

# Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 29th July, 1915.

	Page.
Meeting of the Assembly .. .. .	12
Summons from the Governor .. .. .	12
Assent to Bills .. .. .	12
Papers presented .. .. .	12
Paper, State Implement Works .. .. .	13
Bill: Government Electric Works Act Amend- ment, 1R. .. .. .	13
Governor's Opening Speech .. .. .	13
Bill: Supply (£1,400,300), all stages .. .. .	13
Address-in-reply, first day .. .. .	20

## MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY.

The Legislative Assembly met at 3.0 p.m. pursuant to proclamation by His Excellency the Governor, which proclamation was read by the Clerk (Mr. A. R. Grant). The Speaker took the Chair.

## SUMMONS FROM THE GOVERNOR.

Mr. Speaker and hon. members, in response to summons, proceeded to the Legislative Council Chamber to hear the Governor's Speech in formally opening the session of Parliament (*vide* Council report *ante*); and having returned to the Legislative Assembly Chamber, Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

## ASSENT TO BILLS.

Assent to the following Bills of last session reported:—1, Government Electric Works Bill. 2, Appropriation Bill. 3, Loan Bill (£2,850,000). 4, Road Closure Bill. 5, Permanent Reserves Bill.

## PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Premier: 1, Report under the Government Railways Act, 1904, for the quarter ended 31st March, 1915, on the condition of lines and accommodation. 2, Return of Receipts and Expenditure of Government Tramways for quarter ended 31st March, 1915. 3, Amendment of Railways Salaried Staff, Regulations. 4, Amendment of Railway Workshops Rule re closing shops on special days.

By the Minister for Mines: 1, Amendment of Rules and Regulations under the Mining Development Act, 1906.

2, Amended Timber Regulations under the Land Act, 1898, and amendments thereof. 3, Amendment, Regulation 205a, under the Mining Act, 1904. 4, Amended Regulations under the Mining Development Act, 1902. 5, By-laws of the Wagin Water Area. 6, Amendments of by-laws of the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Department.

By the Minister for Education: 1, Report of the Education Department for the year 1914. 2, Amendment to the Regulations of the Education Department.

By the Minister for Works: 1, By-laws made by (a) Municipalities of Midland Junction (2), Perth (4), Geraldton, South Perth, Kalgoorlie, Cottesloe and Boulder; (b) roads boards of Gosnells, Tambellup, Belmont Park, Katanning, Greenough, Claremont (2), Kalgoorlie, Yilgarn, Broad Arrow, Darling Range, Beverley, Northampton, Cottesloe Beach.

By the Minister for Lands: 1, Papers and regulations under the Plant Diseases Act. 2, Audit of accounts of the following departments:—(a) Albany Cold Storage, (b) Government Refrigerating Works, (c) North Fremantle Sale Yards, (d) Perth State Markets, (e) North Fremantle Abattoirs, (f) Land Clearing. 3, Regulations under the Land Act, 1898, Amendment Act. 4, Amendments to Class "B" reserves under the Permanent reserves Act, 1899. 5, Amendment of Regulations under the Licensing Surveyors' Act, 1909. 6, Regulations and By-laws under the Cemeteries Act, 1897, and amending Acts. 7, Regulations under the Abattoirs Act.

By the Honorary Minister: 1, Annual report of the West Australian Fire Brigades Board for the year ended 31st December, 1914. 2, Under the Health Act, 1911-12; (a) amendment of by-laws of the Local Health Authorities of Subiaco, Tambellup, Hopetoun, Leonora, Pingelly; (b) Model By-laws (series b and c); (c) resolutions by the Local Health Authorities of Geraldton, Kununoppin, Darling Range, North Fremantle, Albany, Busselton, Claremont, Phillips River, East Avon and Tambellup; (d) Regulations for the prevention of tuberculosis (e) Amend-

ments of Food and Drug Regulations (1913-15); 3, Roebourne-Point Sampson Jetty, handling charges. 4, Regulations under the Inebriates Act, 1912. 5, Regulation under the Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages Act, 1894. 6, Amendment of Regulation No. 98 under the State Children Act, 1907. 7, Amendment of Rules and Regulations of Fremantle Public Hospital. 8, General Regulations under the Lunacy Act, 1903. 9, Amendment of Regulations of Midwives Registration Board. 10, Police Benefit Fund Regulations. 11, Amendment of Swan River Regulations. 12, Amendment of Prisons Regulations. 13, Amendment of Port Light Dues. 14, Amendment of Port Regulations No. 45 and 76. 15, Amendments of Regulations of Fremantle Harbour Trust (2).

#### PAPER—STATE IMPLEMENT WORKS, BALANCE SHEET.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. W. C. Angwin—North-East Fremantle) [3.30]: I have here the balance sheet of the State Implement Works for the year ended 30th June, 1914, and the Auditor General's report thereon. I think hon. members will learn from the report that it bears out some of the statements which I have made. I move—

*That the paper do lie on the table of the House.*

Mr. George: Have you got the balance sheet for 1914-15?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: There has not been time to prepare it. Question passed.

#### BILL—GOVERNMENT ELECTRIC WORKS ACT AMENDMENT.

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Scaddan—Brown Hill-Ivanhoe) by leave without notice, by way of asserting privilege, introduced a Bill to amend the Government Electric Works Act, 1914.

Bill read a first time.

#### GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

Mr. SPEAKER announced that copies of the Governor's opening Speech had been distributed to members.

#### BILL—SUPPLY (£1,409,300).

##### *Standing Orders Suspension.*

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Scaddan—Brown Hill-Ivanhoe) [3.40]: I move—

*That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to enable resolutions from the Committees of Supply and of Ways and Means to be reported and adopted on the same day on which they shall have passed those Committees and also the passing of a Supply Bill through all its stages in one day and to enable the business aforesaid to be entered upon and be dealt with before the Address-in-reply is adopted.*

Hon. FRANK WILSON (Sussex) [3.42]: I do not propose this afternoon to raise any serious objection to the Premier's motion to pass the necessary supplies to carry on with. Indeed the time has long passed when he should have had Parliamentary authority to spend public moneys, but I do want, once more, to enter a protest against this slipshod method of carrying on the affairs of the country, the slipshod way in which we are managing the finances of Western Australia. Parliament is supposed to have some control, but Parliament has very little control indeed. Here we are at the end of July and we have expended, I suppose, some hundreds of thousands of pounds without authority.

The Minister for Works: Is it something new?

Hon. FRANK WILSON: It is, under the circumstances.

Hon. R. H. Underwood (Honorary Minister): Did you ever do it?

Hon. FRANK WILSON: Very seldom indeed. Not only have we to authorise expenditure which has already been incurred for the month of July, but the Premier is asking us to give him supply for next month amounting to one-sixth of the total expenditure for the whole of

the year. I could understand, perhaps, if circumstances arose over which he had no control, that he might delay the calling of Parliament together until July—after the financial year had ended, but we do not know of such circumstances, and I think it would have been better if we had met at the end of June to grant supply. I presume the Premier will tell us it was impossible for certain reasons. For one reason I believe I was out of the State, and perhaps he considered me to some extent.

The Premier: I did not think of that, but that was the reason.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: I think he ought at any rate to have called Parliament together a week earlier to avoid suspending the Standing Orders, as is proposed this afternoon, in order to put a Bill through all its stages. This afternoon is not a business one, and never has been considered as such. Yet it has been the invariable custom of the present Government to bring down an important measure of this description, a measure which on this occasion is of greater importance in view of the financial stringency under which we are labouring.

Hon. R. H. Underwood (Honorary Minister): There is no stringency.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: I am sorry the hon. member takes it so badly; he always squirms. We admit the finances are in a very parlous condition.

Hon. R. H. Underwood (Honorary Minister): The ship of State is going on the rocks.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: The ship of State is very near to the rocks, and the Honorary Minister will probably be aboard when she strikes; at any rate I hope he will be. I am pointing out that we view the position with serious concern, and we desire to have every check possible on the expenditure. We want to have every supervision possible by Parliament on the proposals of the Government in this direction. It is not quite fair that in every session of Parliament, before the Address-in-reply is even debated, a Supply Bill should be put through. On occasions it is necessary, but the Premier knows very well that no

opposition can very well refuse him Supply. We must assist him to carry on. We cannot let innocent people suffer by stopping Supply. Therefore, the Premier is safe in asking for it, but I desire to enter my protest as I have done on previous occasions.

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Scaddan—Brown Hill-Ivanhoe—in reply) [3.47]: The protest duly lodged by the leader of the Opposition has been noted, but I would like to take the opportunity to protest against what I term the eleventh hour confessions of our friend opposite, and draw his attention to the fact that if I have acted wrongly on this occasion, the first occasion since we have been on the Treasury bench, I am only following the example which he set. As a matter of fact I am doubtful whether, with the exception of one or two occasions at most, a Ministry of which that hon. gentleman was a member ever met the House before the end of July, and in some instances, one in particular, not until the end of August, but carried on during the whole of that period without Supply being granted by Parliament. If the whole of the story were told, it would probably be found that the reason the Ministry referred to called Parliament together even in August was because pressure was brought to bear upon them to obtain authority for the expenditure of public money. In every previous year we have met Parliament and obtained authority for expenditure by the introduction of a Supply Bill which gives hon. members an opportunity, if they desire it, to discuss the financial position, but the hon. member has not taken the opportunity to discuss the financial position except to say that the finances are in a parlous state. He has brought nothing forward to support that statement. Moreover, we have met the House and done our duty by submitting a Supply Bill which gives the House the very earliest opportunity to discuss the finances if it is so desired. I know the hon. member must of necessity, by the very virtue of being leader of the Opposition, complain of any action taken by any Government of which he is not a

supporter, and, therefore, I will probably forgive him for the statements he has made, but I wish him and other hon. members and the public to realise that the present Government, with this single exception, have always come to Parliament before the expiration of the financial year and obtained Supply before we reached the succeeding year, and the only occasion on which we have drawn upon the public funds without the authority of Parliament has been on this occasion. I suppose I may fairly claim that the circumstances are very different on this occasion from previous years. The hon. member knows well that I was out of the State for some time longer than I intended to be, due to illness, and it was impossible to arrange the programme and meet Parliament with any sort of decency by the end of June. We immediately announced publicly that we proposed to meet at the end of July, and we have carried on in the meantime. I am not going to follow the hon. member in regard to his statements respecting the parlous condition of the finances. Notwithstanding the difficulties we have passed through, I maintain that, in comparison with any other part of Australia, our finances are in a better condition. I want hon. members to realise that one of the greatest charges made upon our revenue account is for interest on loan indebtedness. This is the first charge which has to be met from the consolidated revenue. It is the first item we pass, and must be the first charge on revenue. Over and above that we have provision for a sinking fund and we have kept our obligations to the bond holders by finding during last year, the trying period we have passed through, every penny due for interest and sinking fund charges.

Hon. Frank Wilson: That is to be expected.

The PREMIER: Of course; but an authority higher than the hon. member stated that it was an absurdity, during this crisis due to the war and drought, to continue payment to the sinking fund.

Hon. Frank Wilson: How have you paid it?

The PREMIER: We have paid it.

Hon. Frank Wilson: How? From loan funds? Borrowed the money?

The PREMIER: Do not we borrow money to pay anything if we do not square our ledger? The hon. member knows that. He has had more experience than anyone in borrowing money to pay ordinary working expenses.

Hon. Frank Wilson: I did not borrow half as much as you have done.

The PREMIER: The hon. member borrowed under conditions which were not warranted compared with those which have prevailed during the last three years. I am not going into that phase of the question as we have discussed it before.

Hon. Frank Wilson: You do not like that phase of the question.

The PREMIER: At any rate, I can always turn back to the hon. member's record and find where it beats mine. We have during this period of war and drought paid our interest and an additional amount for sinking fund approaching something over £200,000, while the other States of the Commonwealth, or some of them, have built up a bigger deficit during the same period without making any provision for sinking fund. As a matter of fact, in some cases, use has been made of moneys set apart under Act of Parliament from previous years for the redemption of debt. South Australia did that, and even then finished with a deficit of £447,000, and above all did not do half as much as the Government of Western Australia have done to assist citizens through this trying period. This led to the defeat of that Government. Victoria, that old established and thickly populated State which always returns good Liberals, wound up the year with a deficit of something like a million and a half for the 12 months, and yet the leader of the Opposition talks about the parlous condition of our finances. In comparison with the other States, our finances are in a very sound condition and our people are in a very much better position. I point this out to show that, though the newspapers for party purposes in times like the pre-

sent when we should be standing side by side to help the State out of its difficulties, refer to our deficit under big headlines and in large figures, they do not refer to the deficits of other States. If we are patriots we should in the first instance be patriots to our own State, and I can fairly claim that any hon. member should render any assistance in his power at the present time and not be always indulging in carping criticism. The leader of the Opposition himself might take a lesson in this direction. I mention these facts in order to publicly announce that the condition of our finances, taking into account what has happened in the last three years, and particularly in the last 12 months, is not nearly so bad as our political opponents would lead the people to believe.

Hon. J. Mitchell: It could not be worse.

The PREMIER: Not to the hon. member. The future, I quite admit, is fraught with difficulties and dangers. The London market has been practically closed against us from the point of view of obtaining additional capital to carry on State enterprises, and by State enterprises I am not referring to State trading enterprises, but to State industries. The Australian market is being tapped by the Commonwealth, and we shall not be able to obtain anything like the same amount of funds as we have done previously, and, what will be worse, by the tapping of the Australian market by the Federal Treasurer some of the money invested in industries in Western Australia and some of the Savings Bank money will be drawn upon. I state these facts at this early stage in order that members may appreciate our difficulties in the future. The member for Northam (Hon. J. Mitchell) smiles. What does he care so long as he is all right?

Hon. Frank Wilson: You do not seem to care.

The PREMIER: We hear a lot of talk about extravagant expenditure. Having mentioned that I wish to state that, owing to the assistance we have provided during the last two or three years by bringing here a large amount of capital,

primarily to help the agricultural industry, that money, due to the fact that we are going to have a good harvest this year and I hope a continuance of good harvests for a number of years, will set free a large amount of capital, the like of which will not be available to the Treasurer of any other State. Notwithstanding the talk of extravagant expenditure in the past the assistance given to this industry which required help so much will be returned and will leave us in an infinitely better position than any of the other States of the Commonwealth. Side by side with our future difficulties we have something like a ray of hope, and I make this statement to reassure hon. members that we realise our difficulties and our position which I wish them also to appreciate. Anything we can do to tide the State over this trying period we shall do, and I ask members, irrespective of their political colour, to advise and assist in this direction. I can fairly claim this in the interests of the State. If it is held that I am not able, from the financial point of view, to properly steer the ship of State, I am prepared at any time to allow someone else who can do it better to take charge. But while I am in this position I am responsible and will do my best, and I call upon members to render me assistance and not be constantly indulging in carping criticism and doing something which, in my opinion, is tantamount to disloyalty to the State. These are times when we can sink some of our differences and render what I consider is essential assistance to the State in the trying period through which we are passing.

Question put and passed.

#### *Message.*

Message from the Governor received and read recommending appropriation in connection with this Bill.

#### *In Committee of Supply.*

The House having resolved into a Committee of Supply. Mr. Holman in the Chair.

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Scaddan—Brown Hill-Ivanhoe) [4.1]: I move—

*That there be granted to His Majesty on account of the services of the year ending 30th June, 1916, a sum not exceeding £1,409,300.*

Mr. GEORGE (Murray-Wellington) [4.2]: I rise only for the purpose of saying a few words in reply to the remarks of the Premier. The hon. gentleman referred to carping criticism, and appealed to all members of this House to support, in the present situation, the State and the Empire. I am persuaded that, as this Assembly is constituted, there is hardly likely to be any criticism that is not justified by the warrant each member has from those who elected him to this Chamber. If the Premier means to deprecate party warfare, I think every member will agree with him. We are all prepared to assist the Government of the day, irrespective of party, to do the best that they can for the State itself, and to help the State to bear its part in the great Empire. But we should be failing in our duty to this State if we were to refrain from asking such questions as are necessary to elicit the true state of the finances of this country, so that we may be able then, by our observations, to assist the Premier in the direction he goes. I do not desire in any way to introduce critical matter. I was not prepared to speak at all, only the Premier's remarks called for criticism. I think the hon. gentleman would disarm a great deal of the criticism that may come along, or at all events take any rancour or bitterness out of it, if he were to give reliable information as to the financial position of the trading enterprises of the State up to date. We have had to-day laid upon the Table a balance sheet dealing with the State Implement Works to the 30th June last year. What use is that balance sheet to us? What use would it be to any business concern, and what would be the reception given to the manager of a business by the owners if he were 13 months behind with his balance sheet? I do not propose to enter upon a controversy as to whether Mr. Davies, the

late manager of the implement works, has been properly dealt with or not. That is beside the present question. The issue between the Minister for Works and Mr. Davies will be dealt with, probably, in another way. The issue for the State at the present time, however, is this: if the implement works are losing many thousands of pounds per annum Parliament has a right, as trustee for the country, to be satisfied that steps have been taken which will stop that drift and place the works upon a proper basis.

The Minister for Works: We had better give you the job.

Mr. GEORGE: I know as much about the difficulty of organising, perhaps, as any man in this House, but I want to indicate the course Ministers may take by which they will find that criticism will lack bitterness, and will be given only with the idea of assisting the Government. There are other trading concerns in almost as parlous condition, so far as we can judge, as the implement works. If they are not in the same unsatisfactory position, then it is for the Government to satisfy the country that they are not. If they are in a bad condition, then it is for the whole of Parliament to assist the Government to place them upon a proper footing. To go on as they have been doing for the last few years, in defiance of the measure passed for the purpose of securing regular statements of accounts, would be foolish, would lead to national bankruptcy, and would involve the Premier in more trouble than even his imagination could suggest. To-day is not the time to discuss whether or not it was right to run into those trading concerns. The trading concerns are established. What we have, however, a right to do to-day is to see that those trading concerns are put on a proper basis. I think Ministers will agree with me when I say that there is not a business concern in this State, and that there is certainly not a private individual in this State, who is not feeling the financial stress that has come upon us during the past 12 months. With the knowledge that we are to have extra taxa-

tion put on us by the Commonwealth, it is time for us who have to bear the burden, all members of the community, to know exactly the condition in which we find ourselves as regards the State finances and as regards the State trading concerns. The Premier made a remark that the present measure gave hon. members an opportunity to discuss the finances, but no one knows better than the hon. gentleman that it is impossible to enter upon a detailed financial discussion on the present occasion, and that such discussion must be impossible until we have further accounts of the trading concerns given us. I rose simply to say, and I think nearly every member of the House will agree with me, that we are not to refrain from criticism, but that we should refrain from making it bitter unless we are compelled to make it so. I agree with the Premier, and I think every member of this Committee agrees, that just now it is not a question of party, but a question of every individual doing the best he can to assist towards saving the prosperity of this great State.

Hon. J. MITCHELL (Northam) [4.8]: I shall not detain the House for more than a few moments. The Premier, as usual with him, made an attack upon the late Liberal Administration. He invariably does that. I wish, however, to point out to him that his own figures disclose a situation which hardly justifies the attitude he has taken up to-day. When the Premier realises that his expenditure this year is something like two million pounds greater than the expenditure for the last year during which the leader of the Opposition was Treasurer, it must be evident to the Premier that the trouble we are in to-day is caused, not by the war, but by the extravagance of his expenditure.

The Premier: You cannot show any extravagance.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: It cannot be shown where there is not extravagance. All along the line there has been extravagance. I could take every item of expenditure and show that there has been extravagance. Especially has there been extravagance in connection with the im-

plement works. The Government spent on those works last year £743,000, a sum very considerably in excess of the revenue from them for the last year. They received from the State trading concerns a total of £519,000, which left them something like £224,000 to the bad; and that amount had to come out of revenue.

The Premier: No.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: I say, yes. I am merely giving the figures as they are published by the Press. Those trading concerns are the root of his difficulties. I wish to warn the Premier that he has troubles ahead, troubles which are all of his own creation. The State's interest bill has increased by £500,000 since the Premier took office. We are now increasing our interest bill at the rate of £12,000 per month. Everyone knows that we are borrowing three millions of money this year, and everyone knows that interest has to be paid on borrowed money. It is impossible, however, to discuss the Supply Bill satisfactorily to-day. I consider that the Premier should not have asked for a suspension of the Standing Orders, but should have afforded hon. members an opportunity of discussing the expenditure. Only last year the Premier made a boast of the fact that he had never spent money without first consulting Parliament. If he calls his present procedure "consulting Parliament," I am afraid I cannot agree with him in that description. I notice the hon. gentleman says that he expects, from the coming good crop, to have a great deal of money returned by the farmers. For my part I have no doubt that a good deal will be returned by the farmers from the coming harvest, but I hope the Premier does not expect that all the money advanced to farmers will be returned to him from the one crop. A great deal of capital has been made out of the assistance given to farmers, but very much less has been given to farmers than has been spent on the State trading concerns. I acknowledge that a great deal of money has been spent in public works, and rightly spent.

The Premier: You said it was extravagance.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: I said there had been a great deal of extravagance. There has been extravagance, for instance, in connection with the supply of fodder. There are tens of thousands of tons of bran and pollard now lying in the Government sheds. I should like to hear from the Premier something about the Wyndham freezing works. Is the amount for Mr. Nevanas included in this Bill? I hear that the expenditure in connection with those works has been enormous. The Government are now called upon to pay Mr. Nevanas a very large cheque indeed for supplies sent to Wyndham. Further, I hear that 1,300 tons of material are now lying in the sheds at Fremantle, all of which could have been produced in this State. I do not know how much truth there is in the statement.

The Premier: Where did you get that information from?

Hon. J. MITCHELL: If it is true, then it is very much to the discredit of the Government that our own people were not given this work.

The Premier: Where did you get the information from? You do not answer the question.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: I ask the Premier whether it is true. I just wish to correct the impression that the finances of the State were ever in such a position as exists to-day during the time that the Liberal party were in power. To-day we are dealing with finances showing a deficit of over one million pounds. Under Liberal Administration there was never a deficit of more than £300,000. The deficit rose to over a million sterling only after the present Premier took office; and yet the hon. gentleman says the position was the same under Liberal Administration, and that it always has been the same during the past ten years. I hope that in future we shall be given an opportunity of discussing every Supply Bill, and opportunity for that can only be afforded if the Premier introduces the Bill before payment is made of his unpaid accounts.

Question put and passed.

Resolution reported, and the report adopted.

#### *In Committee of Ways and Means.*

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Scaddan—Brown Hill-Ivanhoe) [4.15]: I move—

*That towards making good the supply granted to His Majesty for the services of the year ending 30th June, 1916, a sum not exceeding £659,300 be granted out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, £450,000 from the General Loan Fund and £300,000 from the Public Account.*

Question passed.

Resolution reported, and the report adopted.

#### *Supply Bill introduced.*

In accordance with the foregoing resolutions a Supply Bill was introduced and read a first and a second time.

#### *In Committee.*

Mr. Holman in the Chair, the Treasurer in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1—Issue and application of £1,409,300:

Hon. J. MITCHELL: Will the Premier explain to the Committee the meaning of the closing words of this clause reading "and there shall and may be issued and applied out of the Public Account the sum of Three Hundred Thousand Pounds for the purposes of temporary advances to be made by the Colonial Treasurer; and the Treasurer of Western Australia is hereby authorised and empowered to issue and apply the moneys authorised to be issued and applied, and to make temporary advances accordingly."

The PREMIER: The wording of the clause really explains itself. I might add that on this occasion the Bill is somewhat differently worded from others previously introduced, the desire being to meet the objection raised by the Auditor General. All moneys are paid into one account known as the Public Account, and the only person who is authorised to draw upon the Public Account is the Treasurer, and the Treasurer is only authorised to do so by an appropriation of Parliament or under warrant from His Excellency the Governor. The departments do not draw upon the Public Account. The



money is made available by the Treasurer advancing to the different departments at the commencement of the financial year, and that money, as it is drawn upon by the different departments, is replaced by voucher or imprest, and for the purpose of the Treasurer obtaining authority to draw upon the Public Account to provide the advances, he must have authority, and the Supply Bill is the authority for that purpose. The amounts which are recouped by the departments at the end of the financial year include expenditure for which there are no estimates or for which definite authority has not been obtained, and instead of there being a Loan Suspense Account as in the past, it is done under "Advance to Treasurer."

Hon. J. Mitchell: It is a large amount for the two months.

The PREMIER: It is not for the two months, but for the twelve months. I have already told the hon. member that it is an advance made to departments from the Public Account and it is not recouped until the end of the year.

Mr. James Gardiner: It is not the same thing as we used to have to get an Excess Bill for in days gone by. You do it now by an Advance to Treasurer.

The PREMIER: That is so. No department can operate on the Public Account. A department can only operate on an account which is standing to its credit in some bank and which has been made available by the Treasurer from the Public Account. That amount must be made available by the Treasurer at the beginning of the year.

Mr. James Gardiner: You recoup it as you pay it out.

The PREMIER: For instance, the Commissioner of Railways does not draw on the Public Account; he draws on an account placed to his credit at one of the banks, but the authority to pay that must be obtained through "Advance to Treasurer." That is not expenditure at all; at the end of the financial year it disappears because the adjustment takes place then. The amount is large because the boards which are operating at present did not operate previously, and they must have large advances. Take the Grain and

Foodstuff Board: it requires £53,168 for cash orders.

Hon. J. Mitchell: Does this cover their work?

The PREMIER: It covers all work.

Mr. Willmott: Are you paying for sleepers under that account?

The PREMIER: All payments are provided for from this money.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 2—agreed to.

Preamble, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment and the report adopted.

Read a third time and transmitted to the Legislative Council.

#### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

*First Day.*

Mr. McDOWALL (Coolgardie) [4.30]: I move that the following Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor in reply to the Speech he has been pleased to deliver to us:—

*May it please Your Excellency, We, the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of the State of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, beg to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign and to thank Your Excellency for the speech you have been pleased to deliver to Parliament.*

I desire first to congratulate the Government on the moderate tone of His Excellency's speech. I certainly think this is not the time for wrangling in any way whatever, because we are going through a period unparalleled in previous history. We are engaged in a life and death struggle, and all the resources of the Empire will undoubtedly be required in order to bring that struggle to a successful conclusion. We know those resources will be taxed to the utmost possible extent, and therefore it behoves us to endeavour to do everything we can in a united manner in order to assist the Empire.

*[The Deputy Speaker took the Chair.]*

It is no time for us to quarrel and make incorrect statements in connection with our finances. As an instance, consider

the remarks made by the member for Northam (Hon. J. Mitchell) a little while ago. He stated that when the Wilson Government were in power it had two millions less revenue than have the present Government. I assume he alludes to the fact that during 1911 the revenue was £3,850,000, whereas last year it amounted to £5,140,000. There we have a difference of only £1,290,000, but in broad figures, in the millions in which the hon. member deals, it becomes two millions. Surely the finances are bad enough, without exaggerating in this way. Therefore it is a pleasure indeed to find that the Speech is couched in such splendidly patriotic language. This is a time when our countrymen are giving their lives at the Dardanelles in order to protect the Empire and, probably, to preclude the invasion of Australia, which is not so improbable as it may appear. In this connection I have to refer with sadness to one of our hon. members, the member for Murray-Wellington (Mr. George), whose son has given his life in defence of the Empire. He was killed a few weeks ago at the Dardanelles, and I am sure every member feels his loss and sympathises with the member for Murray-Wellington. But we are proud to know that the Australians have won imperishable fame in this war. The heroism displayed by them will certainly live in history, and we as Australians, or as those who have adopted Australia as their country, should be proud of those men at the front, and I feel confident we all are.

The Minister for Mines: They do not require a whip at recruiting meetings to make them do their duty.

Mr. McDOWALL: No, they have nobly upheld the traditions of the British race. And while they are performing this noble work, surely it is up to us to cease recrimination and do what we can to help the Empire in every way. While Australian soldiers are fighting for our liberty it is fitting to see these words in His Excellency's Speech—

My Advisers, fully conscious of the great struggle proceeding between the Empire as a whole and its enemies, and feeling that now is a time above all

others when all citizens should act in concord and good fellowship, are not desirous of introducing controversial legislation for your consideration.

There is no doubt these sentiments in the Speech are worthy, and I sincerely trust they will be acted upon during this session. Last session the leader of the Opposition, and the then leader of the Country party, made splendid patriotic speeches in this House. They declared that the Government would receive their undivided support in this trying period through which the Empire is passing, and I sincerely trust that during this session those gentlemen will repeat those sentiments. But I regret to say, judging by the questions that have been asked and by the tone of the debate on the Supply Bill, that there does not appear to be any likelihood of our unitedly putting our shoulders to the wheel in promoting the interests of the country. I desire to curtail my remarks to-day, but there are a few points which it is essential I should touch upon. One is the question of the assistance given to farmers. There has been a considerable amount of grumbling in connection with the various boards appointed. I do not think all those strictures are justified. The gigantic nature of the business the Government were forced to embark upon must be taken into consideration. Without any preliminaries the Government were forced to launch upon a business that demanded the skill of many persons. All other big businesses are gradually built up, and mistakes rectified as time passes, but on this occasion it was essential that the Government should step into the breach without time for deliberation. Let us consider the magnitude of the work performed by the Government. In all, 2,564 persons were assisted, and 364,286 bushels of wheat were distributed, together with 14,610 tons of superphosphates and 9,398 tons of chaff.

Mr. Willmott: What! 9,000 tons of chaff?

Mr. McDOWALL: Yes, and 1,098 tons of lucerne, 5,527 tons of maize, 1,163 tons of bran and 846 tons of pollard, or a

total of 18,032 tons. Does the hon. member desire to dispute it? The figures, so far as I understand them, are accurate.

Mr. Willmott: Have you not got them reversed?

Mr. McDOWALL: No, when the hon. member has an opportunity he may be able to show that they are wrong. They are as I have received them. In addition, £67,000 worth of stores have been paid for. Does the hon. member realise that? It all represents a total expenditure of £626,293. These figures are gigantic, and I do not wonder at the leader of the Country party cocking up his ears when he hears them recited, because he has been leading us to believe that the Government were neglecting the people on the land. I know the Government have done a great work for the settlers. At all events, we hope that, as a result of this assistance, there will be a revival of prosperity in the State. We believe that from the million and a half acres under crop there will be something like 20 million bushels of wheat harvested; and that, of course, will greatly assist the finances of the State. What I object to in this carping criticism is that all the time the speakers on the other side are stating that it is due to the bad administration of the Government that things are not in a good condition. There is no generosity whatever, and no fairness in the various speeches that have been delivered; because everybody must know that, independently of this great war, there is the drought which has been experienced. Let me take a few figures from the latest monthly *Statistical Abstract*. For the first five months of 1914 we exported wheat to the value of £1,282,298, and for the first five months of this year we exported £10 worth. For flour and seed wheat we have actually expended something like a quarter of a million pounds by way of imports. Notwithstanding these figures and this position we find those on the other side constantly blaming the Government for the state of the finances. During the first five months of last year we exported £141,706 worth of flour, whereas this year

the export value fell to £533. I do not know that it should be necessary to even mention matters of this kind, because every member of the community is aware of these things, notwithstanding which we find hon. members getting up and blaming the Government for the financial position of the State. If we go on in this way it is scarcely likely that we will have a very harmonious session. Yet I think that on the part of most members there is a desire to do away with party strife. But it is no use going in for this lip loyalty and making nice speeches and saying we are going to do this or that or the other thing, if we do not attempt to act accordingly. It is yet early in the session, and I sincerely trust that the sentiments expressed last session and even indicated at this initial stage of the present session, will be adhered to. In connection with the Railways I observe that we have opened 364 miles of new lines. I think it must be admitted that the Government have done all in their power to keep the wheels of industry going, that they have not attempted to sack public servants unnecessarily, but have endeavoured to keep all in employment. I regret indeed that there should have been an increase in railway freights, because it affects my constituents to a very large extent indeed. But at a time like the present we should not look at things from the point of view of our constituents alone; and so far as I can see it was inevitable that there should be an increase in some of the services. If we take the Railway figures for the past 10 years and put them all together, railways under construction and Working Railways, and consider that the interest and sinking fund has been paid from revenue, we find that we have contributed from the Consolidated Revenue Fund £157,954 for the working of the Railways. It is impossible for the affairs of this country to be carried on if the services being rendered do not pay for themselves. It is ridiculous to contend that we can find money to make up for any shortage. Taken altogether, the taxation of this country is very trifling. It was impossible to allow the State to drift without

making some effort in connection with the railways to arrest the drift, because if we had continued as before the deficit must have increased largely. Now, what do we receive from the various concerns in the way of revenue out of which we can pay for some of the dead services? The railways have not even paid for themselves. Last year we received from land £339,610 and from taxation—that is not taxation in the true acceptance of the term, because I do not consider that the proceeds from licenses and probate duty come within that category—£371,963—including licenses, probate duty, etcetera—and from the Commonwealth surplus £631,287, making a total of £1,324,860. Our total revenue was £5,140,725, and the small proportion of the one to the other shows distinctly that the balance was for services rendered. Notwithstanding what the member for Northam says, the inflation of the revenue is no indication of an abundance of revenue. It is simply nonsensical to argue in that fashion. I will quote a few items to show the absurdity of that argument. In 1914 taxation produced £386,104, and in 1915 £371,963. In the same years respectively land returned £378,062 and £339,610, and railways £2,382,022 and £2,163,789.

*[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]*

Hon. J. Mitchell: That was during the term of the present Government. Take it back for four years.

Mr. McDOWALL: Of course it was. There again we have an illustration of the hon. member's patriotism, which is expected to unite us in helping the Empire. I am pointing out that the revenue in this State is going down, notwithstanding what the hon. member may contend. In the years 1914 and 1915 respectively, the water supplies were responsible for £415,605 and £404,501, harbours for £163,848 and £131,235, and other sources produced £354,750 in 1914 and £325,822 in 1915. Thus, there was a diminution in 1915 of £343,471. That is the point I desire to impress on the hon. member.

Hon. J. Mitchell: You are wrong; it is about £65,000.

Mr. McDOWALL: I have given the details and the figures will be found to be correct. It must be remembered that our revenue from taxation and from sources other than services rendered is small. We spend practically as much as we get for the sale of our land on education, which is a dead item; last year the expenditure was £326,795. Then we have to pay for the police and maintain gaols and law courts. When all this is considered, it is ridiculous to talk about the big revenue because it is merely a matter of receiving money with one hand and paying it away with the other. In the circumstances the wonder to me is that the deficit is not greater.

The Minister for Mines: You are astounded by our own moderation.

Mr. McDOWALL: Yes, I was astounded at the moderate tone of the Governor's speech and the moderate proportions of the deficit, considering the little revenue we have out of which to meet dead items. It is extraordinary that we hear so much about the deficit. In August, 1909, the Wilson Government had a deficit of £396,086, but we heard nothing of that. There was no outcry about it; there was no talk about the country going to ruin or rapidly sinking to perdition, because that sum was owing. The Scaddan Government took office on 6th October, 1911, and for three years, to June, 1914, the deficit amounted to £446,926. That is not a great deal more than the Wilson Government's deficit. On top of this came the war and the drought, and during last year the deficit increased to £1,012,743, or an increase during the 12 months of £565,817. Thus, the State's finances went to the bad during one year of war and drought more than during the three preceding years. The war and the drought are the causes of the increased deficit and yet our opponents, instead of assigning the real reason for the deficit, are constantly harping upon the lack of financial knowledge possessed by the Government, the utter incapacity of the Ministry to manage the affairs of State, and

the total inability of the Administration to do things as they should be done. Such statements are altogether ungenerous and unreasonable, and are certainly not the sentiments which should be expressed at such a time when our desire should be to help the country along. One bright oasis in the desert is undoubtedly the mining industry. Had it not been for that, there is no doubt the State would have been in a very bad position indeed. While in 1914 mining revenue amounted to £26,000, it increased during last year to £56,936. That is very satisfactory, indeed, and the industry has thus been of great advantage to this State. I would not labour this question were it not that many people seem to lose sight of the importance of the great goldfields which have done so much for Western Australia, and I would not conclude a speech of this description without calling attention to this fact. The gold produced during last year amounted to 1,232,977 fine ounces valued at £5,237,351. During the six months of this year the value of the gold yield has been £2,567,234, while during the corresponding period of last year the value was £2,608,854. The difference is very slight and it is apparent that the output of gold is being well maintained. Last year the companies paid in dividends £799,392, and during the first six months of this year they have paid £388,468. The total dividends paid by the industry to the 30th June, 1915, amount to £25,090,537. This is a great record, and, recollecting the total value of the gold produced—about £123,000,000—it shows what the goldfields have meant to Western Australia. The mining industry employs 14,780 men, in addition to which number there is an army of men cutting wood at Kurrawang, Kurramia, and other places, to supply the mines with fuel. This great industry is undoubtedly responsible for the present good position of Western Australia. I would emphasise that I have no desire to pit the mining industry against the farming industry. I believe there will be between three and five million pounds derived from the farming indus-

try this year. No country can become great unless it has various industries. Bad seasons are bound to occur in the farming industry and the goldfields will have to come to the rescue. Then there may be a falling off in the production of gold and the farming industry will come to the rescue. I merely desire that an equitable view should be taken of the whole matter. I am glad the Government intend to introduce a new Mines Regulation Bill. This might create some controversy, but I trust such will not be the case. The mining people consider that they are entitled to some measure of relief in this direction. It is satisfactory to know that the Government are assisting the Miners' Relief Board. The expenditure on the sanatorium must be approved by all, and the Government deserve all possible credit for their action in this direction. I am pleased that the Esperance Jetty is mentioned and that the Esperance-Northwards railway is likely to be constructed before very long. I am endeavouring to keep my remarks within the compass of the time I allotted myself at the outset and, while I could say a great deal more on various subjects, I think it unnecessary to do so on this occasion. In conclusion, allow me to congratulate the Government on the excellence of the Speech presented, because it was couched in language not likely to create any disturbance at this period.

Hon. J. Mitchell: Its only merit.

Mr. McDOWALL: There is something in that. If the hon. member for Northam can admit that there is merit in it, if only one merit, I venture to assert that other hon. members in this House will find several merits. I have very much pleasure in moving the motion.

Mr. BOLTON (South Fremantle) [5.2]: I rise to second the Address to be presented in reply to the Speech by His Excellency the Governor. I would like to preface my few remarks by a reference to the loss sustained by the hon. member for Murray-Wellington (Mr. George), quite apart from personal feeling, because of having discussed so many times in travelling to our homes together the ambitions which that hon. gentleman

had for his sons. He can take the expression from myself as coming from every member of both sides of this Chamber, when I say that he has the heart-felt sympathy of every member of this House. He has lost a dear son, who has given his life for the Empire, and yet has died a noble death. A good many members of this Chamber also have their sons fighting in the trenches, and most, if not all, members of this House are in some way or another connected with this great war of the Empire. I also desire to make just another reference in the same regard. It will have been noticed that one hon. member of this Chamber has already left to fight the battles of the Empire, and that another who was here this afternoon, and was honoured by a reception such as he was entitled to, is also going to the front for the same purpose. I know that members of this House feel proud of those who have gone from this Chamber to fight the Empire's battles. The anticipation is for a short session. I want to be consistent. If it is to be a short session, and the mover of the Address-in-reply was particularly brief for a mover of such an Address, I want to follow in his footsteps and be particularly brief in my remarks. As a matter of fact, whilst the anticipation is for a short session, we are often misled by the number of Bills suggested in the Speech for the coming session. The usual practice is to introduce a great many more Bills than are foreshadowed in the Speech. If we are to be guided by those which are mentioned in the Speech, it will indeed be a short session. I think that most members of this Chamber will agree with me that only a short session should be necessary. I am one of those who believe that if it were necessary in this State—and I am glad to say that up to date it has not been found necessary—it would be far better for the House to close up and for members to do what they can for the Empire in another direction, rather than to linger on in party strife. As a matter of fact, whilst I admit that I am as great a sinner as anybody as a party man claiming to be a strong party man, and being proud of the fact, I think there are times when

it appeals to one to drop party strife. In my opinion this is one of those times. I feel more strongly than ever I have in this Chamber before, that to indulge in some months of party bickering will bring no good to anybody. The people themselves ought to rise up in their wrath and put a stop to it. It can be put a stop to, and it ought to be put a stop to. If there is an honest determination on both sides of this House to stop party bickering I fully believe that it will be stopped. I referred to the fact that this House has provided two of its members to fight for the Empire, not the Empire that we used to know, but the Empire as it is to-day, and also to fight for Australia. Not many of us can go to the front. If we cannot go, we ought to do something. Let us do that which we are in a position to do towards assisting the Empire. Let us put a stop to party bickering. Let us get down to some sort of business in the shortest possible time, and let us lay ourselves out to do the best work that is possible in the circumstances. I am not an apologist for the Government. I believe they do not need any apologist, and that they have done really well under most trying circumstances. No Government were ever faced with such a disaster, such a complete failure of the harvest, and so closely followed by the biggest war the world has ever known, and the fact that they have been able to pull through as well as they have done is, I think, a matter of great credit to them. I venture the opinion that had the harvest last year been a good one, we should not have felt the war to nearly the same extent, and that Western Australia, and probably Australia as a whole, would have been the least unfortunate country of the Empire as a result of this war. I believe there are bright prospects ahead, and that a good harvest will mean a great deal to Australia, more perhaps than to most other countries of the Empire. But of course the Government had to consider the pressing needs of the farmers. As a matter of fact, had the harvest been good, it would not have been necessary to spend so much money as had to be spent. The bad harvest meant that if the Govern-

ment—and any other Government would have been in the same position—had neglected to financially assist the farmers our agricultural lands would have gone back to their natural state, and would have produced absolutely nothing. No matter what Government were in power, if they had neglected to give that assistance they would not have been worth a place on the Treasury bench of the House. It might be interesting to members to know more about the figures in regard to assistance rendered to farmers. I have reason for repeating one or two of the figures already given by the member for Coolgardie (Mr. McDowall). It is a fact that no less than 2,564 farmers were assisted under the Industries Assistance Board since the inception of that board. I want to reiterate the figures to show the magnitude of the assistance which is rendered, more especially because the member for Nelson (Mr. Willmott) and the leader of the Opposition doubted the figures quoted by the member for Coolgardie. I have had an opportunity of checking the hon. member's figures, and I find that he is absolutely correct in those which he gave. So that there shall be no mistake, I desire to repeat them. The amount of seed wheat distributed to those distressed farmers was 364,286 bushels; the amount of superphosphates distributed amongst the same number was 14,610 tons, and the amount of chaff distributed was 9,398 tons. The lucerne distributed amounted to 1,098 tons, and maize to 5,527 tons, bran 1,163 tons, and pollard 846 tons. The item that the hon. member seemed to question was that of chaff. When he considers that there are 2,564 farmers receiving assistance from that board, and that upwards of 2,000 of those farmers received chaff for feed, I think he will then realise that the figures are correct. These give an average of less than five tons for each farmer, and he will know that five tons of chaff per farmer would not be anything like a quarter of the quantity that some of them would have to use. In addition, the Government have paid to storekeepers for stores for actual sustenance for farmers an amount of

£67,040: that is to say, just over £67,000. Further than this, the Industries Assistance Board had to purchase fodder and other materials for the farmers to the tune of £250,000. It is not necessary to apologise for labouring an important question of this sort, because I think that our farmer friends and those who are connected with the farming interests hardly realise the magnitude of the work of this board or the amount of financial assistance which the Government have had to render. The total extent to which the farmers have received assistance this year is therefore £626,293. That is a very big item indeed. Unless it is made more generally known, the people will not realise the magnitude of the help rendered to the farmers by the Government. All this assistance has resulted in an acreage of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  millions.

The Minister for Lands: Considerably more than that; more like 1,800,000 acres.

Mr. BOLTON: Very well, we will say it has resulted in one and three-quarter million acres being put under crop. It is estimated by those who know that we shall have a 20-million bushel yield of wheat this coming harvest. If we do there is at least more than a shadow of a ray of hope, as the hon. member for Coolgardie puts it, because that means golden grain, and golden grain means golden coin for this State—and it is badly in need of it. Whilst I am speaking in regard to assistance to farmers, or the advantages accorded to farmers, I would like just to mention the State Implement Works. More especially do I desire to mention these works because of the reference made by the leader of the Opposition in the course of his remarks upon the Supply Bill. I am not going to touch upon the management of these works, because I do not believe that this is the time in which to do so. I believe that later on there will be some remarks passed, and perhaps some discussion, and when that time arrives I hope to take some part in the debate. On this occasion, however, I will not refer either to the manager or to the management, but desire to say that this House should congratulate the Minis-

ter for Works upon his determination to run this establishment on businesslike lines. I think that is due to the Minister, apart altogether from party politics. Hon. members know that the Minister for Works is making every effort to run the establishment on business lines, and he is to be congratulated upon the stand which he has taken. When he comes to give his explanation and we come to the debate upon the works, I think hon. members will be satisfied that he has taken the right action.

Mr. George: So long as we get particulars upon which we may form a judgment, that is all we want.

Mr. BOLTON: I think the hon. member will get those particulars. Regarding those works, I may say that, naturally, the great proportion of the year's business has to be run on credit. More especially has this been the case in regard to the year just concluded, because the farmers could not pay cash for anything. There must, indeed, be a great amount of credit in any case in connection with a business of this description. The harvest last year was a failure, and this did not lead to orders for machinery which otherwise would have been ordered. The magnitude of the business done by these works is not perhaps truly appreciated by members of this House, or by the public in general. I propose to deal with the amount of work and the number of machines turned out by the Implement Works during last year, which information will be useful to members when they come to debate the question. First of all, the value of the engineering works for the year turned out by the State Implement Works was £56,000. I want to make that particularly clear because that is very largely made up of work done in the engineering branch alone for different Government departments, and for different Commonwealth departments. Now, the sales of implements for the year were as follow:—40 harvesters, 37 strippers, 21 winnowers, 77 binders, 37 rakes, 124 seed drills, 14 oil engines, 30 chaff-cutters, 176 ploughs, 252 spring-tooth

cultivators and cultivator ploughs, 81 barrows, 34 windmills, and 91 wheat picklers.

Mr. Male: Where does all this information come from?

Mr. BOLTON: The hon. member will get the information just the same as I am now giving it. As a matter of fact, the hon. member is getting it now, and it is fairly good information. The total value of that output is £32,031.

Mr. Male: Where can we find the figures?

Hon. Frank Wilson: Who is your authority?

Mr. BOLTON: If the hon. member waits he will find all those figures fully justified, and they will prove necessary information which will have to be given to the House when a further debate in this connection comes on.

Hon. Frank Wilson: But who is the authority?

Mr. BOLTON: It is fairly good authority. Then there is another item. The average number of employees engaged for the year was 600.

Hon. Frank Wilson: How do you know?

Mr. BOLTON: If the leader of the Opposition cares to question his friend whom he once abased, but now embraces, perhaps that friend may like to give him a different side of the question.

Hon. Frank Wilson: What right have you to get this information, if we cannot get it?

Mr. BOLTON: The leader of the Opposition has got it now. I have given it to him. The works to-day are finding it very difficult to cope with the rush of orders.

Hon. Frank Wilson: How do you know?

Mr. BOLTON: How unruly the leader of the Opposition is getting! There had not been an interjection before he came into the Chamber, and perhaps it would have been better if he had stayed out a little longer.

Hon. Frank Wilson: Give us your authority.

Mr. BOLTON: At least the employment of 600 men right throughout the year is a matter of sufficient interest to



that part of the State, if it is not to Busselton.

Hon. Frank Wilson: You cannot even earn the wages to pay these men.

Mr. BOLTON: The hon. member could not understand the position if I read out the figures to him. During the year the State Brickworks were completed at a cost of £21,000. Possibly the hon. gentleman who is so persistently interjecting will ask me where I got the figures I am now giving.

Hon. Frank Wilson: Certainly.

Mr. BOLTON: Up to the present, 800,000 bricks have been sold and delivered, and there are over one million on order. Of course, it does not sound much to say 800,000 bricks, but the leader of the Opposition knows that the sales of bricks have only just begun, and when it is found that there are already over one million on order, and a good many more likely to be ordered, I think it gives the members of the Opposition some more ammunition of the kind they have been looking for ever since they have lost one of their pet schemes. Perhaps the hon. member will not agree that the State timber mills have been unfortunate by reason of the fact that they have suffered through the war. Not only have the State timber mills, but practically the whole of the timber trade has been almost at a standstill since shortly after the declaration of war. When the member for Northam (Hon. J. Mitchell) quotes figures as to what has been spent on, and received in revenue from, State trading concerns, he, of course, very conveniently forgets to state what those concerns are holding in the way of stocks. As a matter of fact, the difference between the actual receipts and the expenditure is more than covered by stocks on hand, and the difference between actual receipts and expenditure is £108,876. That difference is more than made up by stocks on hand.

Hon. J. D. Connolly: What do the stocks consist of?

Mr. BOLTON: I was going to say the stocks consist of the same material as the hon. member, namely, wood. The stocks consist of sleepers and all descriptions

of timber. The hon. member does not need to ask what the stocks are.

Hon. J. D. Connolly: Do you consider karri scantlings worth much money?

Mr. BOLTON: The hon. member, who has had some little business training, ought to know that the value of small scantlings is next to nothing.

Hon. J. D. Connolly: But that is how you make up the £130,000.

Mr. BOLTON: The hon. member is wrong. That is just another one of his silly guesses. Let him try again. The Government are to be complimented on the progress made by the Sewerage Department. Surely we have a right to claim that the health of the community generally has improved since the sewerage system has been in operation, and it may afford us some measure of pride to know that there are 10,500 houses at present connected with the system, which I should like to see pushed on as rapidly as possible. Dr. Hope, in an interview recently, referred to the fact that the health of the community generally was greatly improved, and I personally believe that fact is due largely to the extension of the sewerage system. Our railways show a loss for this year, and that is to be expected, of course.

Hon. Frank Wilson: Of course.

Mr. BOLTON: With the prospects of the harvest, however, the department ought to be able to show a very considerable balance on the right side of the ledger this year. I notice that the Government are proceeding with the establishment of locomotive running sheds at East Perth. That proceeding may not suit the member for East Perth (Mr. Hardwick), since the result will be to give residence to a good many democratic people in his electorate. These democrats, I may say, are wanted to balance the Liberals residing there. The establishment of the sheds will effect an economy in the Railway Department, and I think it can be clearly proved that economy will result from the establishment of a large central locomotive dépôt. Whilst on the subject of railways, and following on the fact that this Chamber has sent two of its members to the front, I consider that the House might

place on record its appreciation of the further fact that 389 men have enlisted from the railway service. All those men were in permanent positions; that is to say, they were not men who were working to-day and out of work to-morrow. Yet every one of those men has listened to the call of his country and left a permanent position in the railway service. I consider, therefore, that it is something for this House to be proud of that in those circumstances 389 railway servants have enlisted. The Perth trams form part of the railway system, and they have shown a successful year. For fear I should be asked where I got my figures, however, I will not give them. I observe that the Premier has given notice of his intention to introduce a Bill to amend the Government Electric Works Act. In my opinion it is highly regrettable that the new power house has been delayed so long, but I am satisfied that hon. members will be glad of that delay rather than criticise it, when they learn that most of the engineering firms who are under contract to supply the machinery for the power house are manufacturing war munitions to-day. That is the reason why they have not been able to supply the machinery. I do not care how much we may need the power house, it would still be impossible for us to ask the engineering firms to cease the manufacture of war munitions in order to send the machinery necessary for this particular work of ours. Although we need that machinery badly, still we will have to wait for it the same as other people have to wait. The Education Department, again, has not been idle. I wish to refer to it because, the State having been so hard up for the past year, I desire to show that at least the Minister controlling the department and the Government generally have not thought it necessary to curtail the education vote. During the past year 46 new schools have been erected, and also 41 of what are known as pavilion or outdoor classrooms. This, in my opinion, constitutes an excellent record for a year of diminished revenue. The increased expenditure on the Education Department for last year

amounts to £8,000, while the average attendance has risen from 44,000 to 46,417. Nine schools which were closed have been reopened during the year. I desire also to make mention of the fact that 50 teachers from the Education Department are to-day fighting in the trenches. Every week more of the teachers are enlisting, and this movement has proceeded so widely and so rapidly that the department has found it extremely difficult to allow the teachers to go and to replace them after they have gone. The teachers I refer to are also in permanent positions—as some people think, in very good positions—and yet they have heard the call of their country and left their positions. The fact that so many as 50 have enlisted is, I consider, something to be proud of; and I say, “More power to them,” and I hope a good many more will go. Harbour improvements which are essential are in progress at Fremantle, Bunbury, and Albany, and very soon will be at Geraldton. This, I think, affords evidence that there is no centralisation in this Government. On the contrary, it is evidence of decentralisation, if evidence is required. I hold that every port should have its proper trade. Because I represent a port, it does not follow that I think Fremantle should have all the trade. I have never raised my voice against the development of any other port, because I conscientiously believe that every port should have the trade properly belonging to it. I may say, as temporarily representing two ports, Albany as well as Fremantle, that I am glad to see the harbour improvements which are in progress. Our friends opposite have been firing torpedoes for some two or three years at the State steamers. Every time the torpedo has been caught in a net and has failed to explode. As a matter of fact, our friends have lost one of the steamers to aim their torpedoes at, and I am inclined to think that very soon their criticism on this subject will cease. We do not hear so much about it now. Why? Because the State Steamship Service is very rapidly approaching the stage of profit earning. Whereas the State

steamers were running at a considerable loss, they are not running at a considerable loss to-day; and I think the leader of the Opposition knows that, or he would have made a great many more references to those steamers than he has made to-day. He gets the information. Where does he get it from? I do not know; but he gets it, and it keeps him a little quiet. He knows that to-day the State steamers are in a much better position than ever they were in before.

Hon. Frank Wilson: I have not been speaking to-day.

Mr. BOLTON: The hon. member gave a second reading speech in the form of notices of question on about fourteen subjects. That is enough for one day at least. The leader of the Opposition read several sheets of questions. Let me inform our friends opposite, and more especially the country members, who have continually raised a parrot cry about State steamers and State enterprises, that if the State owned ten times as many steamers to-day as it does, our friends of the country party would be in a much better position with this year's harvest. If they do not realise that were the State in a position to handle that harvest with a fleet of ships just now, when there is a scarcity of tonnage, it would be of advantage to the farmers, they are very dense indeed.

Mr. Male: They would have been ruined long ago.

Mr. BOLTON: With regard to new legislation proposed, I do not think much need be said at this particular stage. I wish, however, to refer at least to the Bill to amend the Mines Regulation Act. The miners have suffered long enough. A sanatorium has been built for their benefit at a cost of nearly £100,000. A miners' relief fund has had to be inaugurated with contributions from the miners, from the Government, and from the mine owners. If the proposed Bill passes, the sanatorium will not be as full, and the miners' relief fund will not be drained so much, as will be the case if present conditions continue. I refuse to believe that this House will deny that measure of justice to the miners for which they have

asked so many times and so long. Surely the miners are entitled to some little help under the proposed Bill. If the measure should be slaughtered again as it has been year after year, while other industries are receiving legislative assistance towards better conditions, it will be appalling. Such a result would certainly not be creditable to this Legislature. I trust that some measure of justice will be accorded to the miners in this respect.

Mr. George: Perhaps you will make the Bill more reasonable this time.

Mr. BOLTON: I do not claim that the hon. member interjecting is unfair as a rule. He is generally fair. However, his failure to see that such a measure is reasonable does not constitute a sufficient ground why he and his party should, for party reasons, and as a party, without exception oppose the passage of such a Bill. There must be some reason for the Liberals as a party opposing the measure as they have done year after year. It is suggested that a select committee be appointed to investigate the question of horse-racing before a Bill is introduced. Personally I do not think a Bill is necessary. I believe the Treasurer who has charge of the totalisator licenses, has the matter in his own hands. There may be some other reason for the introduction of the Bill that we are not aware of, but I really do not think it would hurt the industry if it were provided that racing should take place between sunrise and sunset.

Mr. Mullany: You class it as an industry, not a sport.

Mr. BOLTON: As a matter of fact it is not a sport to-day: it is a way of providing a living for hundreds of people, but there would not be much harm done if, as I have already said, racing were confined to the hours between sunrise and sunset. It should not be necessary to introduce a Bill to provide that. The Treasurer has the power to control the number of days by issuing a license for the use of the totalisator on days that he approves of and no other.

Mr. George: How do you propose to deal with betting?

Mr. BOLTON: There are plenty of ways of doing that. We cannot do away with the totalisator and the bookmaker; we must have one or both. If we did away with both, then we would be able to call horse-racing a sport, but it certainly is not a sport while we have the bookmakers and the totalisator.

Mr. George: It is a legalised system of robbery.

Mr. BOLTON: I do not agree with the hon. member. It should not be called such just because I might happen to back a winner and the hon. member a loser or vice versa. We voluntarily put our money into the machine or give it to the bookmaker in the hope of getting twice or five or even ten times as much returned. I notice that there is no mention in the Speech of the Fremantle to Kalgoorlie section of the Trans-Australian railway. I do not know why a reference to this question has been omitted, but there may be a reason of which I am not aware. My straight out opinion, however, is that this State cannot afford to build that section of the line; if we did we would not be able to meet our liabilities. The Commonwealth are taking our means of taxation from us, and I think they should take over the work of constructing that section of the railway. It is not a matter of repudiation as far as I am concerned, because it must be readily admitted that the agreement was not carried out in the first instance.

Hon. J. D. Connolly: That means handing over all the goldfields traffic to the Commonwealth.

Mr. BOLTON: Not at all. If, as has been suggested, a part of the existing line can be used, we would not be doing that. It may be a judicious move on the part of the Commonwealth to hand over to the State the right to run that portion of the Trans-Australian line which goes through the State's territory; it would be an advantage to the Commonwealth if they did that, because we know that the management of the railways in this State will bear more than favourable comparison with that of any of the other

States of the Commonwealth. I should also like to have seen a reference made in the Speech to the South side railway. It is a remarkable thing that there is no mention of that proposal, whilst at the same time borings are being carried out in connection with the new site for the railway bridge, and the road, projects which are linked up with the South side railway proposal. There is another line, the building of which is essential—I refer to the connecting up of Armadale with the Great Southern railway. Farmers who are getting seed wheat, super and food supplies conveyed to them forget that they can cut off between 60 and 70 miles to the port of Fremantle if the line to which I have referred is constructed. This line would also run through good land, and it would pay the farmers interested if they agitated for the early construction of the work.

Mr. George: What is wrong with bringing the Kalgoorlie line that way.

Mr. BOLTON: I do not care in which direction it goes; I am only speaking about that section which will connect up the Great Southern with Fremantle. I intended making some reference to the financial situation and the Commonwealth internal loan, but the Premier in speaking on the Supply Bill gave the House his opinion, and I think members will agree with him. When the Commonwealth call up twenty millions from the people of Australia there is going to be a big drain on all the Savings Banks, and more especially the Savings Bank of this State, and there will be a large amount of money drawn from commercial pursuits. Money which is locked up in other directions will be released because of the advantageous terms of the Commonwealth loan. It will be a better financial proposal to take up the Commonwealth war loan. I think it will be necessary for the Government to make arrangements with the Savings Bank to prevent excessive withdrawals so that we may be able to continue our policy of development with the Savings Bank funds. But whatever happens it will mean an additional burden on Western Australia and on Australia generally.

But we must put our shoulders to the wheel and be prepared to bear that burden. Our only consolation lies in the fact that whatever the sacrifice we may make, it can never equal the sacrifice of those who have gone to fight the battles at the front, and when the world's history comes to be re-written, many prominent pages will be devoted to Australia by reason of the famous landing on the Gallipoli peninsula, pages which will be written in blood and tears. Every loyal heart knows that Australia has proved its right to be counted one of the nations of the world, and so it will be given a most prominent place when the history of the world is re-written.

On motion by Hon. H. B. Lefroy debate adjourned.

*House adjourned at 5.40 p.m.*

## Legislative Council.

*Tuesday, 3rd August, 1915.*

	PAGE
Papers presented .. .. .	32
Questions: War between Britain and Germany, anniversary of declaration .. .. .	32
Industries Assistance, Beria Consols G.M. Company .. .. .	32
BILL: Supply £1,409,300, all stages .. .. .	33
Address-in-reply, second day .. .. .	42

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

### PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Colonial Secretary: 1, Education Department, annual report 1914. 2, Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Department, by-laws. 3, Government Trading Concerns Act, balance sheets—(a) Pure milk supply, Claremont, (b) South Perth ferries, (c) Implement works. 4, Auditor General's

report State Implement Works. 5, Municipal Corporations Act, by-laws of the municipalities of Boulder, Cottesloe, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Midland Junction, Perth, and South Perth. 6, Roads Act, by-laws of the following roads boards:—Belmont Park, Beverley, Broad Arrow, Claremont, Cottesloe Beach, Darling Range, Gosnells, Greenough, Kalgoorlie, Katanning, Northampton, Tambellup, and Yilgarn.

### QUESTION—WAR BETWEEN BRITAIN AND GERMANY, ANNIVERSARY OF DECLARATION.

Hon. J. W. KIRWAN (without notice) asked the Colonial Secretary: To-morrow being the anniversary of the declaration of war, will the Government consider the bringing of a resolution before both Houses of Parliament expressive of the desire of the people of Western Australia to place all their resources at the disposal of Great Britain during the conduct of the war, and expressive also of a determination that the war should be carried to a successful issue and that peace should not be declared until the enemies of the Empire have been thoroughly crushed?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: I am not in a position to reply to that question to-day, but I hope to be by to-morrow.

### QUESTION—INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE, BERIA CONSOLS G.M. COMPANY.

Hon. R. D. McKENZIE asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, Has any financial assistance been given under the Industries Assistance Act, 1915, to the Beria Consols Gold Mining Company? 2, If so, what is the amount? 3, What is the term of the loan? 4, What rate of interest is it bearing? 5, Why was the assistance given? 6, Who are or were at the time of the granting of the loan the owners of the mine? 7, Has the loan been repaid? 8, What security do the Government hold?