

The Scrutineers, together with the Clerks tallied the votes and submitted the result of the ballot to the President.

The PRESIDENT: The result of the ballot is as follows:—

Mr. Bourke	34
Mr. Marwick	39

I declare Thomas William Marwick, farmer, of Greenhills, duly elected to fill the vacancy in the Federal Senate caused by the death of Senator William Carroll. That concludes the business of the joint sitting.

The President left the Chair at 4.19 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Wednesday, 19th August, 1936.

	PAGE
Questions: Transport Board, carriage of honey	118
Treasury Bills and funded deficit	118
Midland Railway Co., Government control	118
Federal Senate, vacancy filled	118
Adjournment, special	118

The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4.15 p.m. and read prayers.

QUESTION—TRANSPORT BOARD.

Carriage of Honey.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER asked the Chief Secretary: 1, Is it a fact that the Transport Board has refused to allow apiarists to carry their honey to market in their own vehicles? 2, If so, does not the term "perishable commodities," contained in paragraph (3) of the First Schedule of the State Transport Co-ordination Act, include honey?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied: 1, Yes; 2, No.

QUESTION—TREASURY BILLS AND FUNDED DEFICIT.

Hon. H. SEDDON asked the Chief Secretary: 1, What was the amount of

Treasury bills outstanding at the 30th June, 1936? 2, What proportion of this amount is in Australia, and what proportion in London? 3, What portion of the accumulated deficit of £5,300,000 has been funded? 4, Is such portion, if any, carrying the four per cent. sinking fund in accordance with the provisions of the Financial Agreement?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied: 1, £9,303,014. 2, Australia £6,305,000; London, £2,998,014. 3, Nil. 4, Nil.

QUESTION—MIDLAND RAILWAY CO.

Government Control.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL asked the Chief Secretary: What control, if any, has the Government over the operations of the Midland Railway Company?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied: That provided for in the contract dated 27th February, 1886, between the Government of Western Australia of the one part and John Waddington of the other part as confirmed by the Guildford-Greenough Flats Railway Act, 1886, and supplemented by the Midland Railway Act, No. 24 of 1919.

Sitting suspended during the joint sitting of both Houses to elect a Federal Senator (vide report ante) from 4.23 to 4.55 p.m.

FEDERAL SENATE—VACANCY FILLED.

The PRESIDENT: I desire to report that at the joint sitting of members of both Houses of the State Parliament, Thomas William Marwick was elected to fill the vacancy in the representation of Western Australia in the Federal Senate, due to the death of Senator William Carroll.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

The CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central): I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn till Tuesday, 25th August.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 1.57 p.m.

pathy and for their support in obtaining more assistance so that our primary producers may achieve security and equity and have the power to carry on. The prosperity of the Commonwealth depends upon the prosperity of our producers. I am glad the Government intend to amend the Aborigines Act. I have considerable knowledge of aborigines, both in the North-West and South-West. An amendment to that Act is long overdue. I hope some provision will be made in the Bill for decentralised control, and for the spreading of control. The problems in the North are quite different from those in the South. In the North, there are not many problems. In the South, however, we have the ever-increasing menace, if one may call it so, of the half-caste. That is a very great problem. These people are increasing, probably more rapidly than any other section of the community. If some definite policy for their control is not laid down, a very serious state of affairs will come about. I hope that the Bill will provide for decentralised control and deal with this important half-caste question, particularly as it applies to half-caste girls. It is a standing disgrace to the community that there should be so many half-caste girls, nearly white, speaking English as well as anyone, hanging about the towns for immoral purposes, and living under most disgusting and deplorable conditions. I shall have more to say on this question when the time comes. I congratulate the Government upon erecting the very fine girls' school at East Perth. Although, as a representative of a country province, I would rather see the money spent in the country, I know the school was a necessity. Now that money has been spent and the city's requirements in that direction have been catered for, I hope additional consideration will be given to the needs of the country districts. I know that the funds placed at the disposal of the Education Department are not over-generous, but I will quote two instances to lend point to what I have in mind. I do not like mentioning such small matters, but I will do so in proof of what I am contending. For a long time at Kellerberrin, 32 children were educated in a small room 16ft. x 14ft. Members can imagine what the conditions were there during the hot weather. Then the class was moved to the local agricultural hall. The building was used for other purposes from time to time and when the hall was required

for a dance or for some other purpose the whole of the school furniture had to be removed to the street. At another centre some settlers desired the provision of a school, but as they could muster 10 children only, the Government would not comply with their request. The settlers therefore provided their own school building, the Government, of course, making available the services of a teacher. In course of time the tank at the school became worn out and an application was made to the Government for a new tank. The answer they received was, "It is your own school; find your own tank." Then the teacher required a table and a request made to the department for one was also refused. To-day that teacher is using a table that was supplied by one of the farmers. I apologise to the House for bringing forward these small matters, but I want to indicate how niggardly the department can be when dealing with country educational requirements. In the hill districts there are many children who would like to attend school at Midland Junction but, owing to the inconvenient train service, are debarred from doing so. I hope something will be done to remedy that state of affairs. A small alteration to the railway time-table is all that is necessary. If that were done, then children who now attend schools where they can receive educational facilities up to the sixth standard only, will be able to attend the larger school at Midland Junction to continue receiving tuition. Under existing conditions, if they do attend the Midland Junction school, they are forced to wait to an inconvenient hour before they can return to their homes. The difficulty can easily be overcome. Then, again, some children who reside in the hill districts, particularly those within a radius of 20 miles from Perth, are able to secure free transport tickets. I fail to see why those children should be catered for with those privilege tickets, while others residing within a radius of 25 miles of the city do not enjoy the same consideration. I cannot see why the concession should not be extended to the latter. It would not cost the department much, and the extra consideration would be thankfully received by the parents concerned. There has been some talk about a new high school being erected in the country, and I hope that consideration will be given to the advisableness of erecting such a school at Merredin, which is in the centre of a huge farming area, and is a big railway junction.