

metropolitan community should be inconvenienced as it is by the hanging up of the tramway system. I can understand there are perhaps difficulties in the way of settlement, but these difficulties ought not to be so great as to have kept this dispute going for so long. I do not know the merits as to the original dispute, except by hearsay and from what I have seen in the papers. I know that men working on the trams have told me that they have to work a certain number of hours on the trams and to spend a large number of hours each day going to and from the car barn to report themselves even when they are not needed. I have been told that it is necessary for men to be engaged 12 or 14 hours in one way and another to put in eight hours' work at 1s. an hour under the latest offer. I believe, of the tramway company. It appears to me the tramway company is showing just as much consideration to the men as it has shown to the public, and the public have never had the slightest consideration from the company, because cars very often carry to Subiaco about three times as many people as they can properly accommodate. Men, women, and children are forced to hang on almost by their eyebrows. They are not supplied with seats. The greatest possible inconvenience is caused by lack of rolling stock. The tramway company has entirely failed to fulfil its agreement with the different municipal bodies. I do not intend to go into the merits of the dispute, but I have a suspicion that a company that will treat its patrons and customers with such little consideration is not likely to have shown much consideration for its employees. In any case, whether the employees or the company be to blame for the existing deadlock, the public all the time suffer, and I would like the Ministry to find some way out of the difficulty.

Mr. Johnson: The men offered to leave it absolutely to the Premier to settle the difference, and the company refused.

Mr. DAGLISH: I do not know of any legal method—I do not think there is any—of compelling the company to run

trams in view of the application already made to the Court; but I think it is a grave wrong to the public that they should suffer this long-continued inconvenience through stiff-neckedness on the part of this tramway company. I hope that the present session of Parliament will be peaceful and a happy one for members on both sides of the House, and that good feeling will prevail right through the session despite the differences of political opinion that may separate the rival parties.

On motion by Mr. Holman, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 10.13 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 16th August, 1910.

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

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Minister for Mines: Statement of expenditure under the Mining Development Act for year ended 30th June, 1910.

By the Premier: By-laws of the Boulder and York Local Boards of Health.

By the Minister for Works: Amended By-law No. 4 of the Marble Bar Roads Board.

QUESTION—ASIATICS, MARRIAGE WITH WHITE WOMEN.

Mr. LAYMAN (for Mr. Murphy) asked the Attorney General: 1. Has his

attention been directed to the statement of the Federal Minister for Home Affairs, "That the Federal Government had no power to legislate regarding the lives which white women chose to lead. That was a matter for domestic legislation"? 2. If this is so, will the Attorney General introduce a short Bill making marriages between Asiatics and white women prohibitive in the State of Western Australia?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL replied: 1, Yes. 2. The Attorney General is not in accord with the reported statement of the Federal Minister for Home Affairs. By Section 51 of the Commonwealth Constitution Act the following matters are expressly placed in the power of the Federal Parliament:—To make laws with respect to: (XIX.) Aliens. (XXI.) Marriage. (XXVI.) The people of any race.....for whom it is deemed necessary to make special laws.

QUESTION—LOAN MONEYS, CREDITS IN LONDON.

Mr. LAYMAN (for Mr. Keenan) asked the Treasurer: 1. What amount of money stands to the credit of the W.A. Government in London which has been obtained under any loan authorisation? 2. For what length of time has this money been so available? 3. From what date is interest payable on same? 4. Is such amount lying at interest? 5. If so, at what rate?

The TREASURER replied: 1. On the 30th June, £514,922. 2. Since 11th June, £14,607; since 16th June, £437,381; since 23rd June, £23,069; since 30th June, £39,865. 3. From 1st April. (This accrued interest is part of the consideration offered to the intending investors, as also the underwriters; and for it, therefore, an equivalent is to be looked for in the flotation terms secured by the State. This return is of course quite apart from any interest derived by the State from the temporary investment of flotation instalments.) 4. Yes. 5. Whole amount at $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. at call to 29th July, when £400,000 is fixed for six

months from that date at $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. and balance at call.

BILL—AGRICULTURAL BANK ACT AMENDMENT.

Introduced by the Minister for Lands, and read a first time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

*Mr. Heitmann and Commission on
Miners' Lung Diseases.*

Mr. HEITMANN (Cue): I would ask the permission of the House to make a personal explanation. The Minister for Mines, when speaking to the Address-in-Reply last week said, and in no uncertain terms, when referring to the Royal Commission on Miners' Lung Diseases, that I had refused and failed to assist the Royal Commissioner at Cue during his visit there, and by his utterance I was led to understand he wished the country to believe that I had "played to the gallery" in my efforts during the past few years to do something for the miners. Knowing I had assisted the Commissioner from the moment he arrived in Cue until he left, and that Dr. Cumpston had verbally thanked me for the assistance, I was astounded at the statement made by the Minister. Ten minutes after he had spoken I wrote to the Commissioner informing him of the statement and asking if, in his opinion, it were correct. Yesterday I received the following letter, dated 15th August, from Dr. Cumpston, the Royal Commissioner on Miners' Lung Diseases:—

Sir,—I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 9th inst., which I found awaiting me on my return from Collie at the end of last week. In reply thereto I desire to state that the list of names of miners whom you knew, or suspected, to be affected with lung diseases, which you had prepared for me before my arrival at Cue, was of great assistance to me. I was under the impression that I had verbally expressed my appreciation of

your assistance in this and other directions; but in case I failed to do this I hasten to repair the omission. I make this statement not altogether for the benefit of the Chamber but of the country.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Eighth day.

Resumed from the 11th August.

Mr. UNDERWOOD (Pilbara): In addressing myself to this question I feel very much in the same position as the member for Fremantle—I recognise my inability to do justice to it. At the same time I have never thought it worth while telling anyone about my inability because I have recognised that probably they would find it out for themselves before I had finished. The first item in the Speech has reference to the death of our late King. I sincerely regret that death, for I had the utmost respect and admiration for King Edward VII., but at the same time I am tired of all this fulsome adulation. We are told that the Christians, or some other desirable immigrants, were “butchered to make a Roman holiday,” and while listening to the member for Fremantle I was struck with the truth of the proposition that many orators, budding and mature, seem to imagine that kings and other prominent men of the world die for the sole purpose of providing them—the orators—with a peg on which to hang their wheezy, weary, worn and emaciated platitudes. We are told that King Edward VII. was a great peacemaker, and we are told in the Speech that he was most effective in that direction. I am prepared to believe, indeed I do believe, that King Edward did his utmost to promote the peace of the world. But while admitting that, I have to remember that the greatest war the world has known during the last 30 years took place in the period of the reign of King Edward VII. That was a war in which the white race went down before the brown, and we are compelled also to remember that this war would not, and could not have taken place, but for the fact that one of the belligerent pow-

ers, Japan, was backed up, morally supported, and financially assisted by King Edward VII.’s own country, Great Britain. Again, we have to remember that during the reign of King Edward VII. we saw the most frenzied efforts on record to construct ships, guns, armaments, and all description of machinery for human destruction. We have had a dreadnought enthusiasm even in Western Australia, and we have to remember that during that reign we saw one of the greatest war scares that I can call to memory. It is not long since the British drunk got a new kind of “jim jam.” Instead of seeing snakes he saw lights in the sky and imagined that they were German airships of destruction going to invade England, and this occurred during the reign of King Edward VII. That other great man, Roosevelt, also loomed mighty large as a peacemaker. I would just like to say here that if we have a brickmaker, and he is working effectively, in a short time he will produce bricks. If we have a couple of peacemakers whose work extends over some years, then we should have some indications of peace. As far as I am concerned I cannot see any of those indications to-day, in fact we are making greater preparations for war to-day than ever before in the modern history of the world. I want to say that I am convinced that Kings or Presidents have little to do with the bringing about or the promotion of the peace of the world. What I believe will be effected eventually is the education of the masses. In the past the masses have been looked upon as the lower strata of humanity, the ignorant who stood behind the gun and found the money and shed their blood in these wars. When they have been educated and they come to consider these matters, then I am convinced we will have some true and possibly lasting peace in the world. I am of opinion that those German socialists who were recently elected to the German Parliament, I do not know what they call them in German, will be a greater factor towards the peace of the world than all the Kaisers or Emperors who ever ruled. With regard to the Speech—I regret the Minister for Education is not present—

I should like to refer to the fourth paragraph which deals with our present King. It reads, "The accession of his Most Gracious Majesty King George V. and his intimate personal acquaintance with the dominions beyond the seas, give assurance of the unceasing exercise of that devotion to the welfare of the Empire which characterised the reign of his illustrious father." As I have already stated I regret the Minister for Education is not here. On one night last week he deplored the ignorance of myself and other members on this side of the House. I do not know that he can expect us to be otherwise when we find him—the Minister for Education—putting such a sentence as that in the Governor's Speech. Look at the reasons given. The accession and the fact that he has seen the dominions give assurance of the unceasing exercise of devotion to the welfare of the Empire. Those reasons have nothing to do with unceasing devotion to the Empire. I believe, and I am sure, that he will give that devotion but not for the reason referred to in the Speech. There are hundreds of kings who have ascended the throne who do not have that acquaintance with their people; it is things other than that which give us that assurance. I am surprised that a cultured gentleman like the Minister for Education should put such remarks in the Governor's Speech. In fact, I am of opinion that this matter must have been forgotten, and on it being found in the Government Printing Office that no reference had been made to the King, the remarks were written by the printer's imp out of his own head. While speaking on the Address-in-Reply I have no intention of referring particularly to the financial agreement more than to say that I appreciate the references included in the Speech. It will at least recall to our memories the annihilating disaster which befell the little Australians at the last elections. It will further remind us that it also annihilated that extraordinary anomaly, the Premiers' Conference, a conference or committee of men self-appointed.

The Premier: You might have to go to one yourself some day.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: I was going to refer to it as a self-appointed committee to mind other people's business. That also was annihilated with the financial agreement as well as many other "insectaria." The member for Kalgoorlie speaking on the Address-in-Reply deplored the extent to which reference was made in the Speech to small parochial matters. I quite agree with the hon. member in that regard but there are one or two small matters to which I wish to refer to-day, because I may not have another opportunity of doing so. One is with regard to the construction of lighthouses on the North-West coast, where shortly two or three are to be erected. The system adopted by the authorities is to provide accommodation for one married man and one single man. It is, I take it, the laid down policy of the Government to have at least 50 per cent. of their employees in a state of enforced celibacy. I contend that the Government should make every provision and every possible endeavour to get married men to go to those lighthouses. To have a single man and a married man living at the same lighthouse seems to be a very unsatisfactory arrangement, and I do hope that the Government will give some attention to the matter, and in erecting lighthouses in the future will provide accommodation for two married men. The additional expenditure involved will be only a few extra pounds, and I am certain that it will be for the benefit of the men and the service. There is some reference in the Speech to the export of wheat. I am of opinion—although we cannot introduce a system immediately—that we should endeavour as far as possible to prevent the export of wheat but to foster the export of flour. This I urge on national grounds. I believe that some time in the future it may be necessary even to impose an export duty on wheat. The best constituents of the soil are in what may be termed the offal of the wheat—bran, pollard and sharps, and these should be utilised for the benefit of the soil and

the agriculturist, and be returned to the soil by being fed back to the stock. That is the motto that we should paste on the wall, to bear in mind that our object is to export flour and not wheat. Before touching on the question of immigration I would like to refer to a few remarks made by the Attorney General. He stated that this side of the House was continually hurling accusations across the Chamber, and failing to substantiate them. The question under discussion at the time was the prosecution or non-prosecution of Mr. Berteaux. I would point this out to the Attorney General that in the past we have not only hurled accusations but that we have proved them. Is it forgotten that some electors of Menzies, eight of them, who gave evidence before a Judge, on their own admission were proved to have made a false declaration for which they rendered themselves liable to punishment on conviction for wilfully doing something contrary to the Electoral Act? The member for Boulder and myself proved that Mr. Fisher of the Mulline State battery was guilty of an offence against the Electoral Act inasmuch as he went from Mulline to the halfway house and took votes from Mr., Mrs., and Miss Howlett, a breach of the Act for which a penalty is provided. It was proved that Mr. Berteaux obtained from the Government something like £125 by deliberate false pretences. Those are three cases that we proved, and the Attorney General refused to bring the law into operation and have those people tried for the offences they committed. On the other hand when the tramway drivers refused to work for an English company and it comes to a question of the administration of the Arbitration Act, then, on the occasion of the first breach we find the Attorney General rushing in and issuing summonses to prosecute the men for committing a breach of that Act. I want to say as I have said before, and as I will say again, that a Government that desires to have the laws obeyed should enforce them always. Instead of that we find the Government failing to prosecute

under an Act or under circumstances which tell materially against some of their own Ministers or when the matters refer most particularly to their opponents. I am not hurling accusations, I am giving facts, plain, unvarnished facts, and the Attorney General cannot bounce us out of them. Now, we come to the great question of immigration. We are told in many columns of verbiage by various members of this Chamber that the Premier did good work in London. I have asked what he did and have had the reply, "He did good work." But what was the good work that he did, and when you try to pin them down they reply that he advertised the country. Just as if we were running a soap factory and he were the paid advertiser. Where is the proof of this good work the Premier did? When we have an immigration agent we should see immigrants, just as when we have a great financier we should see our loans advantageously floated. But we have not seen the immigrants, nor was the last loan floated any more advantageously than the previous loan.

Mr. HEITMANN: He got an honour for the State.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: On this point I am glad that no member of the House has complimented the Premier on receiving his mark of political extinction. Our Premier shares with Sir Eliot Lewis, of Tasmania, the honour of being the only titled man holding office in any of the seven Australian Governments to-day. The member for Kalgoorlie has dealt with the question of the reform of the London office. It is not necessary for me to reiterate my opinion that such reform should begin with the abolition of the position of Agent General. As the member for Kalgoorlie pointed out, we have had no details whatever with regard to this reform; we have been told nothing of the ills of the service, neither have we been told that it is intended to exchange officers out here with officers in that department in order that we might send Home men who know something about Western Australia. It reduces itself to this: the sole good the Premier can claim to have done is the sending out of a few

servant girls. I would ask, is that a fitting occupation for a Premier? To my mind a Premier should be able to find better and bigger work to do. We employ immigration agents, and we expect them to look to these servant girls, while from our Premier we expect something better than work of this class. I wish to refer to a matter the Press has made a big boom about, namely the famous telegram read by the Premier, "Our farmers want wives." This, mark you, coming from Australia, where there are more women than men on the electoral roll to-day—notwithstanding this we find the Premier reading bogus telegrams in regard to our farmers wanting wives.

The Premier: I was not reading anything bogus at all.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: It is altogether undignified for our Premier, like a hero in a melodrama, to be rushing in with an incriminating document, the missing marriage lines or the lost birth certificate.

The Premier: Oscar Asche has a vacancy for you.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: I should say that Bland Holt has a vacancy for the Premier. I certainly think that when it comes to this mountebank and show business we do not want our Premier in it. George Reid can do enough of it for all Australia. When our Premier goes to London he should reflect some dignity on the country whence he sprang. The Premier has continually assured his audiences, both in this State and, I believe, in England that our greatest competitor for the British emigrant is Canada. Now this is not correct, by miles. I do not know for sure, but I presume the Premier read this in a newspaper. The newspapers have an object in printing such stuff. Canada advertises very largely in the newspapers, and the newspapers have to show that they are doing something to earn the money received for those advertisements. But the statement is not correct, as the Premier can find by looking at the Canadian and United States statistics respectively. As a matter of fact 300 per cent. more of British emigrants go to the United States than go to Canada.

The Premier: You are wrong, as I can show you from the Canadian office returns.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: I can prove my statement from the returns of the office in the United States. I think it is well known that there has been no increase made. You can find that in the *Canadian Year Book*, and indeed in the British statistics for 1908.

The Premier: Some 40 per cent. of the Canadian emigrants go from the United States.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: And 50 per cent. of the Canadian emigrants go to America. You can find that in the British statistics for 1908, where it will be seen that America had over 300,000 of these emigrants while Canada had over 100,000. I contend that while statements of this sort are right enough when one is blowing the froth off the Fishmonger's beer, or at functions of that kind, when the Premier is about to make such statements seriously he should give more attention to facts. Another matter the Premier attended to while on that famous trip was the rail contract. This was commented on by the member for Cue the other night, whereupon the Premier interjected that possibly there was some difference in the quality of these rails. Yet in his own speech, in his own paper, the Premier declared that there was no such difference in quality. Further than that, I would like to say I am under the impression that in spending the extra £8,000 the Premier was doing no good whatever for the British workman or the British trader. True, the British trader may have got a small profit out of it, but the man who scooped the bulk of it was the land holder who controls the iron ore and who charges a royalty for taking the iron from his land. That £8,000 went to bolster up landlords; and I protest against this country spending money to bolster up British landlords. To my mind we would be doing better in buying an axe with which to destroy our own. Before leaving the broad question of immigration I wish to make a few remarks in regard to that young woman recently

brought to this State, placed in the 'migrants' Home and sent direct from there to an Afghan camp. In speaking the other night I commented on the action of Mr. Roe in this regard, and I am quite prepared to stand by anything I then said. I ever look askance on breaches of the law or misconstruction of the law by a judge or a magistrate, whether he favours my opinions or not. It is a most dangerous thing, and I rather think the leader of the Opposition would not have been so effusive in his praise had it been an arbitration case or a case concerning a strike. I think it is well to see our judges carry out the law, and not themselves become law-makers. Possibly it can be logically held that in this case the end justified the means. Still I say the magistrate had no right and no power under any Act to detain that woman in gaol; yet he did detain her in custody, which was absolutely a breach of the law. I might be prepared to say nothing in regard to a matter such as this if the action had come from an enthusiast, from one who believed he was doing right, who had been working for years in the interests of a White Australia and the elimination of the half-caste. Does Mr. Roe stand out as an enthusiast in that regard? Mr. Roe was at Rochbourne for some considerable time. Whom did he there employ as servants—Asiatics or white people? I want to say that this young woman who was tried in the court that day was only the one brought before the public gaze: there are the ninety and nine of whom we have heard nothing, and whose cases Mr. Roe, like many others in the State, certainly countenances. The reason why Asiatics come to Australia is because they can here get employment. This is why they are so anxious to get here and to evade the Customs officers, and it is why they do not go back to their own country. And I say that anyone employing Asiatics is certainly acquiescing in the cohabitation of Asiatics and white women; because, after all, there is no force in the world so great and inexorable as the life force. Animals, men, black, white or blue, cannot be prevented

from fulfilling that force. There is only one other force so great and sure, and that is death. While men are here they will find women. I say we should endeavour to be men and think these matters over. Those who have been encouraging Asiatics to come to Australia have been encouraging the breeding of the Asiatic and European half-caste. I say in regard to Mr. Roe, if he were genuine in his desire to prevent this sort of thing, he would go back to the Weld Club and see that the Asiatics employed in that establishment were dismissed, and their places filled by men or women of his own country and colour. I protest strongly against Mr. Roe coming to the limelight as he has done in this case, and appearing as the hero in a melodramatic situation. If Mr. Roe is in sympathy with the principle of White Australia and desires to prevent the accumulation of half-breeds, then he should try to give effect to his belief by not employing Asiatics. And I say to members on the other side of the House—If you are sincere in this matter go back to your Weld Club and dismiss the Asiatic, after which you may justifiably come here and talk of what you have done, and so get into the limelight yourselves. In regard to the member for Fremantle I want to say that he also has been in the limelight. That member has been deploring the presence of these Asiatics; and he is representing, practically, the Licensed Victuallers' Association in this House. As a matter of fact by providing funds the Licensed Victuallers' Association had a good deal to do with the return of the hon. member to this House; yet that association opposed, tooth and nail, my amendment to the Licensing Act to prevent the employment of Asiatics in licensed houses. Mr. Murphy: Who is the president of the Licensed Victuallers' Association? He is a member of your own party.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: I am not flattered out by the hon. member. I do not care who belongs to the Licensed Victuallers' Association. I only care

that the Licensed Victuallers' Association bitterly opposed my amendment; and any man standing up for the licensed victuallers and the employment of Asiatics on licensed premises has no right to come into the limelight on this question. If he does, then there is a high possibility or probability of his being called a blatant hypocrite.

Mr. Murphy: That is so. When I vote for it, call me so.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: For fear you do, I am calling you it now. To return to the question of immigration, are the Government sincere after all? The Premier says that the reason why he is so strenuous in regard to immigration is that he wants to build up Australia with white people; but I consider that anyone holding this view should make it his duty to interfere with those big banking and commercial houses who prevent their clerks from getting married. After all there is no immigrant quite so good as the local born; and while we allow combines of this description to prevent their employees marrying until they attain a certain salary, until the life force has passed and the instinct for fertility has faded into a mere itch for pleasure, we are not likely to people Australia very effectively. Anyone who wants to people Australia should certainly give us some legislation in regard to these banking institutions and the various commercial houses that have the impertinence and audacity to assert that they are not paying their men sufficient to enable them to keep a wife and family with any chance of their remaining honest. I have grave doubts with regard to the sincerity of the Government on this question of immigration. I have said many times, and will say it again, that what will result in a large stream of immigration to this State, or to the whole of Australia, would be an increase of wages, and plenty of work, plenty of employment when they come. Give that, and I am confident there is no need to read bogus telegrams or drink beer at the Fishmongers' Hall. In

my opinion, it is impossible to get immigrants to go labouring on the farms at 15s. a week. Every man should receive sufficient wages to keep himself, a wife, and family.

Mr. George: Where are they getting 15s. a week?

Mr. UNDERWOOD: I believe in the Eastern States. And in this State, until a few weeks ago, they got it, and it is not so much above 25s. a week now in many of the agricultural centres. A man cannot keep his wife and family on 25s. a week. But, what will do better than all the visits, and all the lectures, and all the newspapers that ever published tripe, will be the amendment to the Federal Arbitration Act bringing the farm labourers under the Act. That will eventually provide a fair living wage for farm labourers. The great land values of the Eastern States, and to a lesser extent in this State, are caused by the lowness of the wages of the employees. Pay the employee well, and the land will not bring the price it does, and then there will be the opportunity for a successful land repurchase scheme but while we have men slaving at the present wages and without any hope of getting higher wages, there will be the same old system we have had in the past, and the immigrant will be as shy as he has been in the past. However, I am confident that when the Federal Act gets into thorough working order the wages of the agricultural labourer will be put somewhat on the lines of those of other tradesmen, and we will have immigrants coming to Australia without there being the slightest necessity for sending anyone to England to induce them to come. I notice that Mr. Hedges said in the Federal Parliament that the reason labour troubles did not occur at Kalgoorlie was owing to the moderation of the leaders there. The leaders are undoubtedly a wise and moderate lot of men, but at the same time it is much easier to be moderate on a minimum of 11s. 8d. than on a minimum of 7s. 9d.

Mr. Bath: There is another reason—they can fix up industrial agreements there.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: While speaking of Mr. Hedges, there is one thing I would like to refer to, and that is his endeavour to cast a slur on the Labour party because a union secretary had levanted with some money. I am ignorant—the Attorney General says so. I could find cases on the other side, but I trust, ignorant as I am, I will never have such "culture" as to be guilty of that sort of thing. I am sorry, not only for the union secretary, but also for some members of this House, and I would not gain credit for the Opposition on account of the delinquencies of those I refer to. I may be allowed to give some word of advice to Mr. Graham Price. I am convinced there is going to be a considerable rise in wages in the near future throughout Australia. If Mr. Graham Price has any sense he would close with the tram drivers at the earliest possible date for the longest possible period; because, whatever the result of the present difference of opinion may be, the tramway companies throughout Australia will be paying considerably higher wages in the course of 12 months or two years than they do now. Their men are a class who have been pretty badly treated in Australia, but their turn is now coming. It seems to me absolutely absurd to think that a man is going to learn a trade and put in years to work himself up to a position where he is able to obtain a shilling an hour. A man who has not an ambition above a shilling an hour would certainly suit Hedges right down to the ground for moderation. Now, I come to another part of the Government policy, and that is the policy with regard to agriculture in the North-West. We have been presented by the Minister for Lands with a book entitled *Tropical Agriculture in Western Australia*. We must of course recognise that the book has been written for the Lands Department, and we are allowed to presume that it has been written in the style the department de-

sires. The strongest point it makes is that we must have black or cheap labour for the North-West. I presume that is, after all, the policy of the Government. In referring to this book, I am reminded of the German scientist who came to this State some time ago, and after reading a book on socialism by Mr. St. Ledger, declared it to be the worst book he had ever read. I am glad that scientist went home before this publication I have referred to came out, because I am certain it would beat Mr. St. Ledger's, and in doing that it is certainly putting up a record. Take its style. I will quote a little to give some idea that it should be a scientific treatise. We find Mr. Despeissis writing on page 30—

In 1902 Mr. Lawrie took these pigs—two sows and a boar—to the Adelaide river, and for three years they received absolutely no attention, yet as a result Mr. Lawrie has since bred and sold between 700 and 800 of their progeny and has 150 at the present time at the river. The breed was originally Berkshire, but has since been crossed with black British.

Mr. George: Not a bad breed of pig either.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: The yearning of Mr. Despeissis is apparent, wherever we go through this book, for the black cross. It is marvellous. To further demonstrate the style of this book, we have again, in writing of the pork industry in the North-West—

In our North-West the industry if taken up would, I believe, prove a very profitable one, and tens of thousands of heads of stock, which, owing to old age or accidents, are unfit for human consumption, could be boiled down and converted into pork with the addition of the grasses, herbs, pods, and other seeds which pigs readily eat.

A new kind of Kimberley pork, I presume. However, after worrying over this for a long time, I found out what Mr. Despeissis was trying to say; he was trying to say that the old stock which had been killed by old age and

accidents could be boiled down and converted into pork by feeding it to the pigs. He forgot to put that in, however. These are instances of the style of the book. It is all as involved and as confused as these two sentences. Now, coming to Mr. Despeissis's description of the country, on page 11 he speaks of rivers, and says—

In the North-West proper, most of these rivers cease running about May after the rainy season.

I hope the member for Gascoyne will listen to this paragraph—

In Kimberley they run almost right through the year. They all have the lagoons which vary in size; some extend for miles, and contain a never-failing supply of fresh water.

As a matter of fact the rivers do cease running in May, but it is quite possible for them not to run at all for two or three years. They may run in June or in January. Again, he says—

The conservation of portion of the flood water which runs to the sea at times is an engineering proposition which I am told by the officers of the Water Conservation Department offers no difficulty.

Have we a Water Conservation Department? If so, have officers of it been in the North-West and seen the rivers? We want something more than that for our money. If a man deals with the question of irrigation he should be able to go into the matter thoroughly and tell us something about it. The officers of the irrigation department have never seen the rivers, and the officers of the Works Department made a huge mistake which has been proved in connection with the construction of the Port Hedland-Marble Bar railway. It would be advisable before it is decided what shall be done with that country that we should have more information about the question than Mr. Despeissis provides. He continues—

When the North-West rivers are properly dammed, and a systematic method of water conservation and distribution is effected, millions of acres of rich plains along the lengthy river frontages will be made available for

the plough. Land bringing 10s. per one thousand acres rental will sell for as many pounds an acre.

It is possible that with these advantages that could be done, but let scientists tell us how we can do it. He refers at times to the construction of wooden dams by means of jarrah piles with a core wall of puddle clay between. There are two difficulties that meet people who are interested in this question up there; one is as to the amount of evaporation in that country, and the other the question of soakage. It might be possible to put a dam across a river and bank back a lot of water, but in many places the water would percolate through the ground and not remain behind the dam. Before we discuss irrigation we have to decide the question of evaporation and also consider that the rivers might not run for two or three years. I will not weary the House with Mr. Despeissis' opinion on wheat crops at Carnarvon. By the way, he calls Carnarvon "the North-West," and speaks of "Yankeetown near Carnarvon." He might just as well speak of Subiaco near Perth. Yankeetown and Carnarvon are one and the same place. I now come to his advice in regard to labour, and it is to this point that I take most exception. He says—

From November till the end of March, during the height of summer, a greater sum of work can be obtained from both men and horses by so regulating the hours of work that those in the fields have a long rest in the middle of the day. During the summer months in the tropics work in the fields should commence at 6 a.m. and continue until 10 o'clock, being resumed from 2 p.m. or 3 p.m. to 7 o'clock.

I have heard many people who have never been in the North-West and experienced the climate there give the same advice. I have read it in British magazines, and many writers of the Foster Fraser brand are prepared to give evidence on things they know nothing about. That is what Mr. Despeissis did. He has never been there himself. Those who have worked there are the best judges. The miners of the North-West are quite

ready to work two or three hours a week longer to get day shift rather than to work afternoon or night shift. That is something more to go upon than the report of Mr. Despeissis. Personally, I would sooner work six hours a week longer if I were allowed to be altogether on day shift. Mr. Despeissis goes on—

Horses cannot continuously work more than four or five hours a day during the hot months, and for such work as ploughing and carting bullocks are preferred, as they cost less to feed, do not depreciate to any great extent and, unlike horses, do not succumb to the Kimberley horse disease.

Mr. Despeissis again gives his advice on a question he knows nothing about. As I can prove without the slightest shadow of doubt horses can, and do, work all day long in the North-West: on the other hand bullocks cannot work on the very hot days owing to the fact that they wear steel harness which gets so hot that it makes their shoulders sore. That is well known. As to the ability of horses to work I can give a personal experience. I left here in the middle of last December and arrived at Port Hedland after Christmas. I started on a grass-fed horse which was not in too good condition and travelled for 200 miles over the roads in that district in five days, and not once did I travel at night. If a grass-fed horse can do that there is nothing he cannot do.

Mr. Heitmann: What is Despeissis?

Mr. UNDERWOOD: He was once in the Agricultural Department, but when Professor Lowrie came along a job had to be found for him and he was sent to the North-West as a Commissioner. Mr. Despeissis next advocates a system of imported labour, saying—

When selecting these agricultural immigrants, it would be important to exercise a considerable amount of discrimination, and only engage labourers recruited from the ranks of special races naturally fitted for arduous work in hot countries.

He goes on to tell us the people he pre-

fers. He prefers the "Gallegos," and speaks of them as follows:—

A hardy and robust race of mountaineers; a thrifty, temperate and hard-working race inhabiting the densely populated mountains of Galicia in the North of Spain and of Portugal. On the vineyards established on the rocky slopes of the Upper Douro, too steep to permit of cultivation with the aid of horses or oxen, the rocky, crumbly ground is attacked by gangs of these industrious "Gallegos" armed with heavy mattocks and pronged hoes. Men as well as women engage at this as well as other work. . . . The Galicians emigrate in numbers to Portugal and to South America, when after engaging in all kinds of hard work and saving money they return home and settle down.

And this is a document published, I presume, to advertise Western Australia and induce immigrants to come here. He advocates bringing, in the first place, people who save money and return home again! This is a most peculiar way of getting population; as peculiar as to enforce celibacy among bank clerks. Then he continues—

The ruling wage paid to a "Gallego" vine dresser on the Upper Douro is 1s. a day, while ordinary labourers receive 7d. to 10d. On this they live and save money, with the idea of some day returning to their native mountains.

There is always the same return to their own native mountains. These are the immigrants we are so anxious to obtain, so anxious to people Australia with. He goes on to say—

In the second place I would favour the labourers of Northern Italy—those from Piedmont and Lombardy only. On our own Eastern Goldfields [I hope the Minister for Mines is listening] a number of these men from the north of Italy are engaged as woodcutters. For that kind of work they are preferred to other men.

This is the class of immigrant we are looking for, and undoubtedly it is the policy of the Government that cheap labour, and cheap labour only, is to be

introduced. These are the people the Government are spending money upon. Mr. Despeissis continues—

My third choice would be the Basques of Southern France, a race of hard working and industrious people found in the Departments of Landes, and of Basses and Hautes Pyrenees which separate France from Spain .

. The agent (Government immigration agent) on the other hand would inquire into the suitability of the immigrant labourer, ascertain his abilities, and finally contract, making him a definite offer on behalf of the employer.

He seems to have had no knowledge of the Commonwealth Immigration Act with regard to contract labour. To back up these statements Mr. Despeissis quotes from Mr. Searey, and one or two other people. Mr. Searey wrote a book called *In Australian Tropics*. I think Mr. Searey was an overfed Government official who was located at Port Darwin for some time, and while there had one Chinaman to fan him and another to supply him with cool drinks. In his book Mr. Searey says—

It is just as well to tell the truth about the Northern Territory. I heard the other day that a gentleman who had resided many years in the Northern possession stated that portion of the island continent was the healthiest country in the world, that malarial fever was a bogey, and that any tropical products could be produced successfully with European labour. I am afraid that that gentleman forgot that there are in the world a few other people who have experience of tropical countries and tropical life and production, and who, if they saw or heard such statements, would naturally ask why such a tropical paradise has been neglected so long and had developed into what is known as "the white elephant."

That is most conclusive. The same thing was said less than 10 years ago, less even than five years ago, in regard to our own agricultural lands. When we were told there was an enormous agricultural area

west of our Darling Ranges, exactly the same answer was given as Mr. Searey knocked his opponent out with. The agricultural land is there. Mr. Searey and others notwithstanding. Mr. Searey continues—

They would, at any rate, imagine that there must be a screw loose somewhere. Now it must be realised that we have a veritable tropical Australia, and the sooner that fact is understood the better. The conditions are just the same as obtain in other portions of the tropical world—the same ills have to be borne and similar means are necessary for the development of the country. Why not recognise all the country to the North of the 22 degrees parallel of latitude as tropical country and develop it under tropical conditions?

And do not argue. That is Mr. Searey. Then we have a gentleman by name of Knibbs, who, in the *Commonwealth Year Book* 1907, page 116, says—

In respect to Australian temperatures generally it may be pointed out that the isotherm for 70 degrees Fahrenheit extends in South America and South Africa as far South as latitude 33 degrees, while in Australia it reaches only as far South as latitude 30 degrees, thus showing that on the whole, Australia has the more temperate climate when compared latitude for latitude with places in the Southern hemisphere. The comparison is even more favourable when the Northern hemisphere is included in the comparison, for in the United States the 70 degrees isotherm extends in several of the Western States as far North as latitude 41 degrees. In Europe the same isotherm reaches almost to the Southern shores of Spain, passing, however, afterwards along the Northern shores of Africa till it reaches the Red Sea, when it bends Northward along the Eastern shore of the Mediterranean until it reaches Syria. In Asia nearly the whole of the land area South of latitude 40 degrees North has a higher isothermal value than 70 degrees. The extreme range of shade

temperatures in summer and winter, in a very large part of Australia, amounts to probably only 81 degrees. In Siberia, in Asia, the similar range is no less than 171, and in North America 153 degrees, or say nearly double of the Australian range.

We see by this that our Statistician does not agree with the proposition put forward by Mr. Searcy. After all, I think, we would rather take the statements made in our *Year Book* than the statements of this educated Government servant of the Northern Territory. I want to say with regard to the matter, that I have been in the North-West and I have also made some statements regarding the climate. When Mr. Despeissis was looking for opinions to substantiate his theory, if he was looking for statements only regarding black labour then he found only them, but if he was looking for the truth he should have looked for statements from the other side, and he would have found this, written by Mr. Percy C. Riches, Inspector of Mines and Mining Surveyor, who on the subject of health and climate says—

The climate of the Pilbara district, although a very hot one is extremely healthy. No malarial fever of any description exist, and sickness of any sort is almost unknown. White men find no difficulty whatever in working and the fine physique of both miners and pastoralists attracts the general attention and favourable comment of visitors. The intense heat of summer is a dry one, the percentage of humidity in the atmosphere being very small. This accounts for the fact that manual labour is not so distressing as it would be in a moist atmosphere with a similar temperature; white children born in the district are remarkable for their general healthy appearance, and there is an absence of almost all infantile complaints.

If we quote Mr. Searcy why not quote Mr. Riches?

Mr. Bath: And why not quote Professor Gregory?

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Yes; why not quote Professor Gregory, and why not

myself? I do not express an opinion, I have never expressed an opinion, but I have stated facts, and one is that I have been for something like 10 years working in that country, and surely a demonstration of that description should be given some notice in scientific truths. But when this is not given the only assumption is that Mr. Despeissis was out looking for a black labour policy. As I have said with regard to that district I have worked there for 10 years, and I have been able to come down South in the cold winter and go back and work on the surface in the late summer. When a man can do that and retain his health I contend that Mr. Despeissis must certainly have been looking for a black labour policy and not for the truth.

Mr. Heitmann: And we pay him £500 a year for that.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: To go on with regard to this matter. He goes on to speak of dry farming and other things. On page 12 he speaks of the station hands, and what he says is worthy of notice. These are his remarks—

For the farmer, or the agriculturist, the conditions are different. The station hands met with through the North-West are not as a class by either temperament or training suited for patient, continuous, thorough agricultural work. They are too nomadic, too casual, and not fitted to submit themselves to routine work for any length of time.

It is marvellous how the present Government, through their newspapers, and their servants, will continue to hurl at those who open up this country accusations of being nomads, gypsies. There are no finer men on earth than the station hands who have gone away into the Northern portion of the Continent; there are none who deserve better of their country and who deserve less the insults of Mr. Despeissis. Again, Mr. Despeissis give us more opinions. He quotes here from a rubber planters' conference. He finds that a meeting of rubber planters was held and that they recommended certain things. It was quite natural that these planters who had been employing black labour all their lives would

advocate black labour, but those planters were not looking for workers for Australia but for some other part of the world. Mr. Despeissis writes—

The subject was discussed lately at length at a convention of rubber planters in Mexico, when the consensus of opinion was that:—1, The Javanese are the most desirable. They are sober and industrious and generally very hard working. The population of Java reaches nearly 35 millions, and in certain parts of the Island when the rice crop fails, the conditions are very difficult on account of over-population. The insular Government of this Dutch colony is favourably inclined to wards an emigration of coolies to countries in which the rights of human beings are protected. 2, The Tamils of Southern India are extensively employed for plantation work in Ceylon and throughout the Orient; in Mauritius, Natal, Demerara, and Fiji. They are the best of the Indian coolies. 3, The Chinese, provided they come from the agricultural districts of Southern China (Cantonese) and not from the big cities, are very good plantation labourers. The Chinaman is honest, painstaking, and in every way reliable. The sugar planters of Hawaii and colonists in other countries where Chinese coolies are employed are all of one opinion in this regard. In Australia we have proof of their gardening, and in agricultural work.

If we have no better opinion of the human being than that he should get 1s. a day working in the hot sun, and die in undue proportions as the Kanakas did in North Queensland, well, I do not think much of what Mr. Despeissis considers are the rights of human beings. The member for Fremantle is still behind the Government. "We have proof in Australia of their value in gardening and in agricultural work," quotes Mr. Despeissis of the Chinese. We have decided that we want no more of them, and when the Premier gets on the platform and is out after limelight he concurs in the opinion that we have had such proof of their value that we would like to get rid

of them at the earliest date. Notwithstanding the proclamation of the Government policy we have the Minister for Lands using this book which advocates the importation of every class of common labourers. I wish to say in conclusion about this book that it is absolutely the worst of its kind I have ever read. If it can be viewed from any standpoint other than that of the advocacy of black labour, it is slipshod and slovenly in the extreme. There is no opinion expressed in it that would be worthy of any man's attention. It is an insult to Australia, and a disgrace to the Government that published it. I shall conclude by saying that I am convinced that the policy of immigration advocated by the Government is not sincere. After all, we have the Premier advocating unlimited admission of Asiatics for the pearling industry and we have the Minister for Mines who has refused again and again to enforce the mining laws with regard to employment of Asiatics on garden areas on the gold-fields, and as a last proof of their insincerity we have this book of Mr. Despeissis', which is, after all, nothing more nor less than an advocacy of black labour for Western Australia, and supported by absolute untruths, by a distortion of facts, and the suppression of matter that should have found a place in it. We find on looking through the Government's sincerity that they are providing that 50 per cent. of the lighthouse keepers shall be condemned to celibacy, and they allow banks, and managers of commercial houses to enforce celibacy on the part of their clerks. They sent a commissioner to the North-West to advocate black labour for that part of Australia, and yet the Premier wishes us to believe that he is in favour of peopling this State with a white race, and that he is one of the strongest advocates of a White Australia. I trust that the Government will give us some better demonstration of their White Australia principles, and that those sitting behind them will also give more sincere demonstrations of their White Australia principles than mere lip service. The Premier endeavoured to get the other Premiers to agree to the unrestricted admission of Asiatics for the pearling in-

dust, and I wish to conclude by saying that I trust that those who are in favour of a White Australia will give us a more sincere demonstration of their desire in that regard, than, as I said before, mere lip service, platform oratory, and lime-light effect.

Mr. MALE (Kimberley): The debate on the Address-in-Reply we have always found a fitting occasion for referring, not only to matters of general interest, but to others particularly interesting to one's own electorate, and for which reference, perhaps, there will be no subsequent opportunity. Before dealing with the Address-in-Reply, I would like to supply the omission pointed to by the hon. member who has just sat down; in other words, I would like to congratulate the Premier on that great honour bestowed upon him by His Majesty the King. I think that was a compliment extended, not only to the Premier, but to the State and the people of the State. Certain previous speakers have done their best to belittle the visit of the Premier to England and the work he did whilst there. Now, as I was at Home at the same time as the Premier, perhaps I may be excused for offering my opinion as to the value of that visit. I certainly hold the view that the visit of the Premier to England was in the best interests of the people of this State. I had opportunities of hearing him speak on several occasions while at Home, and I can assure hon. members that not only did he speak well but he worked hard and did not spare himself in the slightest. I am sure he was greatly appreciated by those who listened to his speeches, at which times he put plain facts into good plain West Australian language. I feel sure the people at Home recognised in his utterances that grain of truth which, I think, we have all recognised when hearing him speak in this Chamber and elsewhere. On more than one occasion I met the Premier at the Agent General's office and I can assure the House he was there working indefatigably, individually interviewing intending immigrants and doing his level best to see that those people were not

misinformed in any respect as to the life and conditions which would be encountered out here. He was trying as hard as he could to weed out the unsuitable and accept only those he considered suitable for this State. And I think when the Premier tells us more about his visit than he has yet done he will probably have something to say about the immigration question as a whole; and I am of opinion we shall then find that he endeavoured to lay down conditions to his officers at Home which, to a very great extent, will protect unsuitable immigrants from coming to this State and, at the same time, protect this State from such unsuitable immigrants. Turning to the Governor's Speech I must admit I cannot find anything very new in it. There is nothing in it very different from what we have read before. But at the same time there are in it things upon which we can congratulate ourselves, as for instance the general prosperity of the country, more especially manifest in the agricultural districts. This general prosperity may not be altogether due to the Government; still the fact remains that the country is prosperous, and I think we can congratulate ourselves upon it, and also upon the amount of surplus revenue disclosed at the end of our financial year. I have noticed during this debate that a number of speakers are greatly exercised over the fact that the Government have been carrying out a policy which those speakers claim themselves to have initiated. Well, really it does not concern me greatly who it was that first thought of agricultural railways, or the Fire Brigades Bill, the Licensing Bill, and those other measures which have been brought before the House. These measures, I presume, were found to be good, and the Government in their wisdom have done their best to have them passed through the House. But it does seem to me passing strange that although certain members wish to get all the credit of having initiated this policy, they should have given us so little support in putting those measures through. My rising to speak was prompted very

much by the same sense of duty as prompted the member for Subiaco. He rose to respond to certain remarks made by previous speakers; I also rise to refer to remarks that fell from those who have spoken before me. First of all there is the question of the marketing of stock. We read in the Governor's Speech—

My Ministers are of opinion that the time has arrived for the State to make provision for the erection of freezing and canning works at Wyndham and elsewhere, in order that the steady increase of our herds may not be checked, but find a profitable outlet in the markets of eastern Asia and Europe.

The member for Kalgoorlie condemned, almost without reserve, this paragraph and this policy, principally on the ground that it will only serve two or three interested squatters in that district who could, he says, at any time combine and force the Government into the position of having to reduce rates and charges. The leader of the Opposition condemned the same policy, on the ground that the time was not yet ripe for the erection of freezing works at Wyndham; and he based his conclusion on the high prices retailers are charging for meat in the metropolitan and gold-fields districts. My opinion is that nothing will do more to stimulate the squatting industry in the Kimberleys and the North-West than the erection of freezing and canning works for the treatment of our stock. This is not a new question before the House. We had reference to it in the Governor's Speech of 1906, and again in that of 1907. In the early part of 1907 the Premier, then in Adelaide, made an announcement to the effect that assistance would be given to encourage the meat export trade, and that the Government would grant a loan of pound for pound up to £35,000 to any company prepared to engage in that industry. At that time members in this Chamber and, I think, the public to a very large extent, were greatly concerned over the action of the Govern-

ment in the negotiations they were then carrying out. These people feared that the Government would be selling their birthright for a mess of pottage. I think the public were in the wrong at that time; and I think also that the Government, by sticking out for a deal which would absolutely protect the small squatters, made their conditions so stringent that the private company then considering the question of starting freezing works were unable to accept those conditions. Since then, I think it is well known to all members of the House, an English company, the Australian Bovril Company, Limited, have purchased large squatting interests in East Kimberley and the Northern Territory adjoining our East Kimberley border. We have heard a great deal as to what they intend doing. According to a speech delivered in April of 1909 we find, in connection with the Australian Bovril Company and their intentions that—

Not the least important feature of the sale to the Bovril company is the determination to provide abattoirs, the like of which has never been seen in this part of the world.

This was said by Mr. Kidman, the great Australian cattle king, a man also deeply interested in this particular part of the operations of the Australian Bovril Company. He goes on further to say—

It has been necessary to travel the cattle about 1,700 miles to find an outlet, but now one will be provided for them at Wyndham, a distance of only 300 miles from Victoria Downs. Instead of the Western Australian stock having to be shipped at Wyndham for Perth, they can be killed at the former place on the floating abattoirs. The prime beasts can be frozen, and the rough stuff dealt with in another way by the company. It costs £2 15s. to £3 per head to ship live stock from Wyndham to Perth, whereas they can be carried dead for half the price; besides which, all the wasting and knocking about incurred in transit will be obviated.

Again, in July of this year Mr. Kidman

made the following statement in connection with their work:—

Altogether, the prospects ahead of the meat works on the north coast of Queensland are rosy, because they command a fine supply of cattle, the demand for the meat being well established, and the methods of dealing with the by-products are thoroughly up-to-date. These facts, together with the increased prices for beef, indicate nothing but prosperity for the cattle trade. Undoubtedly the Queensland coast is the natural outlet for its back-country cattle.

Mr. Kidman goes on to say—

The markets open to growers have expanded largely. Our meat has become better known all over the world, Manila taking large quantities of both tinned and frozen product, while London can accept more than we can ever supply, and prices are better to-day than they have been for many years. The Queensland meat works are calling to owners..... The Queensland meat works are certainly a very attractive proposition. They are giving 18s. a hundred and more for beef, and will take unlimited quantities. The policy of the Government is to extend the railways in order to tap the whole of the cattle country. Large mobs of cows are also being bought for extracting and canning. They are also dealing with tens of thousands of sheep, killing pigs where they can get them, and making butterine.

Now this is the point in Mr. Kidman's remarks to which I would specially draw the attention of the House—

Within the next twelve or eighteen months I hope that works will be erected to deal with a great number of the Northern Territory cattle. The Bovril people have two experts, who are at present inspecting sites for the proposed works which will be put up either at Pine Creek, the Katherine, Victoria River, India Hill, or Wyndham. Their report will go on to the board in London. Such works will prevent a number of cattle from walking their condition off towards this

way instead of steaming to London in cans. The Bovril people have just made two shipments of live cattle to Manila, and several more are to follow. They were shipped from Wyndham, and the Bovril folk are the first to make the experiment. While the question of the site is being settled it is satisfactory to know that the cattle are increasing in the Northern Territory, and that, when the work starts, there will be a good reserve to operate on.

(Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.)

Mr. MALE: It appears to me that the South Australian Government will do all in their power in connection with these proposed works of the Bovril company to influence the operations of the company to their own State, and I look to our Government to protect the interests of Western Australia and guard that great industry that properly belongs to us. The member for Kalgoorlie said in connection with the Government freezing works that they would only benefit two or three squatters who owned stock in the Kimberley district, but let me tell the hon. member that the erection of freezing works there affects the whole of the squatting industry of the State, in the South as well as in the North; and that it also affects the small men in Kimberley, of whom there are more than a few, and of whom there would be considerably more, and who to-day are being starved out because they have no market for their stock. The erection of freezing works at Wyndham or some other suitable spot would make it possible for the small men to exist.

Mr. Gordon: And others also.

Mr. MALE: Yes; that is true. We have an instance this year of the extreme position to which the small men are forced. The Government are looking round to purchase properties in the Kimberley district to use as reserves for native stations. With what result? The moment word of that got abroad a number of small men were almost forcing their properties on the Government; and the Government were able to buy at a

small sum of about 30s. per head without the slightest trouble. Not only this, it would make the country in that district capable of carrying hundreds of thousands more stock than are being carried there now.

Mr. Taylor: What is it now?

Mr. MALE: Something like 400,000 head. There are hundreds of thousands of acres in Kimberley still unalienated which could, and should, be taken up and worked. In connection with East Kimberley, I wish to read another paragraph in last month's *Pastoralists' Review*, which will also tend to show that there is need for works there—

Speaking of East Kimberley only, there are probably 400,000 cattle in that division proper, and probably nearly 800,000 in all, if the adjacent herds in the Northern Territory are taken into account, all within handling distance of Wyndham. These figures may not be borne out by official statistics, but a competent authority estimates that the numbers are available. The market for these is limited. Probably 10,000 may be shipped to Fremantle this season, about 3,000 will go to Manila or similar ports.

That I may say will not be the number, because I noticed only two weeks ago that the Government at Manila had published a prohibition order against stock from this port owing to pleura having been found in some of the cattle ships. I would like particular attention to be paid to this—

And about 20,000 annually are now being overlanded to Queensland. This might not be so bad if the breeders could command reasonable value for them, but the return from Queensland consignments can self-evidently only be poor, while shipment, with its attendant £2 10s. sea freight, ten days' voyage, and loss of about 120lbs. weight per beast, to say nothing of loss of quality, is an altogether wasteful system of disposal. Moreover, the fact that there is positively no market except for the pick of the bullocks, means that the old cows die on the runs, and the scanty returns impel such rigid economy in working the herds that

they are getting out of hand, and require cleaning up badly. Nothing more need be said to indicate that even a small canning plant and extract works would prevent a colossal economic waste which goes on at present. A further consideration is that the rapid growth in the West Kimberley herds, for which Derby is the shipping port, presupposes that before long they will provide an increasing proportion of the Fremantle supply. Derby is several days' steaming nearer to Fremantle, and the Derby cattle are altogether better situated; the saving of the freight to Fremantle being about 20 per cent. of the freight, fodder, and attendance. As the West Kimberley cattle increase therefore and capture more of the Fremantle trade, the position of the East Kimberley growers must grow worse, so that the need of an oversea market will be more keenly felt. As regards West Kimberley, where the same waste of old cows obtains as in East Kimberley, it is understood that the Messrs. Emanuel contemplate erecting a canning plant at Derby. This should usher in the day of better things for that division, but in the Wyndham country, where no one has made any money out of the industry, with its previous disadvantages, conditions are different. It is evident that if no one else is prepared to put up works at Wyndham, the Government can serve to turn an enormous waste territory into a wealth-producing province if it is prepared to go ahead with its proposal.

It is very evident that the position in East Kimberley is becoming more aggravated year by year. A few years ago when we were arguing in favour of a freezer there one of the principal arguments was the fact that we could bring chilled meat to Fremantle and reduce the price of meat in the metropolitan area; but the position has changed since then, and it is not for the purpose of bringing chilled meat to Fremantle that the freezer is required, it is required for the purpose of marketing our surplus stock. The Perth supply is becoming every year less influenced by the Kimberley cattle. We

find that the herds of cattle on the Murchison, and in the Geraldton and Northampton districts, and along the Midland line, and through the Southern portions of the State, are increasing.

Mr. Heitmann: How long will it be before we can supply the South from the South?

Mr. MALE: It will not be for some time, but there are still the cattle in West Kimberley to draw on until that time. It stands to reason, as the cattle increase further South, the squatters further South must look to Perth for their natural market, and the surplus stock in the North must go over seas and elsewhere. We now overland 20,000 cattle annually to Queensland, and they are sent from there as frozen meat, or come back to this State canned, work which might be done in this State.

Mr. Taylor: The Queensland market is poorer than this.

Mr. MALE: It is not such a good market as we could get if we could tap the world's market direct, instead of through the channel of the Queensland market. If the demand for Kimberley cattle for the Perth market becomes less, it stands to reason that the growers nearer Perth will have this market reserved for themselves, and thus, as I have said before, all the squatters in the State will benefit from the erection of freezing works at Wyndham.

Mr. Scaddan: How will the consumers get on?

Mr. MALE: I will come to that presently.

Mr. Taylor: Always come to the consumer last.

Mr. MALE: I cannot talk on all at once. Here I would like to refer to the matter of the suggested tax. It was suggested by the Minister for Lands that it would be necessary to put a stock tax on the East Kimberley cattle to provide for any loss that might accrue for working expenses, interest, and sinking fund on the works.

Mr. Scaddan: He did not suggest it; he said he was going to do it.

Mr. MALE: But it does not appear to me very logical. If the works are going

to benefit the whole of the squatters, why should the East Kimberley squatters only be taxed when it is going to benefit everybody? Take, for instance, the Fremantle freezer. Who is going to be asked to directly pay any loss that may be incurred on that work?

Mr. Angwin: There will be no loss.

Mr. MALE: I hope not. But who is going to be asked to pay the loss that will be incurred for several years on the Fremantle dock?

Mr. Angwin: There will be no loss there.

Mr. MALE: Who will pay for the loss that is incurred on agricultural railways at the start?

Mr. Taylor: The Government say there is no loss.

Mr. MALE: Who will pay for the loss incurred on mining railways when they are first started?

Mr. Hudson: There will be no loss there.

Mr. MALE: These losses, if any, are borne by the State, not by individuals, not by industries, but by the State; and I contend that the same should apply to the Wyndham freezer which will benefit directly the whole of the squatters and, indirectly, the whole of the State. In reply to the arguments raised by the leader of the Opposition as to the price of meat retailed in Perth and on the goldfields, I would point out that it is not on account of scarcity of cattle for, as I have said, we are at the present time over-landing something like 20,000 of our surplus stock, and it would be impossible to consume it even if the meat were given away. Only a certain quantity can be consumed by our population, whatever be the price. Fat stock from Kimberley can be landed at Robb's jetty for 3d. per pound, in fact is landed there for that price: therefore the difference between that price and the price charged by retail butchers must be in the distribution, not in the scarcity of stock. When we have initiated and got going our public sale yards and public abattoirs, the retail price of meat should be reduced, and for this reason. The small butcher will be able to go into the public sale yards, pur-

chase his weekly supply of live stock—which he cannot do now—be able to get it killed in the public abattoirs, and so deal directly with the producer and consumer. If the retail price be too high, then no fault can be found with the grower, one must look to the retailer for the trouble. This question of freezers has been long talked of but little has been done. Our possibilities are certain, our country is there and good, we have the rainfall and the stock, and all we require is assistance so that the stock may be marketed in the world's market, and get the advantage it ought to possess. Take the world's market now. Those who have followed the papers must have noticed that meat is getting scarcer in the old country and in America, and that prices are continually being raised. Further we find that America which only a few years ago was exporting meat to Great Britain is now an importer of meat, even so far as this that Australian meat has been reshipped from London to New York and sold there at a profit. Why should we not be able to ship our meat direct to New York instead of through the channel of the British market? The frozen meat trade, as we all know, has been of enormous value to New Zealand and to Queensland, and what the other States can do surely we can do also. We are as well situated geographically as they for tapping Java, Manila and other Eastern markets, and equally well situated for tapping the Home market. Further than that, if we had regular prices and regular markets we could improve our herds, which at present are allowed to a great extent to run to waste. It is impossible under present conditions to get a new supply of bulls or to keep the stock up as they should be; as a result the herds are going back. Also we would be able to take steps to stop the spaying of cattle which is now going on, and thus be able to obtain the natural increase. With such a great area of country as we have still unalienated it is impossible for monopoly of production in the cattle business to exist, and if works are established they would be not in the interests of the few but of the whole State. Let me turn my attention from

the question of cattle to that of another industry in which I am particularly interested. I would like to refer to a few remarks made by the member for Mount Magnet, who tried to convey to the House the impression that the pearling industry was not being worked sufficiently in the interests of our own people, of the people of the Commonwealth. I regret sincerely that the hon. member has not had an opportunity of visiting Broome and studying the pearling industry for himself. I also regret that the majority of members have not had that opportunity. The industry ranks fourth in the export industry of the State; first comes the gold, then wool, then timber, and fourthly pearling. In Customs returns it is ranked either third or fourth. The boats employed in the industry are almost without exception Fremantle built. The whole of the hardwoods used in their construction are Western Australian timber, and the softwoods, of which we have none, are alone imported. The number of boats employed in the industry is somewhere about 340. There was an old impression, probably it still exists, that these boats are owned by a few individuals and are worked by a large number of coloured men. That was the position some years ago, but by process of evolution it is gradually changing. The industry is now becoming one for the small man. With the exception of one large firm I think the whole of the fleets have been divided up and sold to men who own only one or two boats. I am proud to say that, by that method of evolution, the pearling industry has been working out its own salvation and becoming, as far as possible, a white man's industry. Let us compare it with the position in Queensland. Some time ago a Royal Commission was appointed in Queensland to inquire into the pearling industry there, and in their report figures were published showing the position of the trade. It is shown that there were then in Queensland 110 boats owned by six different owners or firms, giving an average of 18 boats per owner. At that time there were 330 boats in Western Australia with 111 owners, giving an average of three

boats per owner. That Commission sat some 18 months or two years ago, and although I have not the present figures relating to the industry here, still I know that the average is less than it was at the time the Commission was sitting. With the division of the big fleets into small ownerships the old system of using schooners outside in attendance on the boats has been almost extinguished and at present the policy of all small owners is to have a white man on each boat as a shell opener. I think that system is carried out right through, except in the case of the one big firm who have motor-boats which they use for the collection of shell. The result is that Broome has grown from a small town into a large and flourishing place. The owners, and the white men they employ, have their wives and families settled there with them, a large number of merchants, store-keepers, tradesmen, labourers, civil servants and others one finds in any large flourishing town are established up there. In order to assist the Government to keep the industry as it should be and to prevent a certain amount of dnmmying as has existed in the past, the Pearlers' Association asked the Government to provide a form of declaration which each pearler must sign before taking out his license. That declaration has been gazetted and now people before taking out a pearling license have to make a declaration as follows:—

I, _____, of _____, in the State of Western Australia, do solemnly and sincerely declare that:—

I am (or we are) not associated with or about to become associated with any person of Asiatic or African race who (1) will have a share or interest in the pearls obtained by any ship used or employed by me (or us) in the pearl-shell fishery; or (2) will have a share or interest in the pearl shell obtained by such ship other than the diver's ordinary and usual lay; or (3) is to pay or be charged with any part of the working expenses of such ship; or (4) has or is to have any lease directly or indirectly of such ship. And I (or we) make this solemn declaration

by virtue of Section 106 of The Evidence Act, 1906.

That has been instituted to prevent any possibility of dnmmying in the industry on behalf of Asiatics. I would point out in connection with the industry that the number of Asiatics employed in it cannot be increased. By a Commonwealth order of some years ago it was provided that the number of men employed in the industry should not be increased over and above the number that existed at the time of the proclamation. That order has been faithfully carried out. The owners are almost without exception Australian, and, therefore, reinvest the profits they make from the industry in the Commonwealth. In that respect they are unlike the great mining associations and owners who send away the dividends our mines produce. Another point raised by the member for Mount Magnet was that the industry entailed a considerable cost to the State owing to the upkeep of Bernier and Dorre islands, this being caused by there being sent to those islands natives who are diseased owing, indirectly, to there being coloured men employed in the pearling industry. I wish to disabuse his mind on that score. In the first place, perhaps, it might be as well for me to explain that when men are engaged in Singapore they have to pass a very stiff medical examination before they are shipped. They also have to bring vaccination certificates from the medical officer showing either that they had been vaccinated by him or had been recently vaccinated. The islands referred to by the member for Mt. Magnet were reserved for the purpose of the natives, not at the request of the medical officer for Broome but at the request of the medical officer and a number of residents in the Pilbara, Ashburton, and Gaseoyne districts. I would like to quote some figures supplied by the Aborigines Department in connection with these islands. The Assistant Chief Protector of Aborigines writes as follows:—

In reply to your verbal request I beg to forward herewith a return showing

the number of aboriginal natives who received treatment at the lock hospitals at Bernier and Dorre Islands during the six months ended 30th June, 1910, and the districts they came from:—Wyndham 12, Derby 2, Broome 1, Pilbara 43, Ashburton 58, Gascoyne 62, Roebourne 10, and Murchison 8.

Thus it will be seen that out of a total of 196 only 1 came from Broome, the centre of the pearling industry. These natives are sent from Pilbara, Ashburton, and Gascoyne districts, and I venture to say that the mining industry has had more to do with the establishment of those islands for the purposes for which they have been reserved than the pearling industry. Among other items which I would wish to bring under the noticed only last week in the news—the appointment of a commercial gentleman to represent this State in Java, Singapore, and the East generally. I noticed only last week in the newspapers that a new steamer was being built in the Eastern States for the Java and Singapore trade. It has been common knowledge that two or three years ago the Victorian Government subsidised steamers for the Java and Singapore trade. Does it not stand to reason that we who are only within three days of Java should look upon that country as possessing a trade which should be ours? I think if our Government were to send a commercial agent there he would find that there is a lot of trade to be opened up. There is room for a big wheat and fruit trade, and we shall require to get some of it. When you consider that they have there in one island a population of over 30 millions we should know that the possibilities of trade are enormous. I commend to the Government the need for appointing a commercial agent in those places. Another matter I would like to refer to is that of tropical diseases. It is probably known to many that a school has been established in England for the study of tropical diseases, and that much good work has been done by that school in

different parts of the world. We know the good results that have followed in connection with the construction of the Panama canal, and that much good has resulted in connection with fever research in the Suez canal and the country lying near there. Last year I noticed a new development, inasmuch as a branch of that school was started in Queensland and a medical man was sent out there to investigate tropical diseases in the North of Australia. There is scope for much to be done in Western Australia. When I was in England a few months ago it was suggested to me that this Government should take some action in the matter. I believe it would be possible for us to get a certain amount of money from those interested in this work at Home if we were prepared also to contribute a subsidy. The services of a medical man could be obtained, and he could be sent to the Northern portion of the State to study tropical diseases. It must be common knowledge to many that dengue fever is often very bad at the different ports on our coast. In the Fitzroy district every year there are outbreaks of fever and ague, and I am informed that this year the hospital at Derby has been filled with patients. It is the duty of the Government to do something more than to have a medical officer at the ports; it is their duty to contend with those diseases. Prevention is better than cure, and if we can remove the cause of the disease it will be much better than to cure the disease after it has made its appearance. If we are to carry out that great policy of encouraging white settlement in the North we must make life possible in that portion of the State, and we can only do that by banishing in the first place the immense amount of discomfort and disease which exists there, and thus pave the way for a white population and prosperity. I commend this question of the study of tropical diseases in the North to the Government for their consideration. References have been made to the question of a university for this State, and in connection with

that it appeals to me that this being primarily an agricultural country our first need should be in the direction of agricultural instruction. What I would like to see is the establishment of agricultural colleges and experimental farms in all our large agricultural districts. At these colleges there should be taught practical farming, horticulture, veterinary science, and other things connected with our farming and stock industries, and we should make those colleges available to the youth of this State, and I think in a few years we would build up a class of youth who would be competent to go on our lands. We would prevent them from flooding the towns and the town industries as they are now doing, and we would keep them in the country where we require them. Let us train up our boys for this country life, and I believe that by having colleges and experimental farms properly established it will be the surest and safest way of placing the lads upon the soil and making them look upon the land as their permanent home. We might also get into touch with people in other countries, and induce them to allow their youths to come out here to study at our colleges and eventually go on the soil. That would give us a better class of immigrant than we are getting at the present time.

Mr. O'Loughlen: There are plenty of youths here now.

Mr. MALE: Then let us teach them the way to become useful and practical farmers. I would like to refer to a matter that I mentioned last year when speaking on the Address-in-Reply, and that is the need for the establishment of a department for the North, a Minister or director or someone immediately responsible to Cabinet to look after the needs and requirements of the Northern areas. Something has been done in that direction inasmuch as we have had the appointment of Mr. Despeissis as Commissioner for tropical agriculture. That, however, is not sufficient; it is only dealing with one thing, and when we recognise that the North contains more than

half of this State, I think we are asking for something to which we are entitled when we make a request for a direct representative to look after our interests. No Minister in the present Government has any personal or direct knowledge of that portion of the State. I give them credit for doing their level best, and I admit they have done more than any other Government have done.

Mr. Horan: You have had a couple of Ministers up there recently.

Mr. MALE: That does not give them the knowledge of the North that is necessary for many purposes. When we consider the extent of it I say it is too large and too valuable an asset to leave neglected as has been done. There are many matters there requiring closer attention. For instance, the great wool industry is the biggest industry in Australia, and a great quantity comes from the North. A considerable amount of gold comes from the North. The pearling industry is in the North, and we are looking forward to the establishment of the freezing works, and an export trade, while there are a number of other industries and trades requiring development; but nothing will be done as long as the North is allowed to go on in its quiet way without having a representative in the Cabinet to attend to its wants.

Mr. FOULKES (Claremont): I expected that a member of the Opposition would have spoken, but as there seems to be no one inclined to do so I shall take advantage of the opportunity to refer to one or two matters which have interested me during the last few years. A good deal has been said about the length of the Governor's Speech, and exception taken to the various paragraphs in it. Everyone must admit that this Speech is an extraordinarily long one, and there can be no reason why the Ministry should continue the practice of having Governors' Speeches so exceedingly long. I have heard many King's Speeches delivered at home, and I know quite well that although in the British Parliament they have far more important matters to deal with than we have, their Speeches

are not half the length of the various Governors' Speeches brought forward here at the opening of every Parliament. A good deal has been said about the Premier's visit to the old country, but there is no gainsaying the fact that the visit has done an enormous amount of good. I am quite sure that the Premier learnt one thing, and that is the warm and cordial feeling which exists throughout the whole of the British communities towards all the Colonies, and particularly to the Commonwealth of Australia. Every Australian who goes Home cannot but admit the fact that the utmost good feeling pervades every class of the community in the British Isles towards Australia. In the Governor's Speech reference is made to the fact that the Premier when at Home inquired into the system of immigration, and he himself has stated in the speech that he made here that he went Home with a view of reorganising the Immigration Department. It has been a great mystery to me why the Immigration Department at Home required to be reorganised, because there are only two men in the Agent General's office who are engaged on immigration work, namely Mr. Ranford and Mr. Dolley; and surely there was no necessity for the reorganisation of a department which embraces only two men. But I am strongly of opinion that reorganisation as regards immigration is required, not so much in London as it is here; because at this end there is practically no organisation whatever. I have repeatedly complained in the House that a sufficient sum of money has not been set aside for the carrying out of a definite immigration policy. It is to be remembered that the state of affairs in regard to immigration has altered very much out here during the last few years. For many years past there has been no attempt whatever on the part of the other Australian Governments to encourage immigration; but during the last few years we have had to face most active competition on the part of those other State Governments. Victoria has recently sent her Minister for Lands, together with a leading agricultural expert, to travel, not

only in England but also in America, with a view to disseminating information regarding the value of the lands in Victoria, and to obtain immigrants from both countries.

Mr. O'Loughlen: There are thousands of men in Victoria who cannot get land to-day.

Mr. FOULKES: Just the same, the Government of Victoria are prepared to spend a large sum of money in setting out the advantages Victoria has to offer immigrants. I am not here to answer for the policy of the Victorian Government; all that I wish to point out is that the Victorian Government have taken definite action in regard to immigration by sending a Minister of the Crown and an agricultural expert to Great Britain and America.

Mr. Johnson: They are looking for town workers.

Mr. FOULKES: No, they are not. I am not here to defend Victoria; but we must remember that there are now other States besides our own prepared to spend money on immigration. And if it be the case that Victoria, after all, has no land to offer to its immigrants, how much more necessary is it for us, who have large areas of land awaiting occupancy, to spend a considerable sum of money in inducing immigrants to come here? I believe, too, that Queensland is also encouraging immigration; and we all know that for many years past New Zealand has annually spent an enormous sum of money in setting out the good qualities of the New Zealand soil. When the last Loan Bill was introduced here I pointed out that the sum of money set down on the Loan Estimates, and also on the Revenue Estimates, was not one quarter the amount we should be prepared to spend in the encouragement of immigration. It is impossible to expect a successful immigration scheme unless we are prepared to spend a considerable sum of money upon it. During a visit to London I went to the Canadian immigration office, where I made inquiries as to the system adopted for supplying information to the people of Great Britain with regard to land settlement in Canada. I

was told that it was the invariable practice to send at least a dozen farmers in each year—in one year they sent 30—from Canada to Great Britain to set out the advantages offered by the Dominion. A good deal has been said about the success of the Premier's visit to England. No doubt it was successful; but it has to be borne in mind that, after all, the Premier only spent something like a few weeks in Great Britain, and that in respect to any good results that may come from that visit, we cannot expect them to be continuous. It is idle to hope that the visit of one man to England for a few weeks should be productive of anything like continuous results. I trust that the Government will be prepared to set down on the next Estimates, and agree to repeat it for each of the next succeeding five years, a sum of money sufficient to adequately disseminate in England information in regard to land settlement in our State. I am quite sure that whatever Government may follow the present one they will refrain from altering such a policy; because the excellence of the results of such policy will very quickly become manifest. I have repeatedly complained that we do not send to Great Britain and Ireland the right class of people to point out the agricultural resources of this country. There are in Great Britain and Ireland no fewer than forty millions of people; and two men are all that we have to travel about that country and disseminate information concerning our lands. The proposition is utterly ridiculous. Why, we have in Perth many business firms each employing half a dozen commercial travellers to advertise their goods in a country like Western Australia; yet, presumably, we are satisfied with keeping in Great Britain and Ireland only two men to put forward the value of our lands.

Mr. Walker: What salaries do they get?

Mr. FOULKES: I do not know. It is of minor importance what amount of salary is being paid to them so long as we get the right class of men.

Mr. Walker: If we want good men we must pay for them.

Mr. FOULKES: Certainly, if we have good men we must be prepared to pay them liberally. But I do not anticipate we would have to pay very large sums to capable farmers to go to Great Britain for a term; probably we could get scores who would go Home and stay there for twelve months disseminating information if, in addition to their expenses, they were paid a couple of hundred pounds apiece. I can assure the Minister for Lands that if we were to send representative farmers to Great Britain and Ireland they would be listened to with far greater attention than any professional lecturers.

Mr. Scaddan: We cannot supply land to local residents to-day.

Mr. FOULKES: I believe it is difficult for some men to get land to-day; but that is not the fault of the country, nor yet of the Government. The Minister for Lands has done a great deal in reorganising the administration of the Lands Department, but I would suggest to him that it is quite time he hastened on the throwing open of additional areas of land; because I have frequently heard complaints from people that they are unable to obtain land. The reason is that not sufficient land is being thrown open at the present time. It is reported in to-day's newspaper that a certain area has been thrown open in the Kumminin district, and that for every block available there were twenty or thirty applicants.

Mr. Scaddan: Residents of twenty years standing are being beaten by immigrants.

Mr. FOULKES: Residence in the State is not the sole qualification. I think the people who should have first call on these lands are those who have had experience in practical agriculture.

Mr. Scaddan: Ask some of the publicans in Perth how it is done. They can get land.

Mr. FOULKES: I am not here to defend the publicans of Perth. I will leave that to the leader of the Opposition. There is one thing I cannot agree with,

namely the proposal of the Acting Premier to construct the Trans-Australian railway. I have no doubt he made that offer with a view of hastening on the construction of that particular line. But I can remember very well when it was proposed that we should federate with the other Australian colonies we had a distinct promise made by various Australian Premiers that the Commonwealth Government would construct that railway and I think it is not good tactics for us to offer to construct that railway when we have already their promise to do so. It is true that promise has been a long time unfulfilled, but I think it would be most risky for us to release them from that promise and undertake to construct the railway ourselves; because we have many railway projects in this country which will require to be carried out within the next few years and which will tax all our resources for some time to come.

Mr. Walker: Are you contemplating the Esperance railway?

Mr. FOULKES: I think the Government would act wisely if they definitely announced that it is not part of their policy to construct the Esperance railway. I know that in answer to a deputation the other day the Premier said he would give the matter full consideration. I can quite understand a reply of that kind—it is only by way of courtesy to the deputation. But I have seen and heard many agitations in regard to the construction of the Esperance railway, and I have seen all those agitations disappear. They have risen up and lasted a fortnight or, possibly, three weeks; and I have not the slightest doubt that this agitation also is only temporary and will disappear. I would be glad if the Government definitely announced that they are opposed to the construction of this railway. I do not propose to give any reasons for this statement, because it is not necessary to do so. All members on this side of the House, and indeed all persons acquainted with the financial position of the State know that the State cannot afford to go to the expense of constructing a costly railway to compete

against our existing system; for that really is what it would mean. There is an interesting paragraph in the Governor's Speech to the effect that the Licensing Bill is to be introduced once more. I hope that this time the Bill will be pushed through. I do not say I hope the Bill as a whole will be carried, because of course it requires amendment in many places. But the Government must know there is a desire on the part of the whole of the community of the State to have legislation which will be an improvement upon the existing law. I regret very much that although the Bill passed the second reading stage last session, yet as soon as one amendment was carried the Government actually withdrew the measure. It should have been pushed on with because a great number of the amendments on the Notice Paper were amendments deserving of consideration, and most of them I feel sure would have been agreed to by the majority of members. For example, there was one clause which gave the power to publicans to keep their houses open to 11.30 p.m., and an amendment was tabled that the time should be fixed at 10 o'clock. Surely an amendment like that was worthy of consideration; but instead, immediately an amendment was carried to Clause 3, the Bill was practically withdrawn from our consideration. We are all pleased to see the great improvement in the state of the country during the last few months. No doubt there has been a great change in the affairs of Western Australia. I can remember very well when we met here two years ago the prospects of the country looked extremely gloomy, and I congratulate the Government on their success in having been able to carry on the affairs of the country under great disadvantages. I would suggest, however, that while they seem to claim a monopoly of the policy of agricultural development and the construction of agricultural railways, there are members in the House who are entitled to a certain amount of consideration in regard to that policy. There are members on this side of the House, at any rate, and I know there are members of

the Opposition, who most cordially supported the Government all through during the last few years in their policy of developing agriculture, and constructing agricultural railways, and I regret very much that during the last few years there seems to have sprung up among Ministers what seems to be an attempt, almost an organised attempt, to make people believe that they alone were practically responsible for this policy. I know there are many members on the Government side, and many agricultural members, who have been most staunch advocates of agricultural development, and who have in many cases tried to convince the Government, as to the necessity for paying even greater attention to the constructing of agricultural railways. I have repeatedly said in the House that we should have a much bolder policy than we have adopted in the construction of more railways for agricultural development.

Mr. Underwood: Hear, hear; the Esperance district!

Mr. FOULKES: I do not class the Esperance railway as an agricultural railway. I hope Ministers will do all they possibly can to encourage immigration, and that they will make up their minds definitely to set aside a large sum sufficient to enable this policy to be carried out to a completion.

Mr. Heitmann: Why, they have not the money to keep their sick and poor, let alone bringing immigrants here. Let them pay attention to those in the country.

Mr. GOURLEY (Leonora): I intend to say but a few words on the Address-in-Reply. I hope the time is not far distant when there will be no need for a debate of this kind. This is now the fourth week we have had on this debate, and it seems to me it will be the end of next week before the debate is concluded, with the result the same as last year, that Bills will be rushed through the House at the end of the session and we will not be able to give consideration to them as we should. I congratulate the member for Kalgoorlie on the excellent speech he made on this

debate, a speech which had a most telling effect, and which seems to have brought the Government and their supporters to their senses. There were no smiling faces on the Government side of the House when the hon. member was speaking. When the Attorney General was speaking on the previous evening in reference to the Opposition he was frequently applauded, and the member for Fremantle was a very frequent applauder. I fancy I could hear the voices of Ministers when the member for Kalgoorlie was speaking; their voices ascending to Heaven offering up a little prayer, "My God, why has the member for Kalgoorlie forsaken us?" Everything appeared to be dark and gloomy on the Government side of the Chamber when the member for Kalgoorlie was speaking. It seems to me the hon. member showed the Government up in all their nakedness; they had not even the proverbial fig leaf wherewith to cover themselves. I cannot congratulate the member for Fremantle on the speech he made.

Mr. Murphy: I was new to the game.

Mr. GOURLEY: If I may use some vulgar remark, it appears to me the hon. gentleman slobbered all over the Government. I remember when that hon. gentleman was mayor of Fremantle.

Mr. Murphy: So do I.

Mr. GOURLEY: I remember how on many occasions he condemned the present Administration, more particularly in regard to the reduction of municipal subsidies, also in regard to the hospitals vote and many other matters affecting the interests of Fremantle.

Mr. Murphy: And half the police court fines. Do not forget that.

Mr. GOURLEY: The hon. gentleman was entirely antagonistic to the present Government, but immediately he came to this House he pointed out all the good qualities that exist in the Government.

Mr. Murphy: What do you think I was elected on?

Mr. GOURLEY: The hon. member put me in mind of the member for Murray. I remember that when that gentleman

stood for election the Press were opposed to him, more particularly the metropolitan Press. I remember how Ministers went into the electorate and opposed the hon. gentleman. I even heard after the election men on the Government side expressing their disgust at an intelligent body of electors returning the hon. gentleman. But, I notice the Government did the same thing with the member for Murray that they did with the member for Fremantle. As soon as he was returned to the House, seeing they could not rely on him, they put him up to move the Address-in-Reply, as they did with the member for Fremantle. It seems to me these two gentlemen are placed in a humiliating position. Although the Government opposed them on every occasion and tried to bring about their defeat, immediately they came to the House they became strong supporters of the Government.

Mr. George: You must return good for evil.

Mr. Murphy: And love your enemies.

Mr. GOURLEY: I would advise those two gentlemen to retire from the Chamber and consider their position.

Mr. Murphy: And like the member for Kalgoorlie form a party of our own.

Mr. GOURLEY: There are just a few matters I wish to refer to briefly. I agree with the remarks of the member for Cue in regard to the abolition of the office of State Governor. I am of opinion the office should be abolished. The expense of the office is too great, and I think Government House could be put to better use. I have nothing to say against the gentleman filling the position. I believe he is a high and estimable gentleman, but still I trust the day is not far distant when the office will be abolished. I would also refer to another place a few doors on, the "Old Men's Home," otherwise called the Upper House. I hope the time is not far distant when that Chamber will be abolished. It seems to me it has a tendency to retard progressive and democratic legislation, and that it has outlived its

usefulness. Measures of a democratic nature and in the best interests of the country have been sent from this Chamber only to be thrust on one side by the other Chamber. One hon. member of the other Chamber, referring to the Bill for the reduction of the franchise, has said he opposed it though it was the will of the country that the franchise should be reduced, but he intended on this occasion to give his support to the measure. I hope other members in that Chamber will take into consideration that it is the will of the people that the franchise should be reduced, and that they should support the Bill. A little time ago, when the Acting Premier decided to open the Sandstone railway, I waited on him and persuaded him to make his tour through Leonora. I was pleased that the tour should go through Leonora so that His Excellency could see the vast country we have there, a country that I believe in the near future will have great prominence in regard to mining. So I was particularly pleased when the Acting Premier decided to make that tour, but I was disappointed after the tour had been taken the Acting Premier could not see his way to pay a visit to Leonora. When it was decided this tour should be made, the mayor of Leonora wired to the Acting Premier that it was decided to tender a municipal reception and also a public welcome to His Excellency, but the Acting Premier was not desirous that a public function should take place, and he replied accordingly. The mayor wired back to say that a deputation would be pleased to wait on the Acting Premier to lay before him the various requirements of the district, and it was understood when the Acting Premier left Perth that he was to meet these people at Leonora, and that arrangements would then be made for the deputation to wait on him. Unfortunately, it seems to me to be characteristic of the treatment meted out to the goldfields on every occasion by the Minister for Works. There seems to be, so far as the goldfields are concerned, not that sym-

pathy on the part of Ministers there should be. Even our own Minister, the Minister for Mines, a gentleman returned by a goldfields constituency, has practically forgotten that he, in the position he holds, should show more sympathy for the mining industry than he does at present. I do not for a moment say that he has not done good work, but there is not that sympathy on his part to-day that should exist for our goldfields. Is it any wonder that a certain amount of feeling has been stirred up on the goldfields in this connection? I wish briefly to refer to the immigration policy of the Government. Members of the Opposition are charged with not being desirous that immigrants should enter the State. It is not correct. We are desirous of getting a good class of immigrants here, but unfortunately some of the immigrants sent to the State are not what they should be. I have seen a great many of them and in many instances they are not fit to go on our lands. A good many are physically weak and are not in a condition to go into the country, take up land, and put up with the hardships incidental to opening up new country. So far as the land itself is concerned there is nothing in Australia that will compare with it, and there is no other State which offers such good opportunities for people desiring to settle. What we want and must have, however, are immigrants who can go on the land, work hard, overcome the hardships and obstacles which are bound to be met with, and establish themselves on a firm footing. It has been said that in many instances the immigrants have taken the work provided for those resident in the State; in many instances that is practically true. I know of cases where immigrants, who came here to settle on the land, are keeping little shops in Perth, while others are tramping it over the goldfields. I know a man who has travelled over the different fields looking for work, but who could not obtain employment as he was not strong enough. Managers of mines knew that it was no use putting him on, and the result was that he got a job as an insur-

ance agent at 30s. a week, to keep him going until he could get something better. We have been told that the Premier did good work in the old country. I have reason to believe he did, and I know he is most anxious that Western Australia should take pride of place among the States of the Commonwealth. I believe he is most anxious to work in the interests of the State. We must await the results of his visit, and I trust that one result will be a great improvement in the class of immigrants that come here. As to applications for land, we have been told there has been a certain amount of dummyming. Without doubt there has been a good deal of it. We have also been told that there are many conditional purchases on the market for sale. That is so, but many of them have been taken up for some considerable time. I know of many cases where there are good grounds for the blocks being offered for sale. In some instances the people who took up the land have been unfortunate, and have been compelled to sell, either through sickness of the members of the family, or through the arising of misfortunes of various kinds. I know, however, that a great many have dummied land. Very many people who have been in the State for from 14 to 18 years have applied for land on many occasions, have appeared before the Land Board, but have not succeeded in getting blocks. Preference seems always to be given to those coming from the Eastern States and from the old country. That is not right. The people of Western Australia, people who have been here for a number of years, who have helped to make the State what it is, who have endured the hardships incidental to the opening up of new country, who have made a certain amount of money on the fields, and desire now to settle on the land are the people we should have on the land. They form the ideal type of settler, as they have experienced the hardships of pioneering life and have capital behind them. I have seen applicants before the Land Board who have been in the State for years. They have intimated there was no necessity for them to go to the Agricultural

Bank for financial assistance, yet they were refused and preference was given to immigrants from the old country, who had no capital but who would be dependent upon the assistance they would receive from the bank. Preference should, on the other hand, be given to our own people, those who have borne the brunt of the battle in opening up this State. I hope the Minister for Lands will see that that is done. One result of the action that has been followed in the past is that we have lost from this State many of those desirable selectors. They have taken their money with them to one of the Eastern States. Consequently this State is the poorer thereby. I wish to refer briefly to the mining industry. We have been told that the industry, so far as the gold output is concerned, is retrogressing. It is to be regretted that one of our prominent mining men has seen fit to belittle the mining industry. I refer to the gentleman now contesting the Beverley election.

Mr. Bolton: He is elected.

Mr. GOURLEY: Then I am sorry for the goldfields, after the statement he made subsequent to the Federal elections when, being defeated, he tried to belittle the mining industry by saying it would soon be a thing of the past. No part of the Commonwealth offers to-day greater privileges and opportunities for a man prepared to invest his capital than Western Australia does in connection with the mining industry. It is to be regretted, therefore, that we should find a gentleman, seeking to become a member of this Chamber, prepared to belittle the industry that has done so much for the State.

Mr. O'Loghlen: He is elected by 92 votes.

Mr. GOURLEY: That is unfortunate.

Mr. Walker: The other man is down on the industry too.

Mr. GOURLEY: I know he is; there is not much difference between them. While I was on tour with His Excellency the Governor I was pleased to notice the great interest he took in the mining industry. From Leonora and right through to Lawlers and Sandstone we found, everywhere we went, that a great diffi-

culty existed in regard to the proper working of small prospectors' shows. We found that in nine cases out of ten these shows had been abandoned. In the early days they had been worked by the prospectors down to water level, but then the inflow of water was too great and the properties had to be abandoned. The reefs appeared to be too small for companies to take up. Many of them are of high-grade ore, but are lying idle because the prospectors had not the capital to work them. While we are granting so much assistance to the agricultural industry—certainly it should receive every consideration—the Minister would be justified in setting apart a sum of money for the practical development of many of these shows. I am sure that if the prospectors had a little assistance from the Government many of those properties would pay handsomely. With regard to the granting of exemptions, I must blame the Minister to a great extent for so many mines on the fields now being practically abandoned, this being due in many cases to the granting of exemptions. I was pleased to see recently the remarks of Warden Clifton on the subject. That gentleman, when referring to an application for exemption, said he hoped the time was not far distant when exemptions would not be granted to a great many companies who were holding hundreds of acres of land and preventing prospectors from going on them and doing well. In some cases these properties are let on tribute, but the charges made in the way of royalties are most excessive. Another matter I would refer to is that of the Leonora-Lawlers railway project. It has been before the House for the past two years, and I trust that this session the Ministry will bring down a Bill for the construction of the line. I was pleased to notice that the Premier said the other day he thought there was a probability of the Government doing something in regard to bringing down a Bill this session. I hope the Government are in earnest in this matter. The people of Lawlers have been agitating for a considerable time. The Acting Premier, at the opening of the Sandstone

railway, referred to the great possibilities before that district. He said that a district such as Sandstone, which had produced £600,000 worth of gold, was entitled to a railway. If that be so then I contend that Lawlers, apart from Wiluna, is fully entitled to one. I will not include Wiluna, otherwise I suppose the member for Fremantle would chastise me for daring to include that district with Lawlers, claiming that I had done so with the object of enlarging the gold yield from that place. Lawlers has produced something like £3,000,000 worth of gold, and if Sandstone with £600,000 worth of gold is entitled to a railway surely Lawlers should have one also. I hope the Government will give consideration to the people of that district. We have all helped to bring about the extension of railway lines to agricultural districts, and the Government should realise they are justified in constructing lines on the goldfields and particularly one to Lawlers. I would like to draw the attention of the Minister for Mines to the necessity for particularly cheap excursion trains being run from the goldfields about Christmas time. When referring to the proposed Esperance railway, the people of Kalgoorlie pointed out that they desired the people of the fields to be given an opportunity to visit the coast during the hot weather. For two or three weeks before Christmas and for a few weeks afterwards the Railway Department should run excursion trains from the fields at a fare of not more than £1 return. This might be considered a very low fare, but I would point out to members that an excursion ticket from Broken Hill to Adelaide at that particular time of the year only costs £1 return. These excursion rates enable a great many people to travel from Broken Hill to the coast in the hot months of the year. I am sure if the Minister followed that example a handsome profit would be made by the department. I hope this matter will be dealt with, and that the consideration I have suggested will be shown to the women and children of the goldfields. One other matter I would refer to is with regard to the employment

of foreigners on the goldfields. There should be an amendment to the Act to prevent the employment of so many of these people. This question has often been referred to here, it has called forth numerous and heated debates and arguments, and it is high time the Government gave the House an opportunity to deal practically with this question. For many years past I have been travelling through the various fields and have realised that there is a considerable amount of feeling on the question. It was smothered up for a while, but unless an opportunity is given to our own workmen to obtain employment on the fields I fear the results. Although we are told that to-day only nine per cent. of foreigners are working on the mines, still, when we take into consideration the number of foreigners who are woodcutters on the fields and working in other directions, I feel sure the percentage is between 12 and 13. I hope the Government will give careful consideration to this question so that the proportion of foreigners working on the mines shall not be more than one in seven.

On motion by Mr. McDowall, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 9 p.m.
