

discoveries up there. We are quite satisfied with our local government in the roads board, and in respect of broader politics we are looking to the Federal Government. If the Premier and the leader of this House are to come up to that district, let them come and see what has been done. I have never seen the district in a happier condition. I believe that if the rest of Western Australia also was free from the interference and blighting influence of a Government such as we have at present, there would be an era of greater prosperity for the State.

On motion by Hon. H. Millington debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 6.15 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Thursday, 7th August, 1919.

	PAGE
Questions: Bills, copies for members	51
Railways, appointment of Commissioner	51
Address-in-reply, fourth day	51
Bill: Supply £1,561,500, 1R.	60

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

QUESTION—BILLS, COPIES FOR MEMBERS.

Hon. A. SANDERSON (without notice) asked the Honorary Minister: Are copies of the Sale of Seeds Bill and the Fruit Cases Bill, which are on the Notice Paper for the second reading, available for distribution to members?

The HONORARY MINISTER replied: I am not sure whether they are out of the printer's hands yet.

Hon. Sir E. H. Wittenoom: And the Droving Bill.

The HONORARY MINISTER: My answer applies to the three.

QUESTION—RAILWAYS, APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER.

Hon. H. CARSON asked the Minister for Education: 1, Have the Government yet decided whom they intend to appoint Commissioner of Railways? 2, If so, who is the gentleman? 3, If not, when are they going to decide this important question?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: The filling of this important office necessitates the closest inquiry into the qualifications of applicants, many of whom are outside Western Australia. This inquiry is being proceeded with as expeditiously as possible, and on its completion the decision of the Government will be announced.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Fourth Day.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

Hon. A. H. PANTON (West): At the outset I would like to thank members for their very kind remarks and welcome to me as a representative of the West Province, and I trust that they and yourself, Sir, will extend kindness and leniency towards me until I have become au fait with the Standing Orders of the Chamber. I tender my regret at the circumstances which made possible my election at this juncture. I did not enjoy the personal acquaintance of the late lamented President, but I have taken sufficient interest in the public men of this State to realise the loss that the late Sir Henry Briggs must be to this Chamber. I congratulate you, Sir, on your elevation to the office of President. Looking over the Governor's Speech I was struck with one particular paragraph, which reads—

In the great work of reconstruction with which we, in common with the whole civilised world, are now confronted, my Advisers recognise that the first duty of the State is to suitably repatriate our returned soldiers.

As a returned soldier, the words "are now confronted" struck me very forcibly because, after five years of warfare, the Government admit that they are now confronted with the necessity of repatriating their soldiers. Men were coming back to this State at the latter end of 1915, and right through 1916, and yet we are told by the Government of the day that they are now confronted with the necessity for repatriating our soldiers. I well remember at the latter end of 1916, the trenches of France were flooded with literature as to what the Federal Government, at any rate, were going to do for returned soldiers. One particular manifesto signed by William Morris Hughes intimated that 22 million pounds had been set aside for the repatriation of returned soldiers, and that two millions of it had already been expended. Since my return to the State a few months ago I have been over a good deal of Western Australia looking for indications as to where this two million pounds was spent, and I find that our share of it consists of six poultry farms at Osborne Park. I disagree with the hon. member who last night stated that repatriation was a matter for the Federal Government. Repatriation is a matter for the citizens of Australia, and the State Government, as the representatives of the citizens of Western Australia, should and must take a hand

in repatriating our men. I wish to pay a tribute to the Premier's land settlement policy in so far as his optimism is concerned. Though hundreds of men are anxious to go on the land, yesterday I learnt from the repatriation officers that quite 200 men who have passed the land board and obtained their certificates are waiting to go on the land, and in the meantime are receiving sustenance from the board. There must be something wanting in our departments if, with all the land available in Western Australia, these 200 men have to loaf about the streets and receive sustenance when they are anxious to become producers. Another objection to the present land policy for returned soldiers, is the price being paid for repurchased estates. From what I can learn, we are setting soldiers an almost impossible task to make a success of land settlement in Western Australia. Unfortunately, too, many people fail to realise that what our soldiers have been through during the last two or three years makes it almost impossible for them to settle down and become staid farmers. Most people fail to realise that the great bulk of men, who served two, three, or four years for their country, have been living amongst thousands of men with never fewer than 40 or 50 in a hut, and they have become used to a good deal of company. From the day they entered camp at Blackboy they had never to think for themselves; they had to sink their individuality and initiative and become machines, and after two or three years of that life—it might not be very apparent to those who have not been through the mill—it is not easy, more especially for the young men, thrown on to the street, to have to use their initiative to earn a living. They have that restless spirit which for a considerable time will be detrimental to settling them on the land, and I regret the Government have not seen their way clear to make land available on easier and better terms. According to the Repatriation Department, there are 959 returned soldiers on the unemployed books. Of that number, 850 are receiving sustenance, and I was informed by the Chief of the employment bureau that at least one-third of the number are unable to do anything but very light work. This is a question which the Government and the country must face. I am not much concerned about the returned man who is fit, but I am considerably concerned about the men who are suffering disabilities through gas, and heart troubles, and other things which prevent them from following their pre-war occupations. It is useless for either the State Government or the Federal Government to believe that these men are going to do any good for themselves if they are merely paid sustenance to walk about the streets. Vocational training is needed, and we have at present 400 men in workshops undergoing vocational training and 62 other men waiting for the establishment of classes. Those 462 men are being taught,

or are to be taught, bricklaying and other building trades and mechanical trades. But when we have these men trained it is probable that, owing to the want of secondary industries here, there will be no opportunity for them to go to work in Western Australia. It is useless, in my opinion, to spend huge sums of money in teaching men trades if there is no opportunity for them to work at those trades here. In the first place the employers will pay 40 per cent. of the wages and the Repatriation Department will make up the balance. But that huge expenditure is likely to be absolutely useless for want of secondary industries, and the men when trained will either have to leave Western Australia for the Eastern States or else quit Australia altogether. If it is part of the policy of Australian Governments to train returned soldiers so that they may leave their country, it is useless for any Australian Government to talk about immigration. On the question of secondary industries, what has very much puzzled a great number of Western Australians, including myself, is the necessity for spending £80,000 on wool sheds at Fremantle, in which the wool is to be stored for eventual export to Europe, where it will be made up into cloth, which again will be exported to Australia. A great deal has been heard of the fine fighting force the Australian Army was; but we have never heard, I believe, what a well-dressed force the Australian Army was. It was, in fact, the best dressed force on the Western Front. That force was equipped with Australian cloth, made from Australian wool, put together by Australian artisans; and the Australian uniform was the envy of every other fighting force in France. Yet we are told that it is essential to spend many thousands of pounds on wool sheds to store our wool for export to foreign countries. I hope the Government will consider at an early date the necessity for establishing a State woollen mill in Western Australia. I can see no reason why that should not be done. Secondary industries are just as essential here as in the Eastern States; they should not be all centralised in Eastern Australia. The trouble with Western Australia is that the whole of our commercial and financial interests are centred in the Eastern States. We are told that all the industrial troubles of Australia emanate from the Eastern States. That is owing to the fact that the financial and commercial interests are centred there. To overcome the difficulties of our industrial position we here naturally have to follow suit. Once the big firms in Western Australia who now send their money to the Eastern States do something towards decentralising their businesses in Western Australia, there will be far less industrial trouble in the Eastern States. Another question which the State Government could well take in hand is the financing of prospecting parties. Many thousands of first-class miners and prospectors have gone from Western Australia to the Front, and a

large number of those returned are, owing to the long period of duty they did at the Front and the cold weather and disabilities they encountered there, unable to follow their pre-war occupation of working in deep mines. But those men could be utilised for the purpose of prospecting Western Australia; and I am satisfied from my experience of the Murchison and other parts of the State, gained as a miner, that there are several other Kalgoorlies to be found, if the right men are sent out and given a fair opportunity of prospecting the country. The returned soldiers endeavoured to get the Commonwealth Government to do this, and the Commonwealth Government speculated the magnificent sum of £5,000 in prospecting Western Australia. They might as well have thrown that money into the sea. I trust the State Government will at an early date make money available for the purpose of financing prospecting parties. I fully anticipate that the leader of the House will tell me, as the Premier always tells us, that there is no money available; but what the returned soldier wants to know is why, if it was possible to raise 80 millions sterling per annum for shot and shell to defend the country, it is not possible to find a few more millions for the repatriation of the men now that they have saved the country. That is the question which the returned soldiers are asking to-day, and which they will be asking in much louder tones as the days go by. I hope the Government are seized of the position, and will not compel the men to wait much longer about the streets, as they are doing to-day. The Governor's Speech informs us that it is proposed to bring down an Electoral Act Amendment Bill. With an hon. member who spoke last night, I hope that it is the intention to abolish this House. As a returned soldier I wish to say that the returned soldiers and the people generally are asking themselves the question what they are getting for the money they spend on these Parliamentary institutions. It is very nearly time hon. members here asked themselves the same question. If they ask it of themselves seriously, they will not hesitate to admit the need for a reduction of members of Parliament in this State and also for the abolition of this House, as a start.

Hon. Sir E. H. WITTENOOM: Why not abolish the other House?

Hon. A. H. PANTON: I am not particular which House is abolished, so long as one is abolished. In to-day's newspaper there is a report of a meeting of returned soldiers at which I am rather glad that I was not present, as some responsibility for the proceedings might have been attributed to me. The following motion was moved at that meeting by Dr. Aberdeen, who cannot be looked upon as a Bolshevik of the East Perth R.S.A.:—

That this branch urges that every returned soldier should have a vote for the Legislative Council by virtue of having been a member of the A.I.F.

It would be interesting to know, and I hope some hon. member will tell me, why a man

who was fit to go away and fight for his country, and incidentally make it possible for this House to meet this afternoon, should not have a right to say who is to represent him in this House. The fact remains that at least 75 per cent. of the men coming back will not have a vote for the Legislative Council. I want to see every man and every woman have a vote for this House, and then there will be no longer any necessity for this House to exist. In the meantime, at all events, the man who fought for the country should have a vote for this House. A further resolution carried by that meeting of returned soldiers at the instance of Dr. Aberdeen advocated that the Commonwealth Vice-regal representative should be an Australian, and that in all the States the office of Governor should be incorporated with that of Chief Justice. I am not particularly keen on that resolution, but I am keen on the abolition of the office of State Governor. In my opinion that office represents an expensive and unnecessary tradition. I am the more anxious to see the office of State Governor abolished because there would then be a possibility of obtaining Government House for a convalescent home for those returned soldiers who to-day are so far disabled as to lie on their backs in the hospital looking at the bare walls. Those men are entitled to something better than that, after what they have gone through. I desire to congratulate the Government on at least promising to bring down the long looked for Shops and Factories Bill. In this State we have had a Shops and Factories Act since 1902, and various amendments of no consequence have been made. I hope that when the Bill does come down this House at any rate will see that an endeavour is made to reduce the hours of the people working under the Early Closing Act. To-day we find in what is supposed to be a democratic country male shop assistants working under the Early Closing Act as much as 56 hours per week and female assistants as much as 52. As regards the butchers, under the Early Closing Act they have to put in at least 83½ hours per week in order to get their 48 hours of work; that is to say, in order to get 48 hours of work they have to be away from their homes 83½ hours per week, counting in the time spent in travelling to and from the place of employment. I hope that the promised consolidating measure will be of some benefit to the people who are going to work under it. The Factories Act as it stands is impossible to administer. There have been so many decisions given by the Full Court of this State on that Act that it is impossible for the factory inspectors to do as well as they would be doing if they had a decent Act to work under. At the same time I wish to pay a tribute to the inspectors for the manner in which they carry out their duties so far as it is possible for them to do so under the present Act. I consider the factories in Perth to-day, so far as the female workers are concerned, a perfect scandal. The conditions under which most of the young women em-

ployed in factories have to work are something shocking. In a young city like Perth we might at least look for decent working conditions for our female employees. In this connection it is interesting to note what one of our captains of industry said in the Arbitration Court a little while ago, when the clothing trades union were seeking an increase in wages. Mr. McConochie, the manager of Foy & Gibson, is reported as having stated—

The time was coming, and in fact was now near, when larger numbers of women would have to eke out a living.

That was a very interesting statement in view of the fact that the female section of this country are under great disabilities. I think hon. members will agree with me that it is impossible to take 6,000 eligible men out of this State without reducing the prospects of marriage of our young women. Six thousand men is the number we lost in the war, or 6,002 to be exact, either killed in action or died from wounds. From 1,500 to 2,000 have returned from the war in so disabled a state as to make matrimony an impracticable proposition for them from a pecuniary point of view. Thus it seems that we have at least 8,000 women without prospect of marriage who under ordinary circumstances would have had reasonable prospects of matrimony in their early twenties. I am anxious to see that these women at least get a fair opportunity under the laws of this State to earn their living in something like reasonable comfort. The wages paid to female workers are anything but good. Probably I shall be told the Arbitration Court is there to see to that. But members should endeavour to gain an insight of what is going on in the factories. When a returned soldier comes home he is given a suit of civilian clothes made of Australian cloth. The cloth is pretty good. But the making of the suits distributed in this State is let by the Commonwealth Government to contractors in this State. The contract price of each suit is £1 6s. 2d. The contractors are compelled to buy their cloth from the Commonwealth Government and the cost is found in the following items:— $3\frac{1}{2}$ yards of tweed at 4s. 6d. per yard, 14s. $\frac{3}{4}$ d.; 1 yard lining, 2s. 3d.; $1\frac{1}{2}$ yards of sleeve and vest lining at 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1s. 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.; $1\frac{1}{2}$ yards drill pocketing at 1s. 3d., 1s. 5d.; $1\frac{1}{4}$ yards jute at 11d., 1s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; buttons and sewing, 6d.; total cost, £1 0s. 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. The price of the suits, as I said, is £1 6s. 2d., which leaves for labour, overhead charges and profit, the magnificent sum of 5s. 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. That will give an idea of the necessity for slave-driving by the contractors. I have nothing to say against the manufacturers, because clearly they are the victims of circumstances; but the Federal Government who will let the contracts at such a price, knowing, as they must, that the girls employed in manufacturing the garments are being sweated, are deserving of the strictest censure.

The Minister for Education: Where did you get the figures?

Hon. A. H. PANTON: From one of the contractors. Of course, the people manufacturing those suits will explain that it is done by efficient organisation. I have seen something of that organisation. Personally, I prefer to call it downright slavery. The same principle is in operation in respect to the whole of the white workers of Perth. The only way to remedy it is by an Act of Parliament, prescribing that the girls forced into the industrial world shall get a fair deal.

Hon. J. Nicholson: How much are they getting?

Hon. A. H. PANTON: The Arbitration Court award prescribes 30s. per week for a senior hand. During the debate comments have been made on compulsory training, and the views held upon that question by a certain section of the community, of which I am the general president. After two years of active service in South Africa, three years of active service in the last war, and two years and 10 months as a militia man of the garrison artillery in Fremantle, I have come to the conclusion that the compulsory system under which we are working is a pure waste of money tending only to show off uniforms and brass buttons. We are training boys today for show purposes. I say without hesitation that the nine months' training I received in all sorts of schools before reaching France was not equal to one week of practical training in the actual line. I know a lad with five years' training under our compulsory system who, during all that time, has fired 15 shots, or three shots per annum! It is time that system was done away with.

Hon. Sir E. H. Wittenoom: You supply an argument for improving it.

Hon. A. H. PANTON: Australia has the credit of having produced, in proportion to their numbers, the best fighting forces on the Western Front. I venture to say that 60 or 70 per cent. of that force had never done a day's drill before going into camp, which I think proves the futility of training boys as we are doing. Further, let me say that those people who refused to conscript themselves for active service will never get my assistance towards conscripting boys who have no say in it. If those people want compulsory training in Australia let them apply it to men, who have the ballot box through which to express an opinion.

The PRESIDENT: I have no desire to restrict discussion but, for the information of hon. members, I wish to point out that in an Address-in-reply debate it is usual and advisable to confine the remarks of hon. members to those subjects touched upon in the Governor's Speech.

Hon. A. H. PANTON: A few days ago I asked a question in an attempt to find out whether a returned soldier has the same citizen rights as a man who has not been away. I learned that under the Workers' Homes Board of the State a returned soldier who wants a house has not the same rights as the man who has not been to the

Front. I was informed by the secretary to the board that the board will not deal with returned soldiers.

The Minister for Education: Under the Commonwealth Act they cannot deal with them.

Hon. A. H. PANTON: But this is not because of the Commonwealth Act. I was informed that if, as an old client of the board, I closed my account in Perth and removed to Fremantle, I should not be able to get a worker's home there under the State board, because I am a returned soldier. One hon. member remarked that he was not surprised at the industrial unrest. It is amazing to me that anybody should be surprised at it. I am in no way pessimistic about the industrial unrest in Australia. What we are going through to-day we have already gone through before. A great deal is being made of the seaman's strike. Without entering into the merits or demerits of that dispute, I wish to point out that during the war the men of the merchant service made possible the transportation from all parts of the world of thousands of troops and many cargoes of munitions, and remained loyal to their duty in face of the destructive torpedo. To-day, when the men of the merchant service are engaged in a struggle with the shipping combine, who have made hundreds of thousands of pounds in undue profits, when the seamen are on strike for an extra 1s. 2d. per day, the only blame cast is cast at the men, and not at the employers. Hon. members should be fair. In my opinion the employers are just as much to blame for the holding up of the shipping as are the men. Turning to the woodline dispute in Kalgoorlie, we find that the mining companies, and not the woodline companies, are carrying on negotiations with the men. Apparently there is no onus on the firewood companies to deal with the men, and it is left to the mining companies to endeavour to bring about a settlement. I think hon. members will agree that a body of men prepared to go back to the 1916 agreement are not asking too much. They have offered to supply the wood direct to the mines, but unfortunately the Government are not prepared to assist the men in the formation of a co-operative scheme, as they have done in regard to the coal miners of Collie and in regard also to the farmers and settlers. The firewood cutters are asked to pay a railway freight of one penny per ton. Surely the mining community are entitled to as much consideration as are the farming community or the community at Collie! Let me just touch upon the recent trouble at Fremantle. I was roundly abused during that time. I will not attempt to apportion the blame for what happened down there. I regret that the Government resolved to take sides in that dispute. What happened on that Sunday morning, the 4th May, would not have occurred had the Government refrained from taking sides with the shipping combine. Some people have since said that

the then Premier was lacking in his duty for not carrying the contest right through. But I must say I am pleased that the then Premier used his good judgment to stop that conflict when he did. Had he not done so, I am convinced that there would have been bloodshed in Fremantle to an extent that would have constituted an everlasting disgrace on Western Australia. The trouble went further than we desired it to go. Now that it is all over I have no regrets in respect of the part I took in it, whatever hon. members may think. I was holding a responsible position as general president that day, and when the trouble started there was no place for me other than right in the front line. I would have been lacking in my duty had I not taken up that position. I hope that, when the Early Closing and Factories Bill comes down, hon. members will treat it, not as they did last session, but in the manner that is to be expected from a democratic House. I hope to be of some assistance to hon. members, because I have had seven years' experience of organisations dealing with the Early Closing Act; and I know some of the disabilities under which those concerned have suffered. I trust hon. members will permit of the opportunity being taken to rectify some of the long-established disabilities under which the people have laboured.

Hon. R. J. LYNN (West): I should like to preface my remarks by congratulating you, Sir, upon attaining the highest position this House has at its disposal. I hope your health will long permit you to occupy the position to which I consider you are so richly entitled. I also congratulate Dr. Saw on his return after his many years of service at the Front, and upon the very excellent speech that he made in moving the Address-in-reply. I hardly know what to say respecting my junior colleague. I think he will make a very excellent member, and I hope the environment of the House will, in future, make him what, it appears to many of us, it has made other junior colleagues in the past upon entering within these walls. After an experience of some few years here I think he will realise that this Chamber, if not the more democratic of the two Houses of Parliament in the State, is at least that House which considers equity and justice in preference to all other matters. I would remind him, too, that "Hansard" for last session shows that the leader of the Opposition in another place, and the leader of the party to which my colleague owes his allegiance, says that he thanks God for the existence of the other House. That hon. gentleman went on to say—

We have a Chamber composed of men who realise their responsibilities, who are not whipped up by parties, and a House which realises the equity of all measures. He was imbued with that to such an extent that he could only thank God that the Legislative Council existed in order to check the legislation of another place.

Hon. J. Cornell: That must have been a temporary lapse.

Hon. R. J. LYNN: Last week, in speaking in the Town Hall, another hon. member of this Chamber, Mr. Hickey, dealing with the high cost of living said—

It will require a lot of public opinion to force this measure through the Legislative Council.

Mr. Hickey evidently realised that the Legislative Council was not a party House, and would not be swayed and influenced by the present Administration. This was a compliment to the House, for which I think every member will be pleased. I propose to confine my remarks as nearly as possible to the Governor's Speech. The first reference in the Speech is to repatriation. I am sure that the public in general are tired of hearing so much about this question, and that what they desire is some action in connection with it. The Government of the day should get to work. I believe they are doing everything possible. I cannot quite agree with Mr. Sanderson that it is not a State affair. It is, to some extent, a question of State and Federal combination, and if the State will get to work in this direction and do what is necessary and essential, I think the public will have something to be grateful for. These questions in connection with repatriation are of annual occurrence and are constantly being revived. That is not what the public in general require. Let us get this question excised from the Governor's Speech and let us have no further reference to what it is proposed to do. Let us start out to do something so that our actions may speak for themselves. The next reference in the Speech is to the question of industrial unrest. As Dr. Saw stated, this is world wide. This is not something that belongs exclusively either to Western Australia or to the Commonwealth. Whilst I am prepared to admit that in many countries they have grave reason for this industrial unrest, I am not prepared to admit that the same grievances exist in the Commonwealth of Australia. Mr. Dodd and I saw, in passing through the streets of Marseilles, the women of France sweeping them up. We know that they have not the representation in their Parliaments that the women of Australia have. They have not the opportunity of voicing their opinions and of securing legislation which will be of benefit to the community. This, however, does not apply to Australia. Here we have the adult franchise.

Hon. J. Cornell: In one House.

Hon. R. J. LYNN: That does not apply to the Federal House.

Hon. J. Cornell: They had a string on it when they got this Chamber.

Hon. R. J. LYNN: They have an adult franchise in connection with both Federal Houses of Parliament. That is the foremost Parliament in Australia in connection with legislation respecting the high cost of living and other matters of vital interest to my junior colleague. To that Parliament the people have their opportunity of sending

members to represent their views and interests.

Hon. H. Millington: You think it quite right that this should be so?

Hon. R. J. LYNN: I will deal with that question at a later stage. I am not prepared to admit that it is right. I am quite sure that if I went to the Trades Hall to-morrow and asked to be allowed to vote on a question of vital interest to myself, I would be told that I would have to become a member of the Trades Hall before this would be permitted. I hardly think that unless persons are shareholders, so to speak, in the country, they should have a right to return men to both Houses of Parliament, unless the Upper House, to some extent, protects the vested interests of the community.

Hon. J. Cornell: Who took up the guns to keep them for you?

Hon. R. J. LYNN: I quite admit that many did take up the guns. I am willing to present to every man who fought a qualification to vote for the Upper House.

Hon. J. Cornell: And I am not.

Hon. R. J. LYNN: There is only a £50 freehold qualification involved. I am willing to give my vote to make a free gift to every member of the forces who fought for this State, so that they might be qualified to vote in connection with this House. I am not afraid of their vote at all. With all this industrial unrest it is as well that we should come down near home, as my junior colleague has done. I have no wish to ask anyone to shoulder the blame for that fateful Sunday at Fremantle. I have no information in my possession to lead me to make any remarks on the question at all, other than what I gleaned from the newspapers. I think I am justified in advocating a plank of the Official Labour party's platform, and that is the plank providing for the right to work. The Government should certainly appoint a Commission in order to investigate many of the injustices that have been done in connection with this particular affair. There are to-day in Fremantle good solid unionists, married men with wives and families, on the verge of starvation because they are not allowed to work at the port.

Hon. J. E. Dodd: Are they members of the Lumpers' Union?

Hon. A. H. Panton: Yes, I think so.

Hon. R. H. LYNN: They are members of other unions which came into conflict with the views of the Lumpers' Union. Let me cite one case. A member of the Harbour and River Union, engaged as a fitter on the wharves in Fremantle, was asked during the trouble to drive a crane. This was in 1917. He went to the crane in order to receive a lesson. After he was at the work about five minutes a member of the Industrial Disputes Committee, I believe, said he was afraid to drive the crane and he got off. My information is that when he reached the crane he asked his chief the object of putting him there. It was stated

in reply that, as this trouble was on, all the fitters were requested to learn to drive the cranes, so that they might get over their difficulties. This man positively refused to drive it. He went away and returned to the North Wharf, where he resumed his position as a fitter on the gantries in connection with the elevators. He remained there from 1917 to 1919, until a week after this affair at Fremantle. He was then either pushed or driven off the wharf and, although he is a trades unionist, and has been all his life, and although he has never been connected with the Lumpers' Union, and never did any lumping work, or anything in opposition to the Lumpers' Union, he is debarred from employment on the wharves, even at his old position in connection with the wheat elevator sheds. The Industrial Disputes Committee, the Official Labour party, the Trades Hall, or any section of the community, have no right in this free country to debar any man from earning an honest living. Assuming that he did go on a crane as a loyalist in those days, assuming he did something to incur the displeasure of one section of the community, is it to be that that section of the community represented by the Industrial Disputes Committee have the power to say to the Government and the community that that man shall no longer work? If that is so the quicker we know it the better, and then I shall advise some of my friends who are good solid trades unionists to offer a humble and abject apology and ask to be admitted again into the ranks. The thing is wrong. I could cite numerous instances, and if the Government will appoint a Commission I shall volunteer to produce such evidence as will justify the appointment of that tribunal. I have no wish to be misunderstood in this direction. When the lumpers came out in 1917 they committed an act which, in my opinion, was disloyal, and not the correct thing. Any subterfuge was good enough for them to make at that time as to why they refused to work. It will be remembered that one excuse was that the flour was being sent away to enemy countries through Java; then it was the high cost of living; then it was something else. The real cause was that their comrades in the Eastern States were out, and these men decided to go out in sympathy with them. I do not wish to be misunderstood. I think many of those men in Fremantle in 1917 and since have had a very hard time indeed. I consider that they were penalised sufficiently without their livelihood being taken from them forever. It is a great pity that, immediately the industrial trouble was settled through the loyalists going on the wharves, some action was not taken to bring about quietly the removal of those loyalists and to reinstate the lumpers in their old positions. If that had been done we would not have had the spectacle of that particular Sunday. I hope the Government will, in justice to many of those men in Fremantle, good honest citi-

zens, men who did what they considered in 1917 to be their duty, men who, I believe were favourable to trades unionism—use their utmost efforts to bring about the appointment of the Royal Commission.

The Minister for Education: It is being appointed.

Hon. R. J. LYNN: I am glad to hear that, because injustices exist to-day which it will be possible to redress. Mr. Panton, speaking on the question of industrial unrest, referred to the shipping combine. I remember in the early days of my association with the Fremantle Chamber of Commerce, I was elected, by reason of the fact that I happened to be in Sydney at the time, to represent that body at the annual Interstate conference then being held in Sydney. The question of the shipping combine found a place on the agenda paper. I remember the evening newspaper referring to it as the "shipping octopus." I referred to it in those days as the shipping octopus, and it is an octopus—there is no disguising the fact. I shall be willing to help my friends to do anything that will assist to bring the combine to reason. But I want to be fair. For some years the shipping combine has been absolutely under the control of the Federal authorities.

Hon. H. Millington: The other way about.

Hon. R. J. LYNN: The shipping combine has lost its identity. During recent years it has been taken over by the Federal authorities, and it is not therefore the combine versus the seamen, it is to-day the seamen versus the rest of the community. I do not know that the seamen are not entitled to some consideration. They have had during recent years increases amounting to something like 60 per cent. over what they previously enjoyed, and when we take into consideration that the increases conceded during the past four years do not involve any additional charges to the seamen on account of the high cost of living, we must conclude that they have benefited considerably. The cost of living has not affected them.

Hon. J. Cornell: It has affected their families.

Hon. R. J. LYNN: Some have families, and there is a fair percentage of square-headed "dagoes" amongst them who have no families. Have the seamen, through the utterances of their leader and his wife, the right to hold up every section of Australia?

Hon. J. E. Dodd: He is the greatest autocrat in Australia.

Hon. R. J. LYNN: This man has openly defied every constitutional method and he has been supported by his wife, who left England, I take it, not for the good of herself but for the good of her country.

Hon. A. H. Panton: You do not blame her for sticking to her husband?

Hon. R. J. LYNN: I blame Australia for keeping these people here. If any vote of mine could assist to get rid of them I would gladly give it, so that they would be deported to-morrow. We must have constitutional government. If we cannot have it, are we then to be controlled by an industrial dis-

putes committee or an executive of another section of the community?

Hon. J. Cornell: Or the recently arrived pommies?

Hon. R. J. LYNN: Yes. If they are to govern us, then transfer that form of government to the Houses of Parliament, and do not let us attend here as we do, believing that we have some right to enact legislation without having the power to carry it through. Hon. members may remember on one occasion last session I referred to the ludicrous position of passing laws and not being able to enforce them. From an industrial standpoint, unless we can have constitutional authority, and have it recognised, we shall always have these 'red-raggers' amongst us creating upheavals in order to bring about trouble and chaos, as is being done to-day. What will it benefit the seamen, after having been idle for three months? In Mr. Justice Higgins they have a man who has always been considered the fairest minded man it was possible to get to preside over the Arbitration Court. Concessions have been granted by him on every possible occasion when the men have gone before the court, and yet to-day they are holding up every section of the community, and they refuse even to send food to their own comrades in distant parts of our own State. If it were not so tragic the position might almost be considered ludicrous. We have the same party advocating the White Australia policy. What is happening to-day at our own port of Fremantle? The Premier of the State is compelled to go cap in hand to the agent of a line of steamers manned by coloured labour and request that food be taken to Broome. The Federal authorities are called upon to issue a permit for the coloured crew of a schooner to trade on the coast and convey those goods from Broome to Wyndham, so that our own white people engaged in a big industry at Wyndham may be fed. At the same time our State steamers, manned by our own white people, are tied to the buoys in the Fremantle harbour.

Hon. A. H. Panton: For the sake of 1s. 2d. a day.

Hon. R. J. LYNN: No, for the sake of a principle. If the seamen who are earning their £1 a day with overtime included and board are prepared to see their comrades at Wyndham starve, then I declare them to be a contemptible crowd.

Hon. J. E. Dodd: Do not you think it would be better for the shipowners to give the men better conditions?

Hon. R. J. LYNN: I am willing to admit that the conditions are not all that might be desired, but it was promised them in Melbourne by Senator Millen, who was to take the chair at a round-table conference, that if they went back to work all those matters would be investigated. The men, however, refused to accept the guarantee of their own executive that the Government would carry into effect their promise.

Hon. A. H. Panton: Which proves that the men are not being led.

Hon. R. LYNN: I am sorry that my colleague, with his personality and magnetism, was not on that committee, so that he might have exercised the same influence in Victoria that he wielded with such great effect in Western Australia. We come to the natural sequence of things, the high cost of living. I believe that there are instances where profiteering has been going on to a great extent, and if I can help to put that down I can assure my friends that I will willingly do so. I also realise it is a very difficult thing to pass legislation that will be of benefit to our own State. It is something outside the bounds of Western Australia or even Eastern Australia. It must be something of an Imperial tribunal to be of any advantage. I have no wish to suggest the hundred and one means which would be at the disposal of importers to bolster up the price and then show only a percentage of profit, with some system of a rebate to be paid in some other part of the world. It would be very difficult for any local legislation to fix prices. However, if anything can be done I am willing to support such a measure. At the same time I would warn members that they must be careful not to limit production, or do anything which will seriously interfere with our production as against the production of Eastern Australia and other parts of the world. To fix prices is not the easy thing that many members glibly talk about. I heard one of my opponents in politics talking at Collie about the price of condensed milk, but according to Saturday's paper Judge Edmunds, as Chairman of the Victorian Price Fixing Commission, said the price asked for Nestle's milk was only reasonable and did not allow of any margin at the price then quoted.

Hon. J. Cornell: We would not want price fixing if we put a few of the profiteers inside for a while.

Hon. R. J. LYNN: If it can be proved that there is profiteering and that it is to the detriment of the community, I will assist the hon. member if he will help me to put inside some of the red-raggers; then we might have peace. One thing I marvel at is the inconsistency of many men who glibly talk about profiteering. I would refer them to Collie where the people have co-operative stores supplying meat, bread, groceries, hardware, millinery, and dresses, in fact, departments for practically everything, which return a very handsome profit; but one morning the shareholders woke up to the fact that the Federal authorities wanted some of their profit. The shareholders consisting of miners and working men sent a delegation to Victoria to protest against a dividend tax on their profits, and they were shown that the only way to evade the tax was by supplying only those who were shareholders. The stores closed down on all outside people and confined trading to their own members and immediately the shareholders' register mounted up so that the co-operative stores control practically all the

business in Collie to-day. In the metropolitan area, in Fremantle and other large industrial centres, where the seamen have been thrown out of employment tens of thousands of employees and the wages lost are estimated to exceed $1\frac{1}{2}$ million pounds, if that amount had been applied to local co-operative stores, the shareholders could have been the profiteers and wiped out nearly every other competitor. Let them start their own co-operative stores and reserve the profits to themselves. I commend this point to the hon. member in the hope that it may be of service to him. The Governor's Speech states—

Believing that increased production—particularly the local production of many necessities of life now imported from outside the State—is the only foundation on which the permanent prosperity of the country can be based—

That is the keynote of success for our State. Take last year's *Statistical Register*, which shows that this little State with 300 odd thousand people purchased from the Eastern States four million pounds worth of goods such as butter, bacon, cheese and boots, things we could manufacture or produce here. This State has a debt per head of population far in excess of any other State of the Commonwealth and here we are, toiling away, accepting the full burden of our heavy debt, paying a huge sum in interest and sinking fund in order to keep employed in the Eastern States tens of thousands of people who send us goods which we could produce for ourselves. If that four million pounds worth of goods were produced in Western Australia, it would not only represent so much money kept in our own State, but would give additional employment to a considerable number of people; our interest and sinking fund would be spread over a greater population and reduced 30 or 40 per cent. and increased traffic would be provided for railways and harbours, bringing prosperity to them. The keynote to-day must be produce, not only for our own requirements but a surplus for export. I am somewhat with Mr. Sanderson in that I do not think that we in this Chamber are treated reasonably. In connection with the Estimates, many suggestions could be offered to the leader of the House which might assist in the management of affairs of State, but we receive the Budget in the last few days of the session and it is only a farce to bring it down then. If the House were given an opportunity to discuss the many financial questions relating to revenue and expenditure and to the trading concerns, the advice would doubtless prove beneficial to the Government. Another hardy annual in the Governor's Speech is the reference to Collie coal. I believe the people of this State are beginning to realise what an asset we have in Collie coal. It has taken them many years to do so, and it has only been forced upon them because the seamen have refused to man the ships.

Hon. J. W. Hickey: Then the seamen are the best friends you have.

Hon. R. J. LYNN: I wish to point out the very unfair competition which our industry has to meet against Indian coal, and this brings me back to the question of black labour. Indian coal is brought to Fremantle, stored in hulks and transferred to the bunkers of calling steamers and the Government receive little or no revenue from it. For the hulks £10 per annum is charged and, as we have approximately 20 hulks in the harbour, the revenue represents £200 a year. It has cost approximately two millions of money to provide a harbour at Fremantle to berth these hulks and give them accommodation, and the sum returned by them to the revenue is altogether inadequate. For the local industry, coal boxes which might have cost £20,000 at the outside, are used. My firm alone have had levied against Collie coal during the past three months demurrage charges amounting to £400, due to steamers being delayed and to the need for keeping a little in advance of requirements. The Collie industry is called upon to pay in three months twice the amount the hulks are called upon to pay for 12 months. That is penalising our own industry. If demurrage is incurred, a reasonable amount should be paid, but when coal is being imported in competition with the local fuel, the least the State can do is to derive some revenue from it. It is my belief that the State could get at least 5s. per ton revenue from that coal, without affecting anyone in our State, for that 5s. would be hitting the shipping companies, who receive such high freights. The amount would not be paid by the people of Western Australia. Collie coal is equal to any coal in the world for steaming purposes.

Hon. J. W. Kirwan: Will the shipping people endorse that statement?

Hon. R. J. LYNN: The shipping people who are not interested in the Eastern States coal vend will confirm it.

Hon. J. W. Kirwan: Will the naval people endorse it?

Hon. R. J. LYNN: At the Naval Base some 20,000 tons of our coal have been used since operations commenced there, and all the dredges employed there burn Collie coal—hundreds of tons per month. As regards the Naval Base, the Federal authorities have been very good friends to the Collie coal industry. Where the Indian coal comes into competition with our coal, some revenue should be obtained from it.

The Minister for Education: In what form do you suggest?

Hon. R. J. LYNN: In the form of a harbour improvement rate. The hulkage fees are altogether too low—£10 per annum, as against 4s. per day for a truck. Say I want 300 tons of Collie coal in Fremantle to-morrow. If that coal is landed there to-morrow and the steamer is delayed until the day after, I pay heavier demurrage on the trucks carrying the 300 tons for the one day's delay than a hulk capable of dealing with 25,000 tons would pay in one year. And the hulk is used for

the imported article, while the truck carries our own product. Some of the measures mentioned in the Governor's Speech will have my support, and I think some of them will need it urgently. One of these measures I remember opposing in earlier days—possibly because it was brought in by a Labour Government. I refer to the Traffic Bill. The necessity for that measure has been brought home to me during the past few months. The Perth municipality must be collecting some thousands of pounds annually in license fees for motor cars, very many of which are never used within the boundaries of the Perth municipality. On the other hand, those cars travel all the roads between Perth and Fremantle, and these roads have to be maintained by suburban municipalities and roads boards, which have much lower valuations to rate on than Perth has. The suburban councils and roads boards have to pay for the upkeep of roads used by vehicles from which they obtain no revenue. My experience in this respect leads me to promise my support to that particular measure.

On motion by Hon. J. Mills debate adjourned.

BILL—SUPPLY, £1,561,500.

Received from the Assembly, and read a first time.

House adjourned 6.5 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 7th August, 1919.

	PAGE
Questions: Dairying industry control ...	60
Railway, Esperance Northward ...	60
Rottneest Island Gaol ...	60
Repatriation, Victoria District Lands ...	61
Railway delays ...	61
Railway Survey, Denmark-Bridgetown ...	61
State Children Department, position of Mr. A. H. Bulley ...	61
Wyndham food supplies ...	61
Bill: Supply, all stages ...	62
Message: State Children Act Amendment ...	65
Address-in-reply, third day, amendment—no confidence ...	65

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

QUESTION—DAIRYING INDUSTRY, CONTROL.

Mr. PICKERING asked the Premier: 1, Has his attention been drawn to the scheme for the organisation of the dairying industry, recently put before the producers of the East-

ern States by the Minister for Trade and Customs? 2, Has he noticed that the producers of the dairying industry of this State have been excluded from the conference and from representation on the contemplated controlling bodies? 3, In view of the probable immediate and progressive development of the industry in this State, and of the possible advantages which may accrue to dairying in Western Australia by participation in the conference, which decides the policy of control, and the benefits forecasted in the Minister's speech, will he take immediate steps to secure the representation necessary to bring about this result?

The PREMIER replied: 1, My attention has been drawn to a speech of the Minister for Trade and Customs on the subject. 2, In reply to inquiries the Government is in receipt of a communication from the Bureau of Commerce and Industry, Melbourne, in which the director states:—"Mr. Greene simply outlined a great ideal and submitted it for consideration to the practical men in the industry, to whom he will leave the development of this scheme, and, although it may fairly be discussed as Mr. Massey Greene's scheme, he in his speech has not done more than outline a scheme."

QUESTION—RAILWAY, ESPERANCE NORTHWARD.

Hon. T. WALKER asked the Premier: Can he inform the Assembly if, and when, the construction of the Esperance Northward railway is to be resumed?

The PREMIER replied: No, I cannot.

QUESTION—ROTTNEEST ISLAND, GAOL.

Mr. SMITH asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, Is the erection of the new gaol on Rottneest Island being supervised by an architect or skilled builder? 2, Have plans of the building been prepared, and, if so, by whom? 3, (a) What is the estimated cost of the building? (b) When will it be finished? (c) How many prisoners is it intended to accommodate? (d) Is the cost of the work provided for in the Estimates? 4, In view of the increasing popularity of Rottneest Island as a summer resort, will the Government take into consideration the advisability of removing convicts entirely from the island and discontinuing any further expenditure in the erection of the building?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: 1, Yes; if the erection of the new gaol is finally determined upon. 2, No. 3, Answered by No. 2. 4, This question is receiving careful consideration. The new prison is excluded from the rest of the island. The work of the prisoners is of value at present in developmental work on the island, and to remove the prisoners entirely would involve considerably increased expenditure. Should