

able to place themselves in positions which will secure for them adequate re-establishment in civilian life. Men of that description are looking for work now, and if something could be done through the columns of the Press to again awaken in the minds of generous people, a realisation of their responsibility to these men, something tangible could be achieved. I hope these men will never have to plead that the prayer of their petition for the right to work has been spurned.

Hon. F. ROSE (South-West) [4.2]: I formally second the motion.

On motion by Hon. A. Lovekin debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 4.3 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Thursday 26th July, 1928.

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MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY.

The Legislative Assembly met at 3 p.m. pursuant to proclamation by His Excellency the Governor, which proclamation was read by the Clerk.

The SPEAKER took the Chair.

SUMMONS FROM THE GOVERNOR.

The Speaker and hon. members, in response to summons, proceeded to the Legislative Council Chamber and, having heard His Excellency deliver the opening Speech (*vide* Council report ante), they returned to the Assembly Chamber.

The Speaker resumed the Chair.

BILL—REGISTRATION OF DEEDS AMENDMENT.

The PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam): In order to assert and maintain the undoubted rights and privileges of this House to initiate legislation, I move, without notice, for leave to introduce a Bill

for an Act to amend an ordinance to consolidate and amend the laws relating to the registration of deeds, wills, judgments and conveyances affecting real property.

Leave given; Bill introduced and read a first time.

GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

Mr. SPEAKER: In company with hon. members of this Chamber, I attended His Excellency the Governor in the Legislative Council Chamber to hear the Speech which His Excellency was pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament. For greater accuracy, I have had printed copies of the Speech distributed amongst hon. members of this Chamber.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

First Day.

Mr. MANN (Perth) [3.45]: I move—

That the following address be presented to His Excellency the Governor in reply to the Speech he has been pleased to deliver to us:—"May it please Your Excellency. We the members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia, in Parliament assembled, beg to express our loyalty to our most gracious Sovereign, and to thank your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to address to Parliament."

I am pleased to note that the outstanding feature of the Governor's Speech is that of the further development of Western Australia and of the State's industries.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I thought it was finance.

Mr. MANN: It is apparent that we must have a very large development of the interior of the State before we can realise the establishment of secondary industries.

Mr. Underwood: How do you define "interior"?

Mr. MANN: The hon. member comes from the interior and ought to know. I wish to commend the Government for their policy of development. I doubt whether anyone, in power or out of power, has been so persistent in urging the necessity for developing the lands and industries of this State as has been the Leader of the present Government.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You do not always say that.

Mr. MANN: Of course there are some people who criticise the actions of the Premier. Sir James Mitchell had critics when he was developing the wheat lands, and there are people who criticise his policy for developing the South-West. These critics are not always of the constructive type. They do not possess the vision or the foresight of the Leader of the Government.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That is very hard language to use.

Hon. P. Collier: What about Mr. Monger?

Mr. MANN: The wheat lands of this State to-day stand as a monument to the enterprise of the Leader of the Government.

Mr. Corboy: What! All the wheat lands!

Mr. MANN: I wish to record a meed of praise to the Scandian Government on the enterprise they displayed in extending the Coolgardie water scheme into the dry areas, following the settlement of the wheat lands.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Then we may call it fifty-fifty.

Mr. MANN: That was done at a time when it was doubtful whether some of the settlers would be able to remain on their holdings, and it was the means of keeping hundreds of settlers on their holdings. We always respect a trier, because a non-trier gets nowhere and accomplishes nothing.

Mr. Clydesdale: How do you know?

Mr. MANN: I have the honour to sit behind and support a Government who are triers, a Government who are doing something—

Mr. Corboy: Yes, building up a deficit.

Mr. MANN: A Government who have accomplished something. Therefore, I consider it only right to commend them for the work they have done to date.

Mr. McCallum: Six millions of deficit!

Mr. MANN: At this point it is interesting to quote the position of Western Australia as regards overseas exports and imports during the nine months ended the 31st March last.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Why nine months?

Mr. Corboy: Why not take the 12 months?

Mr. MANN: Those are the latest figures I could get. In that period New South Wales was five million pounds behind in its exports; Victoria was eight million pounds behind in its exports; Queensland had exports in excess of imports to the extent of four million pounds, and Western Australia had exports in excess of imports to the extent of £2,591,000. Those figures relate only to overseas trade.

Hon. P. Collier: Yes, we sent away a lot of sheep skins.

Mr. McCallum: What about the inter-State trade? The figures you have quoted are most misleading.

Mr. MANN: I distinctly stated that they referred to overseas trade. I shall deal with the volume of inter-State trade later on.

Mr. McCallum: Those figures lead you nowhere.

Mr. MANN: In March, 1922, our bank deposits totalled £9,587,816 and in March, 1923, they stood at £9,194,614: an increase of £606,978. Including the increase of £183,271 in the Commonwealth Bank, the total increase was £789,569.

Mr. Landert: Give us an idea of the deficit.

Mr. MANN: As showing the confidence of the financial institutions in the present Government, the advances made by the Associated Banks increased from £9,681,332 to £10,264,311.

Mr. Corboy: That indicates their stranglehold, not their confidence.

Mr. O'Loughlen: What did they put into the woollen mills?

Mr. MANN: I submit that these figures supply convincing evidence of the confidence displayed by the financial institutions and the people of the State in the present administration. In my opening remarks I referred to the necessity for developing the interior of the State before we could hope to find progress reflected in our secondary industries in the metropolitan area. In order to support that statement, I must quote a few more figures. During the last 20 years, horses have increased in number from 80,000 to 180,000—

Mr. McCallum Smith: What, race horses?

Mr. MANN: Cattle have increased from 437,000 to 893,000—

Hon. W. C. Angwin: There has not been a market for them.

Mr. MANN: And sheep have increased from 2,704,000 to 6,506,000. Those figures provide convincing evidence of the progress of the State.

Hon. P. Collier: The stock have increased out of appreciation for the Government!

Mr. MANN: But for these increases the State would not be in such a healthy position.

Mr. Corboy: Can you give a comparison covering the last five years?

Mr. MANN: At one period the whole of the sheep in this State were to be found in the country north of Geraldton, but to-day nearly one-half of the number are located between Geraldton and Albany. Twenty years ago the wheat production of Western Australia was 985,000 bushels; last season it was 13,900,000 bushels. Twenty years ago we produced only 168,000 bushels of oats; last season the production exceeded 2,000,000 bushels.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: When the Labour Government were in office the wheat production reached 18,000,000 bushels.

Mr. MANN: Twenty years ago the area of land under wheat was 92,000 acres; to-day it is 1,336,000 acres.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: We have gone back.

Mr. MANN: Twenty years ago Western Australia produced only 321,000 lbs. of butter; now it is producing at the rate of 2,650,000 lbs. a year. Twenty years ago we imported 76,000 cases of fruit; we are now exporting about 300,000 cases a year.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Twenty years ago you could have won a Sheffield handicap.

Mr. MANN: I hope the member for Forrest could win one to-day.

The Minister for Mines: He would have to try hard.

Mr. MANN: I am pleased to note in the Speech that the Government intend to pursue the policy of railway construction.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I put through all those Bills, save one, in 1914.

Mr. MANN: That is to the hon. member's credit. The projected railways represent a total mileage of 446, and members can readily imagine what that will mean in the further development of this State. One very satis-

factory feature of the increased development of the country is its effect on the revenue of our railways.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Loan expenditure is responsible for that.

Mr. MANN: I commend the Commissioner of Railways on his scheme of economy and on the policy which has led to the achievement of such improved results during the past year. It is regrettable that our gold yield has not increased in keeping with the progress of other industries, but we have an assurance that the Government are affording assistance to those who are endeavouring to extend the industry. During the year 141 prospecting parties were assisted and at the present time there are 82 parties out prospecting for gold. I am glad that the Minister is seriously considering the suggestion to provide capacitor water on the goldfields with a view to making possible the treatment of lower grades of ore. I suggest that the Government now, having regard to the fact that the revenue is no longer called upon to contribute to the sinking fund for the Goldfields Water Scheme, should consider a reduction in the price of water with a view to assisting the goldmining industry. I commend the Government for having taken that matter in hand. I desire also to bring under notice the commendable action of the Minister for Agriculture in endeavouring to increase the acreage of wheat lands.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: To bring it up to the figures of the Labour Government's time.

Mr. MANN: I commend the Minister also for endeavouring to bring about a better system of cultivation. The Minister acted wisely in sending our wheat expert to Victoria to investigate the methods employed in the Wimmera district to-day. If our farmers can follow in the train of the Wimmera farmers, we shall be able to double our wheat production without extending our area of cultivation. The Wimmera land is of no better quality than ours, but the system of farming there is better. I desire also to draw attention to the proposal of the Minister for establishing an agricultural college. The agricultural colleges of Victoria, New South Wales, and South Australia have done a great deal towards educating the young farmers of those States. I consider that the establishment of an agricultural college here will prove of great benefit to young farmers and to others who intend to embark on farming pursuits. Everyone must, I think, be satisfied with the progress of the group settlements. I have had the privilege of visiting a great many of those groups, and have seen them in the various stages of their advancement. During a recent visit to the Busselton group I found the settlers very contented and full of enthusiasm, as well as inspired with an energetic desire to get on to their holdings. I found there men and women who had arrived from England as late as November of last year already settled in their homes, which they had made as comfortable as could be expected in the circumstances. They had

their gardens going, and were making good headway with their holdings generally. All of them considered themselves to be in a better position here than in the Old Country. The development of agriculture and of our South-Western lands being well in hand, it now belongs to us to be in the fore-front looking for markets for our products. In this respect we have to begin at home. We must have a good and up-to-date metropolitan market, because we can go a long way before we shall overtake the local demand. When quoting figures of export a few minutes ago, I was asked by hon. members opposite, by way of interjection, whether I was speaking of inter-State trade as well as of overseas trade. I am sorry to have to admit that it is in the matter of inter-State trade our trouble comes in. Although we have a large surplus in our exports overseas, we have been compelled to send some millions of money to the Eastern States for goods. We are, however, on the way to produce our own requirements in the matter of such goods, but what we absolutely require is a manner of distribution which will be economical to the producer and also economical to the consumers. The only means I can see of attaining this end is to establish metropolitan markets. These should not be constructed at a large outlay of capital, so that those utilising them would not be overburdened with heavy charges. I recently inspected various markets in two of the Eastern States. In Melbourne I found that a market covering seven acres was able to provide accommodation for a thousand carts and wagons of growers. The charge made was the nominal one of 1s. per day. The grower came in with his produce at 4 a.m., and for a payment of 1s. had the use of a stand until 8 a.m., when the retailer took over, paying 2s. for the use of the stand until noon. The distance travelled by growers to attend this market ranged from 10 to 35 miles. They were able to get at that market a first hand exchange of their produce. There was no middleman. They brought their produce in, and sold it direct to the merchant or to the consumer. An advantageous state of things obtains also with regard to markets in Adelaide. I ascertained that the grower selling in Adelaide market considered that he got about 10 per cent. more for his produce than he otherwise would, and that the consumer was able to purchase from those markets at 12½ to 15 per cent. less than the prices charged in stores, this difference being due, of course, to the low rentals at the markets, the freedom from rates, and the easy method of disposal. In my opinion the markets in Perth should be under the control of the municipal authorities; but if these do not undertake the establishment of markets, then I urge it is the duty of the Government to make provision immediately for that purpose. I do not suggest that the Government should control and manage the markets, but that the Government should provide them and then let them to those who desire to utilise them. Next I desire to refer to the growth of our secondary industries. It

is very pleasing to know that many of them are prospering and extending.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That is not what Mr. Garner says.

Mr. MANN: We are now manufacturing a large percentage of the boots that we require in this State. We are also manufacturing a large proportion of the clothing required here. But there are other directions in which we must extend. At the present time there are other industries requiring development in the metropolitan area. Recently an order came from Ceylon for 2,000 sides of bacon, and that order had to be transferred to Queensland because the factories here were not able to supply it.

Mr. Hughes: That is the advantage of having a Labor Government.

Mr. MANN: These are all matters requiring the attention of the Government, and I urge on Ministers the necessity for endeavouring to improve the position. It is gratifying to know that we have steel works just about to start here, and that they will give work, when fully manned, to 150 or 200 employees.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That has been in hand for two years.

Mr. MANN: The hon. member does not know the reason of the delay, probably.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I do know that the works have been in hand for two years.

The Premier: They are starting now.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I hope so.

Mr. MANN: As regards public utilities in the metropolitan area, I must commend the Government for having extended the tramway service. In the closely settled parts of the metropolitan area rents are so high that it is not possible for people to live there in comfort, and pay the rents demanded. I have learned that the high rents in the metropolitan area render it necessary for two and even three families to live in one habitation. This shows the necessity for extended tramway facilities, so that people may be afforded an opportunity of going out to the suburbs to build homes there.

Mr. Hughes: That is the most sensible thing you have said to-day.

Mr. MANN: The hon. member is not a good judge as to what is sensible or otherwise. The Government have ceased to build workers' homes in the metropolitan area, though they are constructing a large number of these homes in the country districts. In my opinion, rather than close down absolutely on the construction of workers' homes in the metropolitan area, the Government should have taken each case on its merits, and still continued to construct workers' homes in the metropolitan area where necessary. Such a policy is highly desirable in view of the heavy rents being charged. These rents are due to the fact that investors to-day are not building homes for letting purposes. Those who have houses are taking advantage of the scarcity to charge exorbitant rents. I am with the member for North-East Fremantle (Hon. W. C. Angwin) as to the need for establishing a fair rents court in order that those who

are compelled to utilise rented premises in the metropolitan area may have an opportunity of getting them on fair terms.

Mr. Hughes: What are you going to do about it?

Mr. MANN: I desire to make a reference to the unemployment which obtains at this period of the year. The principal reason for that unemployment is that shipping is slack for three or four months at the present period. In this connection I favour the suggestion of the member for South Fremantle that the Government should open up a considerable area close to Fremantle for closer settlement, thus affording the men who work on the wharf an opportunity of obtaining holdings on which they could be employed when shipping is slack.

Mr. Corboy: That talk is like the talk about seven hundred jobs the other day.

The Premier: What have you done about that?

Hon. W. C. Angwin: We have not had the opportunity of doing much, but we worried you as much as we could.

Mr. MANN: In a few months the men could be well employed on their own holdings. I am pleased to learn that the Government are seriously taking in hand the problem of water supply in the metropolitan area. I would like to have the assurance of the Minister—

Hon. P. Collier: Which Minister?

Mr. MANN: —that during the forthcoming summer we shall not have the same trouble with water supply on the highlands as we had this year. At this point I may refer to the fact that firms for the manufacture of water pipes have been established here for many years, and that those firms have passed through a number of lean years. Now that there is a harvest of work, I desire that those firms should receive consideration. I for my part would take strong exception to the enlargement of any of the State enterprises for the purpose of constructing water pipes while these firms have got the necessary plant already established here. While we have State enterprises I will not be one to say that we should scrap them. We should not, however, permit them to be expanded or to do an injury to those people who have invested money in the State, and whose object in coming here was to assist in the establishment of industries, even at considerable risk.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: And it all depends on the charges they impose.

Mr. MANN: They have in the past charged fair rates for work done and they are not likely to start now to impose excessive charges. I submit that the policy of the Government, so far as future development is concerned, is consistent with their policy of development in the past, which policy has given satisfaction to the people of the State, especially those who have invested their money here. The Government of to-day have endeavoured to protect the interests of those people and have likewise done their

utmost to make the interests of the employees secure. They have honestly endeavoured to keep the State free from unemployment. There may be a little unemployment at the present time.

Mr. Hughes: A little unemployment!

Mr. MANN: But as regards unemployment this State is not in such a bad position as the other States of the Commonwealth, and the Government are to be commended for their efforts in keeping in employment those who are engaged in industries. Having commended the Government for their past work and administration, I can only conclude by expressing confidence regarding the future and what may be done here to the end of the session.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You are not going further than the end of the session?

Mr. MANN: I have pleasure in submitting the motion.

Mr. BROWN (Beverley) [4.17]: I formally second the motion.

On motion by Hon. P. Collier, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 4.18 p.m.

Legislative Council.

Tuesday, 31st July, 1923.

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

QUESTION—WYNDHAM MEAT WORKS.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN asked the Minister for Education: During the year ended 31st December, 1922, 1, What was the capital of the Wyndham Meat Works? 2, How much of such capital was the result of past working losses? 3, What was the amount (a) of interest charges? (b) of sinking fund charges? 4, What was the amount of (a) fixed working charges? (b) other overhead

costs? 5, What was the number of cattle slaughtered? 6, What prices were paid for same? 7, What were the selling prices? 8, What was the profit or loss on the year's working?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: 1, £1,221,410. 2, The losses on working account from 1-1-19 to 31-12-22 (excluding interest) totalled £213,490. 3, (a) £76,743; (b) Nil. 4, (a) Fixed working charges—fire insurance £3,700, other £5,220, total £8,920; (b) other overhead costs £1,480. 5, 22,670. 6, From £5 15s. 2d. to £1 10s.; average £3 17s. 5d. 7, Average £11 17s. 8, Loss, working account, £10,330; interest, £76,743; total £87,073.

QUESTIONS (3)—RAILWAY PROJECTS.

Dwarda-Narrogin.

Hon. J. A. GREIG asked the Minister for Education: 1, Have the Government given any effect to the following resolution, carried without dissent by this House on 24th January last:—"That in the opinion of this House the Government should instruct the Railway Advisory Board to furnish an up-to-date report on the advisability of constructing the Dwarda-Narrogin railway, or to recommend alternative routes for the purpose of shortening the distance between the Great Southern districts and the metropolitan area, so as to serve the greatest number of people and the best interests of the State as a whole; and also to report where, in their opinion, the line from Dwarda should proceed to, if not constructed to Narrogin? 2, If not, why not?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: 1 and 2, No. The resolution was transmitted to the Legislative Assembly, asking for its concurrence, but was discharged from the Notice Paper.

Brookton Westward.

Hon. J. A. GREIG asked the Minister for Education: Will the Government introduce a Bill this session for the purpose of constructing a railway from Brookton westward?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: An inspection of the land to be served is nearing completion, and it is intended to introduce a Bill.

Kondinin-Karlgarin.

Hon. J. A. GREIG ask the Minister for Education: Have the Government given consideration to the question of railway facilities for the settlers at Karlgarin area, from 20 to 30 miles east from Kondinin?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: Yes.