000 acres near Sandstone, held by E. J. Church, is he aware that the lessee is now offering this lease, through Messrs. Elder, Smith & Co., to returned soldiers at £2,750, although he has held it for less than a year and has not improved it in any way? 2, What action does he intend to take to prevent such exploiting of repatriation concessions by one who is in no way entitled to such benefits? 3, Cannot this lease be resumed under the discharged soldiers' settlement scheme by refunding the rent paid to date?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS replied: 1, No. 2, The department will see that it is not exploited. 3, No.

QUESTION—FRUIT CASES.

Mr. PICKERING asked the Minister for Works: 1, Has his attention been drawn to the report by Mr. J. E. Pearce, London representative of the A.F.L., on the relative values of the cases used for packing Western Australian fruit, more particularly that part in which he condemns Powell's patent collapsible cases? 2, If so, what action does he intend to take? 3, If not, will he call for the report and take the necessary steps to remedy the position?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: 1, No. 2, Answered by No. 1. 3, Inquiries will be made, and if found necessary, action will be taken.

QUESTION—ESPERANCE NORTHWARDS RAILWAY.

Hon. T. WALKER asked the Minister for Works: Are any steps of any kind being taken to resume the construction of the Esperance-Northwards line?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: No steps can be taken until rails are available at a reasonable cost. Inquiries are afloat with the object of procuring rails for this and other lines.

QUESTION—KALGOORLIE ARRESTS.

Mr. GREEN asked the Attorney General: 1, Is he aware that eleven men of the A.W.U. (Industrial Mining Branch) were arrested in Kalgoorlie on Monday evening? 2, Is he further aware that Mr. G. Callanan, who is president of the union, and secretary of the Eastern Goldfields Australian Labour Federation, was one of those arrested? 3, Is he further aware that one W. Schwan, who is alleged to be a notorious bully in Kalgoorlie, told a certain shopkeeper in Kalgoorlie on Thursday morning last, that if he did not paint his shop another colour by 1 p.m., he would bring a body of returned soldiers to smash up his premises? 4, Is he further aware that Schwan's conduct was reported to the police by the proprietor and others? 5, If the facts are as stated, why were the arrests made in the case of the members of the miners' union, and why was this man allowed to remain at large?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL replied: 1, Yes. 2, Yes. 3, No. 4, No. 5, Answered by Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4.

STATE CHILDREN AND CHARITIES DEPARTMENT SELECT COMMITTEE.

Extension of time.

Mr. SMITH (North Perth) [4.37]: I regret that I have to crave the indulgence of the House for a further extension of time for the Select Committee. Although we have sat almost continuously, we have not been able to finish the work and bring in a report. We have yet to visit a number of institutions and many homes and this will take a considerable time. I move—

That the time for bringing up the report of the Select Committee be extended for three weeks.

If we are able to bring in the report at an earlier date, we shall certainly do so.

Question put and passed.

BILL—PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ACT AMENDMENT.

Introduced by the Attorney General and read a first time.

MOTION—ESTIMATES, METHOD OF PRESENTATION.

Mr. SMITH (North Perth) [4.40]: I move—

That this House is of opinion that the Treasurer, when presenting his Estimates, in future, should separate departmental expenditure on rent, postage and telegrams, stationery, printing, travelling, and motor cars, and specify same as items.

Other members must have come to a similar conclusion when they were dealing with the Estimates as placed before the Committee of this House last session. One has only to take up the Estimates for any particular department to see how the various items are lumped together, so that it is quite impossible for anyone to ascertain exactly what amount has been expended on any particular item. I maintain that, if the Committee are to give serious consideration to the Estimates or to be of assistance to the Treasurer, they should know what amount has been expended on these individual items. Otherwise it is impossible to assist the Treasurer in any way, and we shall be passing amounts blindly. To pass the Estimates as we are doing at present is purely a farce. We might as well take each department and vote one amount for it, as thereby we should save members' time as well as expense to the country.

The Premier: Let us have some examples.

Mr. SMITH: I shall give some. Page 82 of the Estimates deals with gaols.

The Premier: That is a bad start, anyhow.

The Minister for Works: Members have no experience of gaols.

Mr. SMITH: Included in the vote for gaols are contingencies to the amount of £9,493 and they are thus described—

Provisions, bedding and clothing, uniforms, fuel, water, machinery and tools, materials for manufacture, general repairs and alterations, gaols and quarters, subsidy to St. John's Ambulance Society for instruction, assistance to prisoners on discharge, earnings of prisoners, and incidental, including postage, stationery, upkeep of horses and carts, travelling, transport and not otherwise provided for.

Is it reasonable to ask any member to give an intelligent vote when items are lumped together in that way?

The Premier: I think so.

Mr. SMITH: The Premier has the information, but he should realise that members are not in the same position to know the facts.

The Minister for Works: You have no confidence in the Ministry.

Mr. SMITH: I maintain we ought to have the details. Previously the Colonial Treasurer always supplied the information but, year after year, someone is clipping away the privileges of the House. If members look at the Estimates for gaols for the year 1918-19 they will find that instead of one item covering contingencies, there were 30 or 40 items. For instance, the subsidy to the St. John Ambulance Society is shown as £15 and thus we know the exact amount of the Government donation to this society. Under the Estimates for the current financial year, the Government may be granting that society £1,500 for all we know.

Mr. Foley: Was that item under the heading of gaols?

Mr. SMITH: Yes. I am not complaining of the amounts, but I wish the Treasurer to show on his Estimates exactly how much is being voted for each item year after year so that we shall be able to ascertain whether there is any extravagant or wasteful expenditure, and shall know the real position. There will be no difficulty in supplying such information if the departments are keeping their accounts in a proper way. Members are entitled to the information, and I have every confidence in moving the motion standing in my name.

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Mitchell—Northam) [4.47]: I have no doubt that the hon. member is perfectly justified in asking for information, but the passing of the motion will be an instruction to the Treasurer to supply all these details in future. It is, of course, quite true that the House ought to have the fullest possible information. I have no quarrel whatever with that contention.

Mr. Foley: You have many times asked for such information.

The PREMIER: I do not think that when sitting in opposition I gave those on the Treasury bench any trouble at all. I believe that the information now supplied is all that is necessary. True, some of the par-

ticulars have been cut out; but I give on the items all the information that has ever been given. I daresay I could reply to the hon. member on the very item which he has instanced. The various items of expenditure are merely grouped together under one heading. In last year's Estimates they were more separated.

Mr. Smith: This year the whole thing is lumped together.

The PREMIER: I have no desire whatever to withhold information. If the hon. member thinks the House would be better informed in the event of the items being divided into several groups, we can very easily oblige.

Mr. Smith: You would not be satisfied with the accounts of a company presented in that form.

The PREMIER: If each of the items mentioned by the hon. member became a vote, it would mean a tremendous addition to the work. No doubt it would be quite possible to state what was spent on provisions, what on bedding and clothing, what on uniforms, what on fuel, what on water, and so on; but it would mean considerable trouble and expense to do so. I do not think the House should ask for all those details, at all events not until stationery becomes much cheaper than it is now. The one item to which the hon. member has specially referred would, if split up as he suggests, require a considerable amount of printing and space. If the House considers that for the proper control of finance it is necessary to supply all these details, I must meet the wishes of hon. members. My own view is that it would be of great assistance if we could divide the expenditure generally over the various departments, so as to show how much altogether the State spends on travelling, how much altogether on postage, how much altogether on telegrams, how much altogether on clerical assistance, and so forth. Information grouped in that way might be of use. But I doubt if the House ought to order that each of these various matters for each department should be provided with an item on the Estimates. All the departments have contingencies, and the supplying of information as asked for by the motion would entail a great deal of work and considerable expenditure. If the hon. member will explain exactly what he requires, and if the House understands exactly what the cost of the information will be, I shall of course be prepared to meet the wishes of the House. I will listen to what the hon. member has to say further on the matter. I think I ought to explain that the preparation of these Estimates has to be very carefully undertaken because of the Auditor General's requirements, which have to be met. The late Colonial Treasurer had the Estimates prepared in this form because he found that it saved a considerable amount of work to the Audit Department. It is because of that reason that so few votes are found on the Estimates.

Mr. Johnston: But the House is not getting much information.

The PREMIER: There is a considerable saving of expense.

Mr. Smith: How much?

The PREMIER: I cannot say exactly how much, but the saving is considerable. Under the old system there were many votes; now there are comparatively few votes.

Mr. Smith: Why not go further and save all the expense and just have one item?

The PREMIER: I should be very glad if the House would agree to that. It would save a good deal of time and argument. If the hon. member will move in that direction, I shall have much pleasure in supporting him.

Mr. GARDINER (Irwin) [4.55]: I quite understand the desire of the mover. As a former Treasurer, I may say that it was my desire to get as much information as possible concerning some of these items, and that I found great difficulty in obtaining it. Under the Education vote there is an item "Government schools, forage, lodging, district, cleaning, and retiring allowances and proportion of leave and war bonuses, £274,435." I venture to say there is not a man in this House knows how much of that is spent on school teachers' salaries. I know the present Treasurer's desire is the same as mine—to have as few items on the Estimates as possible, because it means an immense saving of bookkeeping. When the Estimates were before Parliament I explained that by putting certain salaries for clerks in the votes the heads of the various departments were enabled to use such votes for clerical assistance, and that course saved about 40,000 or 50,000 needless entries in the course of a year. The desire of the Treasurer, in presenting the Estimates in this form, is not merely to save printing, but also to save in the actual working of the whole scheme. Nevertheless, I think there is a good deal of force in the contention of the member for North Perth if that contention is not carried too far. If it is carried to extremes, we shall have Estimates of about five times the size of these, and to get them through Parliament, instead of taking five months, will take five years. However, when we came to such an item as I have instanced, or to such an item as £23,000, simply for Government hospitals under the Health vote, one would like to have an idea how the amounts are distributed. In some instances we find that contingencies absorb more than one-half of the total departmental vote. In the case of Education there is £274,000 covered up out of a total of £366,000. I tried to get that information.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: But you did not try to give it to Parliament.

Mr. GARDINER: If I had got it myself, I would have given it to the House. However, the hon. member interjecting, having been a Minister, knows that Parliament should not be given too much information. I think there are items on the Estimates concerning which more information should be furnished, be-

cause the tendency of heads of departments is to take advantage of the contingencies item and jump the expenditure.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. W. J. George—Murray-Wellington) [4.59]: What the member for North Perth had in view is undoubtedly on business lines. However, I well remember from my early days in Parliament that when the Estimates were brought before us every officer had an item of his own, with the result that the discussion of the Estimates resolved itself very largely into a discussion of the merits of particular officers, those merits being placed before the Committee by some member entrusted by the particular officer with that task. Bit by bit, year by year, the items and matter shown in the Estimates began to be reduced. The late Colonial Treasurer has explained what he had in view in connection with this aspect of affairs, and I may say that he and I tried to put before Parliament all necessary matters, especially with regard to the payment of money for services which brought no material benefit to the State. In connection with these Estimates, the officers who worked under the late Colonial Treasurer tried to carry out his views, and perhaps they tried to go a little further. The member for North Perth must bear in mind that in connection with all these items of expenditure the Auditor General can be relied upon not only to draw the attention of Ministers to anything that may strike him as being contrary to the requirements of the Act or against economical management.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: What good is that after the money has been spent?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I might just as well ask what is the good of raising the question now when at least four months of the year's expenditure has been disbursed. If what the hon. member desires is carried out, I do not think it will entail a very large amount of trouble on the different departments. The Education Department has been referred to. That is an item which the hon. member has only to see to fall in with the view expressed by the member for Irwin (Mr. Gardiner). But in the smaller departments I do not know that the information would lead to much good. These incidental expenses cannot be gauged by a fixed standard, but must be incurred according to the exigencies of the department. And, after all, the Estimates on these points are made up by the Under Secretary and the accountant on the expenditure of the previous year and on what they expect will be a reasonable amount for the ensuing year. In regard to the item the hon. member has been speaking of, particularly if a question is asked, he gets all the information that can be given him. There is not the detailed information on the expenditure of this year, but in respect of last year the Minister has it, and if the two totals are compared it will be found that there is a reduction of £400

or £500. If the House decides that the fullest details are required, there is no reason why they should be kept back, but I ask whether the result is likely to be commensurate with the expense of preparing the information.

Mr. Johnston: We would at least know what we were voting.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Yes, but to-day you vote a lump sum as against voting the same total on a number of details.

Mr. Johnston: We do not know, and we can only trust the Government.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: You might do much worse than that. The Premier has said that if it is desired to have the fullest information, it will be given. The late Treasurer has told us that the lumping of some of these Estimates has resulted in considerable saving in respect of bookkeeping. If the member for North Perth has his attention fixed on the Water Supply Department and the issue of accounts for excess water, I may inform him that cutting out the excess water accounts below the sum of 6d. has saved the department 20,000 entries.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (North-East Fremantle) [5.5]: The member for North Perth is on the right track. Fancy the Minister for Works telling us that he can give us the details of the expenditure for last year's Estimates! What is the good of that? As a matter of fact we are not permitted to discuss any of last year's items.

The Minister for Works: I have not yet seen anything that cannot be discussed here.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: But it is prohibited under the Standing Orders. To give us the details of what we spent last year would be ridiculous. We want to know the details of what we are to spend this year. The Minister, when he has his Estimates before him, should have also a complete list of items. Previous to the present Minister for Mines taking office as Treasurer it was customary to transfer one vote to another without showing the transfer. To-day each vote has to show whether or not it has been exceeded. Previously if there was an item of, say, £1,000 and if £1,500 had been expended on the work, and if in the Estimates of the same department there was another item of £5,500 of which only £5,000 had been spent, the balances were transferred and the House was kept in ignorance of the transfer. That has since been altered. Every Minister will try to keep back from Parliament information on the Estimates.

The Minister for Works: No, certainly not.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: It enables him to get his Estimates through more rapidly. There are matters of importance concerning which details should be on the Esti-

mates. Take the officers in the various departments: We used to have it shown exactly what was paid to each. To-day no member can tell what the position is in regard to any officer.

Mr. Gardiner: A very good job.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: If I were a Minister I should say the same, but as a private member I say it is a very bad job.

Mr. Foley: Now the dirt is coming out.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: There is no dirt about it. A Minister's one idea is to get his Estimates through, and the sooner he gets them through, the better is he satisfied. A Minister is never in too much of a hurry to rise and give the information asked for. On the same reasoning, the taking out of the details from the Estimates saves the Minister from being interrogated in regard to them.

Mr. Smith: The other night one Minister walked out of the House before his Estimates were through.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The Treasurer has promised to frame next year's Estimates so as to give more information than has been afforded during the last two years. Personally, I do not think anything is to be gained.

Mr. Smith: Will anything be lost?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: There is a possibility of that. When the Treasurer asks the House to assist him in getting his Estimates through, it is impossible for the House to help him in regard to the financial position unless members are in possession of all the facts relating to the various items.

Mr. Gardiner: You are making a rod for your own back.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I do not care. The same argument was used when we were over there. In the House of Commons, while the votes are shown as lump sums, full detailed information is attached to the Estimates, and although those details cannot be discussed except under the general discussion, hon. members are aware of the nature of the expenditure. Here it is not so. I hope the member for North Perth will accept the promise of the Treasurer and give him an opportunity to carry out the desires of hon. members.

Mr. ANGELO (Gascoyne) [5.10]: I find the total asked for this year under the heading of contingencies for the various departments, but not including business undertakings, is £587,638. In respect of this sum very little information has been afforded. Certainly some items have been explained, but in regard to many the House is left in the dark. I agree with the Premier, however, that if special information was asked for under all these various headings, the discussion would be unending. I can suggest a scheme by which the object of the member for North Perth would be achieved without extra cost in the way of printing, etc.: The suggestion is that each Minister, when introducing his Estimates, should give us item

after item what these various amounts have cost in the past year, together with his estimate of the cost in the coming year. Any hon. member interested could jot down the information as the Minister introduced the Estimates, and if he thought it worth while to ask questions later, he could do so.

Mr. GRIFFITHS (York) [5.12]: I am quite in accord with the member for North Perth. The consideration of the Estimates partakes very much of the nature of a farce. It is of no use trying to intelligently grasp what has been done in the past or is contemplated in the future. Take an item like rents: The member for Williams-Narrogin, 18 months ago, asked for a return of rents paid by the various departments. The analysis of that return shows that between £5,000 and £6,000 has been spent in rents every year by the Government. We never see anything of those rents in the Estimates. There are the A.M.P. offices, for which we are paying £1,020 per annum, and there is the Public Service Commissioner's office also. Then 59 rents are paid for educational purposes throughout the State, and it is probable that that number has been greatly increased since then. One cannot properly apportion those items to the various departments.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Williams-Narrogin) [5.15]: I intend to support the motion. It appears to me that the control of the House over the finances is being gradually whittled away by the fact that the detailed information which used to be available to hon. members is no longer so available. It is the most important duty of the House to endeavour to control the finances. Without this detailed information it is absolutely impossible for us to exercise any proper control over the expenditure of the country.

The Premier: I have already promised that detailed information will be given next year.

Mr. JOHNSTON: That promise will meet my wishes entirely, and renders further comment from me upon this matter unnecessary.

Mr. FOLEY (Leonora) [5.16]: I oppose the motion. I cannot see that there is any use in it. I see a wise look on the face of the member for Kanowna (Mr. Walker). I have a vivid recollection of the time when, in introducing his Estimates, he was asked about an item for clerical assistance. It took him about an hour and a half to tell us what it meant, namely that clerical assistance implied that some permanent employee had been given a rise that was due to him as an ordinary increment. If we are to waste the time of the House in getting that information, for my part I do not want it. During the discussion on that portion of the Estimates that I have had to do with not one hon. member has asked any question as to the meaning of any particular item.

Mr. Johnston: You have been away most of the time.

Mr. FOLEY: I did not apply that remark only to these Estimates. I have heard Estimates discussed for many years, and have very seldom heard members ask any questions about the items. I have, of course, heard discussions about motor cars, chiefly raised by the member for North Perth (Mr. Smith) who has continued to ask them as long as his wind has lasted. I have heard the Premier ask for information about the expenditure on land, and the reply of the Minister in charge of the Lands Department. After listening to the question and also very patiently to the reply, one has come to the conclusion that one has gone very little further than if there had been no reply. If any hon. member wants to ask a question on any item the Minister who will go to the expense of having that reply printed would be wasting the money of the country. If there is an item, say in connection with clerical assistance, all that is needed to explain that item is for the Minister to say who are actually engaged in his office and that is all that the House is entitled to know. If we get that we can very well do without this extra expense in printing. So long as Ministers can tell us how the money is spent, we do not want to know what the girl in the kitchen has had to eat.

Mr. LUTEY (Brownhill-Ivanhoe) [5.19]: I intend to support the motion, in view of what the member for Leonora (Mr. Foley) has just said. That hon. member has spoken chiefly on the question of items. Members have been quite dissatisfied with this year's Estimates on account of the paucity of the information given in them.

The Premier: And always will be dissatisfied.

Mr. LUTEY: We have had a promise from the Premier that in future the items will appear as they have done in former years. After listening to the member for Leonora, I hope the Premier will not withdraw the promise he has made with regard to next year's Estimates. If they are introduced again, as they have been introduced this year, I am sure we shall all be most dissatisfied. I wish to see the Estimates brought down in itemised form, as has been the case in previous years. I trust that the Premier will not be carried away by the eloquence of the member for Leonora and go back on his promise. For fear of anything like that happening I will support the motion.

Mr. PICKERING (Sussex) [5.21]: As the financial House of the Parliament of Western Australia, we should have full information on these items given to us. The Estimates have not been full enough this year, but we now have a promise that there will be an alteration for next year. I am sure that the member for Leonora has heard very little of the great amount of criticism that has been levelled at some of these items. I know that he boasts that when he is in the

Chair he is able to get through the different departments very rapidly.

Mr. Foley: I must ask the hon. member to withdraw that. I have never made a boast of that kind, and the statement is an incorrect one.

Mr. PICKERING: I withdraw the statement. I evidently misunderstood the hon. member. I always thought that this was his view upon the subject. I support the motion.

The MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. J. Scaddan—Albany) [5.25]: We may go on from now until the crack of doom in our desire to get information on these Estimates, and find that at the end we are no wiser than we were at the beginning. The control of the finances is largely a responsibility that must rest upon the Treasurer. After all, he supplies the forms for the information of the House in order to show how lump sums that are made available to him are expended, and to receive the endorsement of the House for such expenditure.

Mr. Lutey: We had a promise from the Treasurer last year that the Estimates would be itemised this year.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I am not complaining about that except that I want to tell hon. members that they will not be any the wiser when they do get the information. It is impossible to explain why one department has had to spend more on stationery than another department, and some other department has had to spend more on postage or telegrams than another department, by merely printing all these items on the Estimates, as we do for the information of hon. members. I found that out when, for a short period, I was Treasurer of the State and understood the difficulty of the position from the point of view of the Treasurer.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: In making the revenue and expenditure meet.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: No, but I found the difficulty of getting information that would be of any assistance to the Treasurer in enabling him to satisfy himself that the expenditure under contingencies was justified and warranted. The Treasurer has to depend almost entirely upon the Audit Department, who gives him an assurance that each department is using the money provided by Parliament wisely and in accordance with the Audit Act. No Minister can be expected, much less hon. members, to sit down and say by the figures put before him that such and such is a fair amount to allow a department. Hon. members, at all events, must depend upon the Minister in this matter. The main feature from the point of view of the consideration of the Estimates is as to whether a department, which is carrying on certain functions allotted to it under the control of the Minister, is doing that work economically, judging it largely from the results achieved and from the point of view of the State generally. There are hon. members who are conducting their own

business in the town who know that they could not possibly from information, such as is suggested here, being placed before them, say whether expenditure in certain directions was warranted or not. There are States in the Commonwealth where members of Parliament form themselves into finance committees. These committees go from time to time into the Treasury and the Audit Department and get information of all items, but notwithstanding that it will be found that even there there is less information of a detailed character provided on the Estimates for the information of hon. members.

Mr. Foley: It costs a lot to get it.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Yes. On the question of finance, it is necessary to make the Treasurer responsible for the conduct of the departments, giving him power through the controller of accounts to see that the money is wisely and economically expended, and ask him to show by results that the expenditure has been economically made.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Would you suggest coming down with Estimates for four million pounds to give to the Treasurer to spend?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The hon. member now wants to go to the other extreme, and the result is that we get just as far off from achieving that which we desire as when we first started. I do not suggest that we should come down with estimates of four million pounds to give to the Treasurer to spend. We should ask the Treasurer to tell us in what direction he proposes to spend the money, and hon. members would say whether that was a fair amount to allow him for the purpose. Hon. members would then say to the Treasurer that they expect him, with the Treasury officials and the Audit Department officials, to expend that money wisely and well. If the member for North Perth knows of any extravagant expenditure in connection with postage, telegrams, or motor cars, etc., all he requires to do is not to wait until the Estimates arrive but to go to the Treasurer and say that such and such a waste of money is taking place, and the Minister will at once take action to remove that waste.

Mr. Smith: How could you get an idea of that by the items on the Estimates?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The hon. member cannot do it and the Minister cannot do it either.

Mr. Smith: The Minister must have a good idea, when comparing the items with those of previous years.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The hon. member is quite wrong in regard to his statement about comparing items with those of previous years. In preparing these Estimates we try, as Ministers controlling the departments, and in the case of the Treasurer in particular, to make a comparison with previous years. The Treasurer will make inquiries from the officials as to whether activities have extended during the period, or

whether they have fallen off. If there has been an extension of operations we naturally expect an increase in the expenditure. We then ask if the increase is warranted from the point of view of the revenue of the department, whether directly or indirectly. If we find that there is any difference either in the matter of an increase or a decrease, we endeavour to ascertain the reason for this. It may be that a department, in order to get consideration for having introduced economies, would put an amount on the Estimates which it knows will not meet the expenditure for the ensuing year. The Treasurer is entitled to bring down to the House as nearly as possible the Estimates of expenditure for the year, whether they are large or small. I have had experience of cases where officers have deliberately claimed that if they had not during the last month or two of the year kept up the expenditure on contingencies, it might happen that there would be a slackening off when the next year started and the Minister would say, "You had so much last year and you have to do with a thousand this year." The result is that instead of encouraging them to do something to economise we are putting obstacles in their way, and are at the same time getting misleading information on these items. If that happens with regard to a Minister, who from nine to five is keeping his eye on all the operations of the department, and yet cannot get a complete grasp of every penny that is spent on postage and so forth, how can any hon. member on the items that are put before him arrive at a satisfactory conclusion? It would be a bad day for the House if we gave all these items, and there would be a great waste of time in discussing them, when we ought to concern ourselves more about discussing those items which mean something to the activities of the departments as they affect the general welfare of the community. All I am suggesting is that Parliament should be supplied with details on matters of principle, not on matters that do not count. No one has suggested that public officials tear up postage stamps and throw them into the waste paper basket. Take the present position. There are certain activities to-day in the departments which previously did not exist, and if we are to make progress as an ordinary business house would do instead of waiting to send letters, and then waiting for a reply, we have to despatch telegrams and cables and often have to employ motor cars. A few days ago we sent an officer of the Mines Department to the North-West in order to obtain information on the spot. It is items of that description which increase votes. The incidental item from which will be taken the cost of sending Mr. Montgomery, the State Mining Engineer, to the North-West, will be increased to the extent of the expense incurred. The North-West members would not suggest that the State Mining Engineer should remain in Perth so as to keep the contingency vote down. It is items such as this that tell.

Mr. Foley: Hon. members can get all the information they want, even if the items do not appear on the Estimates.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Of course they can and at any time. Ever since I have been in this House, if there has been one complaint more than another, it has been in the direction that we have kept the officials in their offices instead of sending them out to make inquiries on the spot.

Mr. Duff: It is a pity that was not realised long ago.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Surely hon. members do not desire that we should itemise matters which are of no value and about which they can get information at any time. In regard to matters of salaries we know exactly what it is going to cost to maintain an officer in his position.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: We do not get that now.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: We do, with the exception of a few departments. To-day salaried officers are controlled by the Public Service Commissioner and every year hon. members are given the Public Service list which contains details about the position occupied by every officer, his classification, the amount he receives, etc., so that the information supplied to-day is as complete as it ever was. I do not suggest it is desirable, while perhaps not quite satisfied with the form in which the Estimates are presented, that we should let that position make us move from one extreme to the other. Hon. members will find that to-day we discuss in a general way how a department may assist an industry and we pay little or no regard to small matters of detail. At the same time there are members who year after year waste hours of valuable time in discussing items of practically little or no value. These members overlook big principles and if we do what the member for North Perth suggests, I warrant that there will be more discussion on a question as to why a motor car was employed to run from the barracks to the Premier's office than on a question affecting the maintenance of a big district in one of the mining areas. These small matters of detail can well be left to the officials, and the Auditor General will see that the money is properly spent. By itemising as the hon. member suggests, the Government will not secure better control. We must depend on the Auditor General to see that the money is spent in the manner that Parliament desires.

Mr. SMITH (North Perth—in reply) [5.36]: I am pleased to find that so many hon. members are of the same opinion as myself in regard to this matter. What the Premier has promised is something different from what I desire to see brought about. I also ask hon. members not to pay too much attention to what has been told them by the Minister for Mines. His effort has been to cloud the issue. The Minister stated that no one would imagine a civil servant deliberately tearing up a postage stamp and

throwing it in the wastepaper basket. I can tell the Minister that I have seen with my own eyes something nearly approaching that. I was in the telegraph office recently and I saw a civil servant hand in a telegram. His attention was drawn to the fact that there was 1s. too much on it. What did he do? He said, "Oh, never mind, let it go through." If that is a sample of how postage can be inflated it is time that we had some information in regard to details. It has been said that year after year the departments are gradually whittling away our control over the finances and I think that is very true. I have taken the trouble to turn up the Estimates presented to the House in 1895. Hon. members will see that in those days every official was mentioned in the Estimates and the amount he received was shown as well as the amount it was proposed to vote. That, I daresay was going to the other extreme, but as years went on that information was gradually curtailed until to-day we have simply one item. Everything is lumped under the one heading. As I have already said, it is impossible for hon. members to give an intelligent vote if they are going to pass items in this way.

Mr. Johnston: We always have the amount of last year's vote.

Mr. SMITH: Yes, but my motion is not in that direction. It is to separate the expenditure that is continually recurring in the various departments. The object of the motion is to separate all the small items in connection with which expenditure is incurred by every department. I do not say that we should give the amounts paid to each individual so as to raise discussion every time we are dealing with the Estimates, but notwithstanding that I maintain that if the information is supplied it will have the effect of curtailing discussion. Reference has been made to the extra printing which would be involved by giving all the details. In 1918 the Estimates covered 115 pages while this year they run into 107 pages and the great saving we have heard so much about by the lumping of the various items runs into seven pages. Is it worth while for that saving to deprive hon. members of an amount of necessary information? The House is entitled to the fullest information with regard to every subject. I do not ask that each item should be printed, but what I desire to see is the expenditure set out under the various headings.

The Attorney General: What is the difference?

Mr. SMITH: Take the salaries as they were shown in the previous Estimates. Every man on the salary list was mentioned as well as the amount drawn by him, whereas at the present time all salaries are lumped, as well as the amounts paid for motor cars, postage, telegrams, rent, and all such items. The Attorney General knows very well that if he were associated with a company and he had a balance sheet put before him in the manner in which we have the Estimates now

prepared he would not be satisfied. He would require to have full information so as to be able to make comparison with the expenditure of previous years. We are supposed to conduct the business of the country on business lines, and it is not asking too much to request that members be informed what expenditure takes place in the departments year by year. It is only by making comparisons that we can ascertain whether we are living extravagantly. It is quite possible that there is a reasonable explanation for any large increase which may be shown in a particular sum, and the Minister comes along fully armed with the information typed out. Why could he not supply this information on the Estimates? The Minister stated that the Auditor General kept a watch over the accounts. I have no faith in the Auditor General. I would remind hon. members that last session we reduced the salary of the Public Service Commissioner's secretary, and notwithstanding that, the Auditor General passes the increase, and thus ignores the vote of this House.

Mr. Johnston: His duty is quite different from that.

Mr. SMITH: Notwithstanding the Premier's promises, I hope the motion will be carried. I have no desire to increase the cost of producing the Estimates, but I wish to be supplied with this very desirable information so that I may form something like an accurate opinion on the items of expenditure.

Question put and passed.

HOSPITAL FOR INSANE.

Consideration of Select Committee's Report.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (North-East Fremantle) [5.47]: I move—

That the consideration of the report of the select committee, appointed to inquire into the control and management of the Claremont Hospital for the Insane, be made an Order of the Day for Tuesday, the 18th November.

My reason for mentioning that date is that the report and evidence will be in print before then and members will have an opportunity to peruse it.

Question put and passed.

BILL—MINING ACT AMENDMENT.

Standing Orders Suspension.

The MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. J. Scaddan—Albany) [5.48]: I move—

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to permit of the introduction and passing through all its stages in one day of a Bill for an Act to amend Part VII. of the Mining Act, 1904.

Mr. DUFF (Claremont) [5.48]: I should like to know at this stage whether I shall have an opportunity to move the adjournment of the debate. This Bill deals with too serious a matter to be passed through all its stages in one day. Most members will remember a similar flooding trouble at the Edna May. Several court cases resulted, and the decision in those cases has caused much trouble and anxiety. Therefore I should like to know, before this motion is passed, whether I shall have an opportunity to move the adjournment of the debate on the Bill.

Mr. SPEAKER [5.49]: The suspension of the Standing Orders will enable the Bill to be passed through all its stages at one sitting provided the House will permit it; but there will be no obligation upon members to pass the Bill through all its stages, and the hon. member may, at any stage, move the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Williams-Narrogin) [5.50]: What are the urgent reasons to justify the suspension of the Standing Orders?

The Minister for Mines: I told you last night.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You know how many members were present last night when you told us.

Question put and passed.

Bill introduced, etc.

Bill introduced and, on motion by the Minister for Mines, read a first time.

Second Reading.

The MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. J. Scaddan—Albany) [5.52] in moving the second reading said: Members are entitled to know the reasons why such a course of action is necessary and the urgency attached to it, both being important matters on which members should be enlightened before they are asked to agree to the passing of such a measure. The urgency is due to the fact that at Westonia the position regarding the flooding of the mines is serious on account of the proposal to close down at an early date one mine in which a great flow of water has occurred, and from which it is absolutely certain the water would find its way to other mines and practically flood them out of existence. The matter is also urgent because arrangements were made in accordance with a decision of the warden in a court case that pumping operations should be continued until the 16th of this month, certain mines contributing towards the cost of such pumping: As this is the 12th of the month, we have just four days in which to avert what might be a disaster unless legislative power is granted to meet the difficulty. I received a wire from Westonia dated the 2nd November as follows:—

Edna May closed down and are withdrawing pumps as negotiations fallen through with Central, the latter discharging hands end present week. Situation most critical. If

something not done immediately possibly all mines being flooded. Will you send responsible officer at once investigate situation avoid calamity Westonia. Sent on behalf leading citizens Westonia.

Mr. Hudson: By whom was that sent?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: It was sent on behalf of the leading citizens, and I am advised that it practically came from the road board. I sent the Assistant State Mining Engineer to Westonia at once, and obtained a report from him to enable members to understand the position. I propose to read the report he submitted, but I do not propose to mention the names of the mines.

Mr. Duff: It is very necessary to mention the names of the mines.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: If the hon. member has no objection to them being mentioned, I have none, but I think the member for Claremont will understand the different mines to which I shall allude without my mentioning their names. Certain statements are made in the report, and, from the point of view of the mines themselves, it might not be desirable to publish those statements. Therefore, I do not propose to mention the names of the mines, but, if any member desires that the names be mentioned, I shall give them. The report states—

The Under Secretary for Mines. Further to my report of the 4th inst., I beg to add the following information obtained during my recent visit to Westonia. The mines are much in the condition as set out in my previous report. The Edna May is pumping until the 16th of this month, after which date the pumps will be drawn. The water level in this mine at present is 320ft., 315ft. from the surface, but when allowed to rise will flood first the Central and then the Consolidated, unless the Central can hold with their present pumping plant. Owing to the water being allowed to rise to slightly above the 300ft. level in Edna May, the stopes started running throughout the whole mine. I visited the 300ft., 225ft., and 150ft. levels, and they have all collapsed, the hanging wall in the 150ft. cross-cut having cracked back for a distance of 50ft. from the lode. I do not know whether much good can be done, but I consider the Inspector of Mines should be asked to report on the situation as it has a direct bearing on the safety of the . . . mine. The inspection must be made before the pumps are drawn on the 16th inst. When the pumps stopped in the Edna May, the water rose to 308ft., the flow of water in . . . increasing from 15,000 to 30,000 gallons per hour in consequence. As it was evident a water course exists between the two mines, the manager of . . . decided not to experiment further, and at present is keeping the pumps on Edna May in operation simply because he has paid the latter company for pumping up to the 16th inst. The position in . . . now is that the Western section of the mine above the 300ft. level is closed up and flooded, and as soon as the pumps cease in Edna May the eastern section will also be sealed up. In the meantime development work is being carried on in the eastern section at the bottom (400ft.) level to try to prove the lode at that depth to ascertain whether it is of higher

grade at this than at the other levels. The mine is, according to the manager, in a very bad state and very low in payable ore reserves—

The member for Claremont will know the mine referred to there. The report continues—

Unfortunately he was too ill to discuss the subject at length but as far as the water question is concerned, this mine will be hopelessly flooded if the water rises much above the 200ft. level. I had a conference with the managers excluding Mr. . . . of the . . . who was too ill to attend, and after discussing the questions involved in a general pumping scheme, it was evident that it is impossible at present to bring about co-operation between the . . . and the . . . for such a project. The manager of the . . . considers his mine is safe from water whatever happens, and if he is justified in this surmise, he is certainly justified in the attitude he takes. On the other hand, the manager of the . . . is positive that he will not recommend his board to carry on the . . . mine if he is forced to pump the whole of the water, which means working at a loss on their grade of ore. The manager of the . . . favours joint action, but from financial reasons cannot be of much assistance. I very much fear that what will really happen in the next few weeks will be the cessation of all work on the . . . and . . . and if so both mines will be irreparably ruined, for once the water reaches the old stopes they will collapse for a certainty. Furthermore, if such a condition is brought about, I consider the . . . mine also runs a considerable risk of being flooded from the seepage of water in the oxidised zone, and possibly trouble from collapse below. My utmost endeavours were exercised in trying to get these managers to submit a tangible scheme to which possibly some financial help might be given, if only temporarily, by the department; and the hopelessness of the situation can be gauged when the manager for . . . said "The only thing he could see for the State to do was to pump the lot." In addition to the managers, I also met the members of the road board. The wire sent to the Minister virtually came from this body. They are as a body, I think, sincere in their anxiety for the welfare of their town and district, and apparently were not fully apprised of the seriousness of the situation until quite recently. They pointed out that there are some 1,400 inhabitants dependent on the mine, and the disability these folk will suffer if work ceases was freely emphasised and is doubtless very true, and to be much regretted if a collapse of the local mines eventuates. I am still of the opinion that unless the mines co-operate the case is pretty hopeless, and I consider it is for their mutual benefit and safety to do so. Furthermore that if they did the mines would probably last for quite a considerable time, particularly . . . and . . . T. Blatchford, Assistant State Mining Engineer, 7-11-19.

When I perused that report, I was extremely concerned, and I became more concerned when the member for the district, as well as the member for Claremont, saw me and urged that, if possible, something should be done by the de-

partment. Thereupon I put up a minute to the Under Secretary for Mines as follows:—

I have read Mr. Blatchford's report and consider this matter is of so much importance that we have to take an unusual course, and I suggest that we immediately proceed to prevent what is almost sure to take place without our intervention. We will have to do the pumping of these mines, and while doing so let it be understood by the managements that we are proposing to seek power through Parliament to apportion the costs, with the right of appeal to arbitration. In the meantime the urgent matter is to save the mines. The question of flooding the mines which are adjoining is becoming very pronounced, and I have in mind the Sand Queen and Gladstone at Comet Vale. We must, if it is possible, do something to avoid disaster overtaking our proved fields. The matter was further discussed in Cabinet, and I was authorised to see if there was any other way out than that of submitting legislation and asking for prompt action by Parliament. But I could find no other way out. Already, unfortunately, difficulties have arisen in the Comet Vale district through very much the same thing happening. Remedies may be obtainable by an action of law in that case, but the difficulty so far as the mines are concerned is that whilst an action at law is being fought, the flooding is continuing and the State is not being helped to produce that commodity which under existing conditions is of so much value. As the Minister in charge of the Mines Department I am not concerned as to who is going to succeed in a law case, but as to how we can prevent a proved field from meeting with disaster through what is happening. The powers I am seeking may appear drastic. I want to be perfectly candid on the subject. The powers are drastic, but if it is possible to avoid putting them into operation I shall avoid doing so. On the face of the facts it is quite apparent to me that each of the mine managers in the Comet Vale and Westonia districts and elsewhere has his own opinion as to how the difficulty can be got over. We are not able to obtain any agreement whatever between them. And meantime disaster is approaching. Therefore, I am asking for two powers in this Bill. One of them is—

Whenever in the opinion of the Minister there is an inflow of water to any mine from any other mine, or such an inflow is likely to happen, the Minister may, by his servants and agents, enter upon the last mentioned mine and do all things he may think fit to discharge the water therefrom.

Mr. Duff: "In the opinion of the Minister." You are taking a great responsibility.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: I admit there is great responsibility attaching to these powers.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: And very likely heavy expense as well.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: Not so. The hon. member will perceive, from what I shall say later, that there is no desire to incur any expense except for the purpose of maintaining a proved field. If the cost of keeping down the water in the Westonia field turns out to be so great that the gold is not there to repay it, if there is only a small quantity of gold yet to be obtained in Westonia, then I shall not ask even

the companies to go to any expense in doing that which would prove unprofitable.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Under the Bill you will have power to put machinery on abandoned mines.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: That is so.

Mr. Troy: It is at the Minister's option.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Where is the difference between putting machinery on a mine in order to save a proved field, and putting a drain into some swamp, say at Jandakot, in order to save some land? Hon. members do not complain of a rabbit-proof fence being erected from the south coast to the north coast in order to save our agricultural and pastoral lands from the ravages of vermin. Is there not a claim on the State to do anything that is necessary to save an industry so long as it will pay the State to do it? This Bill is not a direction to the Minister to do anything, but an authority to the Minister to save a proved field. If there is machinery on a mine, the Minister can practically commandeer the machinery by paying rental for it in order to carry on the operations for which the machinery was first installed. Of course, there is no obstacle in the way of a mutual arrangement being arrived at, if, for instance, the owners of the machinery are prepared to sell it at a reasonable price.

Mr. Duff: The owners of such machinery would be pleased to sell it.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Probably. In the case of one mine, the Central, it depends on whether the values obtained at a certain level justify further operations. If we can keep the plant there by paying the owners fair rental and depreciation for its use, it might prove to be worth while to continue mining operations. Eventually the Government might find it worth while to purchase the plant outright.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You said just now that the owners of the mines were not prepared to do it.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The owners of the mines will not come to an agreement. One mine manager said, "We can do without it entirely," although there was a difference of opinion on the point. Another mine manager said, "We cannot afford to pay the amount necessary to keep the water out of our mine unless the other mine does something." And thus an industry based on leaseholds obtained from the Crown is going to be ruined for want of an agreement among the mines. I have always held the view that if it is possible to arrange matters of dispute by mutual agreement between the various parties, that is the better course, and the State should not intervene. But here it is a question of a proved field, and of an industry which, after all, belongs to the State, an industry which constitutes one of our national assets. If the people who hold pieces of paper from the Crown entitling them to work certain ground will not take the necessary steps for the preservation of the field, and the Government under the existing law have not the power to compel them to do it, the Government ought to be granted power to bring about an arrangement whereby each of the mines will have to pay in accordance with the benefits derived by it from the preservation of the field. If a person receives no benefit from

those operations, that person will not have to pay. But I think mines should not be allowed to close down until it has been proved that it would not pay to continue to work them.

Mr. Duff: I suppose the financial position of a company will be taken into consideration?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Yes. Sub-section (3) of the proposed new Section 173a provides—

All expenses incurred by the Minister under this section shall be apportioned between the owners of the several mines benefited by such operations by the withdrawal or the prevention of inflow of water, in proportion to the benefits derived from such operations.

Mr. Duff: How are you going to decide what the benefits amount to?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: How does one decide anything? By the opinions of experts, and on evidence. Of course, a mine may abandon its operations at any time, and we cannot compel a continuance of operations in such a case. But, in the absence of this Bill, half a dozen mines may be forced to close down by reason of the inaction of one mine. We cannot allow such a position to arise.

Mr. Duff: In the event of a mine closing down, you will have no pull on it at all.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: If a man abandons his mine, he cannot be compelled to pay. The Edna May people have abandoned their mine, and as a result the water from that mine is liable to flow into other mines and destroy them as well. I cannot tell the Edna May people that they must continue operations on a mine which they have abandoned. But we can get the water out of that particular part of the field where it exists, and apportion the cost to the adjoining mines in proportion to the benefit each of them derives. Personally, I think this is a matter which could also be dealt with under the Mining Development Act. If under that Act the State can help a tributor to develop a mine, why cannot it also help to save a proved field?

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You cannot compare the two cases.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The positions are almost on all fours. What is the difference between the Government spending money to keep the water out of a proved field, and spending money in providing a bore in order to prove a field?

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You put it another way just now. You said it would not pay a mine to keep the water out.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I said it might turn out so. If the gold peters out of a mine, the mine must close down. By the Bill the Minister will be able to prevent a disagreement between various mines permitting a flow of water from one mine into other mines and thereby ruining them.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: There is little further for me to say in submitting this Bill except to draw attention to that part which seeks to deal with a position such as that which has arisen at Comet Vale. It provides that—

Any owner of a mine may, with the consent in writing of the Minister by himself, his ser-

vants and agents, enter upon any other mine in which operations underground have been wholly or partially suspended, and with the like consent do all things that may be deemed necessary to prevent the inflow of water therefrom to his mine, and for such purpose may, with the like consent, use any pumping plant and machinery on the mine so entered upon, subject to the payment to the owner thereof of such sum for rent and depreciation as may be agreed upon, or, in default of agreement, as may be fixed by arbitration.

This provision will deal with mines where the underground operations have ceased and the mineowners are holding their leases by complying with the labour covenants through treating the tailings on the surface. They offered to make a conditional surrender but that was refused because they required a tailings area for the whole of the lease, comprising the whole of the surface rights. That would exclude anyone else coming on to that mine to prevent the water flowing to an adjoining mine, and this provision in the Bill is meant to prevent the flooding of mines so affected. I had a conference with the representatives of the companies concerned, and when they left me I was under the impression that they had come to an agreement to permit the owners of adjoining mines to have access to the shaft or as much of the surface of their property as would enable them to cope with the water and enable operations in the adjoining mines to be continued. Notwithstanding that fact, they have failed to agree. I understand, however, that difficulties have arisen and it is possible that there will be a lawsuit to decide what shall happen. That is one of the difficulties that arises because no power has been provided for a Minister to give a decision in such a matter. I do not suggest that this power should be put into operation but it is essential that a Minister who is the responsible person, should have the power to deal with those matters; it was not as if the House was asked to give the power to persons irresponsible except insofar as their own interests are concerned. A Minister is charged with responsibilities to Parliament and the people to maintain our national asset and it is right that he should have drastic powers to prevent a possible disaster to a whole district, in the case of a disagreement between two mine owners, who, after all, are only leasing ground which is the property of the Crown to obtain mineral which is also the property of the Crown. I am asking for the power to be given in this Bill. It is only with the consent of the Minister that an owner of an adjoining mine can enter upon the mining lease of another mine owner, and where the machinery of such mine has to be used, that, also is subject to consent of the Minister, and the rent payable for the use of such machinery is subject to arbitration if necessary. We are not providing for owners of adjoining property to commandeer a plant and the whole transaction is subject to Ministerial control. Such are the powers that I am asking the House to give to the Minister and I give an absolute assurance that no action will be taken without the fullest inquiries being made and that these powers will not be used unless for the protection of the mines in the district and the people there. Regarding the position at the

Edna May mine, arrangements have been made for pumping operations to continue until the 16th of this month. After the 16th, the Edna May mine, might, for all we know, remove the machinery and leave us stranded. I do not want that position to arise. I understand the member for the district has received a wire indicating that pumping operations are to be continued until the end of the month. If I find that that is the case, I have no desire to unduly press this measure for immediate consideration, but if they are going to cease pumping operations after the 16th of this month, it is essential to avoid the possibilities that may arise in that district. I suggest, in these circumstances, that we agree to pass the second reading of the Bill and if, on inquiry to-morrow, I find that the pumping operations are to continue until the end of the month, I propose not to enforce the provisions of the Act until it is necessary to do so. I am hopeful that such will be the case. I ask the House to assist in avoiding what may be a disaster on this field and beg to move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. HARRISON (Avon) [7-37]: As the representative of the district, naturally I am very anxious that something should be done promptly. When this House realises that there are 1,400 people there, not only miners but business people having shops and dwellings, they will quite realise the urgency of this matter. If the pumping operations at the Edna May cease on the 16th there will be considerable difficulty in keeping down the water in the Central. If the water rises, as it will do with insufficient pumping, with each foot as it goes higher greater difficulty will be experienced in pumping operations and longer will be the task of draining the other mines. Those interested in an adjoining mine will say that they have coped with the difficulty there so far as their mine is concerned. This mine has men working two or three hundred feet below the water level and should any fissure occur it will endanger the lives of those workmen. It is for this House to consider what might happen in the event of a catastrophe in the adjoining mine. I am not a mining expert, and I cannot say if the mines have coped with the difficulty there and if they are perfectly safe. It may be correct that they are, but the position seems to me very dangerous. I understand the oxidised ore ground is in a broken condition, and should the water rise in these levels, the chances of the mines coping with a vast head of water would be most difficult. The existence of these mines is at stake at the present moment and their difficulties are increasing hour by hour. It is essential that steps should be taken to cope with the difficulty and this should be done immediately. If we are to save that field to the State it is essential that immediate action should be taken. I support the Minister in his taking of prompt measures by sending up an officer to report. I shall be glad if the Bill is put through all its stages in the shortest possible time. I trust that we shall yet have even better results from the field than we have had in the past. The geological report stated the belief that the ore body would continue to a depth. It is not certain which mine will go down, but the Central should be helped by the Government

to get rid of the water for at least three months, in order to ascertain what the value of the ore will be at 500 feet on the underlay shaft. If the ore body is of improved character and will bear further operations it is possible that in the future the mine will be able to continue pumping without outside assistance. A rush of water representing 80,000 gallons per hour has been kept out by the Edna May for a considerable period; in fact they have reduced it to a flow of something like 40,000 gallons per hour. Of course it has meant a large plant and considerable cost. Month after month the Central has put back into further development work a large percentage of its earnings. Ore bodies have been found, but the management have not been able to deal with these ore bodies because of the water. I trust the House will pass the Bill as quickly as possible.

Mr. FOLEY (Leonora) [7-45]: I desire to support the Minister in the action he has taken on the news received from Westonia and from the field represented by the member for Menzies. The question has been asked whether the two cases are parallel. They are not, but the difference between them can easily be met by the proposals embodied in the amendment before us. In various other parts of Australia where different classes of mining are carried on legislation is provided to partly cope with conditions such as have arisen in Westonia and at Comet Vale. The provisions in the Victorian Act were largely framed with the idea of preventing flooding in the alluvial mines. Nobody wants to see another Australasia disaster such as happened at Deptford in Gippsland, when the Nicholson River came in on the mine. The Westonia field is in the problematical stage. It is not a question of the gold cutting out of the Edna May, but of finding it in some other property. Those who have knowledge of the subject have been able to determine that the payable ore that was in the Edna May is not lost to the State, but is now in the other mines. The question is whether, even if this trouble had not occurred, the Government would not be acting wisely in providing some emergency amendments for coping with a position such as we have at Westonia. We have to ask whether the loss of this field is of less importance to the State than the interests of a certain section of the Westonia field. If the Westonia field goes down, my all-in-all shall have gone. But I am speaking in the interests of mining generally. Certain precautions have been taken in one mine at Westonia which have not been taken, at least not to the same extent, in any other mine in the world. I refer to the keeping back of the water by the cementing process.

Mr. Duff: It has been a success.

Mr. FOLEY: The men who evolved that scheme are deserving of every praise. It has done all that was asked of it, but the House has now to consider whether it will do everything that might still be required. The member for the district has said there is a probability of an inrush of water into the mine they are working at a deeper level than the Edna May. If the water is allowed to rise in the Edna May up to that point where it will affect the broken ground in the mines to the north, it will be a question of whether the men will continue to work in

that mine. Every inspector of mines insists upon boring ahead so as to know that the men are still in the safety zone. The question here is how much longer that ground will stand the weight of water it has to bear. If the men leave the mine the field is lost to the State. If any company up there refuse to contribute, on the score that they have already made their own mine safe, the Government should step in and say whether the company in safeguarding themselves have safeguarded also the interests of the miners working there. Certain mines are willing to pay their quota, if all the others agree to contribute towards keeping the pumps going in the Edna May.

Mr. Duff: There is only one left.

Mr. FOLEY: No, there are two left; indeed I think there will be more than two. On the evidence before us I am convinced that if all the mine-owners come together and arrive at a reasonable conclusion in regard to costs and the system to work upon in pumping the water, many more mines will be opened up in Westonia. If the men are forced to work below with the possibility of the water coming in on them and drowning them, the Government will have to consider whether they will allow the men to work there. In the event of anything like that being feared, the amendment gives the Minister power to step in and safeguard the lives of the men working in the mines. Another point: In Victoria they have a drainage board which deals with such questions. The amendment before us is for one arbitrator to arbitrate on the whole concern. I think it will be better for the mines concerned and for the men working underground if one man is there. We will not then have to call meetings all over the place and pull wires in the interests, not of the mine itself, but of those who hold shares in the mine. It is a question whether much of the water pumped from the field is not going back into the mines notwithstanding that it is being taken by fluming a considerable distance over the surface. Irrespective of what the companies are called upon to do in the way of pumping, it will be the duty of the Government, from the passing of the Bill, to send up their geologists to go over the strata of the country, and even if it means that the water has to be taken a mile and a half away from the mines it should be done, for it will minimise the pumping to a very great extent. It is said that the Edna May is not to be called upon to contribute to the scheme. In any case they are abandoning their show. It might be said that they have made dividends. So they have. Still it must be realised that while they were working the mine they kept it clear of water and thus safeguarded the interests of the field generally. Since they have gone out of the mine, this is not the time to raise such an objection. Those interested should have brought it forward long ago and asked the Government to do something. The amendment will give the Minister power to take action to keep the mines going at Comet Vale. If the company abandon their show the proposition of the member for Menzies stands good; that is to say, if they have finished with the show let them throw it up and let facilities be given those who will work it. If on the one hand the Edna May cannot be called upon, because they have aban-

doned their lease, to pump any water from it, and on the other hand the mine at Comet Vale refuse to pump water or to allow the company next door to pump it, the cases are parallel, and the amendment to the Act suggested by the Minister for Mines will govern the two cases. I am absolutely certain that every member of this Chamber feels that it is a great power that we are placing in the hands of the six gentlemen who comprise the Cabinet. We are handing to the Government something of vital importance to the State, and I believe that if any number of men, or if Cabinet itself, or any single Minister, violated the trust that is being placed in them, there is not one constituency in the State that would vote for any of them to be put back into office. I hope to see the measure carried, and I am glad to think, with the Minister, that there is not the same absolute urgency about the matter that he thought there would be last night. It is pleasing to know that we have had an opportunity of getting a little more information than we have have previously possessed on the subject.

Mr. PILKINGTON (Perth) [8.2]: I hope the Government will see their way clear to allow some little time to members to consider this Bill. It was put before us for the first time this evening, and we are asked to pass it through all stages without any further consideration than we can give to it in the few hours of to-night, and also without the assistance of any of the opinions of persons who understand more about these matter than the ordinary layman in this Chamber. The Minister has said that the legislation is of a very drastic nature. It is indeed of a most drastic nature. It is a class of legislation which to me is abhorrent. I am not prepared to say, without knowing more about the technical side of the question, that this legislation is not justified, but I think it would take a very strong case to justify it. Individual members of the House are entitled to some time in which to consider it before they pass it. I hope, therefore, that a motion for adjournment will be allowed to go through. At present our position is that any mine owner who is affected by water can pump his own mine if he is willing to go to the expense, and can make anyone who has benefited pay his proportion, in proportion to the benefit he receives.

The Minister for Mines: That is well known, but it does not meet the case before us now.

Mr. PILKINGTON: It has met the case before. I think that legislation of this kind has been in force in Victoria for a considerable period and has apparently worked very well there. It works well there because the person who is affected, the mine owner, is willing to take the risk of the expenditure, and is the person who takes all the risk in the first instance. If he is

satisfied that he must pump in order to carry on his work, and is satisfied that he can get compensation from adjoining mines which benefit, he undertakes the work and does it. That can be done now, except for the difficulty of getting machinery and the delay that must ensue as a consequence. It can be done in any of the cases which have been put forward.

Mr. Mullany: It has no bearing on these cases you have mentioned.

Mr. PILKINGTON: I do not think that is correct. I know the facts regarding one of the cases.

Mr. Mullany: It has no bearing on any case which has been mentioned.

Mr. PILKINGTON: In regard to, one case, I believe I know all the facts. The difficulty of the mine owner is in regard to the delay in getting machinery. If the power is used here—

The Minister for Mines: That is not so in either of these cases.

Mr. PILKINGTON: What is not so?

The Minister for Mines: The question of time being required in order to get machinery.

Mr. PILKINGTON: I understood that it was so.

The Minister for Mines: No!

Mr. PILKINGTON: I thought what was said in regard to the Westonia companies was that the only machinery on the field was at the Edna May mine, and that it would be impossible to get machinery erected on the other mines in time to deal with the difficulty.

The Minister for Mines: That is not the point.

Mr. PILKINGTON: The mine owner has the right to do all the baling that is necessary on his mine, and to get compensation from any other mine which benefits from his operations. There is no difficulty in the position. In the case of Comet Vale, the water is flooding into the adjoining mine.

The Minister for Mines: Yes. It is not a question of the water flowing in; it is the danger of the ground collapsing, and that is the danger to the other mines.

Mr. PILKINGTON: If the sole question is that of the ground collapsing, it applies to the Edna May and not to the other companies. I was not aware that there was any danger in regard to the other companies.

The Minister for Mines: There is a danger of all the stopes collapsing and of the levels, and everything coming down.

Mr. PILKINGTON: That is a different power altogether, and quite separate from the power I speak of. One of the dangers of the Bill is that the Government, acting in good faith, may do an immense amount of pumping in places where there are several mines adjoining. They may do it with the best of intentions and incur large expenditure, and then make the companies pay out of proportion to the benefit they receive. The companies have to pay the

whole of the costs, but in proportion to the benefit they receive.

The Minister for Mines: This is the power we take. Do you think we should take less power?

Mr. PILKINGTON: That might involve a company in a huge liability for a small amount. A company is not bound to pay the Government the amount of benefit received. If it cost £1,000 and there were two mines, each of which benefited to the extent of £50, they would require to pay each one-half of the £1,000.

The Minister for Mines: That is the power that is sought. It is not to say that the power will be used.

Mr. PILKINGTON: It imposes a liability.

The Minister for Mines: You would not suggest anything less than that?

Mr. PILKINGTON: I am trying to suggest that the Bill requires consideration, and am asking that the Government should allow members to have the debate adjourned.

The Minister for Mines: And I am prepared to give that consideration which the Bill deserves if you will give consideration to the position which has arisen.

Mr. PILKINGTON: I am not speaking against the measure, for I recognise that it is an important one.

The Minister for Mines: It is no good closing the stable door after the horse has gone.

Mr. PILKINGTON: I understand that the Minister said that pumping would not stop at the Edna May until the end of the month.

The Minister for Mines: I have not been officially informed of that. If I find that is correct I am not going to press this. I do not think that alters the power that is required, for on the 30th I shall still be in the same position.

Mr. PILKINGTON: But hon. members will have had an opportunity of considering the Bill. Continually Bills are brought here and we have to discuss them only in a comparatively few moments. That is an unsatisfactory state of affairs. This Bill requires careful consideration. I should like to have the opportunity of getting the opinions of those who are familiar with these technical matters before voting upon the Bill. The Minister has admitted that the Bill is a drastic one, and he must agree that it should not be pushed through if by any possibility this rush can be avoided.

Mr. DUFF: (Claremont) [8.10]: The member for Leonora (Mr. Foley) has pointed to the terrible risk which may occur if this matter is not attended to at once. I claim to know a little about this field. I have been here since its inception, and have prospected these and have been there fortnightly ever since. I only returned yesterday morning. I assure the House that there is no immediate danger, as hon. members are trying to point out, in that particular district.

The Minister for Mines: What!

Mr. DUFF: In the Edna May group.

The Minister for Mines: No immediate danger?

Mr. DUFF: No particular danger is hanging over the heads of the people in Westonia.

The Minister for Mines: I do not believe that.

Mr. DUFF: Hon. members say that if the water rises in the Edna May to such an extent, and they take the pumps out, as they will, it will cause danger in the Deeps mine. If the water rose to the oxidised zone it would make no difference to the Deeps mine. The member for Leonora has said that if flooding takes place the miners will be drowned like rats.

Mr. Foley: I did not say that.

Mr. DUFF: There are two get-aways in the Deeps mine, and the Mines Department caused an extra shaft to be put down. The Deeps mine has carried out every instruction of the Mines Department. They built what is known as a bulk-head door at the 480ft. level, which is the deepest level in the Edna May mine. By this means it was possible to pass through the Deeps to the Edna May. The present depth of the Deeps is 740ft. We are using sprays just now for the dust so that there is not much chance of striking another flow of water at the low levels. It has been proved by us that the water level in the group is from 300ft. downwards. The heavy flow is at the green-stone dyke. In the Edna May it occurred at 300ft. Down to 380ft. there was a heavy flow of water. Mr. Stuckey, the manager of the Deeps mine, brought into existence what is known as cementation. By that means the mine has been built to combat any inflow of water which may occur. The member for Leonora would have the House believe that if the Edna May fills up that cementation would break away, and the mine would be flooded.

The Minister for Mines: What about the shattered zone?

Mr. DUFF: That is at 300ft. from the surface. We are in the oxidised zone at 150ft. and we are just changing to the sulphide country. From 150ft. down there is no danger in the Deeps mine. No matter how the water may rise in the Edna May there is no danger there. If it comes to the surface it will not filter through to the distance it has to travel, and will not be of any danger except that it may percolate slightly into the Deeps shaft. If it does percolate into the Deeps shaft the Deeps mine is quite prepared to concrete outside the timber in the shaft. I do not know that there would be any danger in adjourning the debate on this question to-night. We in Westonia have had to fight this water trouble for the last two years. One mine, the Consolidated, has been practically knocked out through the verdict given by the warden in connection with the action taken by the Edna May mine over the pumping operations carried out by that

mine. The warden's decision gave the Edna May company a verdict of something like £5,000 against the Consolidated company. The Central company have also had their battle with the Edna May. Now that the Edna May company have gone out, the Central people are looking for a victim and they are casting eyes in the direction of the Deeps. The Deeps have never been prosecuted nor has there been a suggestion of a prosecution. I cannot understand why the member for Leonora (Mr. Foley) should try to make out that there is a certain danger hanging over the Deeps mine.

Mr. Foley: It is hanging over all those mines.

Mr. DUFF: If the Minister will consent to an adjournment, I shall be able to review the statements which have been made by the member for Leonora so far as the Deeps mine is concerned. There is no reason for indecent haste in connection with this Bill. The Central company at the present time have in hand no less a sum than £14,000. Yet they are asking the Government to assist them out of their difficulty. Why cannot they assist themselves? Why cannot they do the same as any other mining investor is expected to do?

The Minister for Mines: We have never been approached by the Central company.

Mr. DUFF: Who is it then who has caused all this agitation? Is it vested interests? If hon. members were to read the Westonia paper they would see where all this agitation has come from. I noticed on reading the local newspaper the other day that the assistant State mining engineer on the occasion of his visit to Westonia was actually accorded a civic reception. Did anyone ever hear of such a thing?

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You do not think that a glass of ginger ale would affect any decision he might give?

Mr. DUFF: He does not drink Roche's delight. I have here a report of the proceedings. It looks as if there was something more than the interests of mining behind this. I would like the Minister for Mines to agree to an adjournment of the debate, and if he does that, I will be able to bring some evidence to prove that the tremendous risk, the terrible danger which is hanging over the heads of everyone in Westonia, does not exist. True, the Consolidated mine has closed down.

The Minister for Mines: Only temporarily.

Mr. DUFF: I want to see that mine at work again. I am the local director and my interests are in that property.

Mr. LAMBERT (Coolgardie) [8.20]: While the Minister may be complimented on taking the action he has done he would be well advised to stay his hand so that the House may get further information. The position which has arisen is certainly difficult, and to my mind it would be a very hard one to grapple with even if the Govern-

ment were to compulsorily acquire the necessary pumping machinery to keep the mines dry. So far as the water question in this State is concerned, it is not on all fours with that of Victoria. That has been distinctly proved by the experiments which have been carried out by Mr. Stuckey, the manager of the Deeps mine. It has been found in the mines of Victoria that it is absolutely necessary to tap the water pressure there in every mine. If the statement made by the member for Leonora were not proved incorrect by the experimental works of Mr. Stuckey at the Deeps mine, there would be justification for alarm, but it is absolutely impossible for the Minister or any other arbitrator or set of arbitrators to properly assess the amount that should be paid by every company at Westonia. There is one company there which has the water difficulty and there is another company which, by a cementing process, has been able to combat the water difficulty. It appears to me that it will be absolutely unfair to ask a mine like the Deeps to pay for water that should be removed by the Central mine, particularly if the Central mine are in a position to carry on that operation. The member for Claremont (Mr. Duff), who is interested in the question, and who is the local director of one company, has told us that there is no haste in regard to this matter. It would, therefore, be as well for us to obtain all the information possible. The Minister has shown that he is alive to the necessity of conserving the interests of the Westonia field, but he should not be averse to affording the House all the information which is required to enable members to arrive at a correct decision. Members can get out of their minds that there is any analogy between the water problem in this State and the water problem in Victoria. In the latter State the water question is very easy to deal with, because, for a quarter of a century it has been definitely proved that tapping the basaltic rock lowers the water pressure. If that were the case in Westonia it would be necessary to take immediate action, but it has been disproved by the cementing experiments carried out by Mr. Stuckey. In the Menzies district a couple of mines are held up on account of the water difficulty and there may be justification for the Minister to take action there. There are conflicting interests which it is impossible to reconcile, and a settlement can only be brought about by legislation and action on the part of the Minister for Mines. One mine there is practically worked out and the Happy Jack people have declared that they are prepared to let the holders of the adjoining property have the lease, shaft and everything else. A letter to that effect appeared in the Kalgoorlie "Miner" a few weeks back over the signature of Frank Moss.

Mr. O'Loughlen: It is called the Jolly Miller now.

Mr. Mullany: It is not the Happy Jack mine. It is the Gladsome mine, but Happy Jack is coming in to settle it now.

Mr. LAMBERT: I do not think that we should give power to the Minister to launch out on any extensive scheme of purchasing machinery, and so saddling this State not only with the cost of that machinery but also with the cost of pumping.

Mr. MULLANY: The Bill will give power to acquire the machinery if it is thought advisable to do so.

Mr. LAMBERT: The Minister is treating this matter as urgent and he has stated that unless something is done within the next few days, the Edna May people may say, "We will not let you use our machinery."

Mr. TROY: It can be taken.

Mr. LAMBERT: But we will have to pay for it and possibly have to pay an inflated amount.

The Minister for Mines: That is not correct. We do not require to take it.

Mr. LAMBERT: The urgency of the matter has been stressed by the Minister, and the reports show that it is essential that the Central mine should be kept dry. So far as the Gladsome mine is concerned, however, the people controlling that lease have been informed that they can have everything with the exception of the surface equipment. I quite agree with the Minister that where it can be shown that conflicting interests are holding up the industry it will be well for the Minister to have the power he seeks to acquire now. But in the case of Westonia we have been assured by the member for Claremont that the Central Company have £14,000 in hand and are quite able to undertake any work of unwatering. I know that the Minister is shrewd enough not to allow himself to be jockeyed into any position which would result in the State being saddled with the responsibility of buying a plant and carrying on pumping operations under the circumstances I have described. The Minister, I take it, under the extensive powers given to him would go to the very limit of his powers before he would say that the State was involved in considerable expense. The member for Leonora has told us that the values at Westonia are problematical. That can hardly be said to be the case in connection with the Gladsome mine. That mine has a future before it, and the owners have been told that they can have everything with the exception of the equipment on the surface. It is as well that the Minister should have the right to acquire not only the machinery but also any workings that may be essential for the proper draining of any adjoining property. I regret that the leader of the Opposition is not here to express an opinion on the attitude that the Government propose to adopt towards the mines in question, because the hon. member has had considerable experience of the administration of the Mining Act and in dealing with those who are apparently interesting themselves in having this legislation put through. I hope the Minister, having shown the urgency for the legislation, will afford the leader of the Opposition an opportunity to say something before the second reading is passed. I hope hon. members will think the matter well over

and make further inquiries. The member for Claremont (Mr. Duff), who is an interested party, states that so far as the Deeps mine is concerned Mr. Stuckey's opinion on the water can be relied upon, and that we have Mr. Stuckey's assurance that the water pressure in the Deeps is not likely to imperil the lives of the working miners. Therefore the least the Minister can do is to give the House a further opportunity to consider the Bill.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (North-East Fremantle) [8.31]: I have read the Bill very carefully and I do not see anything in it relating to the Gladsome, Sand Queen, Deeps or any other mine. I can understand the member for Coolgardie (Mr. Lambert) remembering something with a queen attached to it, if he could not remember anything else. This Bill merely aims at giving the Minister power to do something, if necessary. If the position is, as the member for Claremont (Mr. Duff) stated, that it will not affect Westonia, there can be no objection to the Bill.

Mr. Duff: I said the urgency put forward.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The officials of the department have no doubt come to the conclusion that this is a matter of urgency and, if the Bill is passed, there may be a possibility of bringing some of the mining directors, who are adopting an unreasonable attitude, to their senses. The powers will be there and they can be exercised if necessary. What difference does it make to us whether there is water in the Edna May or not, so long as it does not affect another mine and there is nothing to fear in the direction of any person being drowned. If this Bill is carried it will not make any difference in such a case. If there is no fear, there will be no need to exercise the powers, but if there is need to exercise the powers, the Minister will have an opportunity to prevent a number of men from being thrown out of employment. That is the point that concerns me. Many men have built homes of their own in the district and have their wives and families living there, and some may find it difficult to move elsewhere. If it is desirable for the Minister to have power to compel certain persons to take action for the protection of these mines, it is our duty to give him that power. I hope the Minister will endeavour to put the Bill through to-night. If the leader of the Opposition were here, he would agree to the Minister having this power. The officers of the department think it is necessary in order to carry on the mining industry of the State in a manner that will be satisfactory to the working of the mines, to the shareholders, and to the men engaged in the industry.

Mr. TROY (Mt. Magnet) [8.34]: I do not know the merits of the dispute existing at Westonia which was discussed by the member for Claremont, but I consider that, so far as this Bill is concerned, time is the es-

sence of the contract. I do not see in the measure the dire possibilities that some members pretend to have found. Some members think the Minister would take drastic action and would engage in such responsibilities as would bring a heavy burden on the State. I have no difficulty in deciding that, so far as I am concerned, the Minister shall have the power outlined in the Bill. After all, it is not a very drastic proposal. It may not be necessary to exercise the powers conferred under the Bill for years. Such powers, however, should have been conferred on the Minister years ago. If this had been done, there are many localities which would have been active mining fields to-day. I have in mind the Black Range mine, which produced gold and gave the shareholders a profit of £250,000 in 10 years. Then the company adopted a dog-in-the-manger policy. A weaker company held an adjoining lease, and, not being in a position to expend a large sum of money on a complete plant, were unable to keep their mine dry, with the result that the Black Range mine became flooded and could not carry on. I am convinced, from the knowledge I have of the underground manager, Mr. Meecham, that if the Black Range mine had been worked as it should have been it would have been a good proposition, in that from the day it was worked until it closed down, it showed a profit of £1 per ton of stone crushed. If the mine had not become flooded—the workings have all fallen in—hundreds of tributaries would have been engaged in the mine and would have been making a good livelihood to-day. Other companies have pursued the same policy. If they cannot get the next show, they endeavour to starve it out. Because another company is weak and cannot purchase the necessary plant to develop their mine or unwater their mine, they go into insolvency. I have heard it said that the mine which receives no benefit will be compelled to pay for the benefits received by other mines. I cannot find anything of the sort in the Bill. The expenditure incurred is to be paid by the mines which benefit and if the Edna May, or other mines referred to by the member for Claremont (Mr. Duff) are in no danger of being flooded and they receive no benefit from these operations, they will pay nothing. I fail to see any danger in conferring these powers upon the Minister. It is not an unreasonable Bill; it is a perfectly legitimate measure. I do not view it with that abhorrence which the member for Perth (Mr. Pilkington) professes. It may be a step further but it is a step which should have been taken years ago. I have no fear that any Minister, no matter what party he represented, would take any action which would not be in the best interests of the country. We have to trust Ministers in connection with every Act put on the statute-book. Much is left to the discretion of the Minister administering a particular law, and I am quite prepared to give the Minister for Mines the discretion provided in this Bill. I hope the Minister will not agree to an adjournment. The position

at Westonia is such that it might be possible to save this field to the country, and pressure might be brought to bear on certain companies to do their part. The sooner this is done the better. I shall do my best to help the Minister to push the Bill through.

Mr. LUTEY (Brownhill-Ivanhoe) [8.40]. I support the second reading. Such power should have been conferred upon the Minister years ago. The Minister has read reports from the responsible officer and he says there is a danger to the lives of the men working in the Westonia district. Therefore, the earliest possible opportunity should be taken to see that the lives of these men are safeguarded. We miners know that very often the watershed of a particular field or line of lode might necessitate one mine doing the pumping for the others, and if that mine stopped pumping the others would have to instal machinery. The member for Claremont says there is no danger at the Deeps as the cement has done everything required of it. If the natural water level in the Edna May is 84ft., and the water rises to that level, the cement may be asked to carry more than it can carry, and the whole of the field may be endangered. I certainly think the Minister should have the power at all times to take such action as will prevent the bickering which has been going on in Westonia for years, and enable him to stop in and do the right thing. I hope the Bill will be passed as soon as possible because it will be in the best interests of mining in Western Australia for the Minister to have power to take such action wherever necessary.

[The Deputy Speaker took the Chair.]

Mr. MULLANY (Menzies) [8.41]: I trust the House will pass the second reading of this Bill. As various speakers have pointed out, these provisions are necessary and should have been put in the Act years ago. The question of water hampering mining operations is not entirely new to me. For many months I have been endeavouring to get the department to take action to cope with the position at Comet Vale, but it has been found that the department have no power at present. The member for Coolgardie (Mr. Lambert) said that Mr. Moss as owner of the Sand Queen, has published a letter in the "Kalgoorlie Miner," in which he states his willingness to hand over his lease to the Gladstone company. The member for Coolgardie is fully aware that the letter in the "Kalgoorlie Miner" bears no weight. The letter from Mr. Moss is entirely different from his action when it comes to the point of making a satisfactory arrangement between the two mines. The member for Perth (Mr. Pilkington) made some reference to a provision in the Mining Act whereby, if one company is benefited by the pumping operations of other companies, those other companies can

claim a portion of the cost of handling the water. That is perfectly correct, but I interjected that cases of that nature had no bearing whatever upon such cases as this Bill is designed to meet. It is an entirely different matter to deal with persons who are willing to go on developing their mines and who are hampered by water from an adjoining lease when the owners of that lease make no effort to prevent the water interfering with the operations of their neighbours. Various members also raised the objection that the Bill commits the State to compulsory purchase of mining machinery, but a perusal of the Bill shows that that will not be the state of affairs at all. The measure merely gives the Minister power to purchase machinery where that course is for the benefit of the mining industry and the State generally. I want hon. members to realise that although the mining companies are termed the owners of those leases, the State is in the position of a landlord and that the companies are merely in the position of lessees from the State. The State has a vital interest in seeing that the leases are worked to the very best advantage. When the owners of adjoining leases, or a group of leases in close proximity, are unable to come to a satisfactory arrangement for dealing with water, it seems only just that the State in its capacity of landlord should intervene and adjust the differences in the best interests of all concerned. I think the Minister and members will agree with me that that is the object of this amending Bill. On the question of urgency I am prepared to accept the word of the Minister and the word of the member for the district in which the Westonia field is situated. It may be necessary to use the powers under this Bill and if it is not necessary no harm will be done. As regards the Comet Vale district, which is situated in my electorate, while there is no question of danger to the men employed, there is a certain degree of urgency inasmuch as the Sand Queen Co.—notwithstanding Mr. Moss's letter to the "Kalgoorlie Miner"—are at present holding the piece of ground in question and the water is flowing into the Gladstone mine and hampering operations there. At the same time, the Sand Queen Co. are complying with labour conditions by reason of their employing half a dozen men at a lease situated about half a mile distant. This is so under the concentration of labour conditions. The Sand Queen company are violating the spirit of the law, but keeping its letter. Their action to-day is certainly hampering the operations of the Gladstone company. Further on the question of urgency, there are some 20 or 25 men at Comet Vale, nearly all married men with wives and families in the district. They are anxiously awaiting news that the Government will take some steps to enable them to continue their work in the district. They cannot remain there

unemployed for any length of time. There is no employment at Comet Vale but the employment on the mines. If those men have six months' unemployment there, it means that for them the mines might as well close down altogether. I desire again to compliment the Minister on the introduction of this Bill, which although somewhat drastic, is absolutely necessary in the interests of the mining industry. I fully realise that the powers under the Bill will need to be used with great discretion. As other members have pointed out, the Minister sanctioning action under this Bill will carry grave responsibilities. It is not to be thought that any man will hold the important portfolio of Mines in this State if he will not consider the importance of any action he may take under such a measure as this and satisfy himself beforehand that it will be in the best interests of the mining industry. I support the second reading, and I hold that there is good reason for allowing the measure to pass through all its stages to-night so that the news may go out to the workers interested that the Government are about to step in for the purpose of protecting the interests of the mining industry of this State.

The MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. J. Scaddan—Albany—in reply) [8.51]: I desire to say that I appreciate very much the tone of the discussion, and the evidence that hon. members are prepared, when called upon, to realise the great responsibility that rests not only upon the Minister for Mines but also upon Parliament in taking the action that is being taken to-day. It is well that the public of Westonia should know and appreciate the action of this House, for we frequently hear statements made by interested parties—and the same thing is occasionally printed in the newspapers—that Parliament just jogs along doing nothing of importance and only talking. But the fact must be realised that to-day is private member's day, which now occurs only every other week, and that private members have been quite willing, without raising the slightest objection, to forego practically the entire sitting in order that this important matter may be dealt with. Such a fact affords proof that Parliament when called upon to shoulder a responsibility does not hesitate to do so. I make these remarks in order to help the people of Westonia to a proper appreciation of the position. Next I want to say to the member for Perth (Mr. Pilkington), who I regret to observe is not in his place, that this is not a question of law. I want that circumstance to be realised. It is a question of making a law which does not exist, a question of making a law in order to meet a difficulty which may have a disastrous effect unless something of this nature is done. I know what the law is at the moment. True, I do not know it quite so well as the member for Perth knows it, because he has recently been engaged in a mining law suit. But it is because the present law does not meet the

position which has arisen that we require this amendment. I want the member for Perth to realise that whatever may be the law at the moment, whatever may be his opinion of that law, it does not affect the fact that the present case cannot be met by the existing law. I want to say, too, to the member for Perth—enlarging upon what the member for Menzies (Mr. Mullany) has suggested—that the men mining upon Crown lands under lease have obtained leases in order to work mines with a view to obtaining minerals which belong to the State. Therefore each of them has the right to work his lease, but has no right to ruin an adjoining lease. While a man has the right to work his lease in order to obtain minerals, the State as landlord cannot permit any action, or any want of action, on the part of such a man to force others out of leases which they hold for the same purpose. Although the legislation proposed by this Bill appears to the member for Perth intensely drastic, I have to point out that the State as owner of the property merely authorises a lease holder to do certain things on Crown lands and that the State has the right to say to a leaseholder, "You shall continue your operations for the benefit of the general community," or "You shall cease your operations for the benefit of the general community." All that we say by this Bill, therefore, is that if a mine is abandoned and the water from that mine is liable to do injury to adjoining mines, the Government may, if the mines cannot agree to do certain things, step in and do those things, whereupon the mines shall share the expense. The member for Claremont (Mr. Duff) astonished me when he said he could assure the House that there was no immediate danger. From all the information that I have obtained, I believe there is immediate danger. It is not merely a question of a flow of water from one mine to another and bailing it away. We have already been assured by the assistant Government Mining Engineer that in one place, where an experiment was tried, the whole of the stopes have collapsed. Once the stopes in a mine begin to collapse wholesale, it is liable to affect the adjoining mines.

Mr. Duff: I was only referring to the question of urgency. Two or three days cannot make any difference.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: I give the hon. member an assurance that the power I ask for will be exercised if it is essential, and not otherwise. I also give him an assurance that I will not put the power into operation until I have the fullest reports from all sources. But I am not going to allow any one section to encroach to the detriment of the whole community. Therefore I ask the House to pass the Bill, realising that the existing law will not permit the Government to do that which is essential under the conditions prevailing. Now let me reply to the member for Coolgardie (Mr. Lambert). This Bill, if passed, will not call upon the Minister, and that is to say, the Government, to

purchase any plant. But the measure will give the very power to which some reference was made by the member for Mount Magnet (Mr. Troy)—a power which, I think, should be exercised in cases of necessity. A mine on certain Crown lands held under lease may, by reason of having a rich run of lode or reef, be able to carry on operations more speedily and extensively than an adjoining mine, and thus may be worked out more quickly. The owners of the rich mine have, amongst other plant, certain machinery which is necessary for pumping or baling operations in the ordinary way. Then, because they want to force the owners of the adjoining mine into letting them have an interest in that property as well—supposing the reef has gone into the adjoining property—they may take up the attitude of saying, "If you do not let us in, we will remove all our plant and leave you stranded." That may be all right from the point of view of a company or an individual trying to get a pull over an adjoining property, but it is not all right from the standpoint of the State. I contend that before the plant is removed it should be made available for the purposes for which it was installed by the people who obtained the advantage of the minerals in the first mine. Under this Bill the Minister will have the right to lease that machinery, paying a fair rate for rental and for depreciation. But there is nothing in the Bill to prevent the Government from purchasing any plant on the mine. At the same time, there is nothing to compel them to purchase. If the Minister finds that the machinery will be required for an extended period for pumping purposes, it is due to the owners that they should have at least an opportunity to sell to the Government and thus rid themselves of the responsibility of holding the machinery until such time as it becomes fit to be scrapped; that is, if it is not going to be of any further use to them. But the machinery may be required by the Government for a period of only a few weeks, or two or three weeks, to test certain lodes—say the lodes which are said to exist in the Central mine. In such cases the Government will pay rental for the use of the plant, and also depreciation. Such a course is infinitely better than compelling the holders of adjoining leases to hunt round for machinery simply because the owners of the machinery choose to take up a selfish, dog-in-the-manger attitude, saying, "We will remove that which is of little value to us when removed, and which is of great value to you where it is situated." That is all I desire to say, except that I believe the position to be so important and so urgent that the powers asked for in this Bill should be granted, subject to an assurance from me that I will not operate under those powers until such time as it is found wise to do so, and that I will not operate under them except after thorough and complete inquiry.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

Read a third time and transmitted to the Legislative Council.

BILL—POSTPONED DEBTS.

Read a third time and transmitted to the Legislative Council.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES 1919-20.

In Committee of Supply.

Resumed from the previous day; Mr. Stubbs in the Chair.

Vote—Police, £140,352:

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (North-East Freemantle): I had hoped that the Minister would have something to say on his Estimates.

The Premier: There is nothing to introduce.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I know that Woods and Forests are under the control of the Minister for Mines, but seeing that the Police Department has been mixed up with these other departments, I expected to hear some introductory remarks from the Minister about police matters. I want to point out that a system has been adopted of late in connection with our police force under which the members of the force are allowed to carry arms. I am unable to find any provisions in the Police Act which give power to the police to carry arms. I know there is power under Section 9, which gives the Commissioner power to frame rules, orders, or regulations whereby he can provide for certain contingencies.

Mr. Smith: Is there anything to prohibit them from carrying arms?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: No. Section 9 prescribes the class of arms which policemen can carry, but I am unable to trace either in the Police Act or in the Criminal Code or in any regulation, rule, or order made under Section 9 of the Police Act, anything giving that power to a police constable. We have to-day in the Kalgoorlie district a fair number of policemen and special constables armed with rifles. The Commissioner has no power to authorise the arming of these men unless he has first made an order under Section 9 of the Police Act, and has received the approval of his Minister. I have the latest regulation dealing with the arming of the police. It is dated 18th September, 1914—the Labour Government were then in office. I will read this regulation for the information of hon. members—

In accordance with the provisions of Section 9 of the Police Act, 1892, the Hon. the Minister has been pleased to approve of the following instructions relating to the use of arms by the police for general guidance:—The attention of all members

of the force is directed to Section 233 of the Criminal Code Act, 1913, the provisions of which must be strictly adhered to. Section 233 of the Criminal Code provides as follows:—“When a police officer is proceeding lawfully to arrest, with or without warrant, a person for an offence which is such that the offender may be arrested without warrant, and the person sought to be arrested takes to flight in order to avoid arrest, it is lawful for the police officer, and for any person lawfully assisting him, to use such force as may be reasonably necessary to prevent the escape of the person sought to be arrested. But this section does not authorise the use of force which is intended or is likely to cause death or grievous bodily harm, except in a case where the person sought to be arrested is reasonably suspected of having committed an offence punishable with death or imprisonment for life under this Code, nor until the person sought to be arrested has been called upon to surrender.” The section materially alters the law relating to the use of arms by the police, and it is now only in case where the person sought to be arrested is reasonably suspected of having committed an offence punishable with death or imprisonment for life under the Code, and has first been called upon to surrender, that a constable would be justified in using a firearm, or any other force intended or likely to cause death or grievous bodily harm. However, there is still no doubt that where an offender himself turns a deadly weapon against a constable with the intention of taking life, the latter would be justified in using a firearm. Under Section 74 of the Prisons Act, 1903, a police officer charged with the custody of any person under sentence of death or penal servitude or imprisonment for any term may fire upon any such prisoner while attempting to escape from any prison or other place, or while attempting to assault any guard, gaoler, warder, police officer, or other person as aforesaid, or any other prisoner, provided that such firing shall appear to be necessary to prevent the escape of such prisoner, or the assault committed or attempted by such prisoner was of a character apparently dangerous to the life or likely to cause bodily harm to the person assaulted or threatened. A safe rule for all occasions is to maintain a cool demeanour, to avoid threatening, and, when extreme necessity arises, to act with promptness and determination. Section 9 of the Police Act reads as follows:—“The Commissioner of Police may from time to time, with the approval of the Minister, frame rules orders and regulations for the general government of members of the police force as well with respect to their places of residence, their classification, grade distribution, particular services and inspection as to the description of arms and accoutrements and other necessities to be furnished to them.”

As far as I can gather, this is the only regulation which deals with the arming of the police.

The Attorney General: Is it illegal for anyone to carry arms?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Yes, unless they are licensed within the towns. The Police Act does not provide for it, except by regulation or rule. This regulation does not provide for it. The Criminal Code states distinctly it can only be used in the case of a prisoner who is punishable for his crime with death or imprisonment for life. There is no other regulation.

The Attorney General: There ought to be.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: What there ought to be is one thing and what there is is another. There is none, and in consequence the Government are breaking the law.

Mr. Pilkington: Do they require a regulation to authorise them to wear boots?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I am not sure. But the Act states definitely what they have to provide for.

Mr. Pilkington: What they may provide for.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: They have to state definitely the description of the arms and accoutrements. They might describe the boots under this.

Mr. Pilkington: If they are not described it does not prevent them wearing ordinary boots.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: There is no law which states that they can carry arms, except a regulation be made. I am not going to say that a thoroughly trained person is likely to do much injury by the possession of arms, but I do say that when special constables are sworn in, some of whom have never had a gun in their hands, there is some danger, and therefore when men are armed and paraded with arms, it has a tendency to cause disturbance, it has a tendency to lead men to violence.

Mr. Smith: And a tendency to keep them quiet.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Make no mistake about that. Before the Government arm a body of men they should first abide by the law; they should first be sure that the person to whom they issue a rifle knows how to handle that rifle and therefore will not be a source of danger to the public.

The Premier: People who carry revolvers are still more dangerous.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I am not going to argue that at all, but there are certain provisions in the Police Act to be carried out.

The Attorney General: Not in regard to the arming of constables.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Well, why is it there, why was it necessary to issue special regulations?

The Attorney General: Regulations have nothing to do with the carrying of arms.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Regulation 459a has to do with the carrying of arms by the police. The regulation was framed in accordance with the Act. To-day the Govern-

ment are acting legally. There is a proper method to be adopted. It has not been adopted, and in my opinion the Government are acting illegally. I do not blame the police for everything they have to do. I realise they have sworn to carry out certain duties. I think we have as good a police force in Western Australia as has any other part of the Commonwealth. At the same time, we pay them less than police are paid in many other parts of the world.

The Minister for Mines: Not now.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Yes, now.

The Minister for Works: Pay does not give a man ability to use a weapon.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The pay of the police force in England is as follows:—On appointment, 70s. a week and allowances, including house rent; first year, 72s.; second year, 74s.; 3rd year, 76s.; 4th year, 78s.; 5th year, 80s.; 6th year, 82s.; 7th year, 84s.; 8th year, 86s.; 9th year, 88s.; 10th year, 90s.; up to the 17th year, 92s. 6d.; up to the 22nd year, 95s. Those are the weekly wages in England, approved by a special commission. In Western Australia a probationer gets 8s. 4d. per day with £29 a year allowance if he lives out. If he lives in barracks 5s. a week is taken off his allowance. Up to three years he gets 9s. 4d. a day, from three to five years 9s. 10d.; from five to 10 years, 10s. 4d.; from 10 to 15 years, 10s. 10d.; from 15 to 20 years, 11s. 4d.; from 20 years and over, 11s. 10d. That is the difference between England and Western Australia.

The Minister for Works: Those wages are only recent. There was not that difference two years ago.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The wages we pay to-day are not what we paid two years ago. That is the difference to-day. In Queensland, for the first year a constable gets 10s. a day as compared with our 8s. 4d.; from the second to the 5th year he gets 10s. 6d. as against our 9s. 10d.; from the 6th to the 10th year he gets 11s. in comparison with our 10s. 4d.; from the 11th to the 15th year he gets 11s. 6d. as against our 10s. 10d.; from the 16th to the 20th year he gets 12s. as against our 11s. 4d.; and for over 20 years he gets 12s. 6d. as against our 11s. 10d. The pay of sergeants and other officers is comparable with ours in the same way. A policeman has to live, just as has any other person; he cannot live on air. It is true that he has certain allowances. If he is in a barrack he pays no house rent; if renting a house he has an allowance to meet it. But the same thing applies in England over and above the wages I have enumerated, and they there get 1s. 6d. a week to keep their boots in repair. Here they get nothing whatever for that. The police in Queensland get their house rent. As a matter of fact if we take the police force right through the various parts of the Empire we find they are paid less in Western Australia than anywhere else.

The Minister for Mines: The pay is practically the same throughout Australia.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: No, in Queensland it is fixed by Arbitration Court award. In England it is fixed by a commission. Fancy a man with a wife and family having to live on 9s. 4d. a day! How is it possible for him to live?

Mr. Smith: How is it possible for him to build houses?

Mr. Jones: It is the lowness of the pay that makes it possible; you know that.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I have a house, but I built it myself in my spare time.

The Minister for Mines: You would not be permitted to do that now.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: No, I have not the time. The Minister and his colleagues keep me here 12 hours a day. However, I have managed to enlarge the house since I have been in Parliament. I am merely showing that in all probability some of these policemen are building houses in their spare time.

The Premier: More power to them if it is so.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: All will agree with that. But in Western Australia they have to put in more time on duty than in any other State. In the other States the policeman, if called upon for extra duty, is paid for it, but it is not so in Western Australia.

The Premier: Here he is paid for seven days a week.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: But in other callings if a man works on Sunday he gets double time. It is time the Minister gave the police force greater consideration in regard to salary. The men are not paid sufficient to live upon. I know some with large families who have great difficulty in maintaining those families.

The Minister for Mines: They have a lot of spare time.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Some have 10 or 12 children to maintain. I do not know how they manage to live on 12s. a day with commodities at such high prices. The Minister should feel he is not doing his duty to the men by paying them so small a pittance. These men work very long hours and are always at call. When we have men who carry out their work in a proper manner, Parliament should be only too pleased to fittingly pay them for their services. In regard to the trouble at Fremantle, I say there is more trouble in the headlines of the newspapers than in Fremantle itself. Than Fremantle there is no more contented, more orderly, seaport town in any part of the world. I admit there was a disturbance on the 4th May; but in all walks of life we find men getting over the odds occasionally. We have done it here. The Minister for Works did it the other day, when he wauked out of the Chamber.

The Minister for Works: That was only an incident.

The Minister for Mines: We ought to have declared him black.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The fact of the police in Fremantle having been armed has made it appear to the public that things there are in a worse condition than they

really are. It is as quiet a port as any ordinary port is.

Mr. Troy: It is only the usual port town.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: It is perfectly quiet down there.

Mr. Troy: I take your word for it.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I was in town on Friday evening about 10 o'clock and saw nothing of a riot. A man was arrested but I saw no disturbance, although on the following morning the paper referred to a riot at Fremantle. This man was arrested for using bad language. Another man asked the policeman to let him go but he too was arrested, and is said to have pulled out a revolver. There is nothing in the matter at all.

The Minister for Mines: They will not give you time to look down the barrel.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: There were three routes by which these two men could have been taken to the police station, each route being about the same distance. At one place I was addressing an open air meeting at which some 300 persons were assembled, and yet the police chose that particular route for taking these men to the police station. The result was that I lost my audience, for everybody followed the crowd. There was a big crowd gathered about and as a result it was said there was a riot in Fremantle. There was no row at all. In a few minutes I saw about 20 policemen in the street and wondered what had happened. Things were as quiet as possible.

The Minister for Mines: That is evidence of alertness on the part of the police.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Yes, but it is also evidence that we are paying out the finances of the State in directions in which they are not required. There is no necessity for maintaining a large police force in Fremantle. I have lived there for about 28 years, and I say that Fremantle is as orderly as it was when I first went there.

The Minister for Works: You will not guarantee it against disorder.

Mr. Troy: We cannot guarantee you against disorder.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I cannot guarantee myself against disorder. So far as Fremantle is concerned, there is no seaport in the Commonwealth that is as orderly.

The Minister for Mines: That may not be saying much.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: It says a great deal. Our police records will bear out what I say.

The Minister for Mines: It may not be saying much to compare Fremantle with other ports.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Day after day not a case is heard at the police court unless it be that of an occasional drunken person. As one of the representatives of Fremantle, I say that the action of the Commissioner of Police and the Government is casting a slur upon the town. I hope the Minister will see that less money is spent there on police protection, and will give the town a chance of proving that it is as

orderly as any other town in Western Australia. I trust the Minister will reconsider the amount of wages that he is paying to members of the police force and place them on the same footing in regard to rates as is the case in other parts of the Commonwealth and elsewhere.

Mr. LUTEY (Browahill-Ivanhoe) [9.35]: I am glad the member for North-East Fremantle (Mr. Angwin) has brought up the question of special police constables, particularly those who are carrying arms. I was under the impression that there was no power to arm the police, especially special constables, as was the case on the goldfields the other day.

The Attorney General: There is no doubt about that power.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: There is power to make regulations.

Mr. LUTEY: I have not seen any regulations permitting this to be done. It was not right for the authorities to arm special constables who are known to be bitter partisans. The fact of such people carrying rifles might easily have incited a riot on the Eastern Goldfields. There is no more law-abiding community in the world than on the Eastern Goldfields, especially at the Boulder.

The Minister for Works: Are not they a law unto themselves?

Mr. LUTEY: They are law-abiding. If everybody lived in the way these people do it would be a good thing for all the world. It was a wrong action on the part of the authorities to arm men in the way that was done last Monday. It was pure camouflage and there was no necessity for it. I believe it was done for a particular reason, namely, to give the impression that was given regarding Fremantle, that it was necessary to have these men armed. I do not know whether the Minister knows anything concerning the cases of arms and boxes of ammunition that were sent to the goldfields. They were supposed to consist of machinery that was being sent to Hampton Plains.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: They took them from Fremantle in an ambulance wagon, and I saw them shifted.

Mr. LUTEY: I believe they were well guarded, and it was not long before they reached those hands which the authorities thought it proper should take them. It was a serious thing to do to send rifles to the goldfields. There was not the danger up there that some people would have one believe. There was a great fuss when the men were at the Chamber of Mines. I am assured by those who were present that there was no revolver shot fired on that day, and yet we hear that there was a revolver shot and the mine managers were intimidated. There are many assertions going about which are all astray from the truth. It is quite true that a number of men did rush in through the open door of the chamber, but I am informed that the episode of the revolver shot is a myth. I do not believe even on the Thursday that there would have been

any fuss if it had not been for the fact that one individual pulled out a revolver on the crowd in his excitement. If it had not been for Detective-Sergeant Reid, who grabbed this individual, and also for one of the officers of the A.W.U. who grappled with him, anything might have happened. If this person had fired a shot something very serious might have occurred. I do not know whether this individual is responsible for his actions and am not acquainted with him personally. I believe, however, he was in an excited state, and that was the reason for the excitement which occurred at the time. During the last few days on the goldfields I am informed that special constables have been sworn in at the soldiers' institute. That is not the proper place for this sort of thing. It should have been done either at the Town Hall or at the Police Station.

The Minister for Works: You could swear at them anywhere.

The Minister for Mines: I suppose you did.

Mr. LUTEY: It should have been done at the right quarter, as I have said. The wardens on the goldfields, or the mayor of Kalgoorlie, should have enrolled them either at the Police Station or Town Hall. With regard to the gold stealing staff on the goldfields, some 18 months ago I asked a question, and found that two-thirds of the goldfields detective staff had their salaries paid by the Chamber of Mines, and that the Government paid the other third. There are six men and a sergeant on that staff. These men should be solely under the control of the Government and be paid for by the Government. We have frequently heard how these men are sent by the Chamber of Mines to report political meetings and take a note of what occurs there, in order to institute prosecutions later. Since my reference to this matter I have noticed that these men have kept away from political meetings. On Saturday night last, however, at a meeting held at Boulder, these men were again present in the audience. I do not know whether they took any notes, but I am certain that they are in the pay of the Chamber of Mines and the Government.

The Minister for Works: They are there to obey orders.

Mr. LUTEY: Whose orders? Does the Minister mean to say that the Chamber of Mines has no control whatever over this? Is there any country in the world where such dual control would be permitted in the case of officers of the law? I blame both the present and past Governments for allowing such a state of affairs to exist. In the factories in England there are special constables paid for by the industries concerned. In South Africa in the diamond mines there are also special constables paid for by the companies, and in America the same thing appertains. Here we have the Chamber of Mines paying two-thirds of the wages of these men, and we see them at political meet-

ings taking notes of what is being said with a view to instituting prosecutions.

The Minister for Works: The instructions would be given by the police and not by the Chamber of Mines.

Mr. LUTEY: The Minister appears to be quite innocent in this matter. The practice now in vogue should be abolished. If the Chamber of Mines want a special staff of detectives, instead of paying two-thirds of their wages they should pay the full wages of four of the men and have the sole control over them.

The Minister for Works: They would not have the authority they have now if they did that. You would not tolerate a private policeman. They must be Government policemen if there are any policemen at all.

Mr. LUTEY: They do it in other countries, and why should they not do it here? I hope the Government will have the arrangement completely altered. It has been a sore point with me for some time. I believe it is wrong in principle and practice. At the cost of living meeting, which was held in Kalgoorlie some time ago, the name of the leader of the Opposition was taken and he was fined for something which was supposed to have been not in order. It is scandalous that detectives should be allowed to attend these meetings for the purpose of instituting prosecutions later, when they are in the employment of a rival political camp, as it were. The member for Perth referred to the question of boots. There is an Act which says that the legal fraternity, when appearing in court, must wear wigs. They have to do this even on hot days.

The Attorney General: And they do not like it.

Mr. LUTEY: I do know that occasionally the police, especially mounted men, do wear a special kind of boots.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. T. P. Draper—West Perth) [9.45]: I have risen merely to reply to some of the legal questions which have been asked by the members for North-East Fremantle (Mr. Angwin) and Brown Hill-Ivanhoe (Mr. Lutey). I am fully conscious that I am addressing hon. members who would be as insistent as any member in this House in maintaining law and order, no matter where. There is no reflection against Kalgoorlie or any other town at the present time. Anyone who has had experience of goldfields towns knows what work they have done in connection with the war. There is in every portion of the community at the present time considerable unrest, a certain section refusing to pay that regard for law and order which we have a right to expect and which in normal times would be shown. The member for North-East Fremantle suggests that there is a regulation which by implication would prevent the police carrying firearms. The member for North-East Fremantle has not quite understood the purport of that regulation which deals with Section 233 of the Criminal Code. The Code contains a section which was inserted for the purpose of justifying force on the arrest of

a person suspected of crime of a serious nature, and who would be likely to escape unless force were used. There is no question in that section about the use of arms. The only word used is "force." In connection with the trouble which was expected at Kalgoorlie the other day, and which I am glad to say did not take place, the section in the Code referring to such matters is 233, which provides that it is lawful for any person to use such force as is necessary to suppress a riot.

Hon. T. Walker: There was no riot.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: But before measures can be taken to suppress a riot it is suggested that we must allow the riot to take place and then arm the police. It must be obvious to hon. members when proceedings against law and order are anticipated, that it is the duty of any Government to take such measures as will prevent any unfortunate incident happening, and it is clearly the duty of the Government to not only take measures to see that the people whom they ask to preserve law and order, carry out instructions, but it is their duty also to see that those people are properly armed so that they may be able to defend themselves. There is no law whatever in this State which prevents anybody carrying arms except the Gun Licensing Act which applies to the carrying of firearms within five miles of a municipality, and this Act recognises that the police may be required to carry arms because it specially exempts the police from its provisions. It is therefore clearly recognised by the Statute law of this State and common law in England that if necessary policemen may carry firearms for the purpose of performing their duty. The regulation the member for North-East Fremantle referred to has nothing to do with the carrying of firearms but it merely applies to the individual.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That is the only regulation there is.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: Another objection was taken, though not seriously, as regards the place where special constables are sworn in. Special constables may be sworn in by any justice of the peace. Provision is contained in the Police Act, Sections 34 and 38. They may be sworn in when a riot or a serious disturbance occurs or when there is reasonable ground for suspecting that a disturbance or a riot will occur. It is idle for any hon. member to say that there was no reasonable ground for suspecting serious trouble, bearing in mind the times in which we live, and we were perfectly justified, and as a matter of fact it was the actual duty of the Government, to see that there was a sufficient force in Kalgoorlie recently to maintain order. Special constables therefore were sworn in for that purpose and I believe some were armed.

Mr. Lambert: Do you think it was right to arm active participants in the dispute?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: It was undoubtedly right to arm those who were sworn in as special constables. Of course if

the hon. member carried that further there would be no one at all sworn in as special constables, because in these days, whether we like it or not, we are all participants in disputes which are taking place. Unfortunately we cannot help ourselves. The position is forced upon us. There is nothing illegal in what has been done and everything that the Government have done in this respect has been justifiable.

Hon. T. WALKER (Kanowna) [9.55]: The Attorney General has admitted that these are extraordinary times and that they are not confined to Kalgoorlie or to Perth or to Australia. I have here a copy of the London "Sphere" which shows a photograph displaying the social conditions existing in Canada. The heading is "The Epidemic of strikes in Winnipeg. How the middle classes defend themselves." The portrait shows a marching mob of middle class people—not all workers or strikers, but middleclass people armed with clubs and batons marching through the streets of Winnipeg. All through the world to-day there is commotion. The foundations of society have been stirred by the events of the past five years.

Mr. O'Loughlin: The whole of the police of London who are guardians of the law recently went on strike.

Hon. T. WALKER: Yes, the police themselves went on strike and it is not so long since there was a strike in the Government—some refused to go on. These are times when the lowest stratum of society is struggling in the light and beginning to breathe the air that smacks of independence. This is the time when they are struggling for life. They have been held down in bondage and serfdom for centuries past.

The Minister for Works: They will not allow the other fellows to have it.

Hon. T. WALKER: No more than the hon. member would allow any thief to take from his premises what rightfully belonged to the hon. member. Labour is the right of the man who lives alone by labour, and when others come in to try and break up their right to labour, to break up their organisations and put them at the mercy of their employers, then they have the right to protest, they have the right to take even stronger measures.

Mr. O'Loughlin: The Minister for Works is a member of the engineers' society.

Hon. T. WALKER: Undoubtedly, but what have the Government done in this instance? There has been a feud existing and we cannot get rid of it, until we get a return of the solidarity of the labour movement. There has been a feud which has been fanned, fostered, and intensified by the employers. There is a solidarity on the part of the employers. The Employers' Federation has determined to break up the unity of the labour organisations throughout the whole of Australia.

Mr. O'Loughlin: There is also an organised attempt to keep men on 9s. 7d. a day.

Hon. T. WALKER: The whole purpose is to keep wages down, to keep the labouring classes conscious of their misery and to continue them in slavery—I say slavery advisedly, because the man who is not allowed to develop his qualities, his capacities and aspirations is a slave. The man who has to crush himself, to repress his ambitions, to curb his tastes—his intellectual and his artistic tastes—in order that he may barely live, is a beast of burden. He is in the bonds of slavery. He is not a free individual, he is a slave. That is the position sought to be placed on a certain section of the workers. Wherever we find one who is willing to help the Employers' Federation break up the workers, wherever we find one calling himself a Nationalist, who is willing to break a strike, to take the side of the employers as against his brethren in the case of a conflict between the two, he is applauded, flattered, glorified, is granted the privilege of carrying a rifle in the streets of Kalgoorlie as a special constable. He is dignified, uplifted and rewarded in every way. He is a hero for the time being—that is to say, it is pretended that he is a hero. And, unfortunately, his environment and his heredity have been such that he is carried off his feet by this nursing, this patting on the back, this praise in the Press, this laudation in our courts; he is carried right off his feet and he thinks it is something glorious to stand in opposition to his brethren, to those who are fighting to make homes comfortable, to be able to live without having to sojourn in kennels, tubs, and miserable hovels. That is the position to-day. Nor is it confined to Australia. There is a similar state of things in Canada, in the United States, in France, and in England itself. No wonder we hear a howl of execration if anyone dare to ask for better conditions under all the circumstances, familiar to everybody, of the wholesale profiteering that has gone hand in hand with the skibboleth of patriotism. The truest patriots we have had before the recent struggle have been the workers. They have fought the battle for the world. They are still the true patriots in being the creators of the wealth of any country in which they live. But for the present moment the man who stands up and faces a profiteer and says, "I am going to have my fair share of the world's good things; my wife shall not go ill-clad, my children unshod, my babe unfed. I, too, want my share of what the world has to offer and what these hands, hard with labour, have helped to create. Of what these hands, this sweat of my brow, have created, my family shall have an adequate share." Because of that he is looked upon as a class agitator, as a traitor to society; he is branded as disloyal. And let him have a little moral pluck and exceed by one iota the usual decorum of a calm advocate of his rights, and straightway you arm your police and march them carrying rifles. And you swear in, not policemen anxious to see that disorder does not occur, but actual advocates, actual enthusiasts, actual fanatics opposed to those very men who are working for the betterment of

their lot. You arm them. Could you more embitter human hearts than by this conduct? These very men whose lot the unionists are fighting to better, having got in the clutches and under the spell of those who have been for ages their masters and still want to be masters in the most objectionable sense of the term, turn upon their comrades, menace them with firearms, threaten them with bludgeons for wanting what is their just due. Could there be anything more opprobrious than conduct of that kind, anything better calculated to incite a mob? Give the crowd so insulted the chance, and bloodshed would be inevitable. I think the people of Kalgoorlie have just cause for complaint. There is no riot, no threat of a riot. There is a determination that those men who are sworn enemies to their class—that is the class that has to live by work and wants to live honourably by work, wants to live without starvation constantly haunting them—enemies to their class and their own kith and kin, shall take their proper places. To arm these people and turn them on their brothers, to give these people power over the backbone of the country, those who have made the mines, those who have built up the wealth of Australia, those who have made Western Australia what it is and given it its world-wide fame, is to invite civil war. When the true history of these events is written, when these class distinctions have disappeared and humanity has become the byword, the leading principle for the guidance of men, this act and acts of a like nature will be held up as evidence of the savagery, the brutality of this particular period of our history, just as we frighten now our children by the story of the Black Hole of Calcutta or other like atrocities of a ruling power. There is worse than this. In order still more to excite feeling, still more to emphasise the crisis, a magistrate takes an active part in these affairs who, because of his known proclivity to favour the Chamber of Mines and the ruling demagogues of that part of the world, is execrated by the ordinary run of citizens. Time was when we respected our magistrates, respected them because of their impartiality and their fairness, their sense of justice even to their bitterest opponents. But here is a man on the bench whose character is suspected to the extent that he is adjudged to be unfair to a large section of the working population. He is the man who takes an active part, becomes conspicuous; and in the performance of his duties, which he may or may not have rightly performed, he goes out of his way, not to swear in these men at the place where special constables usually are sworn in, in his courts or in the precincts of his courts or in the precincts of the civic halls, but he wants an association, something that appeals to the imagination of the people, something that appeals to the imagination of Western Australia, something that appeals to the wavering electors faced with the coming events of the Federal conflict. He goes to the barracks of the soldiers, as

if this were par excellence the crowning of the patriotic deeds of the loyal soldiers who have come back here from the war. He swears them in as special constables and places in their hands rifles, and they march in the neighbourhood of the mines, carrying the very symbols of war with them. It is dramatic, it is another farce played by a Government that talks of being really nationalist. He sets class against class. These are the tactics that put the poniard into the very hearts of the citizens and poison them against the class that could be so bitter, so relentless, so cruel in the furtherance of its own aims. It is that I object to. The act that has been done fosters class hatred. No one wants more than I do the general unity and comradeship of all citizens in a true commonwealth, a wealth common to us all in our glorious democracy. But this is impossible whilst we have a Government aiding and abetting the enemies of the workers, arming them and intensifying the spirit of class hatred in our midst. If this is persisted in, it will not end where it is. I hope to goodness it will not be persisted in. I hope that hurts may be healed and differences understood, and that we may have again the cementing and union of that body which creates the wealth of the world, and wants to participate, wants to have its share therein. As sure as we are living more evil things will follow, if not to-day, later on, with more violence and with worse consequences. The spectacle of the fall of the Czar of Russia is an episode in one nation; the fall of Louis XVI. in France was an episode then, but an episode that was a culmination of accumulated injuries and wrongs perpetrated by the ruling classes. If we perpetrate these insults and wrongs to those who are human beings, despite their hopeless positions, an hour will come when the wheel of fortune will turn and the law of equilibrium will assert itself and justice will be obtained in the triumph of the oppressed and, unfortunately, perhaps by the suffering and misery of those who have been the oppressors in the past. I say it is a scandal that these men of Kalgoorlie should be brought down to Perth for trial, and that the inciters of these very men, those who have goaded them into doing whatever they have done, should be allowed immunity to escape not only the penalty of their insults and irritations, but the penalty of the further insult of taking sides, aided by the Government and menaced even with the force of arms. I want to leave that subject now and ask what are we doing more? By these methods, we are corrupting the manhood of a large portion of our valuable citizenship, for, fortunately, the Labour Government even made citizens of the police and gave them citizen rights. They are common with their comrades; they are citizens with their fellow men; they are brother workers, if I may so express it, with these men they have brought in their custody to Perth. I am speaking of the police. From what I have seen of the general bulk of them, they are as fine a body of men as could be found for

the preservation of peace and order in any country in the world, but we are corrupting them and dividing them from citizenship, and making them hired spies against their fellow men. We are making them traitors to the community from which they are sprung and to which they belong. We are arming them against those who are fighting to better their lot, for goodness knows their lot is miserable enough. Their pay is wretched and they are wretched in their hopes for ascension or betterment. A whole life might be spent in the police force, and a man is very little better off at the end of it than when he began. We are corroding and spoiling the best of their qualities and, if we wish to find an accentuation of that spoiling process, we have only to take another branch of the force, for which I cannot have the respect I should like to have—I mean the detective branch. There we have an organised body ostensibly to preserve peace, not to carry out the laws and prevent mischief, but to find denizens for our gaols, to be sure to keep the gaols full, to get hold of a person and, by the skill of manufactured evidence and the suppression of every fact that would tell in favour of the accused give him no opportunity to escape. I am speaking of what I know. The detectives are getting hold of citizens and making it impossible for them to escape from their clutches. Some day or other we must have an independent and fearless commission to investigate the criminal investigation branch of the police force. I object to the methods adopted to make the police the tools of the employing class of the community, the leisured class of Western Australia. I say our police should be what the police in England are—to keep people out of offences, to prevent crime and only, as a very last resource, to take into custody and charge. The police should be of assistance to the community, and should not be mere spies upon the community, not mere hunting dogs, bloodhounds, seeking to track down the person who has made the slightest slip or is found in a suspicious situation. Our police should be differently drilled and differently ambited. They should have some other end than that to which they are set to direct their energies at the present time. They should be well paid. Just as in China, where the doctor is paid when the patient is well and his pay stopped when the patient becomes sick, so should our guardians of the peace be paid well so long as crime does not exist. They should not be taught to expect promotion and stripes upon the uniform in accordance with the number of convictions they can obtain. The very opposite method should be adopted. We could afford to pay our police well if we had not to pay for the maintenance of criminals and warders in our gaols.

[Mr. Piesse took the Chair.]

Mr. Smith: Why did not you attempt to do that when you were in office?

Hon. T. WALKER: I did and what help did I get from the "Sunday Times," that

one paper which, like the hangman, rejoices in the sight of the gibbets? The hon. member should be proud of the paper of which he is now proprietor, which everlastingly howls at anything in the nature of sentiment, whether humane or otherwise. The cry of that paper is ever for blood and death, the lash and the flogging, in every issue it makes. I contrast my conduct when in office with the conduct of the hon. member, the proprietor of a paper, who could do much good if he did not run the paper for the mere pecuniary profit of the wolves of society, the profiteers of this community.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The vote has nothing to do with the "Sunday Times."

Hon. T. WALKER: But my remarks have something to do with the interruption of the member who owns the "Sunday Times." We should alter entirely the attitude of the police towards the citizens; not that we should sympathise with crime, no one can do that, although we may be able to explain that crime has produced dishonest men and women and thrown them off their mental balance or moral foothold by just such treatment as we are giving to the citizens of Kalgoorlie. Crime is created by these very conditions of society. There are disorders of society created by the class avarice of a section of the community lordling it over the great bulk of the community. This produces the crime we have in our midst. I trust that as we have a new Minister for this department, a man who has sympathy in the direction to which I have referred, we shall have some alteration, and that he will put a stop to this arming of the enemies of the workers, to menace them at a time when a Federal election is at hand, that prejudice may be created against the workers in order that there might be a win for the hypocritical party calling themselves nationalists for purely political and trade purposes.

The MINISTER FOR MINES (Albany) [10.26]: One must admit that the member for Kanowna (Mr. Walker) has made a most eloquent speech. If he had had a better foundation for his remarks, he might have impressed members more than he has done. This is not a question of a dispute between two classes of the community, as he asserts. There is no dispute, of which I am aware, between employer and employee. It is a question of a difference of opinion regarding the methods of one section known as workers and, irrespective of our opinions, the fact remains that a majority, for the time being, tried to overwhelm the minority even to the extent of employing force. While this might be very regrettable, the fact remains, and I do not think we are entitled to take any other attitude than to insist upon what the member for Kanowna has claimed as the right of a citizen, the protection against being molested, a duty which devolves upon the police. I would remind those hon. members who have listened to the member for Kanowna that, as a matter of actual fact, every policeman before he can accept office,

or perform his duties, must take an oath, and it would be well to read the form of that oath in order that it might be understood. It is as follows:—

I, A.B., engage and promise that I will well and truly serve our Sovereign Lord the King, in the office of (Commissioner of Police, inspector, sub-inspector, or other officer, or constable, as the case may be), without favour or affection, malice, or ill-will, until I am legally discharged; that I will see and cause His Majesty's peace to be kept and preserved, and that I will prevent, to the best of my power, all offences against the same; and that, while I shall continue to hold the said office, I will, to the best of my skill and knowledge, discharge all the duties thereof faithfully according to law.

There is nothing in that oath which calls upon a policeman to do other than perform his duty without fear or favour, malice or ill-will to any class of the community. To suggest that because one section of the community desired to set aside peaceable methods which might have been employed to settle a difference of opinion, and that because we called upon the police to prevent malice being used against one set of individuals, is setting them against a class and supporting the employing class, is quite wrong. It has no foundation in fact. So far as I am personally concerned, I would desire that we should carry on the affairs of State, and live as a British community, without any need for the police force.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: And without the need of bullets like this, which came out of a police rifle.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Quite true. We have no need for anything like that. I regret exceedingly that either the bullet or the life-preserver was necessary in a free and democratic country such as we have in Australia. With all the impassioned remarks of the member for Kanowna (Mr. Walker), I say that no one regrets more than I do that in the country in which I was born it should be necessary for a civilian to walk about looking for a policeman with a thing like this—a loaded stick—in his hand.

Mr. Troy: Where did you get it?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: A policeman got it.

Mr. Jones: How do you know that?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: How do I know it? I know it because a policeman knocked a man down with his baton and took it from him.

Mr. Troy: Who was he?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The hon. member knows, but I am not concerned about the individual.

Mr. Troy: I could carry that about myself.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I know of some persons who carry more dangerous weapons than this, but some day they may be taken from them.

Mr. Lutey: Not amongst the workers.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: They claim to be amongst the workers. It is

most regrettable that we cannot carry on our peaceful occupations in this country when we have in our own hands a law that will settle any differences of opinion that may exist in any dispute that may arise. We have a lawful method by which we can have any dispute settled without resorting to violence. So far as the police at Fremantle are concerned, I was consulted about the matter. While I am in charge of the police I will not ask any individual to perform the duty which he has sworn to perform, as he has in this case, without giving him a fair chance, in the event of a brawl amongst a lot of ruffians, to defend himself.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: We are all with you there.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I hope so. I instructed the Commissioner to advise these men that I was giving them a chance to protect their own personal safety by arming them, and that they were not to use these arms unless it was essential for their own protection that they should do so. The recent happening at Fremantle was brought about through some man pointing what was said to be an empty revolver at a constable.

Mr. Jones: It was empty.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: If I had in my pocket a loaded revolver and a man had pointed an empty revolver at me, I would not have asked any questions as to whether it was loaded or not. I would have used my own as quickly as possible. When a man points a revolver at another he does not do it for the purpose of letting him look down the barrel to see whether it is loaded or not. The constable, although armed, absolutely declined to use his arms, which is a magnificent evidence of restraint on the part of the police.

Mr. Jones: He could not do so. He was too busy twisting the fellow's arms.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Was he? I thought he was able to use his baton exceedingly well.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: If they are such wonderful men, why do you not pay them properly?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I want to justify their very justifiable actions. I am not going to ask a police constable when we have, such as occurred here, a deliberate and arranged attack upon the force by a set of ruffians, to carry out his duty without being provided with some means of protection. His very uniform enables him to be picked out from the crowd, and he is compelled by oath to go in where others would fear to go under these conditions. He should not be compelled to do these things with his hands behind his back, so to speak. For my part I will not do it.

Mr. Davies: Turn the other cheek.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: No one asks you to do it.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Then what is the hon. member complaining about? Has there been any evidence since these men have been properly armed in Fremantle to show that they have tried to use their arms?

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Here is a bullet which went into the foot of a respectable citizen as he was going home from work.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: It might very well have gone into the head of a respectable policeman.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: But it came from a policeman.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: All these things come from the revolvers of policemen when they are picked up. I have not heard a single whisper that these men have betrayed their trust in using their arms for any purpose. I have not heard that they have even drawn them.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I did not say they had.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Then the hon. member cannot complain very much. I take up the same attitude on this question as I would take up in connection with any penalty under any of our Acts of Parliament. If a deed ought not to be done there is no penalty too severe to prevent it. If people do not desire to commit a crime by rioting or unruly conduct without any cause, or even if there is a cause—though there is no ground for rioting in a community like this—they need not be afraid of the police being armed. The police to-day are not the same class of people that they were 20 years ago. Our policemen of to-day are good citizens. They have been brought up as we have been, under a free compulsory educational system, and are all the better for it.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Some of them have not much discretion.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: It is all very well for the hon. member to talk about discretion. I have seen policemen with more patience that I could show in like circumstances, times without number. I have not seen many who are so foolish as to draw arms in a public place.

Mr. O'Loughlen: They do other things which provoke trouble.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Who does not? Even the Minister for Works smiling across the Chamber caused a commotion the other night.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You would not admit that when I said it just now.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: These things happen in this Chamber. In view of the provocation the police had, I marvel at the way the force behaved itself. The mind of the public is disturbed, and it is not going to be put back into a sound condition again for a long time.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Till the workers get their bread and butter.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I am not disputing the necessity for persons getting their bread and butter.

Mr. O'Loughlen: It is a deplorable position.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The latest dispute has not been on a question of bread and butter.

Mr. O'Loughlen: It has.

Mr. Jones: You know it has.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: It has not been the cause of the dispute.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Suppose it was, would a protest be of any avail?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Yes. I admit that any body of men is entitled to make a protest, but there are methods by which they can make their protest an effective one.

Mr. O'Loughlen: They are following these methods and are starving.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I know that there are cases of want in the community, but there are fewer in Australia than in any other part of the known world. It is due to the fact that we have employed methods different from those which are being employed now. We have battled hard and strenuously and for long. We have taken political action in order to redress our grievances, and in order that our men and our girls shall not be worked except under fair conditions and at a living wage.

Mr. Troy interjected.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I do not know that the hon. member would be over-anxious to outbid those who are employing labour if he had to move in competition with them. It is the conditions under which we live.

Mr. O'Loughlen: It is human nature. I suppose I would do the same.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: If we pass legislation to compel the employees to do a certain thing, some of them will do the opposite thing if they can. So long as employers will not give fair conditions in the trade they are a menace to the balance of the employers as well as to the employees. We know that happens, but there is no place in the world where there is more freedom, not even in Russia where the workers are supposed to be in possession, or where people may more freely express their opinions without let or hindrance, than in Australia.

Mr. O'Loughlen: What crime did the author of "The Circulating Sovereign" commit in Scotland.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I do not see any circulating sovereigns these times.

Mr. O'Loughlen: The man never committed a crime in his life. He merely wrote a book.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I know that guiltless men sometimes suffer. Undoubtedly that occurs. Were it not that we know of such happenings, we would not consider it necessary to employ men understanding the laws in order to show where a person is wrongly accused. But a defendant has a fair chance here, as compared with other parts of the world.

Mr. Lutey: Do you think that these men who have been brought from Kalgoorlie to Perth are getting a fair opportunity to defend themselves?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The member for Kanowna himself gave the answer to that question when he said the opinion on the fields was that the warden was a partisan. Whether the fact is or is not so, if

that opinion is held on the fields, surely it is desirable that the men's case should be heard by some other magistrate.

Mr. Lutey: Would it not be better to send a stipendiary magistrate from Perth to Kalgoorlie to try the case there?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: In view of the state of mind prevailing in Kalgoorlie it is better that the case should not be tried there.

Mr. Troy: The argument of the "West Australian" has already convicted these men.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The hon. member cannot convince me that any article in the "West Australian" or any other newspaper in the world would convict a man in our courts.

Mr. Troy: Prejudice is created.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The "West Australian" cannot influence the trial in the slightest degree. I only want to justify the police. I know there may be individual cases of indiscretion on the part of the police, as on the part of other people; but, as a body, the police of Western Australia are well behaved and show good discipline, and exhibit as much restraint as any similar body of men in the world.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Has anybody said anything to the contrary?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: So far as I am personally concerned, the police shall have a fair chance if they are called upon to quell a disturbance. I am not going to ask them to bare their heads and let themselves be struck with waddies such as the one I have produced here.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You have brought no evidence of any such danger.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: There is evidence of it. That waddy was captured during a trouble which occurred in Perth.

Mr. Jones: In Perth, do you say?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Yes. I absolve the member for Fremantle from responsibility as regards that waddy, unless it came up from Fremantle with him. Just as our soldiers had the protection of weapons during the war, so I say we are entitled to employ every means to protect our police.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Do it according to law.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I have got the Attorney General to convince me on the question of law, and I am satisfied with his opinion.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Did you ask him his opinion?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Yes; and I am quite satisfied that our action is all right. Otherwise I would not have taken that action. As we found, when entering the war, that we had to equip our soldiers in order to give them a chance, so we must equip our police in such a manner that they will have a chance to ensure that the peace is kept by others. When public excitement runs so high as in Kalgoorlie recently, when we have unquestionable evidence that bru-

tality has been used by some men on others who differed with them regarding a very debatable matter, the police will not be asked by me to go with their hands tied behind their backs into an unruly mob. I tell the community right now that no one who maintains our laws has anything whatsoever to fear from our Western Australian police force.

Mr. Lutey: The man who pulled the revolver in Kalgoorlie, which was the cause of the trouble, was just as likely to shoot a policeman as to shoot anybody else. The pulling of the revolver was the cause of the trouble.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Oh!

Mr. Lutey: It is all very well for you to sneer; but you ought to go up there and inquire.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I know that statement is not correct.

Mr. Lutey: It is correct.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I say it is utterly incorrect. Somebody happened to be foolish enough to draw a revolver, and the hon. member admits that that man was immediately taken up by a constable.

Mr. Lutey: Yes. I admit that.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: A constable immediately came along and collected that man.

Mr. Lutey: He might have shot the policeman.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: But he did not. The policeman went in, and was expected to go in.

Mr. Lutey: That was the cause of the disturbance. If a man pulled a gun on you, you would not wait to see whether he was serious or not. You would shoot.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: If a crowd of 2,000 proclaim that they will release men who have been arrested for what is considered a crime, and if they march in a body, are not a few policemen going out to meet them entitled to be armed?

Mr. Green: Where did that occur?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Not a thousand miles from Kalgoorlie.

Mr. Green: It did not occur at Kalgoorlie.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I am not going to pursue the matter further except to say that I am going to give a policeman, the same as anybody else, a fair chance.

Mr. Green: So would all of us. You are only beating the air.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: If I have convinced the member for Kalgoorlie, I have not been beating the air. The police are getting a fair chance now.

Mr. Green: You should explain why you sent rifles and ammunition to arm special police, not police constables.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: May I ask what is the hon. member's objection to the arms and ammunition being there?

Mr. Troy: There was no necessity for them.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: If that is so, there is no necessity to complain about their being there.

Mr. Green: That is a fine argument!

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I do not care a twopenny dump if the yard next to my place is loaded up with rifles and ammunition so long as these things are in the control of people who I know will not use them except for lawful purposes. I do not mind, because I am not going to break the law deliberately.

Mr. Green: But these people could not be trusted, because they were not policemen.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: How did they act?

Mr. Green: They acted badly.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Very badly! I consider they have acted with extreme caution. I consider that they have been well handled, and their conduct is a credit to the Inspector of Police at Kalgoorlie and also to the officer in charge of the special constables. That applies to the whole lot of them.

Mr. Green: How were they talking? It is only a spirit of terrorism that you have instituted.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I did not institute it, except in so far as I have supported the principle that a man who is called upon to go abroad for the purpose of keeping the peace in a special uniform which enables him to be readily distinguished in a crowd, should have a fair chance to perform his duty without injury to himself.

Mr. Green: So does everybody else hold that view. You have been beating the air for half an hour.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I have on various occasions heard the statement that in the event of a strike men who are out on strike should be obtained to act as special constables. I have not merely read that in newspapers published in other parts of the world, but I have heard it from men in Australia, and in Western Australia, too.

Mr. Green: Do you adopt that view?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I do not know.

Mr. Green: You do not know?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I do not think they went on strike at Kalgoorlie, did they?

Mr. Green: No.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The difference of opinion is one which could be settled by lawful means.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Do you know that when the police were removed from Fremantle it was the men that kept the town orderly and quiet?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I should not wonder. I go to Fremantle pretty frequently, and I am pretty well known there. I know some of those who were occasionally accused of being unruly at Fremantle, and I endorse the remarks of the hon. member interjecting. But that does not get over the fact that men who have had a few drinks can easily create a disturbance. When public opinion becomes excited as it has been in recent months, the spectacle of a man being arrested is apt to lead astray others who imagine that the arrest is for some

trivial offence. The policeman must be protected against the mob.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Do you know that the man who caused the trouble was taken away on a ship and nothing was done to him?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I am not concerned with that phase of the question. I am not a magistrate and I am not even Attorney General. Therefore, I am not called upon to administer the law. As the ministerial head of the Police Department, however, I want to declare that I am not going to ask the members of that fine body of men in the State, the police force, to maintain law and order without giving them a fair chance. When the member for North-East Fremantle or anyone else can produce evidence that the police have used arms for other than their own personal protection, I will give instructions to withdraw the use of arms at once.

Mr. Jones: It is the moral effect.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The moral effect has been excellent. If under the conditions that have been prevailing at Fremantle there should be occasion when a crowd get together and excitement becomes intense, all that a person who may be innocent and does not want to create a disturbance, has to do is to walk away. If he does not do that and some damage is done to him or his property it will be his own fault. I will not permit a mob to ride roughshod over the police while they are doing their duty.

Mr. GREEN (Kalgoorlie) [10.55]: I have been waiting for the Minister to make some statement with regard to the Kalgoorlie trouble. Up to date he has entirely failed to do so. As a matter of fact it was his duty immediately the trouble occurred to explain how it was that he caused 600 rifles and 10,000 rounds of ammunition to be sent to Kalgoorlie by express to be used against the workers of Kalgoorlie and Boulder.

The Minister for Mines: That is not correct.

Mr. GREEN: When the challenge was made last night the Minister did not deny it.

The Minister for Mines: I did not take any notice of it.

Mr. GREEN: I have every reason to believe that a large number of rifles and a quantity of ammunition were sent to Kalgoorlie for the purpose of being used by the special constables and the police in order to overawe the workers of Kalgoorlie. No one in the State knows the men on the Golden Mile better than the present member for Albany, and under the circumstances it is a sad thing in my opinion to find that he is in a position where he does not exercise the slightest judgment.

The Minister for Mines: I knew them when they readied up road metal for me one night.

Mr. GREEN: So long as the Minister behaved himself he was always treated well.

The Minister for Mines: My behaviour will compare with yours at any time.

Mr. GREEN: The Minister has not behaved himself as far as the workers are concerned. We have seen it in the Press that 600 returned men were enrolled in Kalgoorlie and we got a beautiful account of it in the "West Australian." Did the Minister really believe that what was published in the "West Australian" was correct, knowing the man who wrote it? He is well aware that he became panicky, as a result of which he sent 10,000 rounds of ammunition to show those men what he thought of them. The thing was a positive disgrace and I am ashamed of him.

The Minister for Mines: I am rather glad that you are ashamed.

Mr. GREEN: It is not a personal matter so far as I am concerned. I have thought a great deal of the Minister on occasions, and but for the people on the goldfields against whom he took the action I have described, he would never have entered political life. I would be a traitor to the cause if I did not raise my voice against the attitude of the Minister. There may have been some excuse for a man brought up in an atmosphere different from that in which the member for Albany was raised politically. I could understand such action on the part of a man brought up in a liberal atmosphere, but I would not attempt to try to make the House believe differently of the hon. member because I know that he has in late years changed with his environment. The Minister knows too that a great deal of the tripe we get in the morning Press, for instance such as that which appeared on Friday last, is utter nonsense so far as the workers are concerned. He knows well that the man who wrote that stuff is a paid hireling. The writer himself knows that what he contributed to the newspaper was not true so far as the workers were concerned. This man—J. C. Morrison I think his name is—was brought up with the workers. On one occasion when the member for Mt. Magnet (Mr. Troy) had an industrial arbitration matter in hand, because this did not suit Mr. Morrison who was a working miner at Marvel Loch at that time, this individual caused a strike—direct action. Yet we find in the "West Australian" of Friday morning an article by this very man written in what kind of language?

The Minister for Mines: Was it correct?

Mr. GREEN: Absolutely incorrect. I am not after newspaper kudos. He wrote, "And the 'red flag' and 'solidarity' are prime favourites among a certain element. If Australia stands for this sort of thing then—" When the writer got to that stage words failed him. In Kalgoorlie as in other parts of the world we will find a few who are inspired by such songs, but it does not say that the great mass of the workers are in sympathy with them.

The Minister for Works: I like the red, white and blue flag myself.

Mr. GREEN: The colours might appeal to the Minister for Works, but I prefer the

Australian flag before anything else. I would like to tell hon. members something about the individual who wrote this article. The member for Mt. Magnet (Mr. Troy) got an arbitration court award for the Marvel Loch miners and this insurrectionist writer of the article not being satisfied with it, he paid a special visit to Perth, which special visit cost the union officials in Kalgoorlie considerable uneasiness. What Morrison was after was direct action, and the member for Mt. Magnet after an interview with him in Brookman's Buildings, took him by the seat of his pants and kicked him incontinently downstairs and out of the building. That was because he would not behave himself. He says in his article—"But the doctrine of the O.B.U."—see how much reliance we can put on his description of the trouble!

The Minister for Works: What is the O.B.U.?

Mr. GREEN: It means "One Big Union." You will be schooled if you live to 150, but not before. This writer says, "The doctrine of the O.B.U. is being preached before the post office in Hannans-street as I write." That is a deliberate lie. I was in the street at the time. One man was speaking, the only man, and he knows nothing of the O.B.U. The only speaker in Hannans-street that evening was Percy Branton. Yet this writer would try to poison the minds of the people against the workers of Kalgoorlie who have never yet flashed either rifle or revolver during the whole of this trouble, would try to lead the people of Perth to believe that shocking things had been done. Even the workers who were not there say, on reading this, "Is it not terrible? It is a great pity they went so far." This gentleman, sent up as a special commissioner to write these articles, says "Your representative was not able to be present." I know that he was not able to be present, and I know why, for I saw him doing the grand in Hannans-street with two young ladies. Of course he had not time to go out to the seat of the trouble.

Mr. O'Loghlen: He was after one big union himself that morning.

Mr. GREEN: And so he writes, "Your representative was not able to be present." He scented danger, and so he stayed away and wrote on what he calls very reliable information. On the strength of what somebody told him, he sits down and writes a graphic first-hand account of the whole of the fracas that occurred on the Golden Mile three miles away.

Mr. O'Loghlen: I thought it was a cub reporter who had written that.

Mr. GREEN: I can excuse the hon. member's mistake. It was written because people in Perth and elsewhere are anxious to believe that the workers of Kalgoorlie lost their sanity. Let me point out how they kept their sanity. They went out at 7 o'clock in the morning with determination not to work with non-unionists. They decided that by resolution. But they took another resolution or referendum, namely, as to whether,

in the forthcoming trouble, in the signing of the new agreement on the fields, they would resort to strike or to arbitration—these men that the member for Albany has sent up a great number of guns to quell.

The Minister for Mines: That is not correct.

Mr. GREEN: These turbulent spirits decided by large numbers to one in favour of arbitration. Yet the Press would lead the people to believe they are an awful body of men. I know the men brought down to the gaol. I was at Maylands this morning, and I saw the police car there. I promptly rang up the Trades Hall to give them "Ahey" when they should arrive at the police court. I have been in industrial troubles in America and I see the foreshadowing here, introduced by the member for Albany, of the Pinkerton system which has been the disgrace of America. At a time when even the miners share in the spirit of unrest that is everywhere, it is pitiful that the Minister should so far forget himself as to use extreme measures to excite the passions of people.

The Minister for Mines: You have been exciting them for months.

Mr. GREEN: The men on the Golden Mile are determined not to work with non-unionists.

The Minister for Mines: They were not non-unionists.

Mr. GREEN: I call them non-unionists. I am not going to use any stronger term. The workers went out to the different mines with books, not guns, in their hands, books in order to make members of the A.W.U. And they made several, about 60. Some were asked to join the A.W.U. Working miners are not angels. Some of the non-unionists refused, and the start of the trouble was that one man, when asked, "Where is your ticket?" said, "There is my ticket" and produced a revolver. Detective Reid afterwards said he had handled a few men in his time but had never encountered so much difficulty in taking a revolver from any other man. What happened? One man took charge of the person who had produced the revolver, saying, "I will give you your squirt in." He plugged him in the jaw and dropped him. That man was trodden on by the mob. He was supposed to be desperately wounded but, even so, he managed to walk home. There are two men up there, brothers, named Schwan, a good old Australian name!

The Minister for Mines: Both of them were born in Australia. Both are as good Australians as you.

Mr. GREEN: Neither of them was ever in a trades union.

The Minister for Mines: Both are better men than you.

Mr. Lutey: They were never in a union.

Mr. GREEN: And the Minister would have been the first to repudiate them if he had not twisted. The position is that these men are two big bullies with one idea, and I say they require to be careful.

Mr. Lutey: They are good enough for the mob they are with.

The Minister for Mines: And they are good enough for you.

Mr. GREEN: If there are any men in Australia we want to beware of it is men with German names, who flash the Australian or the British flag and try to make out that they are better Australians than those of British descent.

The Minister for Mines: They are as good as you, and a little better.

Mr. GREEN: When the Minister tries to make out that such men are better Britishers than are British people, I say he is only trying to play up to the bosses. Methinks he doth protest too much.

The Minister for Mines: You are doing all the protesting.

Mr. GREEN: One of these gentlemen also pulled a revolver and was promptly clouted by two or three. Bully Schwan said, "Wait till I go back for my coat." He then used a favourite method of his, which he used repeatedly during the conscription campaign. His long suit is what is known as the King hit.

Mr. Chesson: That, and looking for a small man.

Mr. GREEN: And as he turned round, ostensibly to get his coat, he swung off and knocked a man down.

The Minister for Mines: That is your tale.

The Minister for Works: Has that not to come out in the police court: why try the case here?

Mr. GREEN: Because they have no chance. He had to be handcuffed by the police because he was in such a towering rage. No man was sent to the hospital; no unionist drew a revolver. Two men on the other side did draw revolvers and were smacked out, and I have the authority of the member for Albany for saying that if a man covered him with a revolver and he had the opportunity, he would shoot him. These men did not shoot. Some of them may have had revolvers.

The Minister for Mines: Did you have one?

Mr. GREEN: Never mind that. These men kept their heads cool enough to see that the others were dealt with in the good old British way, per fists.

The Minister for Works: You gave them an object lesson there.

Mr. GREEN: Schwan is supposed to have sustained a fractured rib. He began in Hannan-street by picking an argument with a small man whom he knocked down. Repeatedly during the conscription campaign, Schwan was guilty of this sort of thing, and he was always careful to choose a small man. On this occasion he was utterly beside himself. He was the only man who should have been incarcerated. He went to a business man in Kalgoorlie whose shop happened to be painted red. It seems to be a crime nowadays to have one's shop painted red. Schwan said to the proprietor, "If you don't change that colour by one o'clock to-day I shall bring a body of returned soldiers to smash up your premises." This Schwan

is a prominent member of the Returned Soldiers' Association. He was not in the late war; he was in the farm-burning stunts in South Africa.

Mr. Lutey: And he did this off his own bat.

Mr. GREEN: Yes, entirely without the authority of the Returned Soldiers' Association. Schwan was reported to the police by the proprietor of the shop, and 300 miners came in to see that this shop was not broken up. These men, who were prepared to protect property, are the men to whom the Minister has sent up guns and ammunition.

The Minister for Mines: That is not correct.

Mr. GREEN: These men kept order, but yesterday morning Schwan was still at large. Among these men who have never used revolvers, are some who have been commended by the "Kalgoorlie Miner" for leading the rank and file so well. It is quite a fallacy to talk about the leaders leading the men astray. That is all nonsense. It is the rank and file who have to be kept in subjection during an industrial trouble. The level-headed men who maintained order were arrested but others who did not maintain order were not arrested. Yesterday morning at one o'clock, two men went to the loco. sheds in Kalgoorlie and presented revolvers at the heads of the men there and told them to blow the engine whistles as a riot was on. These two men are still at large. This is an example of the justice we are getting on the goldfields to-day under the administration of an ex-Labour man who has control of the police in this State. I should be lacking in my duty if I did not protest against such an action. His action was calculated to disturb the peace.

The Minister for Mines: What rot!

Mr. GREEN: The Minister made frenzied utterances about the police. He spoke about how they should be armed, and probably everyone agrees with him; but why does he use men who are not police, men who are frenzied by accounts written up by an ex-Labour man in this State to endeavour to incite the quiet unionists on the fields to do deeds of violence?

The Premier: That was after the event.

Mr. GREEN: That man was in the town when the threat was made on Dillon's store.

The Premier: There were many others in the town at that time.

Mr. GREEN: He thought Percy Brunton's meeting was good enough to star as an O.B.U. meeting, but he could not see anything wrong with this Australian-German threatening to destroy an Australian's shop. The Minister controlling the police has erred when we might have expected him to keep his head. Under a Labour Government, he would not have sent those men to the fields, but he did so under a Government which is not Labour.

The Minister for Mines: And no one got shot.

Mr. GREEN: But no thanks to the Minister.

[Mr. Stubbs resumed the Chair.]

Mr. TROY (Mt. Magnet) [11.15]: I do not pretend to know what has occurred at Kalgoorlie, because I was not there, but the article in the "West Australian" on Friday last is not calculated to give a fair deal to the men about to stand their trial.

Mr. O'Loghlen: A reflection on journalism.

Mr. TROY: From what I know of human nature, I am satisfied these men will be tried by people who are already prejudiced against them. I have sufficient knowledge of industrial disputes to know that, when prejudice operates against a labour man, he has a very poor chance in this country. Let members say what they will, under the laws of this country, as the Minister for Mines has often said, it is hopeless for a labour man to go into a court, no matter how good his case, and fight a claim for libel. He will go under every time, because of prejudice. Regardless of what may be said about labour men and unions, the conviction, born of hard experience, is held by labourists that a labour man has no hope before a jury, because juries are generally composed of business men. I have not forgotten my experience of the Youanmi conspiracy case heard in Perth when ordinary language, used on all occasions on the goldfields, was twisted and turned to bear quite a different meaning. The language used during the course of this discussion to-night, if put before the same court with all the weight that legal utterance could give it and all the dignity which the law could afford, would have made the other appear mild. Yet the ordinary language used on that occasion was construed into threats to take life. I was there at the time and I know that the language used during that dispute was not any worse than what has been used here to-night. I was present at the trial, and the language was twisted in such a way that the defendants were represented as damned criminals and a menace to society, just as the men pictured by this newspaper have been. As a result of that court case, the men had to pay £2,000, including costs. The action of the manager of the mine on that occasion makes me pretty sceptical concerning the fair words used by Mr. Hamilton at Kalgoorlie the other day. The mine manager there gave me his word as a man that if the dispute were fixed up, there would be an end of the proceedings. Yet, after giving me his word as a man, he went to the court and gave evidence, and it was his evidence which brought forth the judgment of the court which resulted in the union being almost broken up. I have had some experience of these matters, and I maintain that a Perth jury should not have to hear such cases at all. City jurymen have no knowledge of what occurs on the fields when the minds of the men are agitated by disputes. In the case to which I have referred, this is a sample of the manner in which the language used was distorted: The lawyer asked a witness, "What did John Jones say?" The reply was, "If you go to

work, I shall knock off your blamed head." Then the lawyer commented, "Did he really say that? It was a threat," and the witness agreed. Then the lawyer added, "He meant it, did he?" and the reply was, "Yes." Then he followed it up by asking, "And you expected violence as a result?" and the witness replied that he did. That is the way language was distorted. The whole thing is a humbug and a fraud on justice. I am not in the least influenced by the pretence of some people that the workers are always in the wrong and do things which would not be done by other people. In a strike of this character, it is unfortunate indeed that we should have one body of workers against another body of workers, one a scabbing, bogus union. No wonder there is bitterness. Whenever such a dispute occurs, there is a great possibility of bitterness. In the case of the Chambers of Mines, the Chamber of Manufacturers, or the Chamber of Commerce, immediately a man sins against their code they turn him down for good. Men have been black-balled in business because they would not agree to the proposals of the combination with which they were associated. This is all done very quietly but it is none the less effective. The unfortunate worker who occupies a position of dependency on the goldfields has to make a noise about it. He has to agitate in order to be heard. Because he makes a noise we have men of this character sent to the goldfields, and he posts down an article of this description, concerning people he admits he has never seen, for the purpose of inflaming the minds of the citizens down here.

The Premier: Did not something happen in Kalgoorlie?

Mr. TROY: Of course something happened there, but no one knows what really did happen.

The Premier: You know something of it.

Mr. TROY: I know there was strife at Kalgoorlie, and there always will be under present conditions. Wherever we find a sham or bogey union, and the feeling of the majority of the workers is that the union is composed of men who exist for the purpose of working the interests of the bosses to the detriment of the workers, one can well understand it. In the lawyers' union the Attorney General will admit that if they had a man of that character amongst them they would soon get rid of him. I know that the Farmers and Settlers' Association have condemned members who would not deal with the co-operative movement.

Mr. Harrison: I do not think you can prove that.

Mr. TROY: And who ostracised them for this.

Mr. Harrison: Nonsense!

Mr. TROY: It is only natural that they should do so if people refuse to deal with the co-operative movement. They say to them, "If you are not for us you are against us, and are working for the people who are our opponents and our enemies. Therefore you are our enemy." So it is

with the workers. There is an organisation which exists to-day for the purpose of injuring an old established union on the goldfields comprising so many of the workers of the district. I regret that this strife does exist at Kalgoorlie. The workers themselves are so dependent upon the employers and upon society generally that no matter what action they take they will always have to bear the evil results. If the workers were a business association they would get rid of their opponents by means of quiet action, but they cannot do so. They are dependent on the employer for work and the only way the worker can secure what he deems to be justice is to agitate, to explode, to make a noise, and sometimes do things which I deplore should be done. I am sorry that the State of society does not give the worker some opportunity of securing justice for himself in the same way that other members of the community can get it. I have nothing to say about the arming of the police to deal with ruffians if they exist, and I agree with the Minister on that point.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: We all agree with him on that point.

Mr. TROY: I have never stated that the police should take risks or go into brawls unless they are protected. It would be unfair to expect them to do so. But these men on the goldfields are not ruffians. They never have been so far as any of us know. I am as well acquainted with them as any other man in the country. They are ordinary decent people, though they may be inflamed by what they deem to be an injustice. They may become inflamed because of bitterness. They are not unfair men and can readily be appealed to. Both sides are to blame in this matter. I do not object to the action of the miners on the goldfields. They fought for themselves. They have approached the Arbitration court and they have had to fight for their registration, but have found that another body can come in above them and resurrect the registration of a union which was dead years ago. This registration is now being used for the purpose of undermining their interests. They say that in this union there are men whom they believe to be untrue to the cause of the workers. This has inflamed the other men, and it would inflame me, too, if I found a body of men acting in this way.

The Minister for Mines: They have a means of redress.

Mr. TROY: They have no redress. The men that I refer to are working in the interests of the bosses, and are hanging on to them for whatever favours they can get. I have the utmost contempt for them. I entirely despair of these men getting a fair trial in Perth. A great deal has been said about respect for law and order and about the reprehensible attitude of the people on the goldfields. When Don Cameron was chased by a mob into the Weld Club was there any condemnation of this action by the Press of the country?

Mr. Green: It was treated as a joke.

Mr. TROY: Yes, and if he had lost his life, when the mob said they would throw him into the Swan River, it would still have been treated as a joke. The Press were inflaming the minds of the public at the time because this man had the courage to speak his convictions. They quite justified the mob in assaulting him then, and they made a joke of the whole thing.

Mr. Lambert: What about the mob smashing almost every Italian hotel in the place? Were the police brought out?

Mr. TROY: Public opinion was inflamed at the time.

Mr. Johnston: You had police protection there.

Mr. TROY: The Press had no condemnation for the mob then but rather soothed them on. There was no talk about law and order in those days and no respect for it, but now this hypocrite comes along and says there is no respect for law and order. The very people who demanded law and order have now stood behind the faction in the country which has been responsible for men being put into gaol without a trial.

The Attorney General: Do you object to law and order?

Mr. TROY: No; but I want the Attorney General to be consistent in the matter. He stands behind the faction which has put men into gaol without a trial, which has taken men from their homes without a trial, which has deported them without a trial, and as a result left their families to starve.

Mr. Lambert interjected.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must refrain from interjecting.

Mr. TROY: The repression, the violence and the injustice that have been rampant during the last five years in Australia have begotten all this agitation. I do not address my remarks to any Minister. I am talking about a higher power than this Parliament. I am talking about other men in other places, men who, in their vileness and oppression and calumny, attribute to their former friends and supporters the taking of German money, and call them slackers and disloyalists and wasters. That feeling of vileness still finds expression, and I do not think it will abate for some time to come. I wish it would, I sincerely wish it would. I regret to see this unnecessary strife, by which one body of workers is being used by certain elements in the community who have no sympathy with the principles of the workers, and whose object is to disrupt the movement that in the end will mean the emancipation of the workers of this country.

Mr. GHESSON (Que) [11.31]: We know that this State has a very efficient body of police, whose duties are arduous, whose risks are great, and who are badly paid. Our police have to pass an examination in order to qualify for promotion. But when they have passed the examination, what does it avail them? Nothing. In New Zealand the passing of the qualifying examina-

tion carries with it a rise of sixpence per day, but in Western Australia it means absolutely nothing, except that it qualifies for promotion; and even then there are probably twenty or thirty senior men similarly qualified and awaiting promotion. Really, there is next to no inducement to pass the examination here. The figures quoted by the member for North-East Fremantle as to rates of police pay in the Old Country and New Zealand show that our police are very badly paid. In this connection I propose to deal at some little length with the agreement under which the Queensland police are now working. Here a constable starts on 8s. 4d. per day, in Queensland on 10s. Here married constables are allowed 1s. 8d. per day for house rent, in Queensland 2s. The Queensland rates of pay are as follows: senior sergeant 15s. 6d. per day, sergeant 14s. 6d., acting sergeant 13s. 6d.; constables, first year 10s., second to fifth year 10s. 6d., sixth to tenth year 11s., eleventh to fifteenth year 11s. 6d., sixteenth to twentieth year 12s., and over twenty years 12s. 6d. I quote from the Western Australian "Police Review" for September last—

Rent.—The new agreement provides that every married non-commissioned officer and constable not provided with quarters shall be paid 2s. per day rent allowance in lieu of such quarters. Travelling allowance.—An increase of 1s. per day has been granted in this connection, thus bringing same up to 8s. per day for members of the general police, instead of 7s. per day as heretofore. The new rates will be paid on the principle laid down in the Arbitration Court award, as published in the February issue of the "Journal."

The Queensland travelling allowance is much greater than that allowed in this State.

Clothing allowance.—In order to meet the increased cost of clothes, the sum of £20 per annum has been provided as plain clothes allowance for members of the Criminal Investigation Branch and Plain Clothes Staff.

The clothing allowance here is only £12 per annum.

Annual leave.—A period of 28 days' annual leave has again been provided for, and an additional two weeks' per year for each year of accumulated leave shall be allowed to each member who allows his leave to accumulate. Long service leave.—Every non-commissioned officer and constable shall be entitled to six months' long service leave on full pay after completing 25 years' service. Such leave shall be granted at the discretion of the Commissioner, but within one year after application is made. If for any reason a member entitled to long service leave retires or discontinues his service before entering on such leave, he shall be entitled to six months' full pay in lieu. If he dies before or during that period,

his widow, or if no widow his dependents, will be entitled to pay in lieu.

Further, in the event of a dispute between the Queensland Commissioner and one of his staff, there is an appeal to the Arbitration Court judge. Here there is no appeal from the Commissioner's decision. As regards the trouble which has arisen at Kalgoorlie, I know very little of it beyond what I have read in the newspapers. But it is self-evident that there are bound to be disputes where two unions are working side by side, one under an Arbitration Court award, the other practically as a bosses' union. The man who, while receiving higher remuneration as the result of a union's efforts, refuses to join that union, is nothing more or less than a bloodsucker. I have no time for such a man. From what I have read of the happenings in Kalgoorlie, it appears that an old Coolgardie union, which had been defunct for some years, though its registration had not been cancelled, has been resurrected. In my opinion, there is not the slightest question that since the amalgamation of the Kalgoorlie miners' union with the A.W.U., only one union represents the men, and that is the A.W.U. Those who stand out of that union are looked down upon by their fellow workers, and this has led to strife. I regret extremely that occasion has arisen for the making of arrests. The only effect can be to create more bitterness. I have been concerned in a few industrial struggles in my time, and my experience tells me that if only the parties can be brought together there is always a chance of settlement. When the parties hold aloof from each other, and more especially when legal proceedings are taken against one party, the prospect of a settlement is remote. I sincerely trust that the existing difficulty will be disposed of amicably, and without imperilling the existence of the mining industry on the Golden Mile.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN (Forrest) [11.39]: Just a few words before the conclusion of the debate, as we have missed our trams and trains. Like other members, I have no personal knowledge of the occurrence at Kalgoorlie which has occasioned some considerable heat to-night and has been responsible for the bulk of the debate. As regards the constitution of our police force, however, I for one am not going to utter one disparaging word. I know a great number of the men who constitute the force. Many of them were formerly constituents of mine, with whom I have worked. I say those men are just as good men to-day as they were when following other avocations. A police constable, of course, is subject to instructions; and when instructions are issued to do certain things, the policeman is there, like a good soldier, to carry out those instructions. I know also that there are occasions when the police, like a member of Parliament—I am looking now at the Minister for

Works—do not always use that discretion that they should use. I was interested in the observations of the Minister for Mines regarding the wide open field existing here for the workers in Australia to achieve their purpose by constitutional means, by political action, and without resorting to the employment of force. That is a magnificent ideal, splendid in theory, but owing to the colossal callousness in evidence in the community it is not always capable of achievement. The position is that I, like the Minister for Mines have long held the idea that everything could be secured for the working man without resorting to force. I hope I still hold that opinion, but there are difficulties and obstructions in trying to achieve that purpose by constitutional means, and after all, the agency of the police is never sought until an industrial crisis prompts action on behalf of law and order as we understand it to-day. During the period of the war when people's minds were abnormal, when the household as well as the nation was divided, when the father was against the son, the the mother against the daughter, and the brother against the sister on the question of conscription, great bitterness was caused, and as a result the baser passions of mankind came to the surface. That is the reason for the industrial unrest in evidence in Kalgoorlie and elsewhere. The reason for the industrial unrest stands out as plainly as a mountain peak; it is due to the intolerable position the working classes find themselves in to-day. We know that no working man in Western Australia would ask for an increase of wages if he could get his goods at the same price as in 1912. Last week I addressed meetings of my constituents, and I told them not to expect any benefits from me as a member of the State Parliament; I asked them to concentrate their attention on the Federal arena. I told them plainly that they were hoping in vain if they expected help from the State Parliament, constituted as it was to-day. I pointed out that there was a reason for everything, and that the very bed rock of activity amongst the workers was trades unionism. The cream of the working classes belong to the genuine trade unions.

Mr. Mullany: There are good men who do not belong to the A.W.U. to-day.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: It is remarkable that the inflated figures of the Coolgardie Miners' Union are so pronounced. The hon. member knows as well as I do that there are scores of men on the Golden Mile who will say that they do not want to join the A.W.U. The hon. member too has had enough experience to know that there is that element in the community that does not command the respect of honest men.

Mr. Mullany: I have had that experience. There are sound unionists in the Coolgardie Union to-day.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: There are men in that union to-day whom it is hard to describe—a combination of hypocrites, wearing the coat

of Joseph and with the tongue of Judas. I once heard the present member for Kalgoorlie, Mr. Heitmann, describe a non-unionist. He said that the man who went out to garrot a fellow man in the street was a better man than the non-unionist, because in garroting he took a risk that the man he was about to attack was a better man than himself who might knock him out. Ever since the existence of the goldfields there have been men there who would rob their fellows of the results of what they have ploughed and sown without contributing anything towards the cost of the harvest.

The Minister for Works: I thought they objected to political levies more than anything else.

The Minister for Mines: I can tell you of men who were never members of the union and who are on the other side.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: There may be a few but on broad grounds that co-operation amongst a body of men is justified, and without trade unionism this world would not be worth living in. If those men are desirous of bringing about a complete solidarity they deserve our respect.

The Minister for Mines: Some of these men have been unionists ever since they have been working.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: What union have they been in?

The Minister for Mines: The union that has been in existence all along.

Mr. Jones: The Fremantle National Workers' Union.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I hope resort to force will never be necessary in Australia. Everyone must deplore this ill-feeling which exists in the community. It brings one back to the position in the Great Western Republic to-day and which has existed for a couple of decades. I have read a recent report by the Hon. J. P. Carey who inquired into the industrial conditions existing in America, and the mayor of the city of New York congratulated all America in taking up political action because politics were unclean there. We say that if politics are unclean here, it is the duty of the worker to step in and take part in the cleansing process. The report into industrial conditions in America showed that fifty women and children were burned in their tents at Colorado. The militia were called out and twenty thousand people demonstrated. America is a country of huge contrasts and Carey pointed out that there were 25,000 children working in the Southern States more than there were twenty years ago. Carey inspected the work of millionaire J. P. Borden and he saw there thousands of little boys working in the bleaching vats. In Australia we resort to political action, and I am prepared to admit that until the workers capture their citadel, they have every right to complain. The report which appeared in Friday morning's paper, dealing with the Kalgoorlie trouble was that of a biased journalist, and when I heard it was the work of a man experienced on the Press, I was surprised.

When I saw that report I realised there was a possibility of a lot of election dope being in it. If not one Labour man goes into the Federal Parliament next month I will not quarrel, because no shadow of a property qualification bars the door of that Parliament. If not one solitary Labour man goes back, still the election will represent the judgment of the people of Australia, and it is of no use resorting to force to alter that judgment.

Mr. Green: No, but it will be a judgment misled by the lies of the Press.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: That is an unfortunate factor, which has obtained as far back as I can remember. I claim to be as tolerant as the next man. I recognise that in the human make-up there are good points as well as bad. There is that generous sympathy, even in my political opponents, which is capable of being utilised. But I want to point out, in justification of the attitude the workers have adopted in regard to the industrial unrest which is puzzling the brains of Governments all over the world, that it is avoidable. In Australia certainly it is avoidable, but no definite action has been taken. My indictment is not against the State Government. We have had the War Precautions Act, which gave the Federal Government unlimited power. There are men whom I could instance, men in Australia who during the last four years have made considerable wealth and built up bank balances without any regard whatever for human suffering. They have been making hay while the sun shone. We cannot blame them, but we can blame the system that allowed them to do it; and the charge can be laid against the Federal Government that they have not curbed the rapacity and greed of those men who have looked to their own future while the nation bled. Those men are to-day making undue profits while the workers are goaded to desperation trying to make a living. I have always stood for constitutional action, but I honestly believe I have adopted the wrong course. Had my constituents taken direct action they would have had to-day a little more bread and butter. My advice to them has ever been to stick to constitutional means.

The Minister for Mines: If you refer to the timber industry, the timber employers are making huge profits.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: One of those employers has kept his men on 9s. 7d. per day.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: What is he the owner of?

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: He is the manager of the State Sawmills.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: For a French company!

The Minister for Works: On a point of order. I do not know whether the hon. member means me. I am not manager for a French firm.

Mr. Troy: I suggest that both the member and the Minister are out of order.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Possibly there are three out of order. Thousands of my con-

stituents have to earn their living in a primary industry. Australia as a whole produces more raw material per head of population than any other country. We have abundance of bread, butter, meat, and wool in Australia, and if the workers are getting those commodities they are not badly off. But the position to-day is that if they want to buy clothing or boots or food they have to pay such exorbitant prices that they cannot keep out of debt. I will take any hon. member to my electorate, to the homes of married people, and show that those people cannot meet their store account at the end of the month. Two men have given evidence in the Arbitration Court during the last two days. One gave evidence to-day. He has seven children; his wife takes in a little washing, and when his normal day's work is over he goes out and does odd jobs for the local farmers, notwithstanding which he cannot keep out of debt. We have gone to the Arbitration Court and fought the employers. It has cost us thousands of pounds. We were ruled out on the first occasion and defeated. We now have a hearing in the Federal Arbitration Court and are submitting our evidence in the hope of an award that will give bread and butter to the workers. I was asked the other day why we did not go to the State court. The answer is because there is an absence of logic in the decisions of that institution. The State Arbitration Court awarded 9s. 7d. per day, or £2 17s. a week, for married men with six and seven children, while it gave a single girl in Perth £3 14s.

Mr. Johnston: How long ago was the timber award given?

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: A little over 12 months. The case put up warranted a decision that would give them a living without going into debt.

The Minister for Works: A rise was given without any award of the court.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The Minister for Works joined up with the other employers in resisting any increase, and as a result the workers have been on 9s. 7d. per day until five weeks ago.

The Minister for Mines: You cannot put us out of competition.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I have sat under the hon. member. I was an apt pupil for five or six years. I was an enthusiastic supporter of his, and thought that he was a second edition of Providence. I heard him say on every platform that the Government should be a model employer.

The Minister for Mines: That is true. But the point is that we are running a trading concern in competition with others who have an advantage over us.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I will shift the argument. I will take it away from the State sawmills, competing with other sawmills, and put it into the improvement of harbours and the construction of railways. Has the Minister there been a model employer? No. The men got a rise last week from 9s. 7d. to 10s. 6d., but for the last 12 months they have

been getting into debt. The Government are to blame. They cannot shelter themselves behind the fact that they are competing with other enterprises, because in harbour improvement and railway construction there is no competition. Yet the Government have not paid a living wage.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: And have no objection to the police getting 9s. 4d. a day.

The Minister for Works: You are not fair.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Ever since I have been in this House, I have endeavoured to be fair. When I and others approached the Minister only last week he was moved. Whether his conscience was pricked or whether the overwhelming weight of evidence in favour of the men moved him, I do not know. I have no desire to be unfair; I am merely stating the facts, and it is a fact that a fortnight ago the men were getting 9s. 7d. a day, men with families to keep and, owing to the high cost of living and the reduced purchasing power of a sovereign, they find it impossible to live and keep out of debt.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The police are getting 9s. 4d. a day.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The police have always been in a very embarrassed position financially.

The Premier: They are getting far more than they were getting six months ago.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Yes, the Government gave them a belated rise.

The Premier: It will cost a considerable amount.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I am aware of that and I hope the policeman earns the money the Government are giving him.

The Premier: He does.

The Minister for Mines: We have to get the money out of someone else in order to pay it to the police.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I have offered no objection to the Government doing that. There are people who are able to pay and the Government are not making them pay in accordance with their ability to do so. We have heard this from the Premier's Budget Speech. He has no intention of making those who are able to contribute a little more do so.

The Minister for Mines: Give the Premier a chance.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: This is an old cry. We are always told to give every Premier a chance. I am satisfied that we in Western Australia shall have industrial unrest in common with every other country in the world.

The Premier: It is getting better every day.

Several members interjected.

The CHAIRMAN: Half a dozen members should not talk at once.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: So long as you hear what I have to say, Mr. Chairman, I shall be satisfied. The police are a tolerant and, in some cases, a very patient and mild community. In Adelaide some little time ago 1,100 police ceased work until their grievances were redressed. In England, the whole of the teachers shut up the schools for the same reason. Strikes are occurring in England, in America and, in fact, all over the civilised world. The workers were told that a new world was dawning, but so far they have seen nothing of it. They are oppressed by the present excessively high prices. Perhaps the fiscal system is to blame to some extent,

but the fact remains that the raw material produced in Australia is costing too much. Per head of the population, we are producing more than any other country on earth and yet the material produced is not available. The wages paid will not go round and enable the workers to live in reasonable comfort. I admit it is a fallacy to go on increasing wages. The mere fact of increasing wages will not solve the problem. It is just like a merry-go-round; the workers go to the court and are awarded increased wages and, on the following Monday, the increase is mopped up by the butcher, the baker, and the tailor. Such a system must lead to chaos and confusion. What we want is an effective body to control prices, and the State Government are unable to provide such a body. We have passed a price fixing Bill in order to bring down prices. The Bill will not have that effect. If such a measure had been passed three years ago, it would have prevented prices from going up to their present high level but, once prices have gone up, a measure of this kind cannot bring them down again.

The Premier: Yes, it will.

The CHAIRMAN: I hope the member for Forrest is not overlooking the fact that we are discussing the police vote.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I am not overlooking the fact, but the whole evening has been taken up by a discussion of the problems that lead to and make necessary the employment of police. The preservation of peace is the whole warp and woof of the problem. The merry-go-round system of increasing wages and the cost of living will not lead to any solution and, consequently, the Government should apply themselves seriously to the problem. The Government, I admit, are practically helpless. We are an importing State. The price fixing Bill, which is designed to bring contentment to the workers, thus necessitating a smaller police force than at present, will not achieve that end. Action should be taken by the other authority which has power to deal with this question, but the Government will not urge them to take action; they will not hit up their own friends. The Federal Government passed a War Precautions Act but did they honestly attempt to curb the rapacity of the profiteers? No. In England the profiteers are put into gaol; in Australia they are put into Parliament.

The Minister for Mines: Perhaps the terms are synonymous.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I maintain that this is a fact. In the Federal Parliament, there have been three vacancies, and three of the wealthiest men in the Commonwealth have been selected to contest the seats. When Dr. Carty Salmon retired from the Grampians electorate Mr. Edmund Jowett was selected for the seat. Next to Mr. Sydney Kidman, Jowett is the biggest cattle dealer in Australia.

The Premier: Is he a policeman?

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: No, he is a member of the National Federation, and will probably be sending over a cheque to the Premier's party next week.

The Premier: I shall not be in it, anyhow.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The other candidate selected was Capt. Bruce, of Paterson, Laing & Bruce, Ltd., warehousemen of Flinders-lane, who made a profit of £250,000 in one year.

Then they supported the candidature of Mr. Hedges for the Swan seat.

The CHAIRMAN: The member for Forrest must stick to the police.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: That is good advice, Mr. Chairman, for then, if ever we are in difficulty, the police will stick to us.

The Minister for Works: Paterson, Laing & Bruce supplied the police uniforms.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Wherever the police uniforms come from, they are costing too much.

The Premier: How much do they cost?

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The Interstate Commission has pointed out the enormous profits made on clothing material throughout Australia. These are the things which tend to cause industrial unrest and strikes. Do the working men go out on strike for pleasure? Is it of any advantage to be out of employment when they have wives and families to maintain? No. When a strike occurs, the worker is deprived of many of the comforts and little luxuries of life; he is deprived of his bit of tobacco and his little drop of beer and his children have to go hungry very often. Strikes are not calculated to do good anywhere. It is a weapon used by the workers, but it is a weapon which causes them suffering because they are the weaker section. They cannot stand up against the organised forces of capital, but sometimes it is the only alternative open to them. We have Governments supposed to administer War Precautions Acts, measures to deal with the profiteer who bleeds the people and yet, when a man like Scott publishes a work on the "Circulating Sovereign" he is sent to prison for 18 months. Other people were deported to America and their friends had no knowledge of their fate. This is our boasted law and order and free democracy. It is no free democracy when the ruling powers enjoy the privileges, when the employer has very much his own way, and when the big captains of industry can ask for police protection if they get into a bit of trouble. I admit that in many cases there are good as well as bad employers, but the bad employer, like the burglar, only wishes to be left alone.

The Minister for Mines: That is the only reason we have for making laws.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The idea is to preserve law and order but very often, in such a crisis, the Police Department may be absolutely condemned and misrepresented by the idiotic proceeding of one man. That applies everywhere. I do not deny that in our movement we have men with straws in their hair. All parties have men of the same type, but ours is a party open for the whole of humanity to come into its ranks.

The Premier: Then we shall all come in.

The Minister for Mines: Yes.

Mr. Mullany interjected.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The hon. member was there, and he knows very well that before he left that citadel, he had an opportunity to go back. He went out of his own volition.

The Minister for Mines: To whom are you referring?

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: To the member for Monzie.

Mr. Mullany: You know perfectly well it is not correct.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I make that definite assertion for, with the exception of four months,

I have been president of the movement during the last four years. Not one of the men was expelled from the movement. It does not matter if we all leave the movement, it will still go on. So long as the world lasts this element of reconstruction will exist among the working classes. They will be obliged by the economic factors of the world to keep together. Others turn them down for the time being in order to take the reward for their apostasy. Although the party to which I belong, during the present trouble, the Fremantle trouble, or through any other industrial occurrence that may come about, may be injured politically, industrially their actions are very often justified. Our actions may drive this party into the shades of opposition for years to come and may kill any remedial effects in the way of political action, but the movement will still go on and its members with it, and will take up what we believe to be the cause of the worker. Their right place is with their own class and not with the master class, apologising to the boss and seeking to serve only the interests of the boss. There is a magnificent story told by Senator Givens, who is an old friend of mine. He tells it against himself. At the last election in Queensland they wanted him to go north and he wanted to stand for Toowoomba. Eventually they induced him to go to Cairns. He was for 20 years a member for the district.

The Minister for Mines: Are you telling the story of yesterday or to-day?

The CHAIRMAN: I would remind the hon. member that we are dealing with the police vote.

Mr. Lambert: Tell us all about it.

The CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. member keep order?

The Minister for Works: Do not waste time.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The Minister suggests that I am wasting time. On the Minister's Estimates on Tuesday I had ample material to enable me to speak for a couple of hours, and yet I did not avail myself of the opportunity. I have a right to speak of anything that affects my district. I am not going to condemn the Police Department unduly.

Mr. Lutey: No one is condemning them.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The Minister for Mines made a most eloquent speech and set up an Aunt Sally only to knock it down again. He then put her up once more and again she fell over.

The Minister for Mines: There are no Aunt Sallies in the police.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: There are.

The Minister for Mines: You have been trying to make them.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Much as I deplore the industrial unrest, I cannot help feeling that there is a reason for it. The workers by political action are not going to achieve results, because the circumlocutionary methods of Government institutions are so pronounced that the workers cannot get redress for their political grievances. There is always a danger in the Government instructing the Police Force to take extraordinary action in special circumstances. There is one officer on the goldfields at least who is not discreet. I was summoned in Parliament House for the serious offence of standing in Barrack Street during the tramway strike. I was standing there because a farmer who was trying to

get a transfer of land and had the document in his hand was asking me to explain things to him. Sergeant Pilkington took my name and hauled me up before the court. I had to spend £3 in order to bring the farmer to Perth so that he might explain the circumstances to the court. There were two plain clothes men behind Pilkington, and these said that I had refused to move when I was told. I have related the facts. Mr. Roe, a good and genial magistrate, said that it was a trumped up case and dismissed it with a pleasant smile. There are occasions, therefore, when the police are in the wrong. I only hope that after the passage of these Estimates the instructions that are issued to the police will be issued in a common sense fashion.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. W. J. George—Murray-Wellington) [12.15 a.m.]: The hon. member did not tell us much about the police.

Mr. O'Loghlen: You tell us something about them.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I strongly resent the attack that he has made upon me with regard to starving men and not paying them higher wages.

Mr. O'Loghlen: You have joined with the employers.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I have not done so.

Mr. O'Loghlen: You have not paid the higher rate.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The statement is not true.

Mr. O'Loghlen: I will prove it.

The CHAIRMAN: Is the Minister discussing the police vote?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Yes, and I am going to discuss it in the same way that the hon. member has discussed it.

The CHAIRMAN: You will, with the permission of the Chair.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN: And not in your own way.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: No, sir.

The CHAIRMAN: The Minister may proceed.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I will not take more than a few minutes to say—

Mr. O'Loghlen: Do not say what is untrue.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: It is not correct. I have not joined in with the employers in regard to wages.

Mr. O'Loghlen: It is correct that you have not paid a fraction more.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: It is not correct for the hon. member to say that I have joined the employers. The terms of the basic wage were fixed by the Arbitration Court, and they were considered good enough by the various unions for them to make an agreement with me on that basis.

Mr. O'Loghlen: Because they could not cite you before the court. Be fair!

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Of course, I am not at liberty to explain the matter.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is correct in refuting the statement made by a previous speaker, but after having given an assurance that it was not so, he is not within his rights in continuing. I must ask the Minister to discuss the vote now under consideration.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I wish to complete my statement in regard to the agreement that we made with the various unions. This was made on a basis of 9s. 7d.

Mr. O'Loughlin: Why?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: And this agreement had to be kept. Although the agreement had a certain period still to run, we recently have voluntarily raised the wages from 9s. 7d. to 10s. 6d., and have stated that if the court gives a further advance we will consider it, and whatever is decided will be made retrospective.

Mr. MULLANY (Menzies) [12-17 a.m.]: I regret the lateness of the hour, but would like to refer to certain statements which have been made during the debate. I must take the first opportunity that presents itself of replying to these statements. The discussion upon the Police Estimates is of particular interest at this juncture, owing to the situation which exists on the goldfields. Before touching upon that unfortunate trouble, I wish to say that I thoroughly agree with the statement made by the member for Brown Hill-Ivanhoe (Mr. Lutey) in regard to what is termed the gold stealing staff on the goldfields. These policemen are paid partly by the Chamber of Mines and partly by the Government. It is unsatisfactory that such a state of affairs should be permitted to continue. If the Chamber of Mines desire extra protection and are prepared to pay for it, no legitimate exception could be taken to that course being followed. I do object to the Chamber of Mines or any other organisation outside a Government department having any control over our police officer. If this system is to be continued, it would be well for the Government to insist upon the Chamber of Mines paying to the Police Department every year a certain amount for services rendered by men supplied from the Police Department; but those men should be treated in exactly the same way as any other police officers, and should be subject to the control of the Commissioner of Police, and subject to removal to any part of the State, in the same way as all other police officers. Under such conditions, the Chamber of Mines would have no control over the gold-stealing staff. I do not intend to attempt to discuss the details of the unfortunate disturbance which occurred in Kalgoorlie last week. Every member who has spoken has admitted that a disturbance did take place. But I do take strong exception to the remarks of the member for Kalgoorlie, the member for Kanowna, and the member for Mt. Magnet, in regard to the members of the "so-called" nationalists' union. They have been referred to by each of these three hon. members as scabs, or as members of the bosses' union.

Mr. Green: I rise to a point of order. The statement of the hon. member is totally incorrect so far as I am concerned. I never used either the expression "scabs" or the expression "members of the bosses' union."

Mr. MULLANY: I accept the assurance of the member for Kalgoorlie, and so I must withdraw my statement so far as he is concerned. I must have been mistaken regarding him, but I am sure the member for Kanowna and the member for Mt. Magnet used those expressions, and I take strong exception to such ex-

pressions being applied to the members of that union either in this Chamber or by any person outside. I know what I am speaking about. I myself was president of a branch of the Federated Miners' Union, then termed the A.W.A., at Menzies in 1897—22 years ago. At that time that association was the only workers' union in existence in the northern field outside Kalgoorlie. I know there are scores of men to-day in the Coolgardie miners' union who were follow-unionists with myself at that time; and therefore I resent, and will continue to resent, those men being termed scabs or bosses' unionists. They are nothing of the kind, and the men who use those terms know it perfectly well. Take the personnel of the Coolgardie miners' union man for man, and trace back the record of each of them in unionism, and those records will be found to compare favourably with the records of the members of any union in this State. Possibly there are some undesirable in the ranks of the Coolgardie miners' union, but so there are in the ranks of the A.W.U. The member for Kalgoorlie stated that although members of the A.W.U. to-day in Kalgoorlie are termed extremists, and although people in Perth and in other centres say that the leaders of the A.W.U. in Kalgoorlie constitute a dangerous element, he takes great pride in the fact that those so-called extremists, at a meeting held some little time ago, carried by an overwhelming majority a resolution in favour of arbitration.

Mr. Green: Yes. I say they are not extremists.

Mr. MULLANY: I ask, are they carrying their arbitration principles into effect to-day?

Mr. Green: This is not a strike.

Mr. MULLANY: I ask the member for Kalgoorlie, as a man who knows what arbitration really means, is what we now see arbitration?

Mr. Green: It is not a strike.

Mr. MULLANY: The hon. member knows that those men are doing wrong, but he has not the moral courage to say so.

Mr. Green: Do not bother about my moral courage.

Mr. MULLANY: If those men are so strong on arbitration as the member for Kalgoorlie has told us—

Mr. Green: I am not too keen on arbitration.

Mr. MULLANY: The member for Kalgoorlie knows, and every member of this Chamber knows, and many people outside know, that steps are now being taken by the mining section of the A.W.U. in Kalgoorlie to obtain the cancellation of the registration of the Coolgardie miners' union. Whether the effort will prove successful I do not know; but if those men are so strong on arbitration as the member for Kalgoorlie would have us believe, why do they not wait until that application is brought before the Arbitration Court?

Mr. Green: That was their vote by four or five to one.

Mr. MULLANY: If that is their vote, are they not men enough to give effect to their resolution? We hear a great deal about intimidation, and about the police being armed. I am not going to discuss whether the Minister was justified or not in arming the police.

Mr. Green: Not the police, but others.

Mr. MULLANY: I do not know exactly what the conditions in Kalgoorlie were. Undoubtedly, however, when those men went on

the mines that morning, they went there to try to drive the others away.

Mr. Green: No. They wanted the others to join up.

Mr. MULLANY: Here we come right to the point. Why are those others outside that union to-day? Notwithstanding that I have had a very lengthy experience as a trade unionist, the events of 1917, when the workers were asked to contribute, in a manner, to troubles not of their own seeking, to troubles which originated not in this State but in other States, and when such bitterness existed in that union as the member for Forrest has pointed out, I would not continue a member of that union.

Mr. O'Loughlin: It is a poor old union in the West that would not support the unions in the East, and vice versa.

Mr. MULLANY: In the opinion of unionists just as sound as the member for Forrest, the unionists in the East were not entitled to support in that instance, and the stand that was taken against them was justified. I hear some member say, "Do not attempt to excuse yourself." I do not want to excuse myself. I am prepared to justify, either here or elsewhere, the action I took, and also the action of the members of the Coolgardie miners' union. When it comes to talking of unionism, I say that the real unionists are the men who are doing something to further the real interests of the workers, the men who are standing out against the extreme section that unfortunately is in control of unionism to-day.

Mr. Green: You have a rat on that.

Mr. MULLANY: My rat will perhaps carry me further than the hon. member's opinions will carry him. Further, as regards my having a rat on this subject, let me point out that I fought my last election on the same lines, and that the unionists of the north again returned me as their representative after six years' experience of me.

Mr. Lutey: You were returned with the help of the people who first voted against you.

Mr. MULLANY: Perhaps so. But it has to be remembered that the men who were previously on my election committee were on my committee on the last occasion. The member for Kalgoorlie made some reference to the action taken by the brothers Schwan. I do not know whether the allegations are correct. They are very definite, however; and I have no doubt those gentlemen will have something to say on the subject. A good deal of the discussion to-night has centred upon the point whether the Minister was justified in sending armed policemen to Kalgoorlie. I feel justified in asking the Committee to judge the Minister upon results. He undoubtedly had to act on the advice which reached him from Kalgoorlie, and I say without hesitation that there are more in Kalgoorlie who can be depended upon to furnish accurate and fair accounts of what has transpired.

Mr. Green: They are not fair and accurate accounts.

Mr. MULLANY: I trust this industrial trouble will soon be got over. I believe that every member on the opposite side of the House also desires that. For my part, I would like to see the registrations of both unions cancelled, and then they should be asked to drop the bitter-

nose and the differences which have arisen between them, mostly for political reasons, during recent years, and to form a new industrial union, to be confined to industrial purposes only. The experience we have gained in the past few years will lead right-thinking people, with a knowledge of industrial matters, to agree with me. We want political organisations to let the people know what progress is necessary for their benefit. But in the best interests of industrialism it would be well if we could cut out altogether the political section from the industrial. I am prepared to advocate before either of the unions the adoption of this course. I would say to the nationalists or the Kalgoorlie miners' union, that if they would drop this bitterness and get right down to form a union for industrial purposes only, we would then be assured of industrial peace.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: How can you divide the two?

Mr. MULLANY: I want to get to the bottom of this question, and if anyone is going to raise petty difficulties the question will never be solved. I am speaking as an industrialist who has taken a considerable part in industrial matters. If we drop political propaganda work altogether that will be a great step towards the settlement of industrial troubles in Australia. I put up the suggestion as being worthy of serious consideration.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You cannot divide the two.

Mr. MULLANY: I believe you can, and the member for North-East Fremantle will soon find a way of doing so. We must separate the industrial from the political. What I mean most particularly is that we have no right as an industrial organisation to say to a man "If you are going to work in this industry you must join this organisation," and then say to him, "Because you have joined this industrial organisation you must further contribute towards the upkeep of a political body with which you have no sympathy."

The CHAIRMAN: We are discussing the Police Estimates, and I would draw the hon. member's attention to the fact that industrial matters do not come under the item.

Mr. MULLANY: I am about to draw my remarks to a close. We know that the industrial organisations to-day have power by a majority of their members to vote sums of £50 or £100 directly in the interests of a political candidate or a political party. That is not right, and it has been the cause of at least 60 or 70 per cent. of members breaking away. If that kind of thing were done away with the objection held by a great number of the members to-day would be removed entirely. I ask hon. members not to be led away by extravagant statements which have been made here about rifles and ammunition going to the goldfields. The Minister for Mines knows the position, and he knows the men on the goldfields as well as any hon. member in this House, and I am convinced that he would not take action which would not be in the best interest of the workers and the people of the State generally.

Mr. JONES (Fremantle) [12.35 a.m.]: I move—

That progress be reported.

Motion put and negatived.

Mr. JONES (Fremantle) [12.36 a.m.]: The member for North-East Fremantle (Mr. Angwin) has explained how the Government were acting illegally in arming the police in Kalgoorlie. I, together with other members, am not in the least surprised at what has been done. The present Government stand on the one hand in the interests of law and order, the plank on which the member for Albany was returned to this House, but they also stand for organised anarchy when it suits their purpose. A man is murdered in the Perth hospital, and the widow gets no compensation. A man is flogged in the Fremantle gaol and someone gets sick leave over it. So far as the police force is concerned there are some members of it good men that I am proud to know; but there are also young policemen who are likely to be corrupted by the fact that the present Commissioner is not fit to have charge of a small country store, let alone be in charge of a body of men for whom he has no respect and who neither fear nor respect him, and by whom he is known as Black Hand Bob. Yet we give to such a man charge of a department holding the power of life and death. This power is put in the hands of this particularly despotic and corrupt individual.

Mr. Johnston: It is a very serious charge.

Mr. JONES: It can be made still more so if the hon. member desires. On each occasion on which I have spoken on the Police Estimates, I have referred to the dangerous tendency to Americanise the police force. When we review the system under which good men are constrained to prostitute themselves mentally, we realise that the Americanising of the force becomes worse year by year. The police are sworn under the fearful oath read out by the Minister to-night; but most people to-day can break an oath as they would break a peanut shell.

The Premier: What a nice thing to say!

Mr. JONES: The Premier, with all his fine ideas of the mid-Victorian age, believes that it is a shocking admission to make, but we moderns, living in advance of our own time, realise that that is the actual tendency to-day. The system of the police force in America is to obey the instructions of the man higher up, whether in the matter of conniving at brothels or of allowing trade after hours. The tendency of graft, working down from the Government to the lowest policeman or street sweeper, is so well organised that it is quite possible for a man, by touching a button, to say whether another shall be arrested and sent to gaol or honoured with a favour. That tendency is in existence here. We have had strange examples of it during the war. The I.W.W. cases in Sydney provide an instance of how, upon a pure frame-up, upon evidence subsequently disproved, men can be sent to gaol for periods of years. I know it is hard to do anything with the present Government but, as far as we are able, I wish to prevent that sort of thing happening here. I do not wish our police force to become any more Americanised than it is to-day. To prevent that state of affairs, our police must receive higher wages. It is awful to think that the safety, the liberty of thousands of citizens should be at the mercy of underpaid men. It is greatly to the credit of the police that there are so many honest men among them. The police force should be more highly paid than

are politicians, because their opportunities for graft are greater. Whilst the older members of the force are, perhaps, beyond the influence of the present Commissioner, we have to consider the younger men, who will sooner or later realise that their promotion rests on a precarious foundation, that American methods will assist them in promoting their interests, and that they have to keep good with the Commissioner to stay in the force at all. Those men find themselves in a corrupt environment. Unless the House decides that the wages of the police shall be considerably higher than they are to-day, we have a black outlook for democracy in this State. It is easy for members to sit down and say, "As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end," but as times change, as we get deeper in that class war which will mean the emancipation of the workers, the employing class which the Government represent is bound to introduce those methods which provide the easiest way of getting rid of their chief opponents, the easiest way of dealing with the workers' leaders on frame-ups, as has been done in America, and I do not think the Premier wishes that condition of things to obtain here. I submit that, in the interests of democracy and liberty, the wages of the police must be increased to a far higher level than at present. We are not paying the ordinary man enough to keep him honest. It is practically impossible, at this hour of the sitting, to review the whole of the methods of the gentleman who is Commissioner of Police, but I wish briefly to touch upon the methods of promotion under which men rise in the service. This might throw a little light on the manner in which the Commissioner conducts his department. I have said that the tendency is to put into practice the American police methods, but the Commissioner's methods of promoting men go further back. They savour of Venice of the 16th century when the government of the country was practically in the hands of a secret council of 10. Under similar methods to those in evidence in the days of the Dges does the Commissioner of Police act in the matter of promoting his officers. There is what is known as a promotional selection board. A few weeks ago we got a little information on this from the Minister but not nearly sufficient. I should like to know exactly what this board is and whether it has any legal status. We are told it is comprised of the district officers from Albany to Geraldton. I do not know how the members are appointed or how they sit, or whether they act under a general notice such as I saw in the Kalgoorlie "Miner" a little while ago headed "Hullo, Hullo, Kalgoorlie or Boulder." I do not know whether the board is called together by these methods or whether any minutes of the meetings are kept. It would be interesting to know how many members form a quorum, where the board sits and how much of the minutes is open to the public and how much of the meetings is secret. We know that we have a board, the number of members of which is uncertain and the quorum of which is uncertain, which sits Heaven only knows when and decides exactly which officer shall be and which officer shall not be promoted. So far as I can gather, no minutes have been kept. If an officer is due for promotion, his name goes in and the board deals

with it and there is no appeal. He does not know what becomes of it. He places his name in a box. It goes before this mystic and ghostly body which sits in the dark hours of the night or the early hours of the morning, perhaps in Major Brearley's airship, and records its minutes on the clouds that pass by.

Mr. Johnston: If the board recommends a man, nobody knows whether the Commissioner appoints him.

Mr. JONES: No, I should like the Minister to explain the method.

The Premier: What do you want to know?

Mr. JONES: Perhaps the Premier can tell us. I wish the administration of the Police Department were in the hands of the Premier.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The administration of the Police Department is always put into the hands of a person who wishes to show himself a strong man.

Mr. JONES: Yes. I should like to know why good men, who have shown wonderful tact and preserved good order and done their work in an exemplary manner and have shown, not by the number, but by the fewness of their cases in the police court, that they are competent men, when they apply for promotion and are due for promotion, are passed over. An unbiassed observer who does not pretend to understand the department would think they were the right men to be promoted. Their applications go before this strange body, the selection board, and that is the last they hear of them. They do not know whether the board recommends them for promotion and if the board does recommend them, they do not know that the Commissioner will promote them. They have no appeal.

Mr. Johnston: And they will never find out while the present Commissioner is there.

Mr. JONES: No. The present system under which the police force is run is absolutely conducive to the riotous behaviour which did not happen at Kalgoorlie but which the Press stated did happen. This is quite in line with the star chamber methods of promotion that these assembled black-handed gentlemen bring into being. There is a secret service fund connected with the police force. I have a fairly definite recollection that the House carried a motion ordering a return to be laid on the Table showing how much money had been spent in the secret service, but the Minister in charge of the police is, of course, above Parliament. He is not concerned as to what the House orders, and although it must be two or three months since the motion was carried, there is still no sign of the return. The Minister should explain whether he intends to give the House the return, whether he thinks the country is entitled to know what its elected representatives have, by motion carried in the House, ordered to be laid on the Table. Something more than a mere cursory explanation about giving the police a chance should be offered to the House for the certain oversight in the matter of laying this return on the Table.

The Premier: Is it not on the Table?

Mr. JONES: No.

The Premier: I think it is there.

Mr. JONES: It is no more on the Table than is the Minister in his place; both are missing. It is not listed in "Hansard," and I have gone through the papers on the Table. I am very

interested in this secret service fund, and would like to know how much has been spent and where the money has gone.

1 a.m.

The Premier: And who got it.

Mr. JONES: Yes, and the names of the men who got it.

The Minister for Works: And how much, I suppose.

Mr. JONES: Yes, and how much they got. The country is entitled to know who got it. The same methods of secrecy which prevail in regard to the distribution of these public funds appertain in every branch of the police force. No doubt there are some things which the police wish to keep secret, but when we have a position such as we have here it is not fair to the country and is not giving it a chance in any direction.

Mr. Johnston: Perhaps they are preparing the list.

Mr. JONES: I wish briefly to touch upon one or two of the points that have been mentioned to-night. If the debate had been adjourned hon. members could have approached these important matters with a clearer mind, and could have given of the best in them to the subjects under discussion. As it is we have to bring tired minds to bear upon questions of great importance to the country, because this may be the only opportunity we shall have of discussing them, and of dealing with the abuses which are apparent in the mismanagement of the present Commissioner of Police. The member for North-East Fremantle has fully explained the position with regard to Fremantle. He has told us that Fremantle is probably the most law-abiding and peaceful port in the world.

The Premier: There are some pretty bad ports in the world.

[Mr. Piesse took the Chair.]

Mr. JONES: I suggest to the Premier that if it were necessary to fight for bread for his children he would fight just as these men at Fremantle have fought. The occurrence of May 4th was a regrettable one and I have no wish to refer to it. It is probably one of the most discreditable blunders the Government have ever made. I know they are ashamed of it, and I have no wish to increase that shame, beyond saying that this blunder has had the effect of discrediting the police force to a certain extent throughout the length and breadth of the State. The Commissioner of Police should realise that the police have to live this down, and the Government should assist the police to do this instead of making their task as hard as possible. The Government forced the police into the position of taking action, when a little commonsense and forethought would have shown them that this was unwise. Because of this the police are held in some slight disregard, to say the least of it. They are not exactly loved by any of the men with whom they had a disagreement. Directly there is a little trouble at Fremantle, the kind which the old time police of the port have told me used to happen there every Saturday night, and which in the shape of a drunken brawl happens in every seaport in the world, some of the younger and more tactless police come along and there is trouble. To the dismay and annoyance of the Fremantle police the Commissioner must induce the Minister to arm the force with revolvers.

If there is anything in the world more calculated to work up feeling against the police it is this.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The man who gave all the trouble was put on a ship on the following day and taken away.

Mr. Green: And left Fremantle spotless once more.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: No, it was a slur on its fair name.

Mr. JONES: Owing largely to the action of the Minister in arming the police there is a feeling against them. This feeling, which was rankling less and less as the weeks went on, has now to a certain extent increased again. We have to begin all over again to try and make it possible for the police to go into the streets without its being thought by the men that the police are their enemies. We do not want that spirit. We want the law abiding citizens of the State to feel that the police are their friends, but owing to the action of the Government in arming the police they cannot entertain those friendly feelings now. In order to make political capital for the forthcoming elections the kept press of the State must rake up every little trouble and every slight disturbance or anything that they may be able to turn into evidence of mob rule. They endeavour to incite the people of the State to believe that there is some fearful secret society, the members of which would kill every policeman in Western Australia if they could. They are doing their best to incite a feeling of hatred on the part of the workers against their fellow workers in the police force.

Mr. Pickering: You mean a section of the Press.

Mr. JONES: I mean the whole of the kept Press.

Mr. Pickering: I thought you might include the "Fremantle Herald."

Mr. JONES: That is not kept: it is free. If the Minister is anxious for law and order, as he told the electors of Albany he was a few months ago, and if he wants to see constituted authority observed in the way he led the people of the State to believe it would be observed when he foisted himself upon them again, he would be wise if he made a beginning by curtailing the lying statements of the Press which are so calculated to create that very spirit of unrest I believe he himself does not want.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Some papers would go out of existence then.

Mr. JONES: All the better. The world would be better, fresher, and cleaner for their disappearance.

The Minister for Mines: I quite agree with you that we ought to have power to prevent that sort of scare item from appearing in the Press. Such items do a great deal of harm.

Mr. JONES: I will support the Minister if he brings in a measure for that purpose, and a pretty stringent one, too.

The Minister for Mines: But you would refuse to support it, on the ground that it was an interference with freedom.

Mr. JONES: Continuing on the incident of the first trouble in Fremantle, which called forth the issue of revolvers to the police, let me say that, partly as the result of that issue of firearms, the idea got about—and to some extent that idea is justified—that the police, feeling deeply

the discredit of their defeat on the 4th May, are now looking around to find the men who inflicted that defeat.

Mr. Johnston called attention to the state of the Committee.

Bells rung, and a quorum formed.

Mr. JONES: When interrupted by the member for Williams-Narrogin, I was endeavouring to explain that the idea is now prevalent in Fremantle that the police are seeking revenge by arresting all those who were prominent in the trouble of the 4th May. This view is borne out largely by the fact—of which the Minister may not be aware—that many of the old Fremantle constables, the men who have served the State faithfully and well at the port and who have the respect of all sections of the Fremantle community, are being removed from the port and that their places are being taken by young and less discreet constables.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That is one of the mistakes the Police Department are making.

Mr. JONES: Yes. At the present time the Fremantle streets are filled with young policemen, many of whom are returned soldiers. There are in Fremantle many returned soldiers who are civilians, and frequently the soldier who has been away dislikes a policeman. The result is that occasionally when a man showing many colours across his breast comes with an air of importance down the street and moves on two or three young returned soldiers in civilian clothes, they are inclined to say, as they move away, that the gentleman who has moved them on is a "Horseferry-road cop" or something of that sort. That, naturally, is resented by the man in uniform, particularly if it is true; and in some cases he makes an arrest. Exactly this is what occurred in the case referred to by the member for North-East Fremantle, when a returned soldier was marched through a meeting which that hon. member addressed. It is what occurred on the occasion when a young naval man produced a revolver. In view of the eloquent statement made by the Minister in charge of the Police Department regarding that revolver episode, I want to let the Committee know that the two brothers concerned, Messrs. Blaise, had just met for the first time after a separation of four years. One of the brothers had just returned from service in the Navy, and the other from service in Gallipoli and France. As most of us would do in similar circumstances, they were celebrating their reunion. When they were moved on by a constable, they inquired where the returned soldier policeman had done his service. The result was that one of the brothers was seized from behind and had his arm twisted, whereupon the young naval man produced a revolver, which was not loaded. They were not arrested there and then, owing to the intervention of an older constable. They were allowed to go to their home, but later 13 policemen followed them there and effected their arrest. I do not want to continue with these incidents, but they are getting too common in Fremantle. If the Minister, if the Commissioner, if the public should believe that while that sort of thing is going on, the spirit of distrust between the police and the people of Fremantle is being allayed, they are making a big

mistake. I suggest to the Minister that, if he likes, the civilians of Fremantle will help him to form a civilian force, and then he can remove a lot of the young constables from the port.

Mr. Duff: Would you join such a force?

Mr. JONES: A force of that nature, yes; because the most peaceful town, perhaps, in Australia during the week following the 4th May was Fremantle, with not a policeman in sight.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: There was never any trouble at Fremantle until the Government of the day handed over the Town Hall to Billy Hughes's push—a Government paid to rule this State.

Mr. JONES: This idea of over-awing, of ruling by force, is no good to the State, because, as I pointed out on a memorable occasion in this Chamber, if the Government propose to rule by force, by over-awing the people, the workers are likely to play the same game—and they are in much the larger numbers. I shall not extend the warning any further. If instead of allowing this despotic, anarchic Commissioner to endeavour to bluff the people of the State, the Minister would allow wiser counsels to prevail, would allow the older heads of the service to advise as to the most tactful method of dealing with troubles, there would be far fewer troubles throughout the State. Just a brief reference to the position which has been created at Kalgoorlie. There is no doubt in the mind of the casual observer that the Government realise how much harm was done them by the defeat they suffered at Fremantle on the 4th May, and they made up their minds that they were not going to suffer a similar humiliation at Kalgoorlie. Consequently, in order to overawe the peaceful public and put fear into the hearts of the unionists of the goldfields, they started to have armed displays in the main streets. We have been told through the pages of the kept Press that 600 returned soldiers have been enrolled and sworn in in order to uphold law and order in Kalgoorlie. This is a deliberate, frigid, and calculated lie. I have here a manifesto published in the columns of the "Kalgoorlie Miner" of the 10th November. This was issued by the dinkum returned soldiers, and it is advisable that it should be placed on record in this debate. The manifesto is not displayed with big headlines, as was the report which appeared in last Friday morning's Press, neither did it receive the same consideration as the utterances of the members of the Chamber of Mines in the local paper. The kept Press charged the soldiers so much per inch for the privilege of permitting this statement to appear in the hallowed and sacred advertising columns. This is how it reads—

A MANIFESTO.

Citizens of the Goldfields.

For the first time in the history of the Golden Mile an industrial upheaval of the first magnitude has arrived. A cloud of misstatements and deliberate falsehoods, all converging on the dispute and all intended to cloud the real issues at stake has arisen. They all, in our opinion, emanate from the Chamber of Mines, a reactionary and unrepresentative executive of R.S.A. being one of the channels

through which the Chamber hope to sail to a complete victory over a body of people representative of 80 per cent. of the community and who ungrudgingly and unsparringly gave of their men and money to assist Australia's efforts in the war. What are the facts? Only six R. Soldiers refused to join the A.W.U. Four hundred and sixty returned soldiers who are also A.W.U. men, are part-taking in the strike. We, the elected representatives of the Returned Soldiers Unionists, appeal to that love of fair play characteristic of every British community. If weight of popular approval within our own ranks and the justice of majority rule are to count for anything, are we not justified in insisting upon the remaining eight non-unionists joining our organisation? We unhesitatingly brand the Manifesto issued by Mr. Ross, secretary of the R.S.A., as a deliberate tissue of falsehoods. Two hundred and ninety men attended the meeting which he characterises as being only attended by 40. A unanimous resolution was carried pledging our support to our A.W.U. comrades in the present struggle. At the meeting of the Boulder R.S.A., which he refers to, only 25 attended. The motion endorsing the action of the Kalgoorlie branch was carried by a large majority of 12 to 7; six refrained from voting. Citizens, stand by your country, your constitution and true democracy.—G. B. Mullery, P. J. Cavanagh, W. Maher.

This was charged for at the rate of 4s. an inch. It is the appeal which the dinkum returned soldiers have made to the rest of their fellow countrymen. "Citizens, stand by your country, your constitution, and true democracy." In reply to the appeal of these men the Minister sent up rifles and ammunition to arm the thugs who were only too ready and anxious to shoot down their fellow workers on the Golden Mile. The men who were sworn in were those who declared without fear or favour—I forget the beautiful wording of the oath—but these were the men who were to see that law and order was maintained, and that men were shot down—bosses, thugs, special constables, police pimps, the object of everyone of whom was to shoot and kill, if possible, the workers of the State. As the Fremantle episode stood to the discredit of the Colebatch Administration, so will this action of the Minister for Mines at Kalgoorlie stand to his eternal discredit. I do not know to what length the Minister will go. History relates that the men who were drawn from the ranks of the slaves and set up as task masters over those with whom they had previously been associated, used the whip hardest and were most brutal of task masters. And history is repenting itself here. Judas himself betrayed his Master only once. How many times does the Minister in charge of the police intend to crucify the class that first gave him public life? Perhaps in his quiet moments he will realise to what extent the last class to whom he has sold himself will drive him and use him, perhaps he will realise that this brutal terrorisation of a peaceful community on the goldfields will react bitterly against the class he is serving at the present time, that in the minds of the people it is going to be piled up against the day of retribution which will come as surely as to-day's sunrise.

Item, Commissioner, £750 :

Mr. JOHNSTON : Although only £672 was voted last year, no less than £711 was paid to the Commissioner, while the estimate this year is £750. I think we should know the reason for the increase, particularly in view of the fact that increases to constables have been very small ; in fact our constables are paid 1s. a day less than any other policemen in Australia.

Hon. W. C. Angwin : You must not forget they have cut down the secretary.

Mr. JOHNSTON : It is all the more surprising that this increase should be given when a very capable secretary has been cut down. In Queensland, class for class and grade for grade, the police get 2s. a day more than in Western Australia.

The MINISTER FOR MINES : The salary of the Commissioner was increased as from the 1st January last, which was the time when general increases were made available to members of the force. Although the salary looks to be high, it must be remembered that the present Commissioner has held office for a number of years at a low salary. As a matter of fact the salary he is now receiving is what was paid to the Commissioner of Police 20 years ago, and is less than what was paid in 1912-13.

Mr. JONES : I move an amendment—

That the item be reduced by £10.

Until the lower paid men are in receipt of better wages, the Committee should not pass the increase granted to the Commissioner.

Amendment put and negatived.

Mr. Stubbs resumed the Chair.

Mr. JOHNSTON : We have been told that a secret board of inspectors recommends members of the police for promotion. I understand that no policeman can discover whether or not he has been recommended for promotion, neither is it known whether the Commissioner endorses the recommendations put forward by the selection board. This is an unfortunate position for capable men to be in. It is very unfair that a man, for 20 years in the service without a black mark, should be repeatedly overlooked. I believe there are several such instances. If the Commissioner will not endorse the recommendations of the selection board, the reasons for his refusal should be laid upon the Table.

Hon. W. C. Angwin : It would be a very dangerous proceeding.

Mr. JOHNSTON : The future of men in this department appears to be more entirely in the hands of the head than is the case in any other department. I ask the Minister to see that men of good standing shall be given promotion. One policeman I have in mind has passed the examination for promotion. He has the highest credentials from all the inspectors under whom he has worked, and a Royal Commission gave him a most gratifying testimonial of character.

The MINISTER FOR MINES : The system of promotion is by merit, with the aid of a selection board consisting of the district officers stationed between Geraldton and Albany. This system has been in force for at least six years and I think the best guide as to whether it has been satisfactory is the fact that at the last annual conference of the police association that body agreed that the present system should

not be altered. This shows that the majority of the police are satisfied with the system. Of course, no system would give entire satisfaction ; there would always be one or two who would be dissatisfied. The point raised by the member for Williams-Narrogin (Mr. Johnston) is quite fair to some extent, although he wants to go to the other extreme. It would be undesirable if the reasons of the selection board—which the police agree is satisfactory—for refusing to recommend a man for promotion were laid on the Table of the House. I am prepared to recommend that, when the board makes a recommendation for promotion the Commissioner shall submit to the Minister for the consideration of Cabinet, if necessary, the reason why he refused to accept the recommendation of the board. I do not think there is a single instance in which he has refused. I know the case which the hon. member has in mind. I shall not mention the name.

Hon. W. C. Angwin : You may as well mention it ; we all know it.

The MINISTER FOR MINES : His application was placed in order of seniority and the board considered his claims and unanimously decided that, at the time, he was not suitable for promotion. During that sitting, a number of constables were selected for advancement and the number has not yet been exhausted. The board has not sat since. In future I shall have selections of the board made available to me and, if any member desires to know whether the Commissioner has refused to accept the recommendation of the board, I shall be prepared to advise him.

Mr. TROY : I was not aware that the police conference had expressed satisfaction with the present method of promotion.

The Minister for Mines : It is the system in the Old Country.

Mr. TROY : If a confidential clerk attending on the Minister makes himself personally acceptable and conducts himself in a way that meets with hearty approval, it is remarkable what consideration he gets. There are instances where such officers have been appointed over the heads of more responsible men, and probably better men, who had the misfortune not to come into contact with the Minister. That is only human nature. If I came in contact with an officer who ingratiated himself with me, I should probably have a regard for him, and, if he desired promotion, I do not think I could find it in my heart to refuse him. That is what happens generally.

Hon. W. C. Angwin : That could not happen in the police force.

Mr. TROY : It could happen with the officers recommending. Some men succeed in ingratiating themselves with the officers, and sometimes they are the poorest characters of all. I do not propose to mention the name of the officer whom I think the member for Williams-Narrogin has in mind. I have known that officer for many years and I can say he is one of the most honourable and intelligent of men, and a family man whose household in an example, I have never met a better family in my life, and a man's family life is the test of the man. Without making any invidious distinction, I would say he is superior to men who have held much higher positions.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The only thing wrong is that he made a fool of himself.

Mr. TROY: Yes, he did something foolish, but he was forced to take that action on account of the bad treatment he had received. He came into conflict with another officer, whom he reported, and a squabble resulted. The other officer is dead and I would not vilify his memory, but in my opinion the other officer was not a good officer. He was addicted to drink and, on that occasion, was at fault. The inspector came from Cue to hold an inquiry. He told the complainant to remain at the station until he returned. Then he received from the other constable the names of certain people willing to make statements in his favour.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: He is dead and buried.

Mr. TROY: Sub-inspector Mitchell is not dead and buried and he did this officer an injury. Sub-inspector Mitchell got statements from pals of the other constable. They were not sworn statements and I am convinced they would never have been made on oath; I know the statements were untruthful. When Sub-inspector Mitchell returned, he reported that he had heard this statement and that statement, but he did not ask the constable concerned for any statement. He did not even approach him. Without this constable having an opportunity to state his case, Sub-inspector Mitchell put in his report. On the ex parte statements of friends of the other policeman he condemned this officer.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I could tell you of a dozen policemen as good as he is who have not had promotion.

Mr. TROY: What he said was "This man is a labour man." He also said that he knew of a lot of other things that were detrimental to this man. The policeman was asked for no defence, and yet on that report and on the statement of a man upon which one would not hang a dog, he was removed and degraded. If this had occurred to me I should have felt embittered, and have felt that I had not secured a fair deal. The whole thing is scandalous. Why should the silly conduct of a man some years ago stand against him for all time?

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I do not think that had anything to do with it.

Mr. TROY: This man has given 20 years of service, and there is nothing against his character either as a man or as an official.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: There are plenty of men in Fremantle with 20 years service as good as he is.

Mr. TROY: This man is a credit to the community. I do not see why his foolish conduct should for all time bar him from receiving fair consideration. I should be wanting in courage if I did not speak up for a man, even if he is only a policeman. I hope he will get a fair deal.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Every member here could quote instances of this kind.

Mr. TROY: If the Royal Commission had not been appointed, and the police department had had their way, this man would have been dismissed because of the prejudice that existed against him. The commission gave the man a high character, and showed that the aspersions upon his character were unwarranted. I am grateful to the House for seeing that justice was done to the man, and I think the Minister

too will give him justice. I am sure he is not prejudiced against him.

The Minister for Mines: No.

Mr. TROY: In angry moments we all do foolish things at times, and I hope he will not let that stand to the man's discredit for ever.

Mr. JOHNSTON: I thank the Minister for his promise that in future if the Commissioner of Police does not endorse the recommendations of the board the facts and the reasons why he does not do so will be laid before him as Minister. That is something we have never been able to get before. Until the Minister told us, I was not aware that the board had not recommended the promotion of this man to the Commissioner. I had always felt that his promotion was stopped by him. In connection with the Royal Commission which inquired into the conduct of this official some time ago, the member for Kanowna appeared for the constable. After a great deal of evidence had been taken the hon. member placed in the witness box Chief Inspector McKenna of the Police Department, and later on Inspector Brophy, the inspector in charge of the station controlled by the constable. Both of these witnesses, on their oath, gave the constable the highest character. There was other evidence to show the loyalty and patriotism of this officer. The Royal Commissioner (Mr. Burt) also gave the constable one of the highest certificates of character possible.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I would not say that. I would take more notice of Inspector McKenna than of Mr. Burt, for the inspector had him under him for two or three years. He speaks very highly of him.

Mr. JOHNSTON: In this case we had a consensus of opinion regarding the constable. When this man was transferred to my electorate I thought there would be trouble. From what I have seen of him since I look upon his case as one of the hardest I know of, for he has had no promotion for 20 years. Even if complaints have been made against this official with justification, which is not the case, is it fair that for 20 years he should be given no incentive to continue his good work?

2 A.M.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: As a protest against the low wages paid to the police, I intend to move the reduction of the total vote by £52.

The Minister for Mines: We have already dealt with an item, and therefore it is not open to you to do that.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I thought we had kept to the one item all along.

Item, Constabulary, allowances, lodging, uniform, plain-clothes, etc., £113,244.

Mr. LUTEY: With regard to the gold-stealing staff, I want a definite assurance that the intolerable dual control by the Chamber of Mines and the Government shall cease. I spoke on this matter 18 months ago, but it seems as if I had been talking to the wall. The present system of control was instituted when Gregory was Minister for Mines and Keenan Attorney General. The staff draw their pay partly from the mines.

The Minister for Mines: The mining companies do not pay this staff.

Mr. LUTEY: They pay two-thirds of the salaries of the staff.

The Minister for Mines: They pay that to the Government in a lump sum.

Mr. LUTEY: I asked a question on the subject last year, and was informed that the mines pay two-thirds of the salaries and the Government one-third.

The Minister for Mines: The answer seems to have misled you. The arrangement is that the mining companies contribute to our revenue two-thirds of the cost of upkeep of the staff. They do not pay the staff.

Mr. LUTEY: But the Chamber of Mines exercise some control over the staff. I want the staff entirely dissociated from the Chamber of Mines, so that the State will have full control of the gold-stealing staff in the same way as the State has control of an ordinary constable or detective. Whilst elections were in progress and feeling was running high, the members of this staff, who are partly controlled by the Chamber of Mines, attended various meetings and took notes of speeches with a view to prosecutions. That is utterly wrong. Let the Chamber of Mines have fifty police of their own if they please, but no police under dual control. I intend to bang away at this thing until there is some alteration. The present position is scandalous and indecent. After I first brought the matter up, these men were absent from political meetings. Last Saturday, however, I noticed them again attending meetings. They are looked upon with suspicion.

The Minister for Mines: What meeting were they attending?

Mr. LUTEY: A meeting addressed by Mr. Munsie and myself in Burt-street. There was a crowd of about 2,000 people. It raised my gorge to see these privately-controlled police again listening to everything and taking notes. Not that I care whether they take notes of my speeches or not; but the principle is wrong.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I can only say that, so far as I know, the gold stealing staff of police were appointed by the Government conditionally on the Chamber of Mines contributing to the Treasury two-thirds of the cost of upkeep of the staff. But it was not agreed that the Chamber of Mines should exercise any control over the staff's movements; nor is any such control exercised by the Chamber of Mines, so far as I am aware. I shall make inquiries; and, if the fact is otherwise, the system must be altered. We cannot have a State police force partly controlled by someone other than the Government; they must be controlled solely by the Government. The hon. member seems to have an idea that the Chamber of Mines send members of this staff to report meetings. But that is part of the duty devolving on the police, and they are quite frequently told off for that purpose—to take notes with a view to prosecution.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Perhaps those particular goldfields police have got too chummy with the bosses and it is time they had a change.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The gold-stealing staff must, like all other members of the police force, be under the one control—that of the Government—and not under two controls.

Mr. LUTEY: In reply to a question here, I was informed that the members of this staff had

received a bonus of, I think, £100 from the Chamber of Mines, the amount being distributed amongst them. That fact places them in a different category from what the Minister's reply to-night would suggest. I have also learned that they receive a bonus of £5 for each successful prosecution, and this further fact places them in an utterly different position from ordinary members of the uniform and detective police. I am for the present satisfied with the assurance which the Minister has given, but I hope the hon. gentleman will do something. If no alteration is made, I will bang away at the thing again.

Mr. TROY: What is the use of the Minister's assurance that he will remove these police from the control of another body, if he knows that another body is paying their salaries?

The Minister for Mines: That is not so. The Chamber of Mines contribute two-thirds of the cost of the staff appointed for that particular purpose of preventing gold-stealing, just the same as you would have to pay for the cost of police whom you wanted appointed for some special purpose.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Why do not the Chamber of Mines appoint police of their own, like the Fremantle Harbour Trust do?

The Minister for Mines: I do not know. This is an arrangement made years ago.

Mr. TROY: If the Chamber of Mines require a police force to patrol the gold belt in the interest of the mine owners, let them appoint detectives of their own.

The Minister for Mines: Does the member for Brown Hill-Ivanhoe agree with that suggestion?

Mr. Lutey: Yes. Let the Chamber of Mines have their own police.

Mr. TROY: In that case those police would not be vested with any legal authority from the Crown—absolutely none; and they would not be able to interfere in matters in which they ought not to interfere—the cause of more complaint, probably, than their operations as actual gold-stealing detectives. The present system I utterly disapprove of, especially in view of the information given by the member for Brown Hill-Ivanhoe, that those police receive donations from the Chamber of Mines. That is altogether a wrong practice. If I had to pay any member of the police force, I would consider that he would be under an obligation to me. I certainly object to the police being utilised in this way by private institutions.

Item, Constabulary, etc., £113,244:

Mr. PICKERING: The police force in Western Australia are paid less than are the members of the police force in any of the other States.

The Premier: They have had a couple of increases within the last six months.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: It must be remembered that things have changed considerably in the last three years. We are paying the police force less than they are paid in any part of the world. No person has ever been able to put up a better record for the police than did the Minister for Mines to-night. The Minister has admitted that policemen have to go into places where they risk life and limb, yet we offer them the miserable pittance of 8s. 4d. a day.

The Minister for Mines: They have had £8,000 distributed amongst them.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The Commissioner alone got £88.

The Minister for Mines: The constables are being paid better to-day than they were being paid 20 years ago.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: So is everybody else being paid much better to-day than 20 years ago.

The Minister for Mines: The Commissioner is not.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: There are too many policemen in some of our towns. Fremantle has ten too many.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: This is the first I have heard that we are paying less to our police force than is being paid in any other part of Australia. I will make inquiries and if what the hon. member has stated is true, I will make a recommendation to the Treasurer.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The only way in which I can bring the matter under prominent notice is by moving for a reduction in the vote. I cannot move to increase it. Perhaps if I take the course of moving to reduce it I will concentrate some attention on the fact that the police are underpaid. I move—

That the item be reduced by £52.

Mr. PICKERING: The police have demonstrated their loyalty to the State.

Mr. O'Loughlin: So have we by remaining here until this hour.

Mr. PICKERING: I have no fault whatever to find with the police force. I certainly know however, that their salaries are not equal to those paid in the other States.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I ask the hon. member not to press the amendment. I give him an assurance that if he will supply me with particulars I will have them checked, and if it is found that the police here receive less than is paid to the police elsewhere in Australia I will make representations to the Treasury.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: On that understanding I will withdraw the amendment.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Vote put and passed.

The Speaker took the Chair.

Progress reported.

House adjourned at 2-20 a.m.

Legislative Council,

Thursday, 19th November, 1919.

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

QUESTION—WHEAT SHIPMENT FROM GERALDTON.

Hon. H. CARSON (without notice) asked the Honorary Minister: 1, Is it a fact that the ship which was to load wheat at Geraldton is now not to be loaded there? 2, If so, what are the reasons for diverting her?

The HONORARY MINISTER replied: The ship has not been diverted from Geraldton, but a request has been made by the department that a guarantee shall be given that she will be loaded if sent to Geraldton.

QUESTION—TECHNICAL SCHOOL CURRICULUM.

Hon. Sir E. H. WITTENOOM asked the Minister for Education: 1, How many subjects are taught at the Technical School? 2, The names of the subjects? 3, How many students are there to each subject?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: I am tabling extracts from the Technical School prospectus for 1919, which will give the information desired. The figures are not yet available for 1919, but those for 1918 will give a good general idea of what is being done.

BILL—TRAFFIC.

Read a third time and passed.

BILL—MINING ACT AMENDMENT.

Suspension of Standing Orders.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION (Hon. H. P. Colebatch—East) [4.35]: I move—

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended for this sitting as is necessary to enable the Mining Act Amendment Bill to be passed through all its remaining stages at this sitting.

In support of this motion I do not intend to say very much at this juncture. The reasons for passing the Bill as a measure of urgency