

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 25th October, 1910.

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

PAPER PRESENTED.

By the Premier: Return of value of premises used for sale of liquors—(ordered on motion by Mr. Murphy).

QUESTION—POLICE OFFICERS AS CLERKS OF COURT.

Mr. COLLIER asked the Premier: 1, How many members of the police force are acting as clerks of court in the State? 2, The number, if any, appointed during the past twelve months? 3, The number and names of those who have been retired from such positions during the past twelve months? 4, Is it the intention of the Government to continue to employ members of the force in such capacities?

The PREMIER replied: 1, Twelve. 2, Six. 3, Eight. Alliss, J., Bishop, E., Campbell, E., Edwardes, E., Fortescue, E. H., Topliss, E., Wilkin, W. J., Wilson, A. 4, Yes, where the exigencies of the service demand such action.

QUESTION—VETERINARY SURGEONS, REGISTRATION.

Mr. SWAN asked the Minister for Lands: 1, Is he aware that stock owners are incurring serious losses through the scarcity of competent veterinary surgeons? 2, Will he, in the interests of

settlers and to encourage qualified men, introduce a Bill for the registration of veterinary surgeons?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS replied: 1, No. 2, A Bill has already been drafted and will be introduced this session if time permits.

QUESTION—LAND SELECTION, COWCOWING.

Mr. ANGWIN asked the Minister for Lands: 1, Have the regulations, dated November 23, 1905, providing that applications for land should be made at district land offices, been cancelled? 2, If so, when? 3, Was there any other application, in addition to Mr. R. J. Newbold's, lodged at the Northam district land office previous to the 21st day of June, 1910, for Cowcowing Lot No. 99? 4, If not, what was the reason that Mr. R. J. Newbold's application, lodged on the 20th day of June, for Cowcowing Lot No. 99, was not granted in accordance with the regulations, it being the only application lodged at the district land office?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS replied: 1, No. 2, Answered by No. 1. 3, No; but a previous application was put in at Perth. 4, The land was withdrawn from selection and thrown open at a later date, and Mr. Newbold's and another application will be considered by the board.

Mr. ANGWIN: Can the Minister tell us what are the dates of the gazetted notices concerning the time when the land was thrown open for selection?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I cannot remember now. If the hon. member gives notice I will answer the question tomorrow.

QUESTION—LAND BOARD DECISION REVERSED.

Mr. ANGWIN asked the Minister for Lands: 1, What were the reasons for the Minister reversing the decision of the Land Board which sat in Perth on the 26th of April last, the board having granted Mr. R. J. Newbold Avon Location No. 9402, which the Minister has now

granted to Mr. W. P. Linehan? 2, Is it the custom for the Minister to interfere with the decisions of the board? 3, In case of an inquiry being made into the management of the Lands Department, will the Minister give Mr. Newbold an opportunity of placing before such board of inquiry what is considered the illegal action of the Minister?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS replied: 1, The decision was reversed by the Governor-in-Council because it was considered that Mr. Linehan had a better claim to the land than Mr. Newbold. 2, No, excepting in cases of appeal. 3, Certainly.

QUESTION—RAILWAY FREE PASS TO MR. KEENAN.

Mr. MONGER asked the Premier: 1, Is it a fact that the late Attorney General (Mr. Keenan) possesses a free pass for life over the railways of this State and the Commonwealth? 2, What entitled him to this consideration? 3, If length of service entitled him to this privilege, what was the length of service?

The PREMIER replied: 1, No. But under a resolution of the Premier's Conference held at Hobart in 1905 the hon. member referred to is entitled to a free pass for life over the railways of the respective States of the Commonwealth. 2, Three years' service as a Minister of the Crown. 3, Three years and seven days.

Mr. FOULKES: Has it been the practice for the Government to grant passes for life to those persons who served as Ministers of the Crown for at least three years, and does the Premier propose that this practice should be continued?

The PREMIER: In accordance with the conference to which I have referred it has been the practice to grant life passes to Ministers who served for three years and over, and it is proposed to continue the practice.

QUESTION—SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES.

Mr. SWAN (without notice) asked the Premier: Do the Government, in accordance with the resolution of the House of

the 14th September, intend to place on the Table all papers relating to certain refusals for allowances under the Superannuation Act?

The PREMIER: If such a resolution were carried it must be obeyed.

SELECT COMMITTEE—EXTENSION OF TIME.

Roads Bill.

Mr. BROWN (Perth) moved—

That the time for bringing up the report of the select committee on this Bill be extended for one fortnight.

Mr. SCADDAN (Ivanhoe): What is the reason for further delay in bringing up the report?

Mr. BROWN: There has been no delay, for every day last week, from 2 o'clock until 4.30 o'clock, we met and took evidence. We should have met to-day had there not been some misunderstanding in connection with the time for the meeting. The Bill is a voluminous one, and the committee cannot thoroughly consider it, with its 360 odd clauses, without spending some time in obtaining evidence and giving consideration to it.

Mr. Scaddan: Do you propose calling further evidence?

Mr. BROWN: The remaining witness is Mr. Sanderson of the Public Works Department, and after having heard his evidence the committee will frame their report.

Mr. SCADDAN: I wish to draw attention to the fact that I have received a protest from the Kalgoorlie roads board as to a refusal by the committee to hear evidence from that board. I am publishing the letter I have received.

Mr. BROWN: In reply to that statement I should like to say that the secretary of the Kalgoorlie roads board has given us most voluminous evidence on the Bill. The only other gentleman asked to give evidence from there was an ex-chairman of the Kalgoorlie roads board. We have examined the chairman of the Roads Board Association, whose evidence we considered quite sufficient for our purpose. Mr. Richardson, secretary of the Kalgoorlie roads board, has been associated with such boards for very many

years, and he is probably more conversant with the working of such bodies than anyone else in the State. As I have said, he gave very full evidence. The committee think they have received sufficient evidence on the Bill.

Mr. ANGWIN (East Fremantle): As a member of this select committee I may say we have been sitting pretty regularly, but it is necessary that we should go thoroughly into the whole question. The Government officer charged with the control of the boards has yet to complete his evidence. It will be impossible for us to present our report next Wednesday, and I think it would be a mistake to ask for an adjournment until that date and then have to ask for another for a further week; it would be far better to adopt the motion and postpone bringing up the report for a fortnight.

Question put and passed.

PRIVATE BILL — FREMANTLE FREEMASONS' LODGE No. 2 DISPOSITION.

Report of Select Committee.

Mr. HUDSON brought up the report of the select committee appointed to inquire into the provisions of the Bill.

Report received and read.

BILL — FREMANTLE MUNICIPAL TRAMWAYS AND ELECTRIC LIGHTING ACT AMENDMENT.

Motion read, for leave to introduce.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I do not intend to proceed with this motion.

PAPERS—GOVERNMENT LABOUR BUREAU, ENGAGEMENT OF IMMIGRANTS.

On motion by Mr. PRICE, ordered: "That there be laid on the Table of the House all papers relating to the engagement from the immigrants' home, through the Government Labour Bureau, in July last, of a married couple by one Charr Singh, an Afghan farmer residing at Quairading."

PAPERS—PUBLIC SERVANTS AND DEFENCE FORCES.

On motion by Mr. TROY, ordered: "That all the papers and correspondence relating to the suspension of Warder Wise, of the Fremantle gaol, in connection with his refusal to resign from the Commonwealth defence forces be laid upon the Table of the House."

BILL—WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT AMENDMENT.

As to Consideration.

Mr. SCADDAN (Ivanhoe): Before the orders of the day are called on, I would like to direct the Premier's attention to a promise made last week that he would afford an opportunity of dealing with the Workers' Compensation Bill today.

The PREMIER (Hon. Frank Wilson): I understand the printing of the evidence taken before the select committee is not yet completed, but that it will be ready this evening. I propose, therefore, to put the matter down for consideration first to-morrow.

BILL—AGRICULTURAL BANK ACT AMENDMENT.

Report of Committee adopted.

BILL—LICENSING.

In Committee.

Resumed from 20th October; Mr. Taylor in the Chair, the Attorney General in charge of the Bill.

Clause 78—What majority is required for carrying resolutions:

Mr. SCADDAN moved an amendment—

That in line 1 of Subclause 2 the words "three-fifths at least" be struck out, and "a majority" inserted in lieu.

Surely if it were desired to secure an expression of opinion from the public in regard to licenses, a simple majority should be allowed to decide the issue. At the local option polls held in New South Wales "reduction" had several times

been carried, but as the vote had not attained the required three-fifths majority the poll had been nullified, notwithstanding that a majority of the district was in favour of "reduction." Under the subclause as printed, a very small minority would be able to retain the existing state of affairs.

The Attorney General: If the votes are not sufficient for the "abolition of licenses" they go towards "reduction."

Mr. SCADDAN: Still a three-fifths majority was required just the same.

The Attorney General: Not for "reduction."

Mr. SCADDAN: But for "restoration" the three-fifths majority was necessary. A bare majority should be sufficient in any case.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: The resolution referred to in the subclause was of a very sweeping character. It provided for the absolute abolition of licenses. So it might happen that a question of so far-reaching effect would be decided by a margin of a hundred votes or under between the two opposing bodies in a large licensing district. To be effective sweeping changes required to be backed up by a substantial body of public opinion. It was understood that the hon. member who moved the amendment would at a later stage move a further amendment proposing to revert to the old system of opening public houses during certain hours on Sundays. When that further amendment was moved it would probably be supported by the argument that a large proportion of the population desired the convenience of obtaining drink on Sundays, and that it was virtually impossible to secure the observance of the law if that law was against the wishes of a large number of people. This argument could with equal force be used against the amendment before the Committee. Unless there was a satisfactory majority in favour of "abolition," the carrying of the resolution referred to in the subclause would be of very little avail, and we would have as

one of its results a large amount of sly-grog selling. In New Zealand, in Victoria, in New South Wales, and, he believed, in South Australia, provision was made for a three-fifths majority on the question of "no license." It was doubtful whether we would be wise in striking out in a new direction, going farther than had those other States, and giving this enormous power to a bare majority. Even admitting that drink was an evil, there must be a limit beyond which we were not justified in going. He submitted we were going quite far enough in demanding a substantial majority to carry the "no license" resolution.

Mr. SCADDAN: If we insisted on a three-fifths majority to decide the "no-license" issue that issue might as well be left off the ballot paper. There were about 25,000 names on the rolls in the metropolitan district, and about 50 per cent. would record their votes, so that in order to carry "no-licenses" it would mean that 7,500 votes would have to be polled in favour of having no licenses. In the circumstances there would be no possibility of carrying "no-licenses" in this State. Personally, he did not favour submitting the "no-license" issue in any particular district; he favoured the system just introduced in New Zealand, making the question a national one and not a district one; because it was absurd to have no licenses in one district and have licenses just across the border where those in a "no-license" district could obtain liquor.

Mr. FOULKES: A bare majority should decide the question. Great issues were often changed by one vote. The severe handicap placed in the Bill would make it practically impossible to have the "no-license" system. Certainly, in New Zealand a three-fifths majority was necessary, but there was constant agitation in New Zealand to have that altered, and it would be the same in this State. Again, it was only by a small majority that the Wade Government had carried the three-fifths provision in the New South Wales Parliament.

Majority against	..	<u>1</u>
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Mr. Angwin	Mr. McDowall
Mr. Bath	Mr. O'Loughlin
Mr. Bolton	Mr. Price
Mr. Collier	Mr. Scaddan
Mr. Couikes	Mr. Swan
Mr. Gill	Mr. Troy
Mr. Heltmann	Mr. Walker
Mr. Holman	Mr. A. A. Wilson
Mr. Hudson	Mr. Underwood
Mr. Johnson	(Teller).

Mr. Brown	Mr. Male
Mr. Butcher	Mr. Mitchell
Mr. Carson	Mr. Monger
Mr. Cowcher	Mr. Murphy
Mr. Daglish	Mr. Nanson
Mr. Davies	Mr. Osborn
Mr. Draper	Mr. Plesse
Mr. Gregory	Mr. F. Wilson
Mr. Hardwick	Mr. Gordon
Mr. Harper	(Teller).
Mr. Jacoby	

Mr. COLLIER: It was provided that two-fifths of the voters in one district

Majority against	..	3
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AYES.	
Mr. Angwin	Mr. McDowall
Mr. Bath	Mr. O'Loghlen
Mr. Bolton	Mr. Price
Mr. Collier	Mr. Scaddan
Mr. Foulkes	Mr. Swan
Mr. Gill	Mr. Troy
Mr. Heltmann	Mr. Walker
Mr. Holman	Mr. A. A. Wilson
Mr. Hudson	Mr. Underwood
Mr. Johnson	(Teller).

Mr. Brown	Mr. Male
Mr. Butcher	Mr. Mitchell
Mr. Carson	Mr. Monger
Mr. Cowcher	Mr. S. F. Moore
Mr. Daglish	Mr. Murphy
Mr. Davies	Mr. Nanson
Mr. Draper	Mr. Osborn
Mr. Gregory	Mr. Plesse
Mr. Hardwick	Mr. F. Wilson
Mr. Harper	Mr. Gordon
Mr. Jacoby	(Teller).
Mr. Layman	

Amendment thus negatived.

Mr. BATH moved a further amendment—

That Subclause 4 be struck out.

The subclause would impose a penalty upon those who were taking an interest in these matters and who would roll up at the poll to record their votes. It was in no sense an encouragement to those who were rather dillatory in exercising their votes, and if we were to impose this restriction upon every occasion it would be granting a privilege with one hand and practically withholding it with the other. As far as the ordinary elections were concerned we accepted as final the verdict of those who found sufficient interest in elections to turn up at the polls and record their votes, and in the election of members of Parliament we imposed no such restriction as the one contained in Subclause 4, namely that 30 per cent. of the electors should vote, in order that a member might be elected. Instances could be quoted where if this restriction had been imposed members of Parliament after having been declared elected would have been disqualified. That was not the way to encourage interest or to induce a large percentage of the electors to record their votes, but it was a penalty which was being imposed upon those who would record their votes.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: There was no analogy between the cases quoted by the member for Brown Hill. In the case of a member of Parliament someone had to be elected. It was reasonable to demand that this small percentage of the electors should vote.

Mr. ANGWIN: If the Minister wished to arouse the people into taking action in questions such as the present, there was no doubt that by striking out the subclause that would be brought about.

Mr. BATH: The Attorney General told the Committee that this was different from an election of members of Parliament, because a member had to be elected, but the Attorney General knew that great social changes had been effected by the election of members. History gave illustrations in which great changes had been brought about by the election of members.

He failed to see the object of saying to a number of people who were interested enough to record their votes that they must suffer because others were not interested and did not record their votes. There should be no penalty on those who valued the franchise that was given them. Everything we did ought to be in the way of encouraging people to record their votes. It was to be hoped the Committee would realise that this unjust restriction should not be imposed on those who availed themselves of the opportunity to record their votes on the resolutions.

Amendment put and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	20
Noes	21

Majority against	..	1
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AYES.

Mr. Angwin	Mr. O'Loughlen
Mr. Bath	Mr. Price
Mr. Bolton	Mr. Scaddan
Mr. Carson	Mr. Swan
Mr. Collier	Mr. Troy
Mr. Foulkes	Mr. Underwood
Mr. Gill	Mr. Walker
Mr. Holman	Mr. A. A. Wilson
Mr. Hudson	Mr. Heltmann
Mr. Johnson	(Teller).
Mr. McDowall	

NOES.

Mr. Brown	Mr. Male
Mr. Butcher	Mr. Mitchell
Mr. Cowcher	Mr. Monger
Mr. Daglish	Mr. S. F. Moore
Mr. Davies	Mr. Murphy
Mr. Draper	Mr. Nanson
Mr. Gregory	Mr. Osborn
Mr. Hardwick	Mr. Plesse
Mr. Harper	Mr. F. Wilson
Mr. Jacoby	Mr. Gordon
Mr. Layman	(Teller).

Amendment thus negatived.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved an amendment—

That the following be inserted as a new subclause:—(4a.) The Resolution "That any new license shall be held by the State" is carried if a majority in number of the votes given is in favour of the resolution.

We provided that the resolution in favour of increased licenses should be carried by a bare majority. This additional subclause provided that a resolution in fav-

our of no new licenses being issued except to the State should also be carried by a bare majority. It did not follow that the Government would take action if the resolution were carried in favour of new licenses being issued, but it did follow that no new licenses could be issued except they were owned by the State.

Amendment put and passed; the clause as amended agreed to.

Clause 79—Effect of carrying resolutions:

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: The proviso to subclause (b) would go out consequentially because of the amendment agreed to by the Committee in Clause 76.

Mr. MURPHY: What effect would the provision have in a district where the vote was carried that there should be no increase of licenses? Would it empower the State to open a State hotel?

The Attorney General: No.

Mr. MURPHY: If the vote was no reduction, but a continuance of existing licenses, would that empower the State to open an hotel in the district?

The Attorney General: No.

Mr. MURPHY: If the electors voted that licenses should be increased, then would the State have power to open an hotel?

Mr. MURPHY: Only in that case?

The Attorney General: Yes.

Mr. ANGWIN: If the Committee struck out the proviso, that would prevent certain electors in certain areas having a say whether hotels should be erected in those areas. The proviso was necessary. Suppose the whole of the Perth magisterial district as at present constituted became a licensing district, and the majority voted in favour of increases; if the proviso were struck out in any portion of the district an hotel could be erected without having a second opinion in any given area. The proviso was to protect the given area.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: The proviso would have to be left in.

The CHAIRMAN: Was it to be understood that the proviso would not be struck out consequentially, but that it still stood?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: It would still stand. He moved a further amendment—

That the following be added to paragraph (b.):—Provided also that if the resolution, "That any new license shall be held by the State" is also carried, no new publican's general license shall be granted; but State hotels may be established within the district under the provisions of Part VI. of this Act.

That proviso was necessary to explain the effect of the carrying of the resolution in favour of State hotels.

Amendment passed.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved a further amendment—

That in line 2 of Paragraph (c.) the words "subject to the provisions of Division 3 of this Part" be struck out.

Amendment passed.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved a further amendment—

That the following be inserted as Subclause 2:—The result of the voting on the question "Are you in favour of State management throughout the district" shall be notified by the returning officer in the Government Gazette.

The object of the insertion of this subclause was to prevent any hole and corner business about the election. It was only right that there should be an official notification of the result of the vote.

Amendment passed; the clause as amended agreed to.

Clause 80—consequentially amended and agreed to.

Clauses 81 to 83—agreed to.

Clause 84—Provision for voting:

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved an amendment—

That in line 1 of Paragraph (b.), after the word "but" there be inserted "on the Resolutions A, B, C, D, or E."

This was rendered necessary owing to certain additional resolution which the Committee inserted in one of the earlier clauses of the Bill.

Amendment passed.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved a further amendment—

That in line 1, Sub-Paragraph (1.) of Paragraph (f.), after the word

"voted" there be inserted "on the Resolutions A, B, C, D, and E."

Amendment passed; the clause as amended agreed to.

Clauses 85 and 86—agreed to.

Clauses 87 to 98—(consequential)—struck out.

Clause 99—Notice of intention to establish a State hotel:

Mr. SCADDAN: Clause 79 had been added to by the insertion of the following words, "provided that if the resolution 'that any new license shall be held by the State' is also carried no new publican's general license shall be granted but State hotels may be established within the district under the provisions of Part 6 of this Act." If the clause under discussion were passed as printed it would altogether conflict with the proviso he had just read. It would be necessary to strike out from the clause the words, "within three months" and also Subclause 2.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: The suggested amendment was hardly necessary. It would be well to leave the period of three months in the clause. In the event of a resolution in favour of an increase being carried and a resolution in favour of State control not being carried, the Government would still have the option, during a period of three months, to establish a State hotel. In some circumstances, although there was no resolution in favour of State ownership carried, the Government might wish to take action, and the effect would be to hang up the application of a private individual for a period of three months.

Mr. SCADDAN: There was a conflict between the amendment he had read and Clause 79, and it would be wise to postpone the further consideration of Part VI.

Mr. COLLIER: Under Subclause 2 the court would have power, after the expiration of three months, to grant a license to a private individual notwithstanding the fact that the district had already declared in favour of State control.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: It would be advisable that the Government

should not be allowed to establish a State hotel in a district unless there were a resolution carried to that effect. If members would agree he would postpone Part VI. for the present, and before it came before the Committee again he would see whether the difficulties indicated by members could be remedied.

Clauses 99 and 100—postponed.

Mr. ANGWIN: It was to be hoped the Minister would take into consideration the necessity for State hotels being subjected to the same provisions as private hotels.

Clauses 101 to 109 agreed to.

Clause 110—Licensed premises not to be opened before or after certain hours:

Mr. FOULKES moved an amendment—

That the following be added as a new clause:—There shall be no obligation on the part of any licensee to supply any person with any alcoholic liquor.

The object was to protect licensees, who, despite Clause 107, were at the present time compelled to supply any person with liquor. Certain people went into public-houses, got drunk and were arrested, and when the publican was summoned to the police court he excused himself on the score that he had been compelled by the law to sell liquor to the customer.

Mr. Draper: Does not the fault lie with the bench for accepting such excuses?

Mr. FOULKES: In a way the law compelled the bench to accept such excuses. In most cases the licensee pleaded that he was obliged to serve customers, and explained that he had not known that the customer was drunk.

Mr. O'Loughlen: If your amendment were carried the licensee could refuse to supply any person.

Mr. FOULKES: There was no fear of a licensee so refusing. Licensees were only too ready to sell liquor. The object of the amendment was to relieve licensees from the obligation of supplying any and all persons with liquor.

Mr. KEENAN: If the amendment were really a new clause it could not be inserted at this stage.

The CHAIRMAN: It was a new sub-clause.

Mr. KEENAN: It was wholly foreign to Clause 110, and therefore it could hardly be termed a subclause.

The CHAIRMAN: If the member who moved the amendment held that it constituted a new clause it certainly could not be taken just here.

Mr. FOULKES: In accordance with the ruling of the Chairman he would defer his amendment.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Mr. KEENAN moved an amendment—

That all the words after "premises" in line 5 be struck out and the following inserted in lieu:—It any time other than the hours fixed for the sale of such liquor by the licensing bench for the district and as set out in the license granted to the licensee, provided that such hours on any day except Sundays shall be continuous, and shall not exceed 17 hours in every 24 hours. Penalty for the first offence, fifty pounds and for any subsequent offence one hundred pounds.

After these words would have to follow a provision for penalties. The object of the amendment was to secure the opening of hotels at the hours most convenient to the particular district in which the hotels were situated. For instance, the hours observed in and about Perth, where industries were carried out only in the day time, were most suited to the great majority of the people living in the district. The proposal was to give power to the licensing bench to say what hours hotels should be open in certain districts. The houses would not remain open any longer a period than that set out in the clause; in fact it would be a little less. But under the proposed amendment the licensing bench would have power to meet the convenience of those engaged in the industries of the district. In mining districts men came up to the surface from their work at midnight, and by the time they had changed their dress it was too late for them to secure necessary refreshment, although half an hour earlier they might have legitimately demanded it. It was recognised that under these circum-

stances the law was habitually broken, because the hours during which the hotels were opened were wholly unsuited to the requirements of the district, and in view of that the police did not care to enforce the law. The giving of this power to the licensing benches would serve to render the work of such benches more attractive to thoroughly desirable men who would not sit on the benches to do mere routine work.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: In order that the amendment might appear on the Notice Paper, progress might be reported.

Progress reported.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES.

Message from the Governor received and read, transmitting the annual Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the financial year 1910-11 and recommending appropriations.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1910-11.

In Committee of Supply.

The House having resolved into Committee of Supply for receiving the annual Financial Statement, Mr. Taylor in the Chair,

The PREMIER AND TREASURER (Hon. Frank Wilson) said: It is with a considerable amount of gratification that I rise to deliver this, my fourth Budget speech in the Assembly of Western Australia, and the twenty-first Budget speech presented to the Parliament of Western Australia since Responsible Government. This gratification is intensified because of the fact that I have had the privilege of presiding over the financial destinies of this State during practically the past four years, during a period when we have had to face bad times, depression in the country and also a great and alarming shrinkage in our revenue; and to feel that at last we can see tangible results after those four years of nerve-racking, brain-wearying watchfulness over the State's finances cannot but be a source of

special satisfaction to me. In the Financial tables which I am able to place before the Committee this evening, and which I propose to comment upon, will be seen, I think, proof of the wonderful recuperative powers of a young country, of the enterprise and confidence of its people and of the wisdom of Parliament in endorsing the progressive policy which has been so largely responsible for the results which we achieved last year and which are shown in this year's Estimates, and, may I also perhaps say, and be pardoned for saying, proof of the careful and sound administration by a Government of which I have had the honour to be a member since its initiation. On previous occasions I have approached my task with a full sense of the difficulty of imbuing hope into the breasts of men and women who were out of employment, or of business men who were struggling, perhaps, to avoid the Bankruptcy Court during the times of depression, yet I have always endeavoured to instil into the members of this Chamber as also into the people of Western Australia that confidence which I myself have felt in the future of our country. Of course it is natural, I suppose, for one in times such as I have described, to feel that perhaps the tide is never going to turn and that the clouds that hover around and over us will never roll away. I am proud to-night to be in the position of claiming, I think, that the flood-tide has set in once more so far as our State is concerned, and that the clouds I have referred to have dispersed, and dispersed, I hope, for many long years to come. The country, I feel, is embarking upon a very prosperous future, and with that belief my task to-night is comparatively light. It is indeed a pleasurable and a congenial task. Not only can I give a good account of the past 12 months with its tale of progress and financial success, of works accomplished and of duties, I believe, fully and faithfully carried out; but I can also, and it is my duty to-night to do so, present Estimates to this Committee which I feel must be received with gratification by all hon. members.

Financial Transactions for 1909-10.

Now, to follow the usual practice on occasions of this sort, I want to call the attention of hon. members first to the different returns which give in detail the record of the past year's financial transactions. The first return, as hon. members will see in the papers that have been distributed, shows the revenue and expenditure of the past financial year; and a close examination of this return indicates that the Treasurer last year under-estimated the total amount of revenue which he had to receive by £221,552. Nearly one-half of this under-estimate was due to the revenue having exceeded the Federal Treasurer's estimate. That is so far as the amount refunded to Western Australia was concerned, the Commonwealth return to Western Australia exceeded the estimate by £102,723, almost half the under-estimate of the State Treasurer so far as our revenue was concerned. The other important items which make up this excess in revenue are Railways—the increase over estimate being £74,397—and harbour dues, £12,290, both of which it will be perceived are, with the Commonwealth return to the State, a fair indication of a general revival in trade. The Treasurer over-estimated his revenue on some of the other items to the extent of £51,938. The items are set forth in the return, and consist of Dividend Duty, State Batteries, Water Supply, and Residue. The principal item, "Dividend Duty," provides the large amount of £36,685 of the over-estimate in revenue, and this was due to a great extent to the claim which was made on the companies for duties underpaid in past years. The Treasurer thought he might include this claim in last year's revenue, but the amount has not yet been collected as it is now the subject of an appeal to the Privy Council. The actual expenditure for the year was greater, I may say, than the Treasurer estimated by £54,000.

The Deficit.

It will be seen that since the revenue received for the year totalled £3,657,670 and that the expenditure was £3,447,731, there was a net gain on the year's transactions of £209,939. This reduced the

accumulated deficit on the 30th June, 1910, to £102,000, as shown at the foot of this table, a most gratifying result, more especially in view of the fact that in June last we transferred from Consolidated Revenue no less a sum than £33,500—which will be found in the Excess Bill when it is brought down—for replacing, at a cost of £21,000, the rolling stock and the paint shops destroyed by fire at Midland Junction last year, and by relaying portion of the Great Southern railway at a cost of £12,500. Taking these facts into consideration I think we may congratulate ourselves upon the result of last year's financial transactions so far as revenue and expenditure are concerned.

Revenue and Expenditure, the results.

The next return, No. 2, to which I would draw members' attention, is the usual statement giving a synopsis of the balance sheets of the State, and shows the balances for which the Treasurer was liable on the 30th June last as compared with the previous year's. It will be seen that the total amount for which the Treasurer was liable on the 30th June last was £8,700,650, or an increase for the year of £1,414,185. This does not include, I may remark, the balance of the loan which was floated on the 2nd June in London, such balance, £631,707, having been paid after the close of the financial year. A small debit of £85,000 will be noticed in connection with the London County and Westminster Bank. This was due to the bank, and had been paid off before the close of the financial year, but because of the June transactions of the Agent General being cabled out in totals, the fact was not disclosed until the cash account came to hand, and therefore it appears as a debit on the one hand, and as a credit in the item, "Advances to be recovered" on the other hand. Members will see that the sinking funds have increased by £336,000. This is to the 31st March, the returns being made from March to March so far as the sinking funds are concerned. Of course it includes the June quarter of the previous year. The Government Savings Bank deposits, it will be noted, have increased by £424,000, and Trust and De-

posit Accounts generally by £222,000. The assets in which these funds are invested are set forth under the credit amounts on the latter half of the return. The first item which perhaps some may hesitate to call an asset, is the accumulated deficit of £102,692 brought forward from the 30th June, 1910. As I previously mentioned, that is the balance remaining after the application of the surplus of the year, namely, £210,000. So far as the Treasurer is concerned, that item is rightly termed an asset, for it represents revenue claims paid by him, and to meet which the State had not placed revenue moneys at his disposal, represents a sum which the Treasurer must seek to reduce year by year, including it meanwhile in his Estimates. The next asset referred to on this return is "Advances to be recovered by the Treasurer," amounting to £211,958, which have increased by a sum of £95,000, mainly caused by contra credit which I have referred to above, namely the £85,000 in connection with the London County and Westminster Bank appearing on both sides of the balance sheet. The investments, it will be noticed, are considerable, the amount being £6,199,262, with an increase for the year of £673,000. The total of this item is comprised mainly of investments on account of Savings Bank which amount to £2,897,000—details of which can be seen on page 106 of the Public Accounts—and on account of the sinking funds to the 31st March last, £2,569,000. The bulk of the sinking funds, namely £2,240,000, is invested in Western Australian securities. Particulars of these investments can also be found in the Public Accounts which have been handed round with the Estimates. The balance of the sum is mainly on account of Life Assurance deposits, municipal sinking funds, the Agricultural Bank and Lands Purchase Investments, and other items of that nature. The item "Stores," which is one I have made it my business to watch pretty closely since being connected with the Treasury, shows an increase of £61,000. I have watched this item closely because we have had experience of the accumulation of obsolete stock, and have had in consequence to write down in the past large sums of money

by way of depreciation. Care must be taken not to accumulate stock which will become obsolete, but to have only the stock required from month to month, or year to year, in connection with the running of our railway system and the maintenance of our other services, else we shall accumulate stores which in five, six, or ten years may be thrown on the scrap heap and written off as valueless. The increase, I must point out, is due to new material supplied for new railways. For instance, rails and fastenings for new lines show an increase of over £80,000, whereas the general stores for working railways decreased by £16,000, evidence of the careful watch I have referred to is being kept to prevent an undue accumulation of such stores. The cash in hand, and *in transitu*, shows an increase of £795,000, the total amount being £1,794,195. Included in this item is a sum of £524,000 in the hands of the Agent General. This sum is bearing interest at call at the rate of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum; at least it was so until the 29th July, when the sum of £400,000 was fixed for six months from that date at $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. per annum, the balance of the money being left at call to meet the current requirements of the Agent General in London.

Commonwealth Revenue and Expenditure.

The next returns are Nos. 3, 4, and 5, and embrace details of the Commonwealth revenue derived from the State of Western Australia; also the Commonwealth expenditure within the State, and a comparative return of the Commonwealth revenue and expenditure since the inception of Federation. The information contained in these returns is not so complete as heretofore owing to the fact that the financial relationship between the States and the Commonwealth has undergone a radical change by the passing of the Surplus Revenue Act, 1910. This of course, members are aware, does away with the Braddon clause, and returns to the State a per capita contribution of twenty-five shillings in lieu thereof as from the 1st July last. The Estimates

of Commonwealth revenue for the present financial year have therefore been omitted from these returns by the Federal Treasurer, as being, I presume, no concern of ours. The amount, however, which is returnable to the State can fairly accurately be ascertained as it is based, as I have just mentioned, on the population of each State as on the 31st December next.

Commonwealth and State Finances.

Notwithstanding the disappointment I, at any rate, felt that the financial agreement was defeated by the small majority of 26,000 voters in a total of 1,305,000 votes cast, and that the promise given by Federal representatives of a 25 years' period have not been given effect to, yet it is satisfactory to know that the question has at any rate been settled for 10 years.

Mr. Underwood: You may be done long before that.

The TREASURER: I suppose the hon. member himself will be done before that. It is at any rate satisfactory to know that so far as this vexed question of Commonwealth and State finances is concerned it is settled for 10 years to come. I would, however, point out in passing that the battle must be fought over again at the expiration of the 10 years' period. The question will have to be gone into once more, and no doubt those who will then represent Western Australia will put up an equally good fight as the representatives of the State at the present time have done in her interests.

Inter-State Certificates.

The abolition of inter-State certificates in this connection is, however, a very serious matter. These certificates have in the past enabled a record to be kept of the per capita contribution of the State to the Federal revenue through customs and excise. This has been in the past the ground, and the sole ground, for our claim for special consideration at the hands of the Commonwealth. The importance of this information can be gauged by the fact that it has meant a credit to Western Australia of £1,117,000 up to the 30th June last. The certificates

showed the duty of goods imported into other States and then re-shipped to Western Australia, or upon goods upon which excise had been collected and the articles subsequently shipped to Western Australia for consumption. The battle which has taken place at the different Premiers' conferences in connection with this "special treatment" which we claim for our State has always raged around the question as to whether the Customs and Excise contributions of Western Australia would ultimately or in the near future, reach normal; that is, the average of the Commonwealth. The opponents of any special consideration to our State have always pointed to the fact that our per capita contribution was decreasing year by year, while as a matter of fact last year it had gone down to within 15s. 8½d. of the average of the Commonwealth. On the other hand, we have always argued that we had pretty well reached normal, and were not likely to come down, at any rate within many years, to the average of the Eastern States, and that with a large influx of immigrants and the carrying out of our land settlement policy and, of course, with the new development in mining which we hear so much about to-day, we are more likely to go up than to recede so far as our per capita contribution is concerned. We never failed to drive this point home at the conferences in order to get what we consider due recognition of the special claims of the State. Our contention has been justified. Last year I find that the average increase for the Eastern States was 2s. 1d. per capita, that is the average increase of their contribution to the Customs and Excise revenue of the Commonwealth, due, of course, to the better times and increased commercial activity and general prosperity similar to that which we are feeling. But the Western Australian increase, as compared with the 2s. 1d. of the Eastern States, was 5s. 7½d. per capita. On the 30th June, 1910, our contribution was 19s. 0½d. per capita above the average of the Commonwealth; the conclusion, therefore, is forced upon us that Western Australia barely

receives her own under the special consideration of the £250,000 per annum decreasing by £10,000 each year. Notwithstanding what my friends opposite may think, it must be remembered that at the end of 10 years, in connection with this financial question, which has been settled by the measure which was passed in the Federal Parliament, we must at any rate be prepared to fight Western Australia's battles once more, and, therefore, it is imperative that we should have some record of the inter-State trade in order that we may arm our successors as we have been armed in the past in the struggle which they must make on behalf of the State. I have, therefore, with the consent of my colleagues, taken steps, in view of the fact that the Federal Government have declined to continue the certificates between State and State, to keep a record through our harbour authorities of goods imported into Western Australia from the Eastern States, with the country of origin and the value, and from these records we hope to be able to compile in the Statistical Department a fairly accurate estimate of what Western Australia is contributing in excess, if it be an excess, as compared with the Eastern States. The cost of this service is estimated to be £1,000 a year, and hon. members will find that provision has been made for it on the Estimates. As for the Commonwealth expenditure within the State for this financial year, as shown by the returns, it will be noted that the total is estimated at £117,000 on new works and buildings as against £62,000 last year.

Loan Authorisations.

The next return is Return No. 6, and it gives the usual details of loan authorisations and flotations. The total amount including the loans floated during Sir Newton Moore's visit to England in June last, is £23,527,253, and this exhausts the whole of our authorisations. The amount of the bonds redeemed during the last financial year, it will be observed, was £6,300, representing the annual drawings in connection with the loans 1878/84 domiciled with the Crown agents. These are loans, of course, prior

to Responsible Government. The amount paid to the sinking fund during the financial year was £336,322, consisting of interest on investments £85,357, annual contribution paid by the State for the 12 months to 31st March last £238,788, and discount on purchases, that is investment in stocks, less expenses, £12,177. The total amount standing to the credit of the sinking fund on the 31st March, therefore, is, as previously stated, £2,569,707, and the total of the bonds redeemed £239,800. Deducting these amounts, which we are fairly entitled to deduct, from the total loan liability, it leaves us a net liability of £20,717,746, being a gross per capita liability of £73 4s. 11d. We are entitled in making a comparison of our loan liabilities per capita to deduct loan moneys which we have in hand unexpended; these amounted on 30th June to £1,908,000, and if that sum is deducted from the total of our loan liability we have a net per capita liability of £66 10s. That, as has been previously pointed out by my predecessor in office, is 9s. 7d. less than it was some seven years ago. It is worthy of mention that the sinking fund held by the trustees in London is, necessarily, increasing faster every year, owing to the reinvestments and compound interest collected by the trustees, and that the amount held by the trustees on the 30th June last was £2,266,259, a sinking fund of which we have just reason to be proud when it is compared with those of the other States. The trading concerns of the State, after paying working expenses, left a credit last year of £753,802, and when I point out that the total interest bill on the debts of the State amounts to £759,443, it will be seen that the trading concerns practically balance and pay the whole of the interest of the national debt of Western Australia.

Loan Flotations, Debt and Expenditure.

Return No. 7 is fairly self-explanatory. It shows the total actual expenditure of Loan Funds on different works and services, the unexpended balance of the General Loan Fund, and the unexpended balance of the Government Property Sales

Fund, and it also shows the discounts and flotation expenses which have been incurred from time to time in raising these moneys. In speaking of loan finances, I think it would be proper for me to make some reference to the efforts put forward by the late Premier during his visit to London in connection with our recent flotation. The country and Sir Newton Moore are both to be congratulated on the success of his negotiations. It is true that the loan was issued at £96 10s., the same price as the loan for the previous year; but when I point out that Sir Newton Moore had to face a market with a bank rate one per cent. higher, and that British Consols at the time of the flotation were £2 15s. 9d. lower than in the previous year, it must be conceded that he did remarkably well; indeed the bank rate was $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in 1909, up to the very date of our last loan flotation it had been 4 per cent. These facts have such an intimate connection with the loan price of issue that anyone having experience in the matter will relish that Sir Newton Moore cannot but be congratulated on the success which attended his efforts with the underwriters to secure the price he eventually obtained. The cost of the loan floated, if allowance be made for redemption at par at latest date of maturity, will be £3 16s. 8d. per cent. as against £3 16s. 5d. last year. During the ex-Premier's visit to London he did one other good thing in connection with our loan moneys. After cabling out to Western Australia and consulting his colleagues he decided to redeem the 1911-31 4 per cent. stock which falls due next April. The amount of this stock is £1,876,000, and notice has been given to the stockholders that we intend to redeem. The enabling Bill for that purpose is before the House at the present time. It is anticipated that with the assistance of the sinking fund accumulated in connection with this loan, which will approximate £376,000, we will be able to convert the balance amounting approximately to a million and a-half into $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Inscribed Stock, at as favourable a price as our recent issue. If this can be accomplished—and I have little doubt about

it—we shall effect a saving in our interest bill of something like £18,000 per annum. In addition to the redemption of that 4 per cent. loan, we have, on the 31st December next, £1,266,000 worth of 3½ per cent. local inscribed stock maturing. Steps have already been taken in connection with this matter, and satisfactory terms have been arranged in regard to £500,000 of this stock held by the A.M.P. Society for its re-issue, and as the Savings Bank holds something like £652,000 worth of the stock it is proposed to issue to that institution at par an additional £114,000 worth of the stock, thus with the arrangement made with the Australian Mutual Provident Society, accounting for the whole loan maturing on the 31st December next. The new stock will have a currency of 15 years and will mature in 1926. The sinking fund accrued in connection with this loan amounts to approximately £130,000. It is all invested in later dated stocks and in view of the fact that the currency renewal will be 15 years, I propose to allow this £130,000 to remain in the sinking fund to accumulate towards the maturity of the re-issue.

Cost of Departments.

The next return, and the last, is one which requires more than passing attention. It is a most valuable return as it shows the percentage of profit or loss on the working of the whole of the Government departments. Hon. members will notice that it is an account of the cash revenue and expenditure of each department, taking into consideration the whole of the expenditure, not only from Consolidated Revenue on the general Estimates which we pass year by year, but also under special Acts representing interest on our loans, sinking funds, etcetera. It is based, as I have said, on the cash expenditure and revenue of the departments solely, and the difference is shown as profit or loss per head of the population. The statement was prepared for the first time last year by the examiner, Mr. Whitely, and the credit, so far as this return is concerned, is certainly due to him. This year two columns

may be made with the previous year's working. In passing I may remark that I know of no similar return published in any other State of the Commonwealth. The work involved in its preparation can be gauged from the fact that calculations have to be made in respect to both revenue and expenditure in no fewer than 91 sub-departments, and, as previously mentioned, it includes not only the ordinary expenditure, but interest and sinking fund on capital invested. I will ask hon. members to bear with me whilst we see what this return discloses. At the foot of columns 13 and 16 will be found practically the starting-point of our analysis, namely, the total per capita, profit or loss, representing of course the deficit, or the surplus, as the case may be, of our year's transactions. Column 13 shows that the surplus of revenue over expenditure on last year's working represented 15s. 2d. per head of the population. Column 16 shows that the deficit on the previous year's working represented 7s. 6d. per head of the population; so that last year we were in this respect £1 2s. 8d. per head of the population better off than in the previous year. Only in two divisions, namely those of Gubernatorial and Departmental Services will it be noticed that we went back during last year. The Gubernatorial increase represents one halfpenny per capita, a small increase, partially caused through the refurnishing to some extent of Government House. Departmental services show an increase of 1¼d. per capita, mainly accounted for by additional machinery, stock, etcetera, and also by an increase in the outstanding revenue of the Printing Department. At 30th June, 1908-9, the Printing Office had debts due from other departments of £1,700, whereas on the 30th June last it had £3,200 outstanding. Then the retiring allowances in the Lithographic Department which have been settled during the year on the same lines as were those of the printing staff some three years ago account for a portion of this increase. In every other division shown on the return there will be noticed satisfactory decreases of loss, or increases in profit, as compared with the previous year.

Trading and Revenue Concerns.

The most interesting division of all is, of course, that of the Trading and Revenue Producing Services, Items 28 to 44 inclusive. These items include our railways, batteries, water supply, harbour works, and other trading concerns of a like nature. They have all been grouped under the heading of Trading and Revenue Producing Items. Last year the loss in the aggregate amounted to 10s. 7d. per capita. This has been reduced to 8s. 5d., or a total of £117,000. And of this £117,000 the Goldfields Water Supply is responsible for £54,000, the Mines Water Supply for £34,000, and State Batteries for £11,000, or a total of £100,000, out of the £117,000 referred to. I would again point out that the figures in this return are purely cash, and take no cognisance of revenue due but not received, or, on the other hand, of liabilities which have been incurred but not discharged. The return allocates the total revenue and expenditure of the State to the different divisions and headings contained in the return, in accordance with the Treasury accounts. The railways, our main trading concern, it will be noticed, show a decline of profit equal to sixpence per capita. The Commissioner's report shows the railway system to have returned 4.75 per cent. on the capital expended as against 4.85 per cent. in the previous year. This would represent, approximately, 10d. per capita, the difference being accounted for by the fact that this is a cash statement and not a profit and loss account, a return of the cash transactions of the whole of the railway system of the State, including new lines in course of construction and not taken over by the working railways department. In its new lines are taken into account; as soon as any money is raised for new railways the interest is charged against the system. Every penny of interest paid by the Treasury must be accounted for here; and so when a new railway is authorised and a loan flotation made on its account, the interest when payable is straightway debited up against the railway system of the State. The Commissioner's report, I think, shows

that the district railways which we have constructed by the authority of this House during the past few years have been highly successful in the aggregate. I have taken some remarks from the report and to these I would call attention. Referring to the spur lines in country districts, known as district railways, the Commissioner says—

Although only two of the lines have arrived at the profitable stage the general progress is satisfactory—infinity more satisfactory no doubt than could have been obtained by a corresponding expenditure on road construction.

And the figures show that the whole of these district railways, comprising the Coolgardie-Norseman, Donnybrook-Boyanup, Goomalling-Dowerin, Greenhills-Quairading, Hopetoun-Ravensthorpe, Kattanning-Kojonup, Mundaring Weir, Narrogin-Wickepin, Pinjarra-Dwellingup, Toodyay-Bolgart, Torbay-Denmark, Wagin-Dumbleyung, and Wonnerup-Nannup—that the whole of these district railways have been worked during the past financial year, and have paid working expenses and interest on the capital expended on them, with the exception of £10,000. I consider that is a remarkable result to have been achieved within such a short time when we recognise that railways of this description cannot be expected to pay more than working expenses for the first year or two of their lives. Another item under the trading concerns, to which perhaps it is necessary to briefly refer, is that of the metropolitan sewerage, which hon. members will see embraced in this division. It shows a loss of nearly £20,000. This loss is represented by interest and sinking fund on the works in progress. Of course this must be an increasing factor until the works are made revenue-producing, but the charge will be ultimately adjusted by adding it to the actual capital cost of the works, upon which interest and sinking fund will be paid. The Goldfields Water Supply shows a decrease in loss of 2s. per head of population, namely from 5s. 11d. to 3s. 11d. per capita. This reduction in loss is due to the increased prices which were arranged last September. Nevertheless, as previously men-

tioned, the total loss for the year has been £54,000. Leaving these trading departments, let me shortly call attention to the other divisions seriatim. "Parliamentary" is important, but over the main items of this division the Government have only a nominal control. The total expenditure shows a decrease of slightly over 2d. per capita. In the division Law and Order, allowing for a refund made in 1908-9 to municipalities of nearly £6,000 as fines under the Police Act of 1902, a reduction is shown of no less than £15,000, or roughly 1s. 1d. per head of the population. Credit is due to the Attorney General and his officers, in that after allowing for the refund referred to of £6,000, the cost of the magistracy of the State has been reduced by £2,500, whilst a slight increase shown in the cost of the Supreme Court is due to the fact that unclaimed Court moneys have been considerably less than in the previous year. Items Police and Gaols also show a reduction of £7,600 and £3,500 respectively, this going to prove that a determined effort has been made by the Colonial Secretary and the permanent heads of his department to economise. In the financial division, Treasury, Audit, and London Agency, have each cost less, as will be seen, than in the previous year. Public Services show a reduction of 2s. per inhabitant, mainly due to the reduction of municipal subsidies.

Mr. Angwin: That was robbery.

The PREMIER: To return to Departmental Services I may mention that, in order to put the *Government Gazette* expenditure on a sound basis it has been arranged that the departments shall pay for their own advertisements, which will have the effect of inducing stricter supervision over such expenditure than we have had in the past. The administration of Government Stores, which has cost less from year to year, also shows a reduction in expenditure last year, and it is hoped—in fact I may say it is confidently anticipated that the completion of the new stores building now being erected in Murray-street next to the Printing Office will tend to further economies and certainly to better administration.

Mr. Angwin: You will have to point out the economies. The Estimates do not show them.

The PREMIER: They will all right. The Territorial Division, including Lands and Surveys, Agriculture, Woods and Forests and departments of similar character, bears most important testimony to the progress of the State. Lands and Surveys, after allowing for the £40,000 reduction, as compared with the previous year, in surveys expenditure transferred from Revenue to Loan, show a net gain for the year, as compared with 1908-9, of 2s. per capita, a very satisfactory gain indeed. This is due of course to the increase in our land sales. I recognise that such sales are viewed in some quarters from what I consider a misleading point of view as parting with our assets.

Mr. Collier: Your Minister for Works takes that view of it.

The PREMIER: No, he does not. I do not think members of the Opposition take that view by the way they are acquiring land.

Mr. Scaddan: He did take that view of it.

The PREMIER: Probably hon. members opposite took that view once, but the way they are acquiring land shows they are modifying the view considerably. It appeals to me in this way, that unoccupied lands as an asset to the State are practically valueless, but at once when we sell them or part with them, under what title I do not care, they must become a source of revenue to the State generally, and specifically they are a source of revenue through direct taxation, and then only for the first time do they become a real asset to the country. In connection with this item—and this return is worthy of close scrutiny—the amount which is collected from land tax is credited each year to Lands and Surveys. The amount during the past year was £34,344. In the same way the dividend duties paid by the mining companies—£58,707 last year—are credited to Mines Generally, but unfortunately this division shows a falling off in net profit of 9d. per head of the population, according to the return. The

next division, the Educational Division, it will be seen is costing the State about 3d. less per head of the population as compared with the previous year. This division includes such educational departments as the High School, mining schools, literary and scientific grants, and Observatory, and the reduction in the cost per capita is due to the fact that last year from Consolidated Revenue we only spent some £4,500 on school buildings as against £11,600 during the previous year.

Mr. Scaddan: You do not say how much was spent from loan moneys to make it up.

The PREMIER: No; this is simply a return showing the revenue and expenditure of the State in regard to these departments. The Benevolent Division shows a decrease of 2s. 3d. per capita, not because the Government are less appreciative of the claims of charity and benevolence, but because we are determined that provision to meet just claims on this behalf shall not be jeopardised by entertaining demands which have no real claim on the public purse. Furthermore, I think it goes to show that we have entered upon better times in Western Australia and that times are not so bad.

Mr. Scaddan: Has not the Federal old-age pension system relieved us to some extent in this direction?

The PREMIER: Not very much. We have still to keep the inmates in the Old Men's Home the same. We have not yet got the per capita of 7s. they have promised to give us. It has to come yet. This completes the review of the returns which are published with these estimates, and I feel convinced that the figures bear ample testimony to the care exercised by Ministers in the administration of their various departments.

*Revenue increases and decreases,
1910-11—Anticipated surplus.*

Now I come to the important question, perhaps the more important question, of this year's estimated revenue and expenditure; and if hon. members will turn to pages 2 and 3 of the Estimates of Consolidated Revenue and Expenditure they will find that I estimate the total revenue for the present year at £3,737,043 and

the expenditure at £3,633,342. This, if obtained, ought to leave a surplus on the year's working of £103,701. After wiping out the accumulated deficit with which the year begins of £102,692, I expect to have a small surplus, if my forecast is realised, of £1,009. I expect to realise from the State Departments £3,155,813, as compared with £2,953,947 actually received last year. This is an increase, so far as the State departments are concerned, of £201,866. From the Commonwealth I shall receive £581,230, or a decrease, as compared with last year, of £122,493. The net increase from all sources as compared with last year is therefore £79,373. It will be seen from the two outer columns of the figures on page 7 how these figures are arrived at. From the land tax I expect to obtain £5,656 more than I received last year.

Mr. George: What about the Federal land tax?

The PREMIER: I am not going to get any of the Federal land tax; I wish I were. The Federal Treasurer is going to collar that.

Mr. George: Are you going to charge the two?

The PREMIER: You will undoubtedly have to pay both. It will be noticed that the income tax stands practically the same as last year. I estimate the dividend duty will bring in £29,685 more than last year, representing the arrears of dividend duty which I referred to as being the subject of an appeal to the Privy Council.

Mr. Collier: If you lose the case where will you be?

The PREMIER: I have not the slightest doubt we shall win it. We have already won it in the High Court, and now it has gone to the Privy Council, and I think I am safe in saying we shall get the verdict. At any rate, my predecessor thought it good enough to put it on his Estimates; and having won all but the last post, I think I am justified in including it in my Estimates for this year. It is anticipated stamp duties will give an increased revenue of £14,286 owing to the increase of commercial activity in the State, and it seems to me it is a pretty safe estimate in view of the fact that for

the first quarter of the present year we have already collected £3,700 more than the collections for the corresponding portion of last year, and there has been nothing abnormal in the transactions. It is anticipated that land revenue will produce £40,649 more than last year owing to the enormous increase in land settlement. For the first quarter £23,000 has been received more than during the corresponding period of last year. Railways of course provide the bulk of the increase, and I have the assurance of the Commissioner of Railways that I may safely reckon on an increase of £106,603 as put down in these Estimates. The first quarter of the financial year already shows an increase of £46,000, and the harvest has yet to be carried.

Mr. Swan: What about some increases for the men?

The PREMIER: I will tell the hon. member about the increases for the men by-and-by when I get to it; they are getting very considerable increases. The increase of £9,519 on water supply returns is assured under the revised scale of the Goldfields Water Supply brought into force, as I previously mentioned, last October. We have already collected this increase during the first quarter of the present year. Harbour dues I estimate will give me an extra £27,210. The Fremantle Harbour Trust estimate they can return £20,000 net more than last year, but to be on the safe side I have allowed for only £17,000. The Bunbury Harbour Board guarantee £20,000 as against £11,000 last year; and seeing they have paid into the Treasury during the first quarter of the present year the sum of £5,500, it is reasonable to suppose their estimate will be realised. Fees of public offices it is estimated will produce £4,433 more than was received last year. On the other hand, in decreases it will be noticed that I have reduced probate duties by £27,415 while public works and services, reimbursements - in - aid, licenses and law court fees are reduced in the aggregate by £9,000 as compared with the revenue actually received last year. On the whole I have every reason to believe, after carefully considering

these figures, that my estimate will be justified, and that on the 30th June next the deficit, of which we have heard so much during many years past, will be wiped out, extinguished, be a thing of the past, and, I hope, for many years to come.

Expenditure Increases for 1910-11.
Now I will ask hon. members to follow me while I turn to the expenditure side of these Estimates. On page 15 of the Estimates will be found a general summary which shows that the expenditure is estimated to be £185,611 greater than last year. Special Acts account for £53,171 of this amount, £48,000 being the increase in interest and sinking fund payments, and £4,000 being the increase in the amount refunded from revenue on account of payments received for surveys charged to loans. Under the amending Land Act of last year the Minister was given power to use loan funds for surveys before selection and other improvements, such expenditure to be added to the purchase price of the land, repayment being made over 20 years. The other items worthy of special mention on this page are the increase in the expenditure on our railways of £44,146. It will be obvious of course that it is necessary to expend more money in order to earn the increased revenue. In addition to the amount we provided in June of last year for the replacement of rolling stock and the paint shop burnt at Midland Junction and for the relaying of the Great Southern Railway, the vote this year includes £13,605, being the balance required for replacing the rolling stock and paint shop, and £12,500, the balance required for relaying the Great Southern Railway, also an item of £4,390, which is a new item, being the contribution to the fire insurance fund, making a total of £30,000 new expenditure. The Works expenditure shows an estimated increase of £20,000, mainly for roads and schools. The expenditure voted for roads is increased by from £10,800, the actual expenditure of last year, to £20,400, the estimated expenditure for the present year. Schools have been increased from £4,500, the actual expenditure for last year, to £8,800 the estimated expenditure for this

year. The Educational vote, generally, has it will be noticed, been largely increased, and the expenditure will be more than that of the previous year by no less a sum than £17,000. This is due to the extension of our educational facilities into the new agricultural areas, the opening up of the modern school in Perth, the extension of our continuation and technical schools, and general increases in teachers' salaries. Other new claims in our Revenue Fund include £13,000, the cost of the Franco-British Exhibition, and £7,500 a contribution to the Admiralty survey of the North-West coast as against one-half that sum last year. Other minor increases occur, notably in the Lands and Colonial Secretary's Departments, the former being due to the increased business being transacted—which brings in a largely increased revenue—and the latter to the establishment of a tourist bureau, to which has been transferred the Caves Department. There is also increased pay to the police force, and provision, at the rate of £1,000 a year, for the collection of statistics of inter-State trade, to which I have previously referred.

Mr. Bolton: To what is the increase in the Treasurer's Department due?

The PREMIER: I will deal with that later on.

Public Servants' Salaries.

I want to refer to the matter of the Civil Service Association's petition to Parliament last year. It will be remembered that a petition was presented to Parliament asking firstly that the principle of granting annual increments as prescribed by the classification, and subject to good conduct and efficiency should be confirmed, and further that the constitution of the Appeal Board should be amended by the appointment of a Judge of the Supreme Court as chairman of the board in lieu of the Public Service Commissioner. In regard to the granting of automatic annual increases, I wish it to be clearly understood that the Government do not view this suggestion favourably, and the reply my predecessor gave to the hon. member for West Perth on the 25th August last holds good so far as this Ad-

ministration is concerned. The then Premier said—

The necessity for amending the Public Service Act on this point is not apparent. The Government recognise, as does the Public Service Commissioner, that an officer's maximum salary—that is, the salary to which he may attain without waiting for promotion to a higher position—will, if he shows himself worthy of this consideration, be reached by increments provided from year to year on the Estimates. The Government are not prepared to favour any amendment of the Act which would render these increases automatic, since to do so would, in their opinion, take away that incentive to energy which is necessary to an efficient service. Should the condition of business allow, it is the intention of the Government to amend certain provisions of the Act this session. Their views in regard to the constitution of the appeal board have already been given to the House.

That is the reply my predecessor gave, and which I give again to-night. Increases must, in our opinion, be subject to good conduct and merit, and must be given upon the recommendations of the heads of the departments, and the Public Service Commissioner. They must also be subject at all times to the exigencies of the State finances. Last year we had the pleasure of bringing all the civil servants in the employ of the State up to the minimum of their classification, and members, if they carefully scan the Estimates this year, will note that throughout provision for paying liberal increases has been made. No less a sum than £17,108 has been thus provided, consisting of increases to the classified staff £6,670, to the unclassified staff £5,862, and to the juniors under Section 27 of the Public Service Act £596. The increases to the railway staff total £3,980, making a total of £17,108, which we have been glad to be able to provide on these Estimates. In addition, and this in reply to the member for North Perth, the wages staff, including juniors, will receive no less a sum than £7,500 in increases. It must be obvious then that the Government have availed

themselves fully of the gradual relaxation of the financial stringency of recent years to treat the Public Service in a liberal manner.

Mr. George: Have you paid the railway cadets their back pay?

The PREMIER: I cannot answer that off-hand. The increases have all been made on merit, and on the recommendations of heads of departments, and so far as the classified officers are concerned they have been approved on the recommendation of the Public Service Commissioner. This is the principle upon which it is proposed to deal with this important matter in the future. Further, in reply to the member for North Perth who seems to think that perhaps we have not dealt as liberally as we should with the employees of the great railway system, let me point out for his consideration that the average earnings of the whole of the wages staff of the railway service has increased gradually year by year until now it is over 9 shillings a day. In 1906-7 it was 8s. 2.39d. per man, in 1907-8 it was 8s. 7.72d., in 1908-9 it was 8s. 11.62d., and in 1909-10, the year just passed, it was 9s. 0.17d., showing conclusively that the condition of the men all round in the aggregate steadily improved year by year until it has reached the average I have referred to. With regard to the constitution of the Appeal Board—the second question with which this petition deals—the Government, as already intimated on previous occasions by my predecessor, are in sympathy with the desire of the civil servants to have the constitution of the Appeal Board amended, but the urgency of the matter is not at the present time so marked, as all the appeals against the general classification have been heard and adjudicated upon. Time will certainly not permit for an amendment of the Act this session, but after giving full consideration to the matter the Government will be prepared next session to introduce an amending measure, which *inter alia* will deal with this question. That is the reply I have to give on behalf of the Government in

connection with the proposed alteration of the Appeal Board.

Mr. Collier: It would not take ten minutes to amend the Act as members are unanimous on the question.

Policy of Development.

The PREMIER: I have dealt pretty fully with the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the forthcoming year, and claim that I have been able to put figures before the Committee which must appeal to them as being of a gratifying nature to say the least of it, and I think I may claim also that the policy of development which has been carried out by the members of this Administration of course with the approval of Parliament, and which has been vigorously carried on during the year, is also one which will be received with satisfaction. The policy has only been limited by the capacity of our Public Works Department. The shortage of draftsmen and surveyors has been severely felt, and of course that has been the obstacle in the way of carrying out works perhaps as expeditiously as my colleagues and I would like to have seen. Notwithstanding this trouble, good work has been accomplished, and the total expenditure from loan and revenue through this department has been £833,000 for the past financial year. This sum is made up of salaries £51,000, wages and incidentals £14,000, roads and bridges £66,000, harbours and rivers £115,000, water supply and sewerage, £82,000, buildings £115,000, drainage of agricultural lands £14,000, and railway construction £375,000. The percentage of salaries to the amount expended by the department has been, during the year, 6.51, as against 6.53 for the previous year, showing that every care has been exercised in order to keep the cost of supervision and general administration within reasonable bounds.

Railway Construction.

During the year 219 miles of railways were constructed, 100 miles of which were handed over to the Railway Department prior to the end of the financial year, and 119 miles immediately thereafter; in

addition to which the Upper Chapman railway, a distance of 26 miles, has since been completed and handed over, so that the total mileage under the control of the working Railways Department to-day is nearly 2,300. We have in course of construction 316 miles of railways, embracing the Hedland-Marble Bar line, 114 miles; Dowerin-Merredin (two sections), 97 miles; Goomalling-Wongan Hills, 33 miles; Bridgetown-Wilgarup, 22 miles; and Boyup-Kojonup, 50 miles. The additional railway programme which I gave notice to the House as being the intention of the Government to ask members to approve of, embraces nine new railways aggregating some 529 miles. If these lines are approved of by Parliament, then, after they have been constructed, there will be that additional mileage to the existing system. The Wagin-Darkan line, for some 44 miles, is now the subject of inquiry by the advisory board. Subject to the report of that board it may possibly be included in the programme. The Leonora-Sandstone line *via* Lawlers project awaits a mineralogical report which is now being obtained, and which was promised to a deputation which waited on me when I visited Geraldton a few weeks ago, before a final decision is come to.

Mr. Scaddan: Is the Coolgardie-Esperance line to be reported upon by the advisory board?

The PREMIER: That line is not in our programme for this session of Parliament. A report is being obtained in connection with the South Swan railway proposal, in connection with which facilities for the Belmont district will be considered.

Mr. O'Loghlen: What about Marra-dong?

The PREMIER: The opening of the extreme South-West portion of the State between Busselton-Nornalup Inlet and Denmark, also to the South of Wilgarup, will, I hope, receive the early attention of the advisory board who propose making a thorough examination of this portion of the State during the summer months.

Harbour Facilities and Lighthouses.

Additional harbour facilities to meet our increasing exports are being rapidly completed, and steady progress has been made during the past year with the construction of the graving dock at Fremantle. The excavation of the basin is approaching completion, and the depositing of the concrete will be commenced in the course of a few months. On the recommendation of Sir Whately Eliot, an expert dock engineer has been appointed to take charge of this important work and he will be directly under the control of the Engineer-in-Chief. Mr. Ramsbotham, the engineer in question, has signed an agreement and he will leave England on the 14th October in order to take charge of this work. I want here to say that with the pressure of work the Engineer-in-Chief has had put upon him during the past three or four years it is essential that we should grant him some relief in this direction; and, moreover, it is impossible for the Engineer-in-Chief to attend to the details of work of this description.

Mr. Walker: Why did you send Home?

The PREMIER: Because we were advised that we could not get a man with the expert knowledge in Australasia. Special experience is required, and I am satisfied we have done right in sending Home for this gentleman. Three new lighthouses have been erected on the North-West coast, and two are in course of construction. This will complete the programme of lighthouses on the North-West coast, which will be pretty well served.

Sewerage Works and Water Supplies.

In connection with the sewerage works in Perth every effort is being made to complete the house connections in order that the work may become revenue producing as soon as possible. Arrangements are being made to expedite the work at Fremantle.

Mr. Angwin: You have been making arrangements a long time.

The PREMIER: Here, again, progress has been retarded owing to the difficulty experienced in obtaining the services of capable draftsmen.

Mr. Angwin: Why not pay them a decent salary?

The PREMIER: They are not obtainable in Australia.

Mr. Angwin: Not if you pay them £125 per annum.

The PREMIER: The drainage of the lands of the South-West has received attention; the Harvey main drain, the Yallingup Brook, and others, as well as the snagging of the Brunswick River, have been completed during the past year. I need hardly mention that this is a most important work in the wet areas, and upon it the success of our settlers practically depends. Boring operations are being continued on the Derby stock route and the 67-mile bore is down to a depth of 2,600 feet, the flow being 140,000 gallons per day. Another bore at the 80-mile stage is in progress and a sub-artesian supply has already been obtained. Two additional bores are being put down at Broome and Derby. On the route of the proposed Transcontinental Railway a large supply of fresh water has been struck, and it has risen to within 400 feet of the surface. Further operations are being carried out nearer the South Australian border.

Public Buildings.

With regard to public buildings, the architectural division have been working at high pressure, more especially in connection with schools. To meet the increasing demand of the Education Department 58 new schools and additions to existing schools have been erected, providing additional accommodation for 1,625 scholars. The first section of the new technical school was completed during the year, and it is proposed to push on with the additional buildings during the present year. The secondary school is also being completed, and the school will be opened after the Christmas vacation. It will be noted that on the present Estimates liberal provision has been made for school buildings and additions, there being no fewer than 84 items on the Revenue Estimates for this department. The Government stores in Murray-street are in course of erection and it is proposed to make additions to

the Metropolitan Water Supply Department offices in Wellington-street. Tenders are being called this week for the construction of abattoirs and cold storage buildings at North Fremantle, and the revised plans in connection with the works at Albany are now being considered by the Agricultural Department. A new block at the Claremont hospital for the insane, which provides 60 additional beds, was completed last year, and a contract has been let and the work is in progress for four ward blocks, which will provide accommodation at that establishment for an additional 200 patients. There are many other buildings in connection with the Medical and Police Departments which have been constructed during the past year, but those which I have mentioned are the main works which have been undertaken. Amongst the principal buildings to be constructed, and which are now under consideration, is the gradual completion of the Parliament House building. Additional accommodation for members, more especially of the Legislative Assembly, is urgently required, and it is proposed to complete the building in sections, spreading over three or four years. At any rate I hope that next year, after the Loan Estimates are passed, we shall get the sanction of Parliament so that we may complete this end of the structure, and in the following year complete the wing facing Hay-street, and in the third or fourth year to complete the front.

Mr. Scaddan: It is a reproductive work.

The PREMIER: I suppose the most reproductive work in the State. Office accommodation is to be provided for the Central Board of Health and the Aborigines Department, and a new wing is to be built for the Perth Museum and Library, both of which have outgrown their present accommodation. As before mentioned, I hope we shall be able to complete the technical school.

The Mining Industry.

I want briefly to refer to our industries. I come, of course, to the main industry to which Western Australia owes so much

—the mining industry. Although the capital value of the gold output continues to show a decrease, I maintain it is quite evident that we can look forward to a long future in this great industry in our State. Our gold production still holds first place in Australasia, and last year it produced 46 per cent. of the total output. The reduced value is not due to the decreased output, as hon. members are fully aware, but to the treatment of lower grade ores. The installation of high grade machinery and more economical methods, and the reduction of the cost of production must mean a longer life and the greater permanence of the industry. The value per ton of ore treated has undoubtedly decreased enormously, having fallen from 99s. 6d. in 1899 to 42s. 6d. in 1909. During the same period the tonnage treated has almost trebled. Most of the principal mines on the Golden Mile give very satisfactory reports of the latest developments, and the reports from that portion of our State show that the ore bodies on that goldfield exist at a depth and contain good values. Meekatharra is proving well worthy of the railway facilities granted to it, and it bids fair to equal almost any other of the goldfields of the State.

Mr. Scaddan: Why did you not tell the people at Wandering the other day that the member for Beverley had libelled the goldfields.

The PREMIER: The member for Beverley was only encouraging the agriculturists there. With regard to recent discoveries a report sent to me states that at Mt. Egerton there is an enormous mineral belt to be opened up and developed in that portion of the State, and I need hardly remind hon. members who know the district well that Black Range is most prosperous at present. At Youanme, which is situated 50 miles south of Black Range—and I regret it was a portion of the district I missed during my visit to Sandstone—mining operations on a large scale are being inaugurated. The railway which has been constructed to Sandstone is assisting enormously towards economical mining in that district, and I have been advised that mining timber which re-

cently cost as much as 2s. per foot is being provided at from 6d. to 8d. per foot; and, in addition, instead of using the imported article, to a large extent, on account of the cheaper cost of cartage, jarrah is now being used, which, of course, is helpful to our timber industry. It is confidently hoped that the advent of the Port Hedland-Marble Bar railway will materially help the development of that district, and it is certainly anticipated with some degree of confidence that a revival in mining operations will result when that railway is opened.

The Bullfinch Discoveries.

But, of course, I may at once admit that all these outside centres, even the Golden Mile, sink into insignificance when we listen to the wonderful reports which have been received with regard to the discoveries at the Bullfinch, north of Southern Cross, and all attention at the present time is concentrated upon these remarkable discoveries. They bid fair, and I have this on pretty good authority, to eclipse anything that has been discovered in the history of the State; at any rate, they will equal even the Golden Mile at Kalgoorlie. The official report that I had sent to me by my colleague, the Minister for Mines, discloses the fact that 80 tons which were treated yielded 482 fine ounces, an average of over 6 ounces to the ton; while with regard to recent reports—no doubt hon. members have heard of them equally with myself—and which have been obtained also from reliable sources, they are almost beyond credence. The country has been pegged out almost continuously between the Corinthian and the Bullfinch leases, a distance of about 10 miles, and north for several miles. At the Golden Valley, where I first had some experience in gold mining 17 years ago, and where the first gold of the Eastern Goldfields was discovered, there is likely to be a very remarkable scene of increasing activity in the near future. The registrar advises me that some 89 leases, comprising 2,100 acres, have been applied for in the vicinity of the Bullfinch mine, and 13 leases, containing 224 acres, at Golden Valley, in addition to which 7 leases, containing 168 acres, have been applied for near the

Corinthian mine, and other parts of the Yilgarn field are responding to the excitement. Leases have been applied for from various other centres between Hope's Hill to the north of Southern Cross and Jacoletti to the south of Southern Cross. A township is being surveyed at present at the Bullfinch and it is hoped to have the survey completed in the near future and that lots will be offered for sale. The Mines Water Supply Department, I think, are entitled to some credit for the fact that for some time past they have been sinking wells between Southern Cross and Sandstone, and east to Mulline. This has enabled prospecting to be carried over an enormous area of auriferous country. The stimulus given to prospecting through this wonderful discovery of the Bullfinch will, I think, beyond doubt prove that many other payable centres are there; and in the course of time they will be opened up. The question of water supply is receiving the attention of the Government, as water has to be carted from Southern Cross 22½ miles to Bullfinch, and is being sold, I believe, at the rate of 4d. per gallon at the present time. The Government have despatched the engineer and the secretary of the Goldfields Water Supply to the field with the object of reporting on the project of running a pipe main from the goldfields main to the locality. Of course it will, to some extent, depend upon the anticipated permanency of the district, which is, I believe, undoubted.

Mr. Scaddan: What do they know about it, anyhow?

The PREMIER: They can make inquiries on the spot and see for themselves. A man's knowledge is mainly what he obtains from others as a rule. These officers will inquire into and report upon the expediency of laying this pipe main. The present supply is limited and, so far, the demand can only be for a relatively small quantity; but it goes without saying that if the Bullfinch is what it is reported to be, and the Corinthian, which is also developing, to say nothing of other shows that are opening up and the number of companies being floated to open up further new leases, there will be a great con-

sumption of water within that district in a few months. Inquiries are also being made, and should they go to confirm the permanency of the district, which I feel sure they will do, we shall have no hesitation in asking Parliament before it rises to sanction the construction of a railway to that district. The developments to the South of Southern Cross are also most encouraging, and the steady progress in the production of copper at Whim Creek to the North and Phillips River to the South seems to give promise that both these centres will be very large producers. Altogether the outlook for our mining industry is better to-day than it has been for some years past. The great possibilities for legitimate investment of capital are certainly, to my mind, deserving of more attention than they have received during recent years, and I hope that the scare which miners seem to have received with regard to the industry in Western Australia—or if not miners, at any rate capitalists—will once for all be removed, and that we shall have a very large investment of capital in our mining industry once more, which will not only bring trade to our merchants and others, but also provide for labour a wider field of employment. It is marvellous to think that, including the gold production, the mineral production of this State has reached £100,000,000 worth at the present time, and that of this sum £21,000,000 has been paid away in dividends. This is the result of the work of, comparatively speaking, a handful of people—a population varying from about 50,000, at which figure it stood when I first came to the State 19 or 20 years ago, to 250,000 as it is to-day—and it constitutes what may be termed a marvellous record in the history of any country.

Coal Mining Industry.

Before leaving the mining industry I should like to offer a few remarks with regard to our collieries. These show a marked improvement so far as production is concerned. The output for last year was 40,000 tons in excess of that of the previous year, due largely, of course, to the bunkering trade. But from a State

point of view it is highly satisfactory, inasmuch as the men employed last year had increased considerably over the number employed during the previous financial year. For instance, the number of men employed during 1909 on the coal-fields at Collie was 393, while during the past nine months of the present year the average was 525; and the output during the nine months of the present year exceeds that of the corresponding period of last year by 63,152 tons.

Mr Angwin: That was under exceptional circumstances.

The PREMIER: The exceptional circumstances are that during the nine months of the present year the coal output was 63,000 tons in excess of that of the corresponding period of last year. That is a very gratifying result, and goes to prove that the bunkering trade, which was won during the unfortunate strike at Newcastle, has been to some extent maintained, and that the steamers are still taking our local coal for bunkering purposes.

Agricultural Development.

Passing from this fascinating subject of mining, let me point out that the more permanent industries in connection with land settlement are going ahead by leaps and bounds, and that notwithstanding some complaints must necessarily be levelled from time to time against a department which has met such a rush as we have had during the past 12 months in connection with land selection, credit must be given to the Minister controlling the department for the energy he has displayed, the life he has infused into his officers, and more especially for the economy which has been exercised. Last year showed a record in selection of conditional purchase leases and homestead farms, the conditional purchase selections aggregating 1,414,241 acres, and the homestead farms 238,102 acres, or a grand total of 1,652,343 acres. In the previous year there were selected 898,037 acres of conditional purchase leases and 257,528 acres of homestead farms, or a total of 1,155,565 acres, showing an increase this

year of 496,778 acres, all this area having been selected for agricultural purposes. If only a small percentage of this increased area of land selected is put under cultivation next year it must necessarily mean considerably added wealth to the community. It will be noticed that the granting of grazing leases was suspended for the greater portion of last year, so that only 238,876 acres were taken up as compared with 850,066 in the previous year. Pastoral leases were issued to the extent of 10,130,000 acres as against 9,787,000 acres in the previous year. In the Survey Department a record has been put up of which the Minister is justly proud. In 1908-9 1,766,730 acres were surveyed, but this record was fairly eclipsed last year by a survey of an area of 2,664,830 acres; and notwithstanding this great record the work has been done more cheaply than ever before in the history of the State. The total expenditure of the Lands Department from Consolidated Revenue and loan for last year was £161,713 as against £160,766 in the previous year; so that 898,100 acres extra and additional were surveyed and classified for an increased expenditure of only £947. This, I think, is something the Minister may well be proud of; and when I point out that the great bulk of the surveying has been done under contract at rates only averaging 4½d. per acre, and that the classification of the land, which is so essential to facilitate settlement, has been included in that cost, at least during the last half of the year, then I say the energy and life the Minister has infused into his officers to bring forward such a gratifying result, is very creditable to him and his staff. More is being done at the present time to improve the position of new selectors than ever before, and not only has good work been done in the Survey Department, but roads have been cleared to allow the selector to get to and from the nearest railway. During the last year 300 miles of road were cleared in new country, and the question of water was attended to by the provision of 60 tanks and wells. The export of wheat, which reached 2,000,000 bushels last year, it is confidently anticipated will be between 4,000,000 and 5,000,000 bushels this year; and notwith-

standing that in some of the districts the crops have suffered to some extent for want of late rains, I am perfectly safe in estimating that the harvest will produce between 8,000,000 and 9,000,000 bushels of wheat as against 5,600,000 bushels last year. The increased accommodation at Fremantle, which it is expected will be ready in December next, will with the wharf sheds, give a total provision for 420,000 bags of wheat, and every effort is being made to have all the facilities completed, so that there may be no delay in the despatch of vessels from the ports of shipment.

Fruit-growing and Export.

I am convinced we have another valuable adjunct to the State's prosperity in the fruit growing industry, and it is gratifying to notice that this is also increasing by leaps and bounds, although not to the same noticeable extent as the wheat growing industry. During the fruit season of 1908 and 1909 we exported 4,000 cases of fruit. In the 1909-10 season we exported 10,437 cases of fruit, and this season it is on good authority anticipated that we shall export more than double that of last season, or something like 24,000 cases.

Mr. O'Loghlen: Yet we are eating imported jam.

The PREMIER: For my part I eat locally made jam, and I wonder that the hon. member does not support local industry. Of these 24,000 cases, between 3,000 and 4,000 cases of grapes will go to the Indian market.

Mr. Seaddan: They make jam of grapes.

The PREMIER: Not of Western Australian grapes, for they are too good for the purpose. They bring 1s. 3d. per pound in London. I may say the grapes, and all varieties of fruits, promise to be exceedingly good this season. As hon. members know, phenomenal prices were reached last year, apples bringing as high as 27s. per case, and table grapes up to and over 30s. per case, which goes to show that we not only produce the right quality but that the fruit arrives at the proper time for London markets. The area un-

der fruit has trebled during the last 10 years, and now stands at about 16,000 acres.

Mr. Jacoby: More than 18,000 this year. We have not all the figures yet.

The PREMIER: There is still very much to be done, but of course it is slow work building up an industry of this description. The Government recognise that we must give all the expert and scientific experience possible to our fruit growers, and a vegetable pathologist and botanist has been appointed—Mr. Stoward, from Birmingham University—who will advise on fruit and food plant diseases, and will have plenty of work to do in classifying plants. It is proposed to appoint an up-to-date horticulturist to instruct in picking, grading, and packing for export, and generally to give expert advice to those who wish to embark in this industry.

Agricultural Bank.

The Agricultural Bank, which is so intimately associated with our land settlement policy, continues to do excellent work. The total amount advanced to 30th June last was £1,259,000, of which £323,099 has been repaid, leaving £936,450 outstanding at that date. The total loans authorised amounted to £1,758,658, of which £392,650 were authorised last year. During the year 1,354 new accounts were opened and 629 were closed, leaving 6,007 accounts current on the books. The profit for the year amounted to £6,823, notwithstanding that the bank is now charged and is paying 4 per cent. to the Savings Bank on all capital raised since the 1st July, 1900. It is a record which goes to show that our bank is fulfilling the functions for which it was established and that the management is controlling in the interests of the State the operations and working of the institution in a proper, systematic, and business-like way, and that those who require assistance from the bank are receiving it in order to make their efforts in the earlier stages of their land settlement successful to themselves, and with a profitable result to the State generally.

Other Industries.

The pastoral industry continues to show a very gratifying extension. Sheep and cattle have more than doubled in the State during the past ten years. The value of the wool export for 1909 was £1,013,000, showing an increase on the previous year of £376,000. The figures of the great timber industry show that during last year the exports amounted to £918,000, being an increase of £84,000 over the previous year. I am advised that the mills are fully occupied at the present time and have a good many months' work ahead of them, and that there is every indication at present that the demand for our locally-grown timber will continue during this financial year. It is interesting to hon. members and perhaps to the public generally to note that for every load of timber we send away from our shores something like £3 is expended in the State in the payment of wages, stores, railage, and other charges and working expenses incidental to the industry. I do not know of any other industry which gives a bigger percentage of its gross return to the country in the shape of wages and such-like charges expended in the State than the timber industry of Western Australia. The export of pearls and shell amounted to £275,000 and was very much the same as in the previous year.

Immigration.

Immigration is a matter that is receiving the very close attention of the Government; and here again I want to pay a tribute to Sir Newton Moore for the energy he put into this question during his recent visit to the Old Country. The stream of immigration in consequence of his efforts has, I think, fairly set in to our State. The numbers that have recently arrived have quickly been absorbed, and still the demand largely exceeds the supply. Some 3,000 odd immigrants will arrive by the middle of January next, consisting mainly of agriculturists, agricultural labourers and female domestic servants. They have been selected with the greatest care possible in London by

the officers of the department; and in order that we may have as little difficulty as possible in placing these people when they come to us, the Immigration Bureau has been reorganised, and arrangements have been made in different centres throughout the agricultural areas and elsewhere to place these immigrants on the farms and on the settled portions of our country immediately upon their arrival. From all quarters of the State I may say I have received reports of the scarcity of labour, and it not only applies to the agricultural industry, but to almost every calling in the State. In almost every walk of life there is a demand for labour at the present time; and if this demand continues, as certainly I, for one, hope it will be in the interests of the State, we will have to take into consideration what steps must be taken to meet it.

Savings Bank.

The Savings Bank record for last year confirms the other evidence of increasing prosperity. The gross income from investment and minor sources in connection with the institution totalled £115,215; and after paying the departmental expenses and interest, the net profit of the institution amounted to £9,385. The amount of interest credited to the depositors' accounts amounted to no less than £90,404, as against £83,732 for last year. The total amount held on account of depositors, including the interest credited on the 30th June last, is £3,481,764, being an increase of £419,727 on the previous year. The number of accounts open is over 80,000 at present. The average amount to the credit of depositors is £44 16s. 4d., as against £42 16s. 9d. last year. There is an increase of about 6,000 accounts as against the previous year. When I point out that the branches and agencies in connection with this institution, including the head office, total 147, we can attempt to realise the magnitude of the institution and its public utility. During the year 70 new agencies were opened and two closed. A very pleasing feature of the institution is the penny

savings bank department inaugurated two or three years ago in connection with our schools. This is increasing by leaps and bounds. Deposits are being received by 33 additional schools, making a total of 138 schools, and 6,781 young depositors are on the books of the bank, with a total of £5,450 to their credit. The average deposits so far as these scholars are concerned have increased from 13s. 3d. to 16s. 1d. per head. Thus thrift is being instilled into the rising generation of our State.

Mr. Angwin: It has been in force over seven years.

The PREMIER: The increase in deposits is not confined to the State Savings Bank. The banking returns of the six different banks of issue in the State show a large increase in deposits, evidence of the accumulating wealth and the increased prosperity of our people.

Conclusion.

I have finished once more the arduous task of placing the Estimates before the Committee of the House; and in conclusion I may be pardoned for quoting from Shakespeare's well-known lines—

There is a tide in the affairs of men,
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune—

a tide which also applies to the affairs of nations. I submit that the statement laid before the Committee to-night clearly proves that we have seized the right time to prosecute our developmental policy. In the words of William Ewart Gladstone, "The flowing tide is with us." The confidence which we have year by year expressed in the unbounded possibilities of our country is being amply justified. I have shown that the finances of the State, carefully handled through a very trying period, are upon a sound foundation, and that we may proceed without fear to prosecute the development of this great territory, even at a much more accelerated speed than we have made in the past, in the sure confidence that we are acting in the best interests of our people and taking our full share in building up the Commonwealth and the Empire. I have much pleasure in moving the first item of the Estimates—

His Excellency the Governor, £2,297:

Progress reported.

House adjourned at 9.43 p.m.

PAIR.

Sir N. J. Moore | Mr. Ware

APPENDIX TABLES Nos. 1 to 8, referred to in the Treasurer's Financial Statement.

[No. 1.]

Revenue, 1909-10.

					£
The actual amount received for the year was	..	...	...	...	3,657,670
The Treasurer's estimate was	...	...	...	...	3,436,118
Or a total net under-estimate of	...	...	...	...	<u>£221,552</u>
<i>The under-estimates were—</i>					£
Commonwealth	...	...	...	...	102,723
Railways	...	...	...	...	74,397
Probate	...	...	...	...	17,416
"Miscellaneous"	...	...	...	...	13,297
"Other Public Works and Services"	...	...	...	...	12,731
Harbour Dues	...	...	...	...	12,290
Reimbursements-in-aid	...	...	...	...	11,842
Residue	...	...	...	...	28,794
					<u>£273,490</u>

Revenue—continued.

<i>The over-estimates were—</i>						£	
Dividend Duty	...	...	...	...	...	36,685	
State Batteries	...	...	...	...	...	7,045	
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	3,289	
Residue	...	...	...	...	...	4,919	
							£51,988
							£221,552

Expenditure, 1909-10.

						£	
The actual amount expended for the year was	...	...	...	...	...	3,447,731	
The Treasurer's estimate was	...	...	...	...	...	3,393,437	
							£54,294
<i>The under-estimates were—</i>						£	
Railways	...	...	...	...	...	73,539	
Colonial Treasurer	...	...	...	...	...	9,435	
Special Acts	...	...	...	...	...	4,528	
Residue	...	...	...	...	...	503	
							£88,005
<i>The over-estimates were—</i>						£	
Minister for Lands	...	...	...	...	...	7,874	
Colonial Secretary	...	...	...	...	...	6,520	
Minister for Mines	...	...	...	...	...	4,900	
Do. Works	...	...	...	...	...	4,608	
Attorney General	...	...	...	...	...	3,640	
Minister for Education	...	...	...	...	...	3,346	
Do. Agriculture	...	...	...	...	...	2,607	
Legislature	...	...	...	...	...	216	
							£33,711
							£54,294

Summary of Revenue and Expenditure, 1909-10.

				£	£	
Estimated Deficit 30th June, 1910	...	...	...	269,950		
Net Under-estimate of Revenue	...	...	221,552			
Less do. Expenditure	...	...	54,294			
				167,258		
Actual Deficit	...	...	...			£102,692
Deficit from 1908-9	...	...	312,631			
Expenditure as above	...	...	3,447,731			
				3,760,362		
Less Revenue as above	...	...	...	3,657,670		
						£102,692

[No. 2.]

Synopsis of Balance Sheets as at 30th June, 1909, and 30th June, 1910.

(The Balance Sheets are not the State's, showing its Liabilities and Assets, but the Treasurer's, accounting for the Funds placed at his disposal by the State.)

Dr.—(i.e., Amounts for which the Treasurer is liable.)	1909.	1910.
	£	£
General Loan Fund	928,051	1,275,375
London County and Westminster Bank ... ..	...	85,000
Sinking Funds	2,233,385	2,569,707
Government Savings Bank	3,086,000	3,509,874
Trust and Deposit Accounts Generally	1,039,029	1,260,694
	<u>£7,286,465</u>	<u>8,700,650</u>

Cr.—(i.e., Assets held by the Treasurer.)

<i>Generally.</i>	£	£
Consolidated Revenue Fund Balance, being Deficit (i.e., Revenue claims paid by the Treasurer, but to meet which the State had not placed Revenue moneys at his disposal)	312,631	102,692
Advances to be recovered by the Treasurer—that is, by debiting votes, etc., of subsequent years	116,965	a 211,958
Investments on account of Savings Bank, Sinking Funds, etc.	5,526,120	6,199,262
Stores on hand, to be charged, when issued for consumption, to votes of succeeding years	331,947	392,543

Cash on hand and in transitu.

At the Treasury	51,074	88,368
Current Accounts in the State	283,923	570,848
Do. do. Eastern States	638	2,219
Do. do. London	293,886	524,315
Government Savings Bank	369,036	606,819
Sinking Funds Municipal Loans	17	186
Agricultural Bank Redemption Account	228	1,440
	<u>£7,286,465</u>	<u>8,700,650</u>

^a Principal item of increase was repayment by Agent General to London County and Westminster Bank of £35,000 advance (*see* Contra above), which repayment had been made in June, as was learned after the Treasury books were closed. A synopsis of the Agent General's June Account is cabled on the last day of the financial year to the Treasury for inclusion in the Public Accounts.

{No. 3.]

Details of Commonwealth Revenue for 1909-10.

Head and Sub-head.	Inter-State Adjustments 1909/10. Net Credits.	Actual, 1909/10. (Including pre- vious column.)
	£	£
Customs—		
Stimulants	29,354	233,580
Narcotics	58,145	91,221
Sugar, including Glucose	1,023	32,546
Agricultural Products and Groceries	7,389	89,633
Apparel and Textiles	16,866	127,410
Metals and Machinery	4,247	104,147
Oils, Paints, and Varnishes	1,835	13,882
Earthenware, etc.	922	13,953
Drugs and Chemicals	1,668	8,743
Wood, Wicker, and Cane	1,262	18,971
Jewellery and Fancy Goods	2,098	16,255
Leather and Rubber	5,166	22,012
Paper and Stationery	1,013	12,187
Other	1,871	34,931
Total	132,859	824,471
Excise—		
Beer	5,656	58,820
Spirits	1,623	11,783
Sugar	7,322	32,526
Tobacco	50,740	56,717
Other	198	1,092
Total	65,539	160,938
Total Customs and Excise	198,398	985,409
POSTAL, ETC. ... ..	...	293,356
DEFENCE, ETC. ... ..	...	13,455
ADVANCE FROM TRUST ... ..	...	28,257
Grand Total	198,398	1,320,477

*Details of Commonwealth Revenue, etc.—continued.**Estimate, 1910-11.*

No detail as above is available. The estimated return for the year is ascertained as under:

	£
25s. per capita of our population, which is estimated by Federal	
Treasurer at 280,000 on 31st December next	350,000
Special payment made by Commonwealth	125,000
Do. do. States	£125,000
Less our share	7,823
	<u>117,177</u>
Total	<u>592,177</u>
Reconciliation with State Estimate:	
1908-9—Under-payment to State	5,290
1909-10—Amount due for year	£707,599
Less amount withheld under Section 4 of	
Surplus Revenue Act, No. 8 of 1910 <i>a</i>	20,113
	<u>687,486</u>
1910-11—As above	<u>592,177</u>
	1,284,953
Actual amount credited to Revenue by the State in 1909-10 ...	703,723
Revenue for 1910-11 as per Estimate	<u>£581,230</u>

a. This deduction is practically in accord with paragraph 3 of the Financial Agreement, under the terms of which the States undertook (assuming that the other provisions of the Agreement were given effect to, e.g., its incorporation in the Constitution) to provide, up to £500,000, any deficit the Federal Treasurer might have last year. Instead of charging this shortage on the ordinary per capita basis, it was decided, on the motion of our late Premier, that the Pension States (New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland) should contribute 50 per cent. more per capita than the other three States. Under this provision Western Australia has saved in the allocation of the £450,000 (the actual deficit), £8,057.

[No. 4.]

Commonwealth Expenditure on Additions, New Works, Buildings, etc., in the State.

Head and Sub-Head.	Actual, 1909-10.	Estimated, 1910-11.
CUSTOMS—	£	£
Customs House, Broome	800
Pt. Sampson, Land and Building	1,000
Quarantine	<i>a</i> 1,700
Total	£	3,500
POST OFFICE—		
Perth Telephone Exchange	<i>b</i> 6,000
West Perth Post Office	1,220
Bridgetown Post Office	750

a, b. Estimated total cost, respectively £5,809, £9,000.

Commonwealth Expenditure on Additions, etc.—continued.

Head and Sub-Head.						Actual, 1909-10.	Estimated 1910-11.
						£	£
Ravensthorpe Post Office	...	...	...	...	...	...	455
Kellerberrin Post Office	...	...	...	...	...	...	a 500
Pt. Hedland Post Office	...	...	...	...	...	...	800
Brookton Post Office	...	...	...	...	...	888	39
Sandstone Post Office	...	...	...	...	...	674	333
Goomalling Post Office	...	...	...	...	...	406	677
Maylands Post Office	...	...	...	...	...	700	50
Sundry Offices	...	...	...	...	...	615	3,178
Do. Sewerage	...	...	...	...	...	...	400
North Telegraph Routes—Catchment Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	1,008	1,022
Construction Telegraph Lines	...	...	...	...	...	9,670	21,400
Do. Telephone Lines, including placing of wires underground	...	...	...	...	...	16,702	36,000
New Trunk Lines	...	...	...	...	...	2,601	5,000
Metallic Circuits in existing Single Wire Networks	...	...	...	...	...	1,802	400
New Switchboards and Extensions	...	...	...	...	...	5,624	500
Non-recurring	...	...	...	...	...	3,606	...
Total	...	...	...	...	£	44,296	78,724
DEFENCES—							
Fortifications	...	...	...	...	...	83	851
Cottesloe Rifle Range—Site and Construction	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,000
Miniature Rifle Ranges for Cadets	...	...	...	...	...	680	200
Kalgoorlie Rifle Range	...	...	...	...	...	418	415
Other Rifle Ranges	...	...	...	...	...	509	1,198
Grants to Rifle Clubs for Ranges	...	...	...	...	...	893	1,000
Racks for Cadet Rifles	...	...	...	...	...	94	25
Midland Junction Drill Hall, Site and Building	...	...	...	...	...	675	175
Other Drill Halls	...	...	...	...	...	302	798
Fort and Site at North Fremantle	...	...	...	...	...	102	153
Fremantle Defences—Site and Buildings for Barracks and Quarters	...	...	...	...	...	3,000	16,500
Other Barracks	...	...	...	...	...	47	1,276
Perth, Office Accommodation for Australian Intelligence Corps and Infantry	...	...	...	...	...	...	600
Perth District Head Quarters, Increased Office Accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	b 500
Perth Drill Hall, Sewerage	...	...	...	...	...	...	150
Perth Store for Small Arms at Ordnance Store	...	...	...	...	...	...	900
Tammin Defence Reserve, Storeroom	...	...	...	...	...	...	250
Stabling and other Buildings for Military Horses	...	...	...	...	...	...	c 250
Boat Shed, Slipway, and two Cutters, Naval Forces	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,300
Fremantle, Command Telephone Communication	...	...	...	...	...	...	755
Karrakatta, Storeroom 18-pdr. Q.F. Ammunition	...	...	...	...	...	163	228
Guns, Lights, and Emplacements for Fixed Defences	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,605
Non-recurring	...	...	...	...	...	366	...
Total	...	...	...	...	£	7,332	35,129
Grand Total	...	...	...	...	£	d 51,628	117,353

a, b, c. Estimated total cost, respectively, £1,100, £2,000, £2,600. d The total should be £62,053; the particulars in regard to certain items such as "Special Defence Stores" are not available.

Commonwealth Revenue and Expenditure, 1st July, 1901, to 30th June, 1910.

Head and Sub-Head.	1901/2.	1902/3.	1903/4.	1904/5.	1905/6.	1906/7.	1907/8.	1908/9.	1909/10.
REVENUE.									
Customs and Excise—Federal Tariff ...	£ 1,134,045	£ 1,162,535	£ 1,061,789	£ 1,029,515	£ 953,147	£ 935,841	£ 998,980	£ 887,040	£ 985,409
Do. do. Special Tariff ...	201,569	239,467	196,936	142,549	77,666	16,776	...	...	...
Post Office, Telegraphs, Telephones, etc. ...	225,752	225,244	230,958	257,603	252,741	259,688	266,510	272,936	293,356
Other ...	172	716	828	2,057	3,549	4,111	5,292	6,105	13,456
Total ...	£ 1,561,538	£ 1,621,962	£ 1,490,411	£ 1,431,624	£ 1,287,103	£ 1,216,416	£ 1,270,732	£ 1,166,081	£ 1,292,220
Advance from Trust Funds to enable Revenue to pay its way	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28,257
									1,320,477
EXPENDITURE.									
<i>Transferred—</i>									
Customs ...	31,991	34,687	33,836	33,937	34,762	32,136	33,380	33,301	32,668
Post Office ...	256,392	269,757	278,994	277,835	283,005	281,378	300,595	55,045	322,234
Defence ...	33,693	31,320	41,967	40,368	45,261	49,172	53,086	312,266	74,968
Quarantine ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,876
Immigration Restriction Act ...	...	...	...	...	...	300	...	200	...
<i>Other—Ordinary, i.e., Cost of Commonwealth Departments, etc. ...</i>	14,061	17,524	26,559	28,112	31,996	48,551	77,284	95,659	121,800
<i>Additions, New Works, Buildings, etc., a—</i>									
Customs ...	...	53	2,668	120	114	74	559	1,251	320
Post Office ...	2,178	10,547	26,910	8,016	9,214	17,521	26,611	33,812	34,693
Defence ...	1,274	1,150	13,571	12,177	10,791	12,401	27,479	6,322	21,163
Other ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	271	157
Total ...	£ 339,589	£ 365,038	£ 424,495	£ 400,565	£ 415,143	£ 441,533	£ 518,997	£ 538,127	£ 612,878
Balance of Revenue returned to the State ...	1,225,076	1,255,732	1,065,244	1,027,898	872,992	780,166	753,510	618,803	670,599
Adjustments, etc. ...	- 3,127	+ 1,192	+ 672	3,161	- 1,032	- 5,283	- 1,775	+ 9,151	...
Total as above ...	£ 1,561,538	£ 1,621,962	£ 1,490,411	£ 1,431,624	£ 1,287,103	£ 1,216,416	£ 1,270,732	£ 1,166,081	£ 1,320,477
<i>Additions, New Works, Buildings, etc.—</i>									
Expended in the State ...	3,452	11,750	43,139	52,085	68,872	50,291	72,815	44,445	62,053
Charged to the State ...	3,452	11,750	43,139	20,313	20,119	29,996	54,652	41,656	56,833

^a Since 1st July, 1904, calculated on population basis. Prior to that date charged as "transferred." ^b Of this amount only £687,380 was returned during the year to the State.

NOTE.—The "transferred" Expenditure of each State has been charged in its entirety to that State. "Other" Expenditure has been charged per capita, our share being about one-sixteenth.

[No. 6.]

Loan Authorisations, etc., as at the 30th June, 1910.

	£	£	£
<i>Authorisations and Flotations—</i>			
Authorisations to 30th June, 1909 ...	...	22,185,253	
Do. during 1909-10 ...	...	1,342,000	
		<hr/>	
Do. to 30th June, 1910 ...	...	...	23,527,253
<i>Flotations to 30th June, 1909—</i>			
General Loans ...	18,596,253		
Local Debentures ...	246,100		
Do. Inscribed Stock ...	2,625,900		
Treasury Bills ...	717,000		
	<hr/>	22,185,253	
<i>Flotations during 1909-10—</i>			
General Loans ...		1,342,000	
Authorisations available for Flotation, 30th June, 1910 ...	...	Nil	
		<hr/>	23,527,253

Actual Net Loan Indebtedness—

Flotations to 30th June, 1909, as above ...	...	22,185,253	
Less—Bonds Redeemed ...	233,500		
Accumulated Sinking Fund...	2,233,385		
	<hr/>	2,466,885	

Actual Net Loan Indebtedness, 30th June, 1909 ...	...	19,718,368	
Flotations during 1909-10 as above	1,342,000		
Less—Bonds Redeemed during 1909-10 ...	£6,300		
Accretions to Accumulated Sinking Fund during 1909-10 ...	£336,322		
	<hr/>	342,622	
		<hr/>	999,378

Actual Net Loan Indebtedness, 30th June, 1910	20,717,746
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[No. 7.]

Loan Flotations, Debt, and Expenditure, as at the 30th June, 1910.

Works and Services.	Flotations.	Actual In- debtedness on Works and Services.	Actual Cash Spent.
	£	£	£
Railways	12,825,631	12,562,237	11,256,075
Harbours and Rivers	2,869,337	2,805,950	2,520,020
Goldfields Water Scheme	2,903,078	2,866,454	2,655,220
Water Supply generally	338,244	337,573	254,315
Sewerage	599,037	598,700	416,168
Erection of State Batteries	228,176	226,599	191,596
Development of Goldfields and Mineral Resources	1,191,748	1,056,766	892,732
Development of Agriculture	1,349,881	1,309,724	1,075,358
Telegraphs	276,721	304,112	332,118
Roads and Bridges	233,406	285,093	251,978
Public Buildings	521,732	652,088	538,545
Immigration	28,670	28,670	28,085
Miscellaneous	161,592	253,487	98,983
£			
Discounts and Flotation Expenses	1,047,166		
Unexpended Balance Gen- eral Loan Fund	1,915,075		
Unexpended Balance Gov- ernment Property Sales Fund	53,819		
			3,016,060
Debentures Redeemed ... ..	...	239,800	
TOTAL FLOTATIONS	£ 23,527,253	23,527,253	23,527,253

Apparent anomalies as between the figures in the respective columns above are accounted for partly by redemptions, partly by reappropriations through Sale of Government Property Trust Account, by Statistical Transfers, and materially of course by the large unexpended balance.

[No 8.]

Return showing Divisional Analysis of Revenue and Expenditure for 1909-10.

DIVISIONS, SUB-DEPARTMENTS, ETC.	EXPENDITURE.								Revenue.	PROFIT OR LOSS IN WORKING.						No.
	General, i.e., Cost of Sub-Departments, etc., as set out in "Public Accounts."	Public Works and Buildings Expenditure.	Public Debt Charges.		Pensions and Retiring Allowances.	Awards and Law Costs.	Sundries.	Total.		Total.		Per Capita.		Per Capita Figures for 1908-9.		
			Interest.	Sinking Fund.						Profit.	Loss.	Profit.	Loss.	Profit.	Loss.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
Gubernatorial—	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
1 Governor	7,025	36	280	67	150			7,558			7,558		0 6 55		0 5 71	
2 Executive Council	401				241			642			642		0 0 56		0 0 58	
3 Premier	1,031	30					28	1,089			1,089		0 0 95		0 1 12	
Total	8,457	66	280	67	391		28	9,289			9,289		0 8 06		0 7 41	
Parliamentary—																
4 Ministerial Salaries	6,000							6,000			6,000		0 5 20		0 5 32	
5 Ministerial and Parliamentary Visits, etc.	1,324							1,324			1,324		0 1 15		0 0 75	
6 Legislative Council	1,725							1,725			1,725		0 1 49		0 1 62	
7 Legislative Assembly	3,067							3,067			3,067		0 2 66		0 2 74	
8 Joint Houses of Parliament	6,422	991			336			7,749			7,749		0 6 72		0 6 24	
9 Payment of Members	13,939							13,939			13,939		1 0 09		1 0 01	
10 Members' Free Passes and Coach and Steamer Fares a	442						16	458			458		0 0 40		0 0 57	
11 Royal Commissions Generally	1,710						280	1,990			1,990		0 1 73		0 1 12	
12 Electoral	6,979	36				6	275	7,290	140		7,150		0 6 20		0 9 43	
Total	41,608	1,027			336	6	571	43,548	140		43,408		3 1 64		3 3 80	
Law and Order—																
13 Judges	7,100				1,000			8,100			8,100		0 7 02		0 7 41	
14 Crown Law Offices	7,452	212			65	135		7,864	1,367		6,497		0 5 64		0 5 28	
15 Stipendiary Magistracy b	26,391	1,768	423	96	1,704	48	55	30,485	9,816		20,669		1 5 92		2 1 63	
16 Supreme Court	13,481	356			300			14,137	9,384		4,753		0 4 12		0 3 80	
17 Police	115,904	4,278	487	116	77	36	30	120,928	4,148		116,780		8 5 27		9 1 03	
18 Gaols	28,230	1,022	1,069	77	498		21	30,917	3,108		27,809		2 0 12		2 4 72	
Total	198,558	7,636	1,979	289	3,644	219	106	212,431	27,823		184,608		13 4 09		14 11 87	
Financial—																
19 Treasury	7,775	323			302		190	8,590	517		8,073		0 7 00		0 7 33	
20 Treasury Interest and Exchange	946						3	949	13,021	12,072		0 10 47		0 2 32		
21 Treasury, Duty Stamps	913						64	977	62,771	61,794		4 5 59		4 2 76		
22 Treasury, Management of Loans	3,152						28	3,180	25		3,155		0 2 74		0 2 27	
23 Audit	8,234	48			507			8,789	100		8,689		0 7 54		0 8 17	
24 London Agency	3,480							3,480			3,480		0 3 02		0 3 51	
25 Government Savings Bank d	15,017	261			274			15,552	26,180	10,628		0 9 22		0 4 89		
26 Agricultural Bank e	11,061	3						11,064	11,061		3					
27 Taxation f	14,340	828			26	41	50	15,285	80,681	65,396		4 8 71		4 7 05		
Total	64,918	1,463			1,109	41	335	67,866	194,356	126,490		9 1 69		9 7 24		
Trading and Revenue-Producing—																
28 Railways h...	1,111,563	8,407	416,829	110,541	673	9	12	1,648,034	1,665,400	17,366		1 8 06		1 9 13		
29 Melbourne Trams	2,303		1,173	249				3,725	2,577		1,148		0 1 00		0 1 04	
30 State Batteries	83,129	54	7,255	1,468	23			91,929	80,738		11,191		0 9 71		0 9 12	
31 Goldfields Water Scheme			91,341	79,710	125		250	171,426	117,000		54,426		3 11 20		5 11 12	
32 Mines Water Supply	14,432	33	26,870	6,062	185			47,582	13,479		34,103		2 5 57		2 10 82	
33 Metropolitan Water Supply		9	289	72		20		390	4,729	4,339		0 3 76				
34 Other Water Supply		5,761	9,952	1,823			3	17,544	503		17,041		1 2 78			
35 Metropolitan Sewerage		83	18,449	1,361		150		20,043	112		19,931		1 5 28		1 1 76	
36 Fremantle Harbour Works			61,347	15,553	200		250	80,350	75,140		5,210		0 4 52		1 0 14	
37 Fremantle Dock and Slip			4,949	936				5,885	95		5,790		0 5 02			
38 Bunbury Harbour Works			6,394	917				7,311	11,007	3,696		0 3 21				
39 Government Refrigerating Works	2,966	136	1,286	365				4,753	4,107		646		0 0 56			
40 Perth City Markets	651	65	113	33				862	1,722	860		0 0 75				
41 Government Abattoirs	1,747	62	703					2,512	1,118		1,394		0 1 21			
42 Experimental Farms and Stations	5,670	16	1,191	253				7,130	4,560		2,570		0 2 23			
43 Gwalia Hotel	9,168	4						9,172	10,577	1,405		0 1 22		0 1 98		
44 Royal Mint	22,500	16	40					22,556	31,613	9,057		0 7 85		0 4 80		
Total	1,254,129	14,546	648,181	222,348	1,206	179	515	2,141,204	2,024,477		116,727		8 5 23		10 6 72	
Public Services—																
45 Land Titles	8,235	437			149			8,821	12,552	3,731		0 3 24		0 2 47		
46 Registry	6,731	18						6,749	1,056		5,693		0 4 94		0 5 40	
47 Office of Colonial Secretary i	7,669	306			66			8,041	25		8,016		0 6 55		0 6 12	
48 Friendly Societies and Arbitration	3,106	63			137			3,306	157		3,149		0 2 73		0 2 83	
49 Labour Bureau	1,586	49					548	2,186	70		2,116		0 1 83		0 1 29	
50 Inspection of Machinery	5,888	23			60	5		5,976	4,444		1,532		0 1 33		0 1 53	
51 Explosives and Analytical	4,687	914			20			5,621	3,236		2,385		0 2 07		0 0 95	
52 Liquor—Inspection of Hotels, etc.	995					9	6	1,010	38,873	37,863		2 8 83		2 10 71		
53 Immigration	622	140	1,131	287	5	8		2,193	720		1,473		0 1 28		0 2 09	
54 Municipalities—Subsidies, etc. j	20,245						180	20,42								