

such a measure. The Mitchell Government introduced a Closer Settlement Bill, and now we find the present Government following suit. There must be some good in the legislation that I cannot appreciate. Some people have an idea that once the Bill becomes law large tracts of land will be thrown open for settlement immediately. I know of one estate only in the South-West that was not offered to the Government at a reasonable price. I admit it would be of benefit if the owner made that land available for purchase. In common with Mr. Moore I know that the estate will never be purchased under the provision of the Bill because there are about £40,000 worth of improvements on the estate and no one would think of purchasing an area of that description. I am afraid that if the Bill becomes law a great many people will be disappointed with the results. It may be that some people will be induced to spend a little more money than they are doing nowadays. The huge areas that are to be thrown open do not exist. If any extensive area comprising a million or two million acres is found to be available I am afraid it will consist for the most part of poor land, with the better areas so scattered as to make it a difficult problem to handle. I trust that when the Leader of the House replies to the debate he will do me the honour of replying to the several points I have made during my remarks.

On motion by Hon. E. H. Gray, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 9.15 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Wednesday, 1st October, 1924.

	PAGE
Questions: Sandalwood roots, oil distillation ...	1092
Agricultural lime, Bornholm deposits ...	1092
Railway Advisory Board's reports ...	1092
Mining battery, North End ...	1093
Bills: State Lotteries, 1R. ...	1093
Industrial Arbitration Act Amendment, report ...	1093
Bunbury Road District Rates Validation, returned ...	1105
Legal Practitioners Act Amendment, Com. ...	1105
Leave of absence ...	1093
Motion: Overseas marketing, to inquire by Select Committee ...	1093

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

QUESTION—SANDALWOOD ROOTS, OIL DISTILLATION.

Mr. MARSHALL asked the Minister for Forests: 1, Of the 600 tons of sandalwood roots available under the monopoly scheme, is it a fact that the original distiller, who first made sandalwood oil a commercial possibility in this State in 1914, was eliminated altogether in the distribution of roots by the Forestry Department? 2, Is it a fact that another firm, who commenced operations six years later, were granted a monopoly of all the roots, thus warding off competition? 3, Was the original distiller given any opportunity to put forward his just claim for consideration before the monopoly of roots was granted? 4, Is there not a note on the file by the Conservator of Forests agreeing to refrain from giving any such monopoly before allowing this distiller to put in his claim? 5, Is it not a fact that the original distiller in question was forced to use outside influence to enable him to obtain only one-sixth (namely, 100 tons) of the roots available to enable him to prevent the closing down of his works? 6, Will the Minister go thoroughly into this matter before making any arrangements for the distribution of roots for the ensuing 12 months, or for a longer or shorter period?

The MINISTER FOR FORESTS replied: 1, No. 2, No. 3, No monopoly has been granted. 4, Yes. 5, No. 6, Yes.

QUESTION—AGRICULTURAL LIME, BORNHOLM DEPOSITS.

Mr. A. WANSBROUGH asked the Minister for Agriculture: 1, Owing to the shortage of agricultural lime, will he take into consideration the advisability of having an investigation made of the Bornholm deposits? 2, If these are found suitable for agricultural purposes, will he have a report prepared showing the approximate quantity available? 3, If the reply to No. 2 is favourable, will immediate steps be taken to have the lime made available by cheap transport?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE replied: 1, This deposit was investigated in 1915 by the Assistant Government Geologist—the late Mr. H. Woodward—who reported that there was an unlimited supply of low grade limestone available, but not suitable for agricultural purposes as it contained a high percentage of silica, which would render the resulting lime of little value as a neutralising agent. 2 and 3, Answered by No. 1.

QUESTION—RAILWAY ADVISORY BOARD'S REPORTS.

Mr. J. H. SMITH asked the Premier: 1, Has he received reports of the advisory board dealing with (a) railway communi-

cation between Bridgetown or Boyup Brook linking up with the Great Southern railway, (b) railway communication from Manjimup to Mt. Barker? 2, If so, and if the reports are favourable, will he have surveys made of different routes? 3, Will he make the reports available to Parliament by laying them on the Table of the House?

The PREMIER replied: 1, Yes. 2, This will be determined when the reports have been considered. 3, Yes.

QUESTION—MINING, BATTERY, NORTH END.

Mr. LUTEY, without notice, asked the Minister for Mines: What action do the Government propose to take for the provision of better crushing facilities in the North End district?

The MINISTER FOR MINES replied: Mr. Howe, Superintendent of State Batteries, has reported very fully on the North End field, and as a result of his report the Mines Department have decided to subsidise a crushing plant owned by Mr. Hunt, and will erect a slimes plant, so that the prospectors of the field may have the fullest facilities for treating their ore, just as under State battery arrangements and conditions.

BILL—STATE LOTTERIES.

Introduced by the Hon. S. W. Munsie, Honorary Minister, and read a first time.

'BILL—INDUSTRIAL ARBITRATION ACT AMENDMENT.

Report of Committee adopted.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

On motion by Mr. Richardson, leave of absence for one week granted to the member for North Perth (Mr. J. MacCallum Smith) on the ground of ill health.

MOTION—OVERSEAS MARKETING.

To inquire by Select Committee.

Debate resumed from the 17th September on the following motion by Mr. Griffiths—

That a select committee be appointed to inquire into the matter of overseas markets for the products (exportable) of the group settlements, Peel Estate, Upper Swan, and other settlements and agricultural areas. (1) Such inquiry to investigate the various pooling schemes and marketing legislation in vogue in the Eastern States, United States of America, Canada, Europe, etc. (2) Co-operative efforts in the marketing of fruit, etc. (3) To

formulate a scheme suitable to Western Australian conditions and calculated to work in with an all-Australian scheme for the better handling and marketing of the products under review;

and on the amendment moved by Mr. Mann:

That in line 3 of Subclause (1) the words "Eastern States" be struck out and "Australia" inserted in lieu.

Amendment put and passed.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. W. C. Angwin—North-East Fremantle) [4.42]: I oppose the motion, because at this juncture I do not think the appointment of such a select committee is necessary. In the first place, it would be an impossibility for a select committee to carry out the work which the motion asks should be done. To appoint the select committee would mean eventually another Royal Commission, and I do not think that just now there is justification for a Royal Commission to ascertain marketing possibilities. We know that almost throughout Australia to-day there are co-operative and other companies paying close attention to the marketing of products. A Bill dealing with fruit marketing is now going through the Federal Parliament. Further, the Commonwealth Government have appointed a board to deal with the question of meat. Another Federal board is giving attention to the marketing of butter. These various bodies, when they have got to work, will be able to make every necessary inquiry and to obtain all needful information regarding the marketing of Australian products. The hon. member's motion lays stress on the necessity for a select committee to inquire regarding the exportable surplus of the products of group settlements. If there is one thing rather than another that does not stand in need of inquiry, it is the exportable surplus from group settlements, because the primary intention in the establishment of groups was that they should provide the local market, and many years must elapse before the groups will be so far advanced as to be able to provide the dairy produce necessary for Western Australian consumption. As a matter of fact, had it not been for the necessity for providing our own produce, such as butter, cheese and bacon, there would have been no reason for establishing group settlements. It has been impressed on the group settlers that instead of paying too much attention to certain garden produce, they should concentrate in the first instance on dairy farming. Dairy farming does not mean providing butter alone, does not mean that a man should run merely a few cows. There are other branches of dairy farming, such as the rearing of pigs and the making of cheese. We have in Western Australia a very large market for such produce and a good many years must elapse before we overtake the local consumption. It is true that group

settlers will grow other produce as side lines, but if they give attention to their pastures for the stock, there will be no necessity for them to look for a market for anything other than bacon, butter and cheese. Then there is the local market for potatoes. We import large quantities of potatoes annually. It has been contended that our own potatoes will not keep so well as those from the Eastern States. However, it is coming to be seen that when we get away from the light sandy soil in which most of our potatoes are grown, and cultivate them in the extreme South-West, we get potatoes equal to any grown in Australia.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: That is perfectly true.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: So it is hoped, before very long, we shall be able to supply the local market all the year round. A good deal has been said about the markets available to us in other lands, particularly in the East Indies. But when we come to investigate those markets we see that Western Australia is considerably handicapped. In Java, for instance, in Singapore, and in the Malay States, while there are large populations, they contain relatively few white people. The native population of Java is 34 millions, whereas the Europeans, including the Eurasians, number only 135,000. So the market there for Australian produce is very small. In Singapore, where a fairly large percentage of our exports are consumed, there is a population of 303,000, of which approximately only 8,000 are of European origin. So there, too, the market for Australian produce is limited. Another difficulty with the markets up there lies in the provision of cold storage. Virtually, we are limited to one ship. Other ships have certain refrigerating space, but it is too much restricted to be of any practical value. The "Kangaroo" is the principal cold storage ship available to us, and even if we send our produce by her it has to be sold in bulk immediately on arrival, for the reason that there is no cold storage to which to tranship it. Attempts have been made to establish cold storage in the ports up there and Western Australia merchants have been invited to invest in the project. The proposal has been turned down by our merchants, who say they are not going to invest in cold storage in distant ports where they cannot see what is going on. However, the promoters of the enterprises have met with a better response in the Eastern States, where money has been advanced for the erection of cold storage works at Singapore and Java. In consequence, the Eastern States merchants are now part owners of the proposed works, and of course will retain the storage space for their own products. During the last few years we have had an Australian Trade Commissioner in those parts for the purpose of advising Australian merchants as to where their products can be most advantageously placed and trade opened up. This

officer was approved by the late Government in conjunction with other Governments of the Commonwealth. Since I have been on the Council of Industrial Development we have received several letters from the Australian Trade Commissioner, pointing out where certain products from this State could be placed and trade opened up. Copies of those letters have been sent to the merchants dealing in the lines asked for. The Australian Trade Commissioner has been instrumental in building up a fair trade in Western Australian flour.

Mr. Teesdale: It was a pretty good trade before he took it on.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: Perhaps so. I am merely saying what has been done since I have been on the Council of Industrial Development. The council is closely in touch with traders in various parts of the world. It consists entirely of civil servants having no connection with any other business in the State. Their work is exclusively directed to the advancement of the best interests of the State. The acting secretary, Mr. Ogilvie, is continually in touch with traders in various parts of the world and is securing publicity for Western Australian produce in the overseas Press. In consequence of all this, the export trade of Western Australia must increase. The motion requires that an investigation be held in Australia, in the United States, in Canada, and in Europe.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: Let us all get on the committee and go.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: And at the end there is "etcetera."

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: That means Cornwall.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: Cornwall can produce for herself. I want hon. members to consider that paragraph in the motion and ask, is it possible for a select committee to get any information, except information gleaned from books and journals, and report to the House this session?

Mr. Griffiths: Yes. I have tons of information already. I have letters and reports from Ministers.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: That is what I say! No person can make a proper investigation from letters or leading articles in the Press. It is necessary for those making the inquiry to go there and thoroughly examine the position for themselves.

Mr. Griffiths: It is not necessary.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: The hon. member says he has letters from Ministers. Did anybody ever know a Minister who did not put his State forward in the best possible light? If things are bad he is not going to say so. If there be no possibility of opening up trade with his State or country, he will not say so. Rather will he point to the advantages of opening up such trade. Then there is another phase of the question to be considered, perhaps the only phase the committee could satisfactorily deal

with. That is the preparing of our products for export. The member for Rosbourn (Mr. Teesdale) knows that in Singapore we had serious complaints of produce sent there without proper preparation. That is a serious mistake that must tend to injure the State as a whole. Seeing that it is impossible for a select committee to carry out the desires expressed in the motion—and I do not think any Government would be prepared to appoint a Royal Commission to travel the world to investigate this question—I am confident that we can leave the investigation to the co-operative societies throughout Australia, who are making every possible inquiry in respect of overseas markets.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: And other persons.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: Of course private merchants are making all possible inquiries regarding overseas markets. In various parts of the world the produce trade is passing into the hands of co-operative companies, and when they are investigating the matter of markets and when in addition we have the Council of Industrial Development watching the interests of the State, there need be no fear of the State suffering if a select committee be not appointed. To appoint it would be a waste of time and money, and the results would be small indeed. We have not yet reached the stage when we have a large quantity of produce to export. When we are nearing the point of fully catering for the local market, it will be time enough to look out for overseas markets. The boards of producers appointed by the Federal Government will do all that is necessary as regards the products we shall have for export when the time comes. I oppose the motion.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL (Northam) [5.2]: This question exercises the minds of many people and will continue to do so. We can market our wheat, wool and timber without any trouble; in fact all our primary products except fruit are easily marketed. I do not know whether the world can provide us with a better market than we have for those commodities. Private people and co-operative companies are inquiring, and naturally are interested in obtaining the best prices. We need bother very little about our wheat, wool or timber. Fruit is a troublesome commodity to market because of its perishable nature, but when the world settles down again, I think there will be no trouble to dispose of our exports of apples and oranges, which, apart from dried fruit, are our principal lines of export. With dried fruit there is a difficulty; we produce so little. America increased her yield of dried fruit from 150,000,000 lbs. to 450,000,000 lbs. in a few years. If England requires 156,000 tons of dried fruits—raisins and currants—each year, and Australia produces about 5,000 tons of currants a year, although in quality ours are better than

those of Greece, the English dealers are not likely to break the continuity of their sales for a week in order to market our currants. If we had far more to export, we would have less trouble. I remind the member for York that the people of this State do not get the quantity of dried fruit they would take if they were able to obtain it conveniently. Every ounce of dried fruit could be sold if the people could get it at a reasonable price. We are importing about £2,000,000 worth of foodstuffs annually, and thousands of group settlers will be required to supply our own requirements. No one need worry about markets for the produce of group settlers. The population of Western Australia increased by 15,000 last year and those people will require another £100,000 worth of dairy produce and other foodstuffs to meet their needs. If we get 6,000 or 10,000 people settled in the South-West, as I hope we shall before long, there will be a market for all their produce within the State. The member for Guildford (Hon. W. D. Johnson) when Minister for Works, attended a repatriation conference in Melbourne and said we could find land for 14,000 soldiers in this State if necessary. He was referring to the South-West and was quite right. He knew that a great many settlers would be required to feed our own population. It is high time we grew the food necessary for our own requirements. Apart from dairy produce there are other crops that could be profitably grown. Tobacco will play an important part in the list of products raised in the South-West. To-day it costs about 2s. 6d. a lb., and last year we imported nearly £600,000 worth. Linseed, hops, maize and many other commodities as yet hardly thought of will be grown in the South-West, and even then we shall not need to bother about markets for some time, because the local market will absorb them. I was told that 75 acres in Victoria produced tobacco worth £15,000. The time has not arrived to bother about markets for the settlers on the Peel Estate. Our only concern at present need be for the dried fruit produced in the Swan district. If we could devise means to market the produce of our vine and fruit growers—

Mr. Teesdale: I paid 1s. 6d. a lb. for dried grapes.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: If they were good table grapes, they were cheap at the price. France has 4,000,000 acres under vines which yield produce to the value of £113,000,000 a year, or more than we get from wheat and wool together. In this State vines grow over an enormous area, and vast tracts of country could be put under vines if we could only find a market for the produce. An inquiry that would show what we could safely do in future would be very useful indeed. Only in the day of small things is serious trouble experienced in the marketing of produce. The Minister referred to cold

storage works. I am not in favour of State enterprise, but I realise that if merchants and co-operative companies other than of producers own storage works in Singapore and other places, they will want to make all the money they can out of them. If we could erect works in Ceylon they would be of immense assistance to our markets. I do not know whether I should object to such works being erected by the State because shipping would make an enormous demand upon the fruit, vegetables and other commodities that need storage. The ships from the seven seas pass Ceylon and all of them require food supplies.

Mr. Griffiths: You certainly want some accommodation on the Fremantle wharf.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: I agree; but we want storage in the marketing centres. We cannot send our produce to Singapore in large quantities, and we cannot send it to Ceylon at all. In the Tropics even potatoes have to be held in cool storage.

Mr. Griffiths: Ceylon has cool storage works.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: It has privately owned ice works, and when I was there apples were 2½s. a case. Such works are run to make a profit; no regard is paid to our markets. These works are really not available to us. However, the first thing is to concern ourselves with production.

Mr. Griffiths: Markets and production should go hand in hand.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: It is easier and more popular to talk of markets than of production. One needs to know very little of the subject to raise a cry for more markets. We had a compulsory wheat pool which was very well handled and did a lot of good. To-day we have a voluntary pool. A pool should be backed by legislative authority because, where we have a voluntary pool, the trustees cannot be expected to take the responsibility.

Mr. Griffiths: The voluntary pool in this State was more economically worked than that in the Eastern States.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: That may be so. It may be found that the trustees will land themselves in a responsibility they do not want, and that the interests of the farmers are not watched as they might be. We have trustees of the voluntary pool here; they are Messrs. Monger, Harper, Basil Murray and Teesdale. The Westralian Farmers do practically all the work. The trustees have only to engage them to do it, to supervise and watch them, and see that the farmers get a fair deal. Up to date the Government have had no responsibility in the matter, and it has been no concern of theirs. I do not know whether the Minister intends to take a hand in the marketing of wheat this year, and whether that would be a guarantee and an advantage

to the farmers. No doubt he will first inform the House of his intentions, and we can then discuss the question. For the marketing of wheat I suggest it would be a good thing to have an Act dealing with the voluntary pool. The four gentlemen I have mentioned are already watching the interests of the farmers, who have not complained. Two of those gentlemen are members of the Westralian Farmers Ltd., who are engaged in handling the wheat. The responsibility in connection with the voluntary pool this year will be considerable. I hope we shall have a big harvest and a lot of wheat to ship. If we gave our attention to the necessary legislation governing the matter, it would be a good thing. I do not know whether private firms that ship wheat on consignment take any responsibility for the grain entrusted to their care for sale. If any firm did undertake the responsibility it would require to be substantially paid for doing so. We should give our attention to the marketing of wheat to that extent. I hope the information the Minister has gleaned from the Far East will receive attention at the hands of members, and be made available to the public. The public ought to know how far the suggestions that have been put forward by representatives of the Far East can be accepted, and how trade can be encouraged and increased with that part of the world. We can talk of marketing only with a limited knowledge of the markets of the world. Australia, India, and the Argentine produce an average of about 11 bushels of wheat to the acre, Canada about 13 bushels, and New Zealand, Denmark and England produce much higher averages, but not enough for themselves. The cost of production in the last three countries named is so high that we can compete with them on our lower average. The principle of marketing is of great importance. Some people are concerned about the future prices of wheat. We know where the world's wheat fields are, and what they can do, and that the population of the world is nearly 700,000,000, and increasing all the time. The difficulty of feeding all those people is no less than it was before, and we can see that there is a good opportunity for us to supply food in greater quantities than has previously been the case. If we can get better markets than those we are now using, it will be a good thing. Some people advocate shipping wheat as flour, and keeping the bran and pollard for ourselves, but other countries want grain just as much as we do.

Mr. Griffiths: See what China has done in that respect of late years.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: It is impossible to force flour upon the world if it wants grain. If we could only get someone on the committee the Minister has spoken of, possessing a thorough knowledge of the world's market, the products of the world, and the marketing facilities of the world, he would be very useful, but such men are few

and far between. It takes a lifelong study to acquire that amount of knowledge, and the average man does not know where to begin his research work.

Mr. Griffiths: There are plenty of avenues for research.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: Many men have a natural instinct to take the wrong avenue.

The Premier: The hon. member leaves all the avenues of the whole world open to us.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: This is not a question for the ordinary man, but for one who has had a lifelong experience, has special knowledge and aptitude for the subject, and knows all about the producing centres of the world. Without such knowledge it is almost futile to expect to get the information required. This State can produce many different kinds of products. On the groups there will be pigs, and bacon factories will be established at Albany, Pemberton, and Busselton. We shall also have our butter factories. In addition to our dairy produce and the fruit that will be grown, there will be many other products that are not now grown. The crops of Australia are few, but the crops of the world are many. We shall find many things that are profitable, all of which will improve the outlook for the agriculturist. It is well to keep our eye on the markets, even if we are not now growing certain lines of produce. I take it the hon. member has in mind the products of the future.

Mr. Griffiths: I am thinking of a lot we have now, such as fresh and dried fruits.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: I want something more than that done. Flax is grown in New Zealand. We can grow it too, and a great many other things that we require. There is no reason why we should not make our own bags, and grow our own cotton. If there were an inquiry to enable us to determine what products we can best grow, there would be something in it. There are many things that are not thought of here yet, which can be grown, and no doubt can be sold to the world. Not long ago I made an attempt to get a 10-lb. box of table raisins, but no one could tell me where to go.

Mr. Taylor: Have you found out since?

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: Yes, a box was sent to me.

The Minister for Lands: If you want good dried fruit, go to Toodyay.

Mr. Sampson: Or send to the Dried Fruits Association.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: The housewife ought to know, and the public ought to know where to go for such things. Are they to go to Boan's, or some other establishment?

Mr. Sampson: That question is being considered now.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: I know the Minister saw some fine dried fruits from Toodyay, but can he say to whom one should write for more of such products, how much could be supplied, and at what price? On

the Swan wonderful fruit is grown, and the public can obtain it through the Dried Fruits Association. I only wish they would do so. If some of the ladies who are interested in helping Western Australia would get together orders for 2,000 10lb. boxes of dried raisins, they could do it with great advantage to the industry. The price would be stated, and people would know what they would have to pay when sending in their orders. This, however, is not done, and no one knows where to get such products.

Mr. Sampson: Arrangements are being made for small parcels to be sent out.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: This is not the fault of the grower. The Minister for Lands ought to be able to take home to his wife a box of raisins when he goes home late, but he does not know where to get it.

Mr. Taylor: He always takes chocolates.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: What we want to do is to find out how we can get supplies for our own consumption. We must also let the people in the back country and on the goldfields know that we have a first-class dried fruit product for sale in any quantity and at a reasonable price.

Mr. Griffiths: That is what I am after.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: The hon. member has been so long after it.

Mr. Griffiths: You have done nothing yet.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: I have not said I am after it.

Mr. Griffiths: You have talked a lot about production, but have not done anything to provide markets.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: We have. We have a market for everything we produce except dried fruits.

Mr. Griffiths: It is lack of organisation that leads to the stuff not being sold.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: I understand the chief difficulty is in regard to table raisins, and that there is a good sale for sultanas.

Mr. Sampson: Yes; currants and raisins are the trouble.

Mr. Griffiths: The second-grade stuff is the trouble.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: That is always difficult to sell. I am glad the hon. member has interested himself in this matter, and I hope I have not offended him or discouraged him. I know the difficulty of getting fruit to the farmer. The hon. member says I have done nothing. I suggested that a truck load of fruit should be sent out to the farmers, and gave every assistance I could for testing the market in that way, but nothing was done.

Mr. Griffiths: They are not keeping up the standard of their fruit.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: Then the House is not responsible for that position. As the Ministers who have spoken indicated, the hon. member need not be concerned about the products from the group settlements and the Peel estate, for we have a ready market for their products locally. If we can do something for the dried fruit industry, let us do it, either here or over-

seas. I am glad to know that the hon. member is concerning himself about this problem but I am convinced that Ministers have the correct hang of the position. Our own people are not getting a sufficiently plentiful supply of fruit at a reasonable rate. Let us see that they get their requirements met and then turn our attention elsewhere.

Mr. J. H. SMITH (Nelson) [5.31]: I support the motion. I agree with the Government that there is no necessity to worry about the Peel Estate and the group settlements, because we have a ready market for their products within our own shores. We need not worry regarding the export of wheat, wool or timber. At the same time I am surprised that the Minister has not seen his way clear to agree to the appointment of a select committee. He seems to fear that it will end in the appointment of a Royal Commission. While I am agreeable to a select committee I would oppose the appointment of a Royal Commission to deal with this question. The Leader of the Opposition seemed to concern himself about our dried fruits. I agree that that does represent a problem, but we have to consider the position of those who are engaged in exporting apples, oranges and other fresh fruits from Western Australia. Many thousands of pounds are invested in our orchards in the South-West. Despite that, our orchardists do not receive an adequate price for their fruit. They are below the bread and butter line and are not in the same satisfactory position as those engaged in growing wool and wheat. Before the war the fruit industry was on a sound basis and the orchardists were making good. The war upset all our calculations. We have appointed a select committee to inquire into the marketing of fruit and other commodities in the metropolitan area. If that question warrants the appointment of a committee of inquiry, surely the larger question of exporting our products should also warrant the appointment of a select committee. I presume we have different opinions regarding the best methods to be adopted in exporting fruit and thus saving this industry. If it can be suggested that we should appoint a select committee to discuss the export question, something must be wrong. I desire to say something that may not be received with favour in some quarters. I refer to the agents and the co-operative movement. There can be no true co-operation when individual growers break away from the co-operative movement and send forward inferior quality fruit for export to the Old Country. Such consignments damn the State's products. We must have standardisation to govern our exports, and the only way to achieve that object is to pass legislation. Adequate inspection of the fruit, either through a board or through Government inspectors, should be set up.

The expense involved should be paid for by the individual growers on a pro rata basis according to the quantity of fruit despatched by them. At present we have Patersons, the Westralian Farmers, Wills and Co., Dalgetys, and several other firms who are operating in the fruit industry, acting as shipping agents and exporters on behalf of the various growers. They are all living on the grower. On the other side of the world there is no system in operation in the overseas markets. There are just as unscrupulous people at the other end as there are here. I have letters to prove that growers are getting only 11s. or 12s. for their fruit sold in the Old Country. That fruit is bought up by individuals or combinations, and sold to the public for from 20s. to 25s. a case. The grower on the starvation line here is losing money by exporting his fruit and these persons in the Old Country are living on us. A select committee is warranted to inquire into these matters, and the Government should agree to it. There is no fear of a Royal Commission that will go to Java, Singapore and other parts. Let a select committee go into the question, gather data for presentation to Parliament and evolve a scheme for better marketing for presentation to the Minister. It will be a cheap method of conducting the inquiry. The select committee could call upon growers and others interested in the industry to ascertain their views. A concrete scheme could be put before the Minister and I feel sure that hon. member is fair-minded enough and has a sufficiently keen insight into the whole question, to deal adequately with the position in the interests of the fruit-grower generally. The export trade must be placed on a more satisfactory basis, and unless that is done, the industry will go by the board.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON (Guildford) [5.37]: Clearly as I recognise that marketing is a big problem in Western Australia, I question whether any good will be done at the present juncture by means of an inquiry by a select committee. As the member for Nelson (Mr. J. H. Smith) truly said, grave difficulty is experienced in the marketing of our fruit. That is the experience at the other end, and that position is aggravated at this end by the want of supervision and control. The only way satisfactory supervision and control can be obtained here is to place someone in authority to exercise that necessary power.

Mr. J. H. Smith: Legislation is necessary.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: We will never have control over the export of fruit and other commodities unless the Government provide the necessary authority by means of legislation. When four or five different merchants are competing to secure supplies for the world's markets, and are prepared to take advantage of what markets are available, we will always have inquiries for

commodities, and merchants accepting that which is not up to standard in order to maintain their trade connection. The only way to overcome that is to adopt the practice in operation in Queensland, where all fruit must go through a central organisation. Representations have already been made to the Minister for Agriculture, particularly on behalf of the dried fruit and fresh grape growers. The position affects those growers rather than orchardists engaged in the production of apples, pears and oranges. The difficulties of the grape growers are largely due to the fact that increased areas have been put under vines. Those vines grow comparatively quickly, with the result that many vineyards have come into bearing lately, mainly through the expenditure of repatriation money. That increased settlement has meant increased production and while we have achieved that, we have done nothing to provide markets for the augmented production. People who have been engaged in grape growing for a considerable period, find that their whole business is undermined and those who have been engaged in the industry from childhood and know all about the requirements of the market, now find that the organisation they have spent years in perfecting has been set aside by the production of less experienced growers. To-day the whole fruit market is disorganised both locally and overseas. There is but one way to overcome that, and it is for the Government to provide some authority to control and supervise the industry. Representations were made to the Minister who was appealed to for necessary action. While the Minister expressed a doubt as to whether anything could be done this year, I hope he will realise the paramount importance of this question to the growers, and that he will yet find an opportunity to introduce a Bill along the lines of the Queensland Act. The relief necessary from the present acute position can only be obtained by way of legislation. Before the war little difficulty was experienced in marketing our various fruits. There was a wonderful market available and perhaps the best was found at Hamburg where a considerable quantity of our products found its way. Those avenues have gone. Again, I do not think the packing of our fruit has been very satisfactory.

Mr. J. H. Smith: We got 25s. a case for our fruit there last year, but the exchange problem was the difficulty.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: We should see to it that our fruit is sent away in the best condition possible, and if that be done we ought to get as good results as in former years. The trouble is that legislation is required in this State to give someone authority to see that only the best fruit is exported, and that it is sent away in such a manner that it will land on the overseas market in decent condition. We also want some knowledge as to what is done at the other end with regard to marketing facili-

ties. If I thought a select committee could go into that question I would support it. But there is no opportunity to do that. So acute is the position that the co-operative movement has sent a representative to London for the purpose of closely investigating the position. The whole of the co-operative societies of Australia are combined for the purpose of establishing a co-operative handling and a marketing organisation in behalf of the Empire. The value of that organisation, however, is discounted by the fact that so many States are sending fruit to the other end of the world, and whilst inexperience and carelessness are undermining the markets, so the careless exporter is injuring the organisation at the other end. If we have an organisation at this end regulated by an Act of Parliament, it will automatically overcome the difficulties that are being experienced at the other end of the world. We do not require a select committee to go into that matter at all; all we need is legislative authority which will empower some organisation to regulate affairs at this end. I do not want it to be thought that I do not recognise the great difficulties we are experiencing throughout Australia in regard to the marketing of our produce. I am of opinion that even with those commodities that are comparatively easily disposed of, particularly wool and wheat, if we had some more attention devoted to the details of marketing by an export authority, and we could reduce the cost considerably, we should increase the value of those products.

Mr. Taylor: You surely do not want to increase further the price of wool?

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: In recent times wool has considerably improved in value. I was not referring to the increase in the price, but to the fact that we have arrived at a stage when people are coming to Australia to buy our wool instead of our sending it overseas for the purpose of sale. At the present moment we have buyers amongst us representing practically all the European countries of any importance. When we get competition of that kind at our very doors, it gives us the opportunity to organise on a better basis than if we had to export, as we export our wheat to-day. But whilst we have that advantage I am convinced that we can reduce the cost of handling, and the cost of marketing to the producer, if Parliament will realise that we want to foster and control the co-operative system of handling and marketing so as to centralise the whole of the commodities in the hands of those who are the producers. There is no need for the producers to carry on their shoulders so many expensive organisations to do that which they themselves could do and which could be done with a little encouragement and assistance from the Government. Marketing is essentially a function of government and it is on marketing that the Government should concentrate. Even with wool there should be some

concentration of thought, so that the enormous profit being made by the individual handlers should be saved to the producers. This could be done by a kind of pooling system. The marketing of wheat has improved considerably since the pooling system was introduced. It may interest members to know that the standard wheat of the world has always been understood to be Manitoba No. 1 Northern. It is supposed to be graded to the last possibility, and so high is the standard that there are countries where the climatic and other conditions do not permit of that special grade being produced. The wheat in Western Australia is taken straight from the harvester and put into bags without any grading at all. The whole of the Manitoba wheat is graded. We merely bag ours, put it on the ship and send it to the other end of the world. Since the pooling system has been introduced, however, we are getting 2d. and 3d. per bushel more than the Manitoba No. 1 Northern is fetching. That did not obtain before the pooling system was introduced, but since then we have materially improved the marketing conditions of Western Australia and to-day ours is recognised as one of the best wheats in the world and it is fetching a higher price than the special Manitoba wheat. One might say that in the wheat market we have accomplished everything that is necessary. That is not so. We are not getting for our wheat the price that we should be receiving. We have competition in regard to wheat and that leads to the same difficulty except perhaps in a proportion less than that existing in regard to other commodities. If we had one organisation handling and exporting our wheat we could so regulate the market as to maintain the true value of Western Australian wheat. But to-day we are in competition with others that are exporters and it is that very competition that brings about the decreased price that we find is the case in respect of fruit. Therefore much as one appreciates the improvement that has taken place, we cannot get away from the fact that we have not taken the fullest advantage of what might have been done. I have no desire to touch on the question of production from group settlements, except to say that I want to speed the day when we shall produce from the groups those commodities that Western Australia wants and which we are obliged at the present time to get from Eastern Australia. There is no need for us to investigate markets for the group settlements. The question there is undoubtedly one of production, and that is so slow comparatively that one becomes doubtful as to whether we can speed up to that extent that we shall be able to overtake our own needs. That does not require the appointment of a select committee. I have seen sufficient to satisfy me that there is a great possibility of in-

crease in butter production in the State. We can see that there is an extension of the areas under pasture, and that people are taking a more serious view of the need for butter production, and the possibilities of profit that exist in connection with dairying in Western Australia. Still we have to go a long way before we can overtake the demands of the State. I suggest to the member for York who moved the motion that he should withdraw it. If it be defeated, that may be construed into meaning that those of us that are favourable to doing all that is possible to encourage the fostering and marketing of our commodities, are opposed to the subject, or are indifferent to it. Having withdrawn his motion, the hon. member should try to assist in the introduction of a marketing measure which could be put through in a minimum of time so as to protect the State's interests and obviate the enormous losses that have been and are still being experienced. In this respect I need only refer to what took place last year when grape growers brought their product to market only to have to cart it back again. Yet throughout the State people went without grapes, and just because the marketing arrangements were not properly organised. While an organisation does try to overcome the difficulty, as the member for Nelson (Mr. J. H. Smith) has pointed out, there are always those who will not do a fair thing, and who are always ready to undermine any effort made by individuals to improve the system of marketing. We have come to the conclusion that there is only one way of overcoming the difficulty and that is to follow the example set by Queensland. Everybody recognises that marketing is a science. To-day we are suffering from what may be said to be over-production. But there is no such thing as over-production. We require legislation to provide that the growers shall so market their commodities in the manner that is done in Queensland, and so get the best possible price.

Mr. SAMPSON rose to speak.

Mr. SPEAKER: Has not the hon. member already spoken?

Mr. SAMPSON: Yes, I wish to speak to the amendment.

Mr. SPEAKER: The amendment has already been disposed of.

Mr. SAMPSON: Perhaps I can ask another member to move a further amendment so as to enable me to speak.

Mr. RICHARDSON (Subiaco) [6.0]: I move an amendment—

That the words "U.S.A., Canada, Europe, etc." be struck out.

The Minister for Agriculture: That is not an amendment; you are only playing with the matter now.

The Premier: As a matter of fact you are too late to move an amendment now.

Mr. RICHARDSON: I have submitted the amendment and I shall await the Speaker's ruling.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question before the House at the present time is the acceptance or otherwise of the motion as amended. The hon. member's proposal means an amendment to the amendment that has been carried. The hon. member is not in order in moving such an amendment. The question before the House now is that the motion as amended be agreed to.

Mr. Sampson: I have not had an opportunity of speaking to the motion as amended. I spoke to the original motion. I take it I would be in order in speaking to the motion as amended.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member would have been in order in speaking to the amendment, but the amendment has merged in the motion, and the hon. member has spoken on the original motion and therefore cannot speak again.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: Do I understand you to rule, Sir, that a further amendment cannot be moved, but that if other amendments were desired, they should have been moved at the same time?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not the position. We have amended this motion, and that is the question now. There is no amendment before the House which can be further amended.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: But there is a motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: The motion as amended is further discussed. That is the position now.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: And no further amendment can be moved?

Mr. SPEAKER: A further amendment can be moved, but not an amendment to the amendment, as was proposed by the member for Subiaco.

Mr. Richardson: Do I take it, then, that any motion that has been amended cannot be further amended, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. SPEAKER: No. I have already ruled that it can be further amended. I can take a further amendment, but it must not be an amendment of an amendment that has been dealt with. It must be altogether subsequent.

Mr. Sampson: May I say that the discussion which followed on this motion—

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the hon. member disputing my ruling?

Mr. Sampson: No, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the point? There is no question before the Chair except the one.

Mr. Sampson: May I ask for an explanation on this point?

Mr. SPEAKER: No. There is no question before the Chair at the present time except one, and that is that the motion as amended be agreed to.

Mr. Sampson: I desire to ask a question. I wish to obtain information on this point.

I have no desire to hold up the House unduly.

Mr. SPEAKER: Make no comments.

Mr. Sampson: I want to ask, Sir, since the amendment has been carried, here is a new phase which the member for Subiaco desires to introduce.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have ruled upon that point. It is no new phase. The amendment now suggested is an amendment to the amendment which has been carried.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: Hardly, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: It was no other than an amendment to the amendment, and therefore I cannot take it as being now in order. Anything subsequent to that may be moved as an amendment, if hon. members so desire.

Mr. Sampson: This is subsequent.

Mr. SPEAKER: Hon. members must not dispute my ruling, and they must at once state what their amendments are, so that I may consider whether the amendments are in order or not. The amendment of the member for Subiaco is not in order.

Mr. GRIFFITHS (Avon—in reply) [6.6]: Some five weeks ago I moved this motion, and it has dragged on rather lengthily. However, when I brought forward the two motions which were moved on the 3rd September, I did so in all sincerity. I brought them forward because I thought that at any rate, if they did nothing else, they would lead to useful discussion and bring out prominently the need for certain action being taken. I resent the remarks of an honorary Minister who stated, so "Hansard" tells me, that the member for Avon seemed to have an idea that the submitting of such a motion gave him an advertisement throughout the State, and that he was looking for publicity.

The Minister for Agriculture: Who said that?

Mr. GRIFFITHS: The Honorary Minister; not the Minister for Agriculture, who spoke very nicely. I may tell the House that I have just completed a journey of some 600 miles in order to be here to-night, and that I am compelled to travel back to Merredin by goods train to-morrow. Such being the strength of my desire to speak on the motion, hon. members must realise that I have the motion at heart and am not merely looking for publicity. I can get plenty of publicity if I like. Having expressed my indignation at what was said by the Honorary Minister, I would now reply to the Minister for Agriculture, who said—

I regret that the mover of this motion appears to be unfortunate in his efforts to secure investigation. While I view his intention with every sympathy, I cannot regard the select committee for which he is moving as being necessary. I wish to prove that investigation is necessary. It has been mentioned that there are various committees and boards, Federal as

well as State, investigating the question of marketing. Just recently our Minister for Agriculture was waited upon by a deputation, and in that connection he objected strongly to the members of the deputation arrogating to themselves the right to speak for the fruitgrowers as a whole. I believe he rightly objected, because the deputation did not represent all the fruitgrowers.

The Minister for Agriculture: That was not the point. They wanted to dictate to me whom I should see.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: The Minister was right in objecting. However, the incident showed plainly that whilst a certain advisory body approached the Minister, there were other sections of the fruitgrowers which were not likely to be influenced by the member for Swan (Mr. Sampson). Just about that time I went to a meeting of Upper Swan grape growers, which meeting passed resolutions that really support my action. Those resolutions read—

That the Western Australian dried fruits industry requires protection against the Eastern States dumping. That the disposal of low-grade dried fruits is their big problem, and hence the erection of a distillery is a crying need. That they approve of an Act on the lines of the Queensland Marketing Act. That dried fruits exported and imported should come under such Act. That city markets should be made available as a depot adjacent to the cool stores. That the sheds at Fremantle should be improved, even if they were louvred. That the meeting strongly objected to the statement, made without authority, that the railway vans distribution was a failure, and that this statement was incorrect, as such distribution was, on the contrary, a success, and would no doubt prove even a greater success this season. That the meeting of grape growers of the Upper Swan district heartily approved and supported the motion moved in the Legislative Assembly.

These people have exported 200 tons of fruit, and they are having further inquiries, even from San Francisco. Their chief complaint was that the Slav grape growers would not co-operate, but went around retailing poor stuff and thus spoiling the market for good fruit; hence the necessity for a marketing Act and a distillery. Three days later I got a letter from 'the Dried Fruit Growers' Association of Western Australia, reading—

At an executive meeting of this association held on the 9th September, I was instructed to write you advising that this association was pressing for an Act of Parliament to control the grape section of the fruit industry on the lines of the Queensland Act, and to request you not to press Parliament for a Commission to inquire into the position, as such would be most likely used by the Opposition to shelve the Bill, and so prejudice the work

we have done. This industry is at present in such a deplorable condition that unless statutory powers be given to the growers this session, wide-spread distress and ruin will prevail. I ask your help and support to the proposed measures, and shall be pleased to give you any information in my power.

There is another opposing section.

Mr. Sampson: They do not understand your motion. It goes further than fruit.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: Yes, my motion deals with butter, bacon, cheese and other products, which, however, I had not so much in my mind as the soldier-settler problem.

Mr. Wilson: Who inveigled the soldiers into fruit growing?

Mr. GRIFFITHS: Various State Governments.

Mr. Wilson: Only one.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: All the State Governments. They got soldiers and others to go on the land, but failed at the same time to take steps to provide an outlet for the products. Even if the motion is not carried, I have a deal of information which I believe will be useful to the Minister for Agriculture. But I am thoroughly in earnest about the matter, and I do believe that a great deal of good would result from the appointment of a select committee. I have quoted various opinions to show that there is no continuity of action on the part of the various committees and boards. They are always at dead ends. My desire is to assist the Minister for Agriculture, and I wish also to bring before him the Queensland marketing scheme. I give the Queensland Government credit for having recognised that there was something behind what was being done by other Governments of the world, and for having copied the action of those other Governments. I think Western Australia should copy that action also. There is no question of party about this at all; the matter is too important. The dried fruit industry and also the fresh fruit industry are in such a parlous condition that it is up to us to sink any little differences we may have, and come together to assist the growers. There is a body known as the Australian Dried Fruits Association, but the Upper Swan growers have withdrawn from that body. Mr. Yeates, who is one of this State's representatives on the Federal Advisory Council, and who was the chairman at the meeting referred to, stated that he viewed with alarm the dumping of the Eastern States surplus on our local market, and that he thought every inquiry should be made, and representations made to prevent this. If a Federal scheme was evolved for better marketing, special representations should be made to get some system of co-operation, in order to preserve our industry and prevent a repetition of the Rayner's jam factory iniquity. Those words were spoken by Mr. Yeates when supporting a vote of thanks to myself. It has been stated here that the Federal people are

initiating a fruit marketing scheme of their own. The States are supposed to be doing something in the same direction.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: Before tea I was endeavouring to show that most of the committees appointed are working at loose ends. The object of my motion was to get such information as would help the activities of those various bodies, bring them into line and so secure some co-ordination. The Minister for Lands said there was no necessity for the inquiry. I say there is every necessity. We have been too prone to wait until some difficulty arises before we tackle it. I could quote many instances where we have followed the wait-a-while policy before we set about improving things. All over the world Governments innumerable are taking up the question of marketing as their prerogative, with a view to finding outlets for the products of their several countries. High prices that obtained during the war brought about an unreal prosperity for the Australian fruitgrowers, particularly the producers of dried fruit, and stimulated the industry to such an extent that many persons took up holdings without consideration of production. The fruitgrower, once he has planted his vines, cannot change his position. To-day he is very largely dependent on overseas markets. Figures given in the Federal House the other night showed that in 1921 there were available for export 13,765 tons; in 1922 it had risen to 19,538 tons; in 1923 it was 25,709 tons, and in 1924 it reached 34,000 tons. It is expected that next year the quantity will be up to 50,000 tons. Under the arrangement the A.D.F.A. has made the exportable quota is 75 per cent. of currants, 84 per cent. of sultanas and 60 per cent. of lemons. Clearly, therefore, the producers can no longer be content with the local market. Owing to the high wages paid, the fruitgrowers are compelled to produce under great difficulties, as compared with the conditions obtaining on the shores of the Mediterranean. Most people know that it takes 4lbs. of grapes to make 1lb. of raisins. To get a payable price the grower must secure for his 4lbs. of fruit 2 2/7d. per pound. If he cannot get that, the Federal Bill provides that the deficiency up to £40 shall be supplied by the Federal Government. In the meantime advances are made as loans against the whole of the sustenance up to 30s. per ton per month. Two or three years ago the Australian Dried Fruits Association entered into an expensive advertising campaign and so created a great demand for their fruit. That was all right so long as the supply was not too great; but as their vines came into bearing the supply became so great that they could no longer command their earlier prices. The chief

trouble was that those who would not join in with the association were getting all the benefit, were buying on the local market and selling overseas: in other words, they were scabbing on their fellows.

Mr. Heron: You want a union there.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: A calculation was put up in the Federal House the other night showing that the dried fruit consumed by 5½ million persons in Australia amounts to 1oz. per person per annum. It was stated that if we could get the people of Australia to eat 4ozs. each per annum we should not need trouble about overseas markets. But in the meantime all these various bodies are working at loose ends. The co-operative people are trying to do something, but they have a pretty hard row to hoe. I remember that when, during the war, we had an apple glut I wrote to the apple-growers of the South-West and told them that if they would send their fruit up here to Perth I would undertake to run the place without any charge to the growers for my services until the enterprise was placed on a satisfactory basis. At the time there was a lot of talk in the newspapers about what was termed my generous offer. On the other hand, some, like the Minister here, were inclined to think I was looking for advertisement. Of course, interested people asked straight out what I was going to get out of it. As a matter of fact, I was going to get a lot of hard work out of it. Still, we could not get those growers to come together.

Mr. Teesdale: I suppose they thought you might get away with their apples.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: There was a lack of organisation amongst them. The farmer is the hardest animal in the world to organise. I have told them all that. I have found that one cannot get the farmer to organise by himself.

Mr. Taylor: He would have a bit of a job, wouldn't he?

Mr. GRIFFITHS: What I mean is he will not do it voluntarily. The question arises whether something cannot be done by the Government, and in consideration of a scheme that is by no means new—in fact it has been expounded here often enough, but I propose to explain it all again before I sit down—

Mr. SPEAKER: I point out to the hon. member that it is not in order for him to introduce new matter. He must confine his speech strictly to answering those arguments already advanced, and must not introduce any new or freshly debatable matter.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: I am not introducing new matter. Take the position of the fruitgrowers in relation to arbitration. There has been such a tremendous increase in cost as to warrant the legislation being brought forward in the Federal House.

Mr. Taylor: No one in this debate has said anything about arbitration.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: These people are in such a position that it is necessary something should be done. We must not leave them to endeavour to improve the position themselves.

Mr. Marshall: Why didn't you say that in your opening speech?

Mr. GRIFFITHS: Take the soldiers. They are right up against it. Many of them have been placed on land where it is impossible for them to make good. In 1912 the comparative cost of developing a 15-acre block of fruit land was £1,025; this year it is £1,880. So in the mere development of a block there has been an enormous increase. Again, in 1912 to produce a pound of raisins cost £317, whereas it now costs £553. So to secure a product worth £28 those people have to spend £37. I have already expressed my willingness to help the Minister. I will give him all the information I have. If the motion be not carried I will do what I can for him. As to inquiring into co-operative schemes, let me say that in America they have under Government control a co-operation and markets branch. I have here a financial report of the Agricultural Board of Manitoba. It is published by the direction of the Hon. T. M. Hamilton, Minister for Agriculture. In British Columbia they have a journal published under the auspices of the Government. I have here a copy, the principal article in which, an article on agriculture, was written by the Secretary for Agriculture. I mention this to show that other countries are doing much to develop markets for their producers. Much has been said about our group settlements. Production in the South-West will not be confined to butter, bacon and dairy produce. A lot of fruit will be grown there. The apple-growers round about Manjimup, Balingup and other parts have been in a parlous position in regard to the marketing of their fruit. On several occasions there have been gluts in the market. There are phases of the industry in the South-West that an inquiry such as I suggest could cover. As regards butter, bacon, etc., I hope it will not be many years before production overtakes local needs. In the wheat belt there has been a great increase in the production of cream. Coming down in the train only last night I saw cream cans galore. In my motion I mentioned the group settlements and the Peel Estate with the idea of urging the Government to do something in advance. Members have spoken of flax, cotton and tobacco. I am not bothering about those commodities, but we should not adopt a wait-a-while policy in regard to other lines of produce until our difficulties commence. Every visitor from the Old Country tells us that our products are not well packed and are not standardised. On the other hand some of our producers are sending away their commodities in very fine order. We should endeavour to get our produce shipped under the best possible con-

ditions. In the Federal House Mr. Stewart spoke of the need for co-ordinating the land policies of the States. He said—

The question of finding markets for our products should be considered in conjunction with proposals for land settlement. It is of no use our producing dried fruits, oranges, apples, lemons, or other agricultural products of any kind, no matter how fine their quality, if we are unable to dispose of them in the markets of the world. Under present conditions the Government must depend largely on departmental officers.

It was pointed out that certain people would not co-operate and were what in another calling would be termed scabs. They would not co-operate with their fellow men in an endeavour to get better marketing conditions. I appreciated the remarks of the member for Guildford (Hon. W. D. Johnson) who, I believe, was sincere in his statements.

The Minister for Lands: Would you support a Bill to make everyone join a union?

Mr. GRIFFITHS: Mr. Theodore introduced a scheme in Queensland.

The Minister for Lands: His policy is not your policy. Like the member for Swan you want only one side of it.

Mr. Sampson: That is not a union.

The Minister for Lands: What else is it?

Mr. Sampson: A scheme of co-operation.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: Call it what we may, the scheme has been copied from America. Mr. Theodore saw what was being done there.

The Minister for Lands: The Minister for Agriculture has it under consideration at present.

The Premier: You must confine yourself to replying.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: I wish to emphasise what I had in mind in urging the formulation of a scheme for the better handling and marketing of products. The Queensland scheme is an organisation of industry, totally devoid of any political significance. The industry is divided into sections, and there are sectional committees that may be called in—

Mr. SPEAKER: Surely the hon. member can see he is introducing new and debatable matter, which should have been introduced in his speech when moving the motion. I cannot permit him to introduce fresh matter in replying to the debate.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: Having directed attention to that phase of the matter, I shall not dwell upon it. I shall be pleased to hand over details of the scheme to the Minister if he has not already got them. We have been told what co-operation is achieving. It has not got far yet, and something more than a voluntary pool is necessary. While we have been doing practically nothing to develop overseas markets, other countries have been working to secure better facilities in every way. I have copies of reports from America, and notwithstanding the statement of the Minister for Lands, I maintain such reports are not printed to

present the best side of any question. Some members have tried to discount the value of printed reports, but I think we should accept official reports as being correct. I did not ask for the appointment of a Royal Commission, and I had no desire to put the country to any great expense. I have sat on two or three select committees, which have succeeded in collecting valuable information for the House. The Leader of the House said that one of the best reports ever presented to the House came from a committee of which I was a member.

Mr. Lutey: Which select committee was that?

Mr. GRIFFITHS: The select committee on State charities. The Minister for Agriculture has as much work as he can manage, and should avail himself of this opportunity to secure the services of four or five earnest members to gather information on this question. The "West Australian" has commented on the futility of inquiry by select committee. Perhaps some committees are not of great value, but I believe an inquiry on the lines I suggested would have produced valuable results.

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

Ayes	..	..	..	..	16
Noes	..	..	..	..	18

Majority against .. 2

AYES.

Mr. Angelo	Sir James Mitchell
Mr. Barnard	Mr. Panton
Mr. Brown	Mr. Sampson
Mr. Coverley	Mr. Sleeman
Mr. Davy	Mr. J. H. Smith
Mr. Griffiths	Mr. Stubbs
Mr. Hughes	Mr. Richardson
Mr. Lindsay	(Teller.)
Mr. Mann	

NOES.

Mr. Angwin	Mr. McCallum
Mr. Chesson	Mr. Millington
Mr. Clydesdale	Mr. Munro
Mr. Collier	Mr. Teesdale
Mr. Cunningham	Mr. Troy
Mr. Heron	Mr. A. Wansbrough
Mr. W. D. Johnson	Mr. Withers
Mr. Kennedy	Mr. Wilson
Mr. Lamond	(Teller.)
Mr. Lutey	

PAIRS.

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. North	Mr. Holman
Mr. Willcock	Mr. Denton

Question thus negatived.

BILL—BUNBURY ROAD DISTRICT RATES VALIDATION.

Returned from the Council without amendment.

BILL—LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ACT AMENDMENT.

In Committee.

Resumed from the 17th September. Mr. Lutey in the Chair; Mr. Hughes in charge of the Bill.

Clause 2—Examinations in law:

Mr. DAVY: I strenuously oppose this clause, and ask members to do the same. It will turn the Barristers' Board, a statutory body created for a certain purpose, into an examining board without any particular purpose in life except that of examining people. Any person who reaches the age of 21, and is a natural born or a naturalised British subject, etc., can insist under this clause, on being examined in the intermediate and final law examinations, whether he intends to be a legal practitioner or not. An examination is really a modern afterthought grafted on the top of training. It was never intended that examinations should take the place of teaching. An examination merely ascertains whether the teaching has been effective. The clause, however, will make an examination the only thing that is necessary in this case. It is not right that an examination should stand entirely alone without the training. The Barristers' Board was not designed to be an examining board. Its job is to enforce discipline amongst legal practitioners, and to see that they behave properly in relation to the public.

Mr. Hughes: They don't do it very well.

Mr. DAVY: They do.

Mr. Hughes: I can give you many instances to the contrary.

Mr. DAVY: There may be one or two black sheep in the flock, but there are black sheep in every profession.

The Minister for Mines: The wool of a black sheep is valuable.

The Premier: And the advice of one of the black sheep in the profession may be valuable.

Mr. DAVY: That may be so.

Mr. Hughes: You are suggesting that a University man is less likely to be a black sheep.

Mr. DAVY: That is a base suggestion. The Barristers' Board is not qualified to carry out examinations; that is the function of the university. It would be quite improper to impose such an obligation on the board. An articled clerk pays £5 when sitting for an examination, but that does not half pay the cost. It costs the board £10 for every person examined, and in the case of articled clerks the balance is made up out of the fees that they pay on being articled. If this clause is passed, on every person who demands to be examined the board will lose £5. It has no funds beyond the fees that are paid by the articled clerks. How is the balance to be made up? I urge members to regard the legal profession as something that belongs to them, that is designed to provide service

for them, and that is a part of the organization of the State.

Mr. HUGHES: The hon. member seems to think that no person who has not been to a university, or who has not been wrapped in cotton-wool, should enter the profession. He has unconsciously misled the House by stating that the Barristers' Board is not an examining body.

Mr. Davy: I said no such thing.

Mr. HUGHES: It is the body charged with the responsibility of conducting the examinations. That is one of its functions.

Mr. Davy: One of them.

Mr. HUGHES: He said I was turning the Barristers' Board into an examining body such as was never intended. They are responsible for conducting examinations in Western Australia. The only difference involved by the Bill is that now any person who presents himself for examination and pays the prescribed fees, must be examined. The board have an opportunity to raise the fees if they deem it essential.

Mr. Davy: Not under the Bill.

Mr. HUGHES: The board do not conduct the examinations, but appoint examiners to undertake the work. It may mean that one or two extra examination papers will have to be printed.

Mr. Davy: It may mean 50 or 100 extra.

Mr. HUGHES: I do not care if it means 50,000 extra. Anyone should have the right to sit for the examination and not merely the few who have been wrapped in cotton-wool with silver spoons in their mouths until they have grown up. It is preposterous to suggest that only the chosen few should be allowed to sit for the examination. Those who have in the opinion of the member for West Perth, the indelible stain of labour on them because they have to work for their living and can only study at night, are not to have that privilege!

Mr. Davy: What a base thing to say!

Mr. HUGHES: Talk like a man; not like a boy. Remember you are with men. I like these mock heroics. You are in an assembly of men.

Mr. Davy: You should have some respect for decency.

The CHAIRMAN: I must ask hon. members to keep order.

Mr. Davy: Why does the hon. member continue to misrepresent people?

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. HUGHES: Another suggestion that was put forward was that in earlier days examinations were not always held. A man who had eaten a certain number of dinners in London could be admitted to the legal profession. Those who were unable to comply with the conditions were not able to avail themselves of existing privileges. The member for West Perth suggested that if this clause were agreed to, persons who had undergone no course of preparation might present themselves for examination. It is

not reasonable to suggest that persons will sit for examination unless they have gone through a course of study. There are lawyers in Perth who will coach those desirous of sitting for the law examination. One man in particular, who does no legal work in court has done a lot of coaching. Then again, there is at least one legal practitioner in Perth who was admitted to the Bar because he had passed as a result of correspondence classes conducted in London.

Mr. Davy: But he served his articles.

Mr. HUGHES: That is not under consideration. If one can be admitted by such means, why object to youths studying here and sitting for examination to gain admittance to the Bar. There is a distinction between the man who coaches and the examiner. It has nothing to do with the examiner as to where the student gains his knowledge. There are men who will compare with the member for West Perth.

Mr. Davy: Why don't you leave me alone?

Mr. HUGHES: Abraham Lincoln, for instance, will compare favourably with the member for West Perth.

Mr. Richardson: Why be so personal?

Mr. Davy: I did not attack you.

Mr. HUGHES: Didn't you? Then I must have misunderstood you.

Mr. Davy: That is a habit of yours.

Mr. HUGHES: Abraham Lincoln studied at night and whenever possible in order to qualify for the law. At the public library one may learn law from the masters of law and so qualify for admission. The clause simply gives the right to anyone to present himself for examination and if successful to demand his certificate.

Mr. DAVY: I am bound to reply to some of the arguments by the member for East Perth. I do not propose to ask hon. members to adopt this clause because they approve of the personality of the member for East Perth. I made no attempt to refer to the personality of the member for East Perth, although on the second reading I could have made some references to him that might not have been particularly pleasing to the hon. member.

Mr. Hughes: They would have made no difference.

Mr. DAVY: They would not matter to you. The London University provides the nearest approach to the hon. member's contention regarding candidates for examination. In that instance the University allows persons who have participated in correspondence classes to sit for examination, the purpose being to test whether the candidate has been taught his subject. The member for East Perth referred to persons being coached. The habit of coaching is a vicious practice brought into existence because of written examinations. Coaching is quite apart from teaching. Coaching is availed of merely for the pur-

pose of passing examinations. Some coaches are able to take candidates having good memories and qualify them for an examination in a few months. That simply amounts to memorising question and answer. I had to pass an examination which I did in a ridiculously short time by going to a coach. He had such an intimate knowledge of papers set in previous years, that he was able to make such an accurate forecast of the questions to be answered that of 10 questions set, he was able to give me six questions and answers. Anyone who has had to sit for an examination in such circumstances in London knows of the existence of coaches. To suggest that coaching is to take the place of true preparation is sheer rubbish. I leave it to the judgment of members on both sides to say whether I could even have entertained such a wicked thought as an "indelible sin of labour." I am prepared to think that every member believes in labour, so far from being a sin, as being the highest hall mark of virtue, provided it be honest. I have offered to the member for East Perth something that is a practical and proper solution of any difficulty that may exist and that will fit in with our present scheme. We have a free University, the first free University created in the world. The University is the place in which people are taught, and in which the ordinary person is unable to learn without being taught. If people wish to study law, history, or literature the proper place to be taught is at the University. I can promise that at least six legal practitioners will lecture to the students and teach them law at the University for nothing. If that sentiment is consistent with what the hon. member said of my views when he declared that I want to exclude those who have to work for a living in the daytime, then green cheese is consistent with the moon. If the Minister for Justice will introduce a Bill on the lines of what I have suggested, I will vote for it and persuade every member I can to vote for it also. It is perfectly possible for a man who is working for his living in the day time to attend lectures at night. The examinations will come afterwards. The Barristers' Board at the present time is the examining board to a certain extent. One of its functions is to examine a very small number of articulated clerks who sit for examination from year to year. The hon. member desires that the board shall act as an examining body of whoever likes to come along and demand to be examined. That is not right. He says also that they can increase he fees. The Barristers' Board have no revenue except the revenue obtained from fees paid by articulated clerks. If the board increase the fees, as the member for East Perth suggests, the articulated clerks will be ruined. Under my scheme of a chair of law at the University it will not cost the hon. member

anything to obtain a degree in law. Under that scheme anyone can work in the daytime and study at night, and the cost to the country will be not more than £200 or £300 a year. That is the logical, proper and only feasible method of making the profession open to any boy in Western Australia, if he has sufficient brains and character.

Mr. HUGHES: We know it is a very easy thing to say that we can get people to voluntarily give lectures at the University, but when it comes to doing anything like this, week in and week out, we know what the result is.

Mr. Davy: Our hospitals are practically run by "honorarys."

Mr. HUGHES: The hon. member does not suggest that the resident medical officer is not paid. Does he not know that the medical staff there and the nurses, and even the housemaids, are paid. I appreciate what is done by a few medical men who render voluntary assistance, but the hospitals are not run by those doctors.

Mr. Davy: Then we will say that they enable the institution to be conducted.

Mr. HUGHES: I would nationalise the medical profession.

The CHAIRMAN: I cannot allow that question to come into the debate.

Mr. HUGHES: I do not think the Treasurer is prepared to spend £400 per annum on a pseudo chair of law. Rather let us pay that £400 to someone to lecture at the Technical School.

Mr. Davy: Why not at the University, which is the proper place?

Mr. HUGHES: What is the difference between the tin building in Pier-street and the stone building in St. George's-terrace? The Technical School has done more for the masses than has the University. The hon. member knows, too, that the University must be attended in the daytime.

Mr. Davy: That is not so.

Mr. HUGHES: Yes. Lectures are scheduled in the daytime and therefore the man who has to earn his own living cannot attend them. But the building does not matter; so why not pay a lecturer at the Technical School?

Mr. Davy: If you put your shoulder to the wheel we will get our chair of law in the next month or so.

Mr. HUGHES: If the hon. member can get £400 out of the Treasurer I will put my shoulder behind him.

Mr. Davy: You have the ear of the Treasurer.

Mr. HUGHES: But the Government have an empty treasury. At present the suggestion is impracticable, and my Bill is the only alternative.

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

Ayes	18
Noes	13

Majority for	..	5
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AYES.

Mr. Angwin	Mr. Marshall
Mr. Cheeson	Mr. McCallum
Mr. Clydesdale	Mr. Millington
Mr. Coverley	Mr. Munzie
Mr. Cunningham	Mr. Panton
Mr. Heron	Mr. Sleeman
Mr. W. D. Johnson	Mr. A. Wansbrough
Mr. Kennedy	Mr. Withers
Mr. Lamond	Mr. Willson

(Teller.)

NOES.

Mr. Angelo	Mr. Sampson
Mr. Brown	Mr. J. H. Smith
Mr. Davy	Mr. Taylor
Mr. Latham	Mr. Teesdale
Mr. Lindsay	Mr. C. P. Wansbrough
Mr. Mann	Mr. Richardson
Sir James Mitchell	

(Teller.)

PAIRS.

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Holman	Mr. North
Mr. Hughes	Mr. Maley
Mr. Willcock	Mr. Denton

Clause thus passed.

Clause 3—Extension of qualifications for admission:

Mr. DAVY: This clause is even worse than the last. It enables persons to hang out their shingle to practise a profession of great importance to the public without ever having had a day's training, subject only to their being 30 years of age and having passed the intermediate and final examinations. The last Parliament tightened up the regulations for admission to such professions as the architects' and the dentists'. Under this clause it will be easier for a man to become a member of the legal profession than to become a cooper, or a plumber, or any other class of skilled artisan. There is no difference between those professions and mine except for the great potentialities of evil which membership of the legal profession implies. I ask members to agree with me that no man shall be permitted to practice a profession which carries heavy responsibilities, without an adequate guarantee of proper training before he commences such practice.

Mr. HUGHES: This clause represents nothing new, inasmuch as it admits a man to practise without having served articles only when he has reached the age of 30, and has passed the intermediate and final examinations. The same thing operates to-day, and has operated for 31 years, in the case of any youth whose father can or could afford to send him to London or Dublin to study law. The member for West Perth is the only lawyer I have ever known to protest against that practice, which was all right so long as it was restricted to men whose fathers were able to keep them in cotton wool, so to speak, until they were about 25 years of

age. The lawyer does not begin to get his practice until he pleads cases.

Mr. DAVY: Why, that is the least part of his work!

Mr. HUGHES: He gets no work unless he does plead cases.

Mr. DAVY: That shows how little you have learnt.

Mr. HUGHES: On the second reading the hon. member said that pleading cases led to 'the building up of big practices.

Mr. DAVY: I never said anything of the sort.

Mr. HUGHES: When a person wants a lawyer he goes to the man with a reputation; and the lawyer gets his reputation through pleading big cases in the Supreme Court. The clause will relieve certain men from the necessity for passing the preliminary examination, which is merely an examination in general education. According to the Barristers' Board, the Premier has not sufficient general education to start a course of law, nor has the Minister for Lands, notwithstanding 'that in the course of his long parliamentary career the Minister for Lands has acquired a better knowledge of statute law than is possessed by any lawyer in Perth. Before he could start a course in law the Minister for Lands would have to waste 'two or three years going through a course of dog Latin. Who are the persons likely to take advantage of this clause?

Mr. DAVY: I know one.

Mr. HUGHES: I should be glad if the hon. member would state on the floor of the House what he has said in the corridors. He has made this a personal issue, and has declared that I want to avoid the preliminary examination.

Mr. DAVY: Well, don't you?

The CHAIRMAN: I think we had better drop the personal issue.

Mr. HUGHES: The hon. member repeats by insinuation here statements he has made in the corridors. Notwithstanding that I started to earn my living when he was wrapped in cotton wool, as he has been all his life—

Mr. DAVY: There was one period during which I was not in cotton wool, but you were.

Mr. HUGHES: At 13 years of age I was earning my living by day and studying by night. I passed my examinations at the University of Adelaide and have since passed the qualifying examination for a chartered accountant, including a course of commercial law. Also I learnt shorthand, attaining a speed of 150 words a minute. While I was battling in that fashion the hon. member was at the University; yet he has the cheek to come here and suggest that I have not sufficient general education to start a course in law, and that I am trying to evade the examination.

Mr. DAVY: I never said anything of 'the sort. I said you must have training.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must address himself to Clause 3.

Mr. HUGHES: I must defend myself from insinuations made here and statements made in the corridor.

Mr. Taylor: Statements made in the corridor should not be heard here. It is rather bad taste.

Mr. HUGHES: I am glad my taste is not in accordance with that of the hon. member. This clause merely gives to every man the privilege previously retained for those wrapped in cotton wool. I hope the clause will be agreed to.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: The clause does not provide for any training whatever. Certain training is essential to any person entering the legal profession. An untrained lawyer can do almost as much damage as an untrained doctor. In many outback centres will be found but one lawyer. If that man, through imperfect training, makes some error in drawing up documents, or in their interpretation, it may have serious consequences. I do not know whether five years' articles are altogether necessary, but I think the hon. member would be well advised to insert a proviso that before a person be admitted to the legal profession he must have certain training. The member for West Perth (Mr. Davy) said the other night that on coming back from England, although he could have practised as a legal practitioner as soon as he was admitted, he felt it was necessary to first spend a period in a solicitor's office so as to pick up the practical side of the profession. That should be compulsory on every person before practising as a solicitor. There is no need to set up any line of demarcation between the rich and the poor, for quite a large number of legal practitioners of Western Australia are the sons of working men. I again counsel the hon. member to add a proviso to his clause.

Mr. HUGHES: In Victoria, after a candidate has passed his law examination at the University, he is obliged to serve 12 months in articles. I should be quite willing to provide for 12 months' service here if that will satisfy the Minister for Lands. I move an amendment—

That the following paragraph be inserted, "(e) That he has served for a period of at least 12 months in the office of a legal practitioner."

The Minister for Lands: That will suit me.

Mr. DAVY: The Minister for Lands is the first member of the Government who has made any comment on the Bill and I suggest that before he agrees to the amendment it would be only right to consult with the Minister for Justice, who is ex officio head of the legal profession. Although I admit that a man may go to the Old Country, be admitted as a barrister and come back here as a general practitioner, before he

can be admitted as a barrister he has to undergo a proper course of study for three years.

The Minister for Lands: Here is a man must undergo a course of study before he takes his examination.

Mr. DAVY: No, he may go to a crammer and have no real knowledge whatever. In Melbourne a man who undergoes a three years' course at the University, passes his examinations and then undergoes a course in a solicitor's office, may be admitted. Under the Bill, however, a man will merely have to pass his examinations and then serve 12 months in a solicitor's office in order to be admitted. The whole scheme under this measure is a half-baked one that will make us the laughing stock of Australia. If the Bill be passed, Western Australian practitioners will lose their reciprocity with the other States.

Mr. Hughes: They will not; they will only be in line with the other States.

Mr. DAVY: I repeat that they will lose their reciprocity, and naturally they do not wish to have the finger of scorn pointed at them.

Mr. Taylor: The standard will be lowered.

Mr. DAVY: Yes, it will be lower than that of any other part of the world.

Mr. HUGHES: I am astounded at the lack of knowledge of the member for West Perth. In Queensland a barrister can be admitted without serving one day in articles.

Mr. Davy: Of course, because the profession in Queensland is divided.

Mr. HUGHES: Such a man could then go to South Australia and be admitted as a barrister and solicitor.

Mr. Davy: It is not so.

Mr. HUGHES: If Western Australia loses its reciprocity, it will be very unjust indeed. That is only bluff on the part of the member for West Perth. Victoria has not lost its reciprocity, and that State has done exactly what we propose to do. The man who works in the daytime and studies at night should have an opportunity to qualify just as has the cotton-wool darling who attends the University.

Mr. DAVY: There is no analogy whatever between what is done in Victoria and in Western Australia. In Victoria a man has to undergo three years' training and tuition and pass examinations first in general knowledge, then intermediate and final examinations in law and get a degree in law. That is not the same as a man passing two examinations without any training or tuition or any definite period of study.

Amendment put and passed.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: The examination must be in accordance with the rules laid down by the board of examiners. If it is as easy to pass the examination as indicated by the member for West Perth, many of our young people will be taking up the study of law. This clause deals

with persons over the age of 30. Such a person would be far more likely to work hard during his year in an office than a boy would be. The subjects to be passed are entirely in the hands of the Barristers' Board, where we can safely leave the matter. The hon. member said that when he returned from England he found it necessary to take a course in practical experience. He now says an examination is not sufficient, because a man can be crammed in a few months, and will forget his knowledge in a few more months.

Mr. Davy: Training is the point, not the examination.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: Most of the people under discussion will have been in training during a great part of their lives.

Mr. TAYLOR: If the Bill is passed in its present form it will lower the standard of the legal profession in this State, and will make it easier for some one to get into the profession.

Mr. Hughes: It will give people an equal opportunity with others of doing so.

Mr. DAVY: Parliament recently passed an Act rendering it necessary for an architect to serve for five years and then pass an examination, and for dentists to serve for several years before passing an examination. This Bill says that a man may first pass two examinations without any training or tuition, then have one year in an office and be admitted as a member of the most responsible profession there is.

The Minister for Lands: A man cannot pass an examination without tuition.

Mr. DAVY: He can pass an examination after being crammed for it. A proper course of study should be arranged over a succession of years under adequate supervision. Any course of study that is not based on that principle will be vicious in the extreme.

Hon. S. W. MUNSIE: If I thought the clause interfered with the standard of the profession, the method of examination, or made the profession easier to get into, I would vote against it. To-day a man has to adopt a certain procedure irrespective of his qualifications, and then must pass an examination to become a lawyer. I will not be a party to debarring from entering the profession any man who has the ability to pass the examination set by members of that profession. I also agree that a candidate for the profession should have a certain amount of knowledge, such as he would gain in a year's experience, before he is admitted. If a man can pass the test set up by the Barristers' Board, Parliament has no right to prevent him.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: The Dental Act was amended in order that justice might be done to some persons to whom, by a previous Act, an injustice had been done. The circumstances in this case, however, are quite different. Under the law as it stands to-day, the standard

for admission to the legal profession is five years' practical experience plus the passing of the examinations.

Hon. S. W. Munsie: Under this clause the examinations in law must be passed by the candidate for admission.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: If the Minister does not wish to lower the standard, he must vote against the clause.

Hon. S. W. Munsie: I shall vote for it.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: Why is the Bill before Parliament? To maintain the standard? No; to reduce the standard.

Mr. Davy: By substituting one year's training for five years'.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: The further consideration of this clause should be adjourned.

Clause as amended put, and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	..	..	..	..	18
Noes	..	..	..	..	12

Majority for 6

AYES.

Mr. Angwin	Mr. Luty
Mr. Chesson	Mr. Marshall
Mr. Clydesdale	Mr. Millington
Mr. Coverley	Mr. Munsie
Mr. Cunningham	Mr. Panten
Mr. Heron	Mr. Sleeman
Mr. W. D. Johnson	Mr. A. Wansbrough
Mr. Kennedy	Mr. Withers
Mr. Lamond	Mr. Wilson

(Teller.)

NOES.

Mr. Brown	Mr. North
Mr. Davy	Mr. J. H. Smith
Mr. Latham	Mr. Taylor
Mr. Lindsay	Mr. Teesdale
Mr. Mann	Mr. C. P. Wansbrough
Sir James Mitchell	Mr. Richardson

(Teller.)

PAIRS.

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Hughes	Mr. Maley
Mr. Willcock	Mr. Denton

Clause, as amended, thus passed.

Clause 4—Preliminary examination and articles of clerkship not required:

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I move an amendment—

That the following words be struck out:—"or to have been articled to a practitioner, or to have served under articles of clerkship, or as a clerk to a practitioner for any period."

Mr. DAVY: The clause provides that any person over 30 years of age need not pass the examination. The member for Hannans said that he voted for the last clause only because he understood the standard would not be lowered.

Hon. S. W. Munsie: If the standard of the examination is not lowered, and an individual has the ability to pass the examination, he should not be debarred.

Mr. DAVY: Then why does the Honorary Minister not agree to do away with apprentices in the plumbing trade and say that because a youth has the ability to pass the necessary plumbing examination, he should not be required to go through his apprenticeship?

The Minister for Lands: That can be done in the plumbing trade.

Mr. DAVY: Then I am unfortunate in my selection. Why not let the brilliant young man, who has the ability to pass the necessary examination, go on an engine or engage in other occupations for which long periods of training are necessary? In the legal profession, the years of training are a great deal more important than the mere examination candidates have to pass. If the Honorary Minister were consistent he would not agree to the clause with the provision for preliminary or any examinations other than the intermediate or final examinations in law.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	..	..	..	..	18
Noes	..	..	..	..	12
—					

Majority for 6

AYES.

Mr. Angwin	Mr. Lutey
Mr. Chesson	Mr. Marshall
Mr. Clydesdale	Mr. Millington
Mr. Coverley	Mr. Munsie
Mr. Cunningham	Mr. Panton
Mr. Heron	Mr. Sleeman
Mr. W. D. Johnson	Mr. A. Wansbrough
Mr. Kennedy	Mr. Withers
Mr. Lamond	Mr. Willson

(Teller.)

NOES.

Mr. Brown	Mr. North
Mr. Davy	Mr. J. H. Smith
Mr. Latham	Mr. Taylor
Mr. Lindsay	Mr. Teesdale
Mr. Mann	Mr. C. P. Wansbrough
Sir James Mitchell	Mr. Richardson

(Teller.)

PAIRS.

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Holman	Mr. Maley
Mr. Willcock	Mr. Denton

Clause, as amended, thus passed.

Mr. LATHAM: I move—

That progress be reported.

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

Ayes	..	..	..	..	11
Noes	..	..	..	..	19
—					

Majority against .. 8

AYES.

Mr. Brown	Mr. J. H. Smith
Mr. Davy	Mr. Taylor
Mr. Latham	Mr. Teesdale
Mr. Mann	Mr. C. P. Wansbrough
Sir James Mitchell	Mr. Richardson
Mr. North	(Teller.)

NOES.

Mr. Angwin	Mr. Lutey
Mr. Chesson	Mr. Marshall
Mr. Clydesdale	Mr. Millington
Mr. Coverley	Mr. Munsie
Mr. Cunningham	Mr. Panton
Mr. Heron	Mr. Sleeman
Mr. W. D. Johnson	Mr. A. Wansbrough
Mr. Kennedy	Mr. Withers
Mr. Lamond	Mr. Willson
Mr. Lindsay	(Teller.)

PAIRS.

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Maley	Mr. Hughes
Mr. Denton	Mr. Willcock

Motion thus negatived.

Clause 5—agreed to.

Clause 6—Examination of articulated clerk in general knowledge:

Mr. DAVY: This clause represents a refreshing little oasis in the Bill, for it is the first attempt to do anything for the person under 30 years of age. The clause provides that such a person when articulated may pass the examination in general knowledge during the period of his articles. This serves to show what an extraordinary thing the Bill is. We are asked to make flesh of people under 30 and highly flavoured fish of those over 30 years of age. I have always understood that the party to which the author of the Bill belongs were against undemocratic distinctions of age, that they favoured young men having the same rights as older men. But under the clause a man of less than 30 has to be articulated for five years and pay his premiums and all the rest of it; whereas if he waited until he was 30 years of age he could become enrolled merely by passing certain examinations and, under the Minister's amendment, having one year's training. The essential idea of the preliminary examination is that before a man devotes his time to any one subject he shall be proficient in general knowledge. At every university in the world, before a man specialises it is necessary that he shall pass a preliminary examination.

The Minister for Lands: Professor Murdoch is opposed to examinations.

Mr. DAVY: And I am inclined to agree with the professor. The Minister, however, leans to examinations. So sure am I that it is necessary a man should have some general training before he starts specialised training, that I will vote against the clause.

Mr. HUGHES: At present when a boy at the James-street school passes the junior examination he has to go to the Modern School and wait two years before sitting for

the leaving examination. In many instances the parents of such a boy cannot afford to leave him at school for another two years. The specific object of the clause is to allow boys who have passed the junior and cannot afford to carry on at the Modern School, to enter the legal profession.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: I do not know why these young men should not be admitted to the profession on the same terms as a man of 30. What virtue is there in being 30 years of age? A man, if under 30, must serve five years in a solicitor's office notwithstanding the clause.

Mr. Hughes: No, he can pass his examinations and earn his living elsewhere.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: The difference is that when an articled clerk reaches 30 years of age he can be admitted, but if he be under 30 years of age he has to pass examinations and serve his articles. The younger man should have the privileges proposed to be extended to a man over 30 years of age. Under the Bill it will be an easy matter to become a lawyer. Presently we shall have a similar Bill designed to allow boys to escape apprenticeship to a trade. It is ridiculous for the House in the one session to be raising standards in one profession and lowering them in another.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I cannot admire the logic of the hon. member. He knows that when the soldiers returned from the war a school was started for the purpose of teaching them trades. Within 12 months, with the assistance of the trade unions, that school was able to turn out large numbers of those men thorough tradesmen. Why? Because the men were matured, whereas the clause deals with boys. Under the clause a boy taken into a solicitor's office, not as an articled clerk, but as an office boy, and giving promise of developing into a good solicitor, could be articled and still have two years in which to matriculate.

Mr. Davy: Do you mean to say a man can learn a new thing more easily after 30 than before?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: We had proof of it among the trainees.

Mr. Davy: It is not an accepted view.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: It was possible because the persons who took those men in hand trained them well and because the trainees were of mature age.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 7, 8, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported with amendments.

House adjourned at 10.33 p.m.

Legislative Council.

Thursday, 2nd October, 1924.

	PAGE
Questions: Horseshoe Bridge tramway	1112
Railways, wheat freights	1112
Motion: Standing Orders amendments	1112
Bills: Inspection of Scaffolding, 2s.	1112
Industrial Arbitration Act Amendment, 1s.	1117
Closer Settlement, 2s.	1117
Trust Funds Investment, 2s.	1119
Private Savings Bank, recom.	1120

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

QUESTION—HORSESHOE BRIDGE TRAMWAY.

Hon. A. J. H. SAW asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, Have the Government consulted the Engineer-in-Chief with reference to the advisability of running a double line of trams over the Horseshoe Bridge? 2, If not, in order to allay public anxiety, will they do so before taking further action?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: 1, No. 2, There is no occasion for any public anxiety.

QUESTION—RAILWAYS, WHEAT FREIGHTS.

Hon. H. J. YELLAND asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, Is it a fact that the Minister for Railways intends to review wheat freights during the coming season? 2, If so, in what direction?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: 1 and 2, The matter is under consideration.

MOTION—STANDING ORDERS AMENDMENT.

Order of the Day read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion by Hon. J. W. Kirwan:—

That the revised Standing Orders of the Legislative Council, drafted by the Standing Orders Committee in pursuance of the instruction given to them on the 5th August last, be adopted.

On motion by Hon. J. Ewing, debate further adjourned.

BILL—INSPECTION OF SCAFFOLDING.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from 30th September.

Hon. E. H. GRAY (West) [4.35]: I support the second reading and hope it will be carried. In order to get information from those engaged in the building trade, since the Bill was last before the House, I have