

from the Premier's remarks that he suggested the whole matter might be adjourned, because a motion of this kind might be mandatory on the Lieut.-Governor and precipitate an election before a number of essential duties had been discharged. It appears to me that the amendment just moved ignores these considerations, because it states that—

Immediately after arrangements have been made to bring all electoral rolls up-to-date and for a fair and satisfactory system of recording for their home electorates the votes of the members of the Forces, both of which this House is of opinion should be put in hand immediately.

The Lieut.-Governor is then to issue his warrant for an election. On looking at the amendment of the Leader of the Opposition, with the principle of which I agree, it seems to me that the proper construction of the wording might be that the moment arrangements are put in hand to bring the electoral rolls up-to-date, and arrangements put in hand for a measure to enable the soldiers' votes to be properly recorded, then the warrant should issue. Arrangements may be put in hand, but the accomplishment of what is intended might not be possible for some weeks after. For example, arrangements might be put in hand for the rolls to be brought up-to-date, but it would take several weeks to achieve.

Mr. Marshall: It would take several weeks to print them.

Mr. McDONALD: Yes. Therefore on looking at the amendment, which the Leader of the Opposition was good enough to show me this afternoon, and with which I agreed, it does seem that the wording might need some alteration, otherwise the passing of it together with the original motion, might lead to an undesirable result. I agree with the remarks of the Premier and those of the Leader of the Opposition, that after sitting for nearly five years this House cannot drop its responsibilities on the floor of the Chamber and go straight to the polls. It owes a duty to the people to discharge any essential business, and two such items of business are certainly that there should be an amendment of the Electoral Act, which will be received with the confidence of the people as making adequate provision for soldiers and civil construction workers to record their votes for their home electorates. The other provision, as the Premier said, relates to the matter of supply. There are also the continuation Acts,

a number of which if allowed to lapse would cause serious confusion in the community.

Last year I, as well as the Leader of the Opposition, was opposed to any postponement of the elections, and I am now strongly of the opinion that as soon as possible and reasonably practicable the people should have an opportunity to exercise their franchise. At the same time I feel that we should, before going to the people, discharge those duties which must be done and which should essentially precede any general election. I understand that the Premier is of opinion that this motion might be adjourned.

The Premier: I think that is the safest course.

Mr. McDONALD: I support the motion and the amendment, with this reservation that I think the amendment requires some further amendment. In my opinion the House would be wise, so as to avoid unforeseen consequences, to adjourn this debate to allow the motion to be framed in such phraseology as will meet with the views which are common to all members.

On motion by the Minister for Lands, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 6.13 p.m.

Legislative Council.

Thursday, 26th August, 1913.

Address-in-reply, seventh day	PAGE
134	134

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

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Seventh Day.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

HON. G. B. WOOD (East) [4.34]: At the outset I have some observations to make regarding the evidence submitted to the Royal Commission on Child Delinquency and, as did Mr. E. H. H. Hall, I shall read a few paragraphs from the report of the evidence. I am convinced that the inquiry into that matter was fully justified. The further we went and the greater the number of witnesses we examined, the more was I satisfied that this Chamber acted properly in agreeing to the motion submitted by Mr. Hall for the in-

quiry that was conducted. As a member of that Select Committee, which was subsequently converted into an honorary Royal Commission, I am satisfied, from the evidence that was tendered to us, that there should have been no opposition at all to that motion. I am very glad to know that the Government intends at an early date, or rather when convenient, to raise the school leaving age. The importance of that step was definitely stressed as highly desirable by several witnesses. I have consulted with educational authorities and appreciate the difficulties associated with the raising of the school age.

Some people think it quite easy to adopt that course, but the many difficulties that arise include the important problem of securing an increased staff and, of course, additional accommodation. Yesterday one member suggested that the school leaving age should be raised to 16 years. For my part, I think a wonderful step forward will have been taken if we raise the age to 15 years. If we set out at once to fix the leaving age at 16 years, we might get nowhere with the desired reform, but by raising it to 15 years we shall accomplish much and, at any rate, half a loaf is far better than no bread at all. Another question raised by witnesses who appeared before the Royal Commission concerned the necessity for effecting alterations at the Roe-street lock-up for the housing of boys awaiting trial or being held pending despatch to some other place. If only that one reform is effected as a result of the recommendations of the Royal Commission, the inquiry itself will have been justified. Never before have I seen such disgraceful conditions in a place provided for the detention of boys than the spectacle I saw at the Roe-street lock-up. I shall read a short extract from the evidence given by Mr. A. H. Bulley, the Probation Officer of the Child Welfare Department, in order to show just what those conditions are. Each member of the Commission, with one exception, inspected the lock-up to see them for himself. I would not have credited that in any civilised community such a place could have been provided for the reception of boys of ages ranging from 10 to 15 years. In the course of his evidence Mr. Bulley said—

At the present time we have, as a detention ward, the Roe-street lock-up. You may have seen where I made statements about the Roe-street lock-up to Mr. Schroeder in the court. I want to describe it to you. It is 51ft. long by 7ft. wide. In the lock-up there have been

as many as 10 boys at one time. The exercise yard of 51ft. by 7ft. is covered with galvanised iron to the extent of 7ft., I think, and the remainder is open, with walls higher than the ones in this room—may be 14ft. or 15ft. high.

The boys were put there and they had to stay in that confined space irrespective of whether the weather was hot or cold or whether it was raining. When the wind blows in a certain direction, the rain drives in and the boys have to do what they can for shelter. There were some other features I would like to talk about. There was another place, a sort of lavatory. It was really a cell. When we opened the door, the smell that emerged nearly knocked us down. That was where the boys had to go to in the wet weather rather than stay out in the rain. I shall quote a bit more from the evidence of Mr. Bulley, who said—

These boys have nothing whatever to do all day long. They simply live in this place and wait for the night-time, when they can go into their cells. Between one and four, boys may go into a cell in which, for lavatory purposes, there is placed a bucket. What is deposited in that bucket may be strewn around the cell. That has happened. They use their minds for filthy ideals; their minds become cess-pits. They vie with each other with the filth they can disgorge, and I have enumerated that in my report to the secretary. Their language is diabolical. I have used that word in court. They have been heard in Roe-street. They have tried to cut their way out of the exercise yard and, in fact, on one occasion did so, and almost succeeded on a second occasion. They have destroyed their bedding, taken the plaster-board off the ceiling, and done everything that a boy might, in his wild mind, do. And he is blamed for it. I do not blame the boy, but the authorities for not making better provision for him. Those boys who are workable could be used to advantage, but they are not. They are not encouraged. Their minds are not elevated. They are repressed, definitely repressed; and, naturally, boys will curse and swear when they get together. They will do everything they should not do, and yet we blame them. The position, so far as I can see, is very serious. There are ten of these boys who have been in Barton's Mill. There they have certain work to do, but they are not given any remuneration for it. Again I maintain that these boys, up to this age, should not be placed in the lock-up, where there are older men—not that the older men would influence them to a large degree, but they would have the sympathy of the older men, which would, in itself, have a very bad influence upon the boys.

I believe the Commission was justified in recommending some alteration there. Some time ago plans were got out for the con-

struction of better accommodation in the Roc-street lock-up yard for boys. On the score of expense as well as other objections, those plans were not gone on with at that time; but I am very pleased to be able to say that the work has now been commenced. I do not wish to make any further reference to the subject. Referring to the escape of the prisoner Sutton from Fremantle, we have always been told that desperate criminals such as Sutton were not put with boys. Then, why was Sutton allowed to hobnob with one of these children? The child in question got hold of a rope and helped Sutton out of the prison. I do not know whether any inquiry has been made into that aspect of the matter; I have not heard anyone mention it previously. Heaven knows Sutton was a desperate criminal! And, I repeat, we have been told constantly that at Fremantle boy prisoners are kept away from desperate criminals.

I desire to pay a tribute to certain people, particularly those connected with religious institutions, who are performing a task which, perhaps, should be the duty of the State. Let me particularly mention the Home of the Good Shepherd, which is doing a wonderful work for girls, the Seaforth and Swan Boys' Homes and Bindoon. Those institutions deserve the commendation of every citizen of Western Australia for the work they are doing, and they are entitled to every encouragement. Sir Hal Colebatch, our chairman, said the Commission's terms of reference did not extend to Barton's Mill; but I wish to say a few words about Barton's Mill as it is at present. The Government has been condemned on account of Barton's Mill. I do not blame the Government. On the other hand, I believe Barton's Mill will be a fine institution in time to come if the Government continues in its present course—providing facilities for the prisoners held there. I believe that Barton's Mill should be persisted with. I hope it will be, though we have seen no definite Government announcement on the point.

I believe that the Barton's Mill institution will be all for the good of the State. At that institution a prisoner has a chance to rehabilitate himself. It consists of a huge area enclosed by wire fencing and containing a number of separate huts; every prisoner there has a separate hut. Good prisoners can go outside the enclosure and burn charcoal, chop timber and so forth. I

repeat, my hope is that the scheme will be persisted with even if the Fremantle Gaol has to be scrapped entirely. My honest belief is that the opinion which has been expressed, that Fremantle Gaol is out of date, is right. Prisoners at Fremantle have not much chance to turn themselves into good citizens. On the other hand, at Barton's Mill there are big workshops; and, in fact, Barton's Mill is not a bad place at all for a man sentenced to imprisonment, for he has the opportunity to work in the open air, and this in itself gives him the chance to become a useful citizen.

Now I wish to refer to a political meeting I attended at Fremantle. I went there to hear the Rt. Hon. R. G. Menzies speak. I did not hear him speak because I was not allowed to do so. Never before in my life have I seen such disgraceful happenings anywhere, whether in the street or in a hall; and nothing whatever was done about it. I cast no blame on the police, the chairman of the meeting or anybody else; but I lay the blame on the law. We are informed that the police are not supposed to take any action against such hooligans as those at Fremantle, unless desired by the chairman of the meeting to do so. The law should be amended so that if a disturbance of that type takes place in the street or anywhere else where the public are assembled, it would be the duty of the police, without instructions from a chairman or anybody else, to take action and deal with the hooligans. This Fremantle meeting lasted an hour and a half, and not for three seconds was there any let-up in the terrible din. Many old people present were definitely perturbed. When one does not like something he hears on the wireless, he can turn it off, or if he does not like something he hears in, say, this Chamber, he can walk out. I would have walked out of that Fremantle hall had I been able to do so, and so would many of the old people present, who were plainly suffering. It is up to the Government or some other power to amend the law so that the police will have to take action if anything of the same kind occurs.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: Those people support freedom of speech only when it suits them!

Hon. G. B. WOOD: Freedom of speech is a big subject which I will not touch on at present. The point I urge is that it should be the definite duty of the police to prevent

such happenings as I have described. In Sydney I witnessed the I.W.W. disturbances in 1920, but there I saw nothing to equal what happened at Fremantle. I do hope something will be done in that regard. Let me repeat that I cast no reflection on the police, knowing as I do that they are unable to take action unless asked to do so by the people in charge, and that unless they are so asked they are powerless to interfere. A lot of has been said by Mr. Bolton about bus services and queuing up. I do not blame people for riding in buses in view of the unsatisfactory train service to Fremantle. I do not travel by rail to Fremantle very much, but on one occasion it took me an hour to go from the Perth station to Fremantle. The time the train was advertised to leave Perth was 6.22. It reached Fremantle at 7.25. If that sort of thing is allowed to continue, we cannot expect people to travel by train, at 12 miles an hour.

Hon. J. Cornell: That is an express compared with the trains on some of the country lines.

Hon. G. B. WOOD: One can expect a little delay in the country because en route guards have to take on and put off milk cans and other freight. There is no excuse, however, for a train to take an hour to travel from Perth to Fremantle. Surely a few express trains could be run right through without stopping anywhere en route. I am told there is an express to Claremont. I do not know whether that is so, but surely something could be done in that regard. It would tend to relieve the congestion in the Terrace. Mr. E. H. H. Hall has mentioned high school facilities. The facilities at the Northam High School are not all they should be. The institution is desperately overcrowded. There is no domestic science centre and the children have to walk across the town to one of the State schools for tuition in domestic science. Why is this?

Why cannot we have proper facilities in the country? It cannot be due to lack of money. Not long ago we read in the paper that an extra £19,000 was to be spent on the Kent-street school for the provision of technical education facilities, and a statement was made by the Minister that manpower would be available and everything would be fixed up before the end of the year. If that can be done in the suburbs of Perth, it should be done in the country where it is so desperately needed,

much more so than in the city. At Corrigin I was approached about 12 months ago with a request that I should try to have a kitchen established in connection with the hospital in that district. The present accommodation is disgraceful. I would not have it on a farm, let alone in a hospital. It is a terrible place. The work was approved, but it has not been done. I do not know why. I do not know whether the authorities care what happens in the country. When one learns that so many thousands of pounds are to be spent on the Kent-street school, it makes one wonder what is wrong.

Hon. G. W. Miles: I wonder what influence Mr. Cross has got?

Hon. G. B. WOOD: I thought that, but did not say it.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: The Minister for Labour in another place is the member for Northam and should have some influence.

Hon. G. B. WOOD: Yes, but nothing has been done there. Another thing exercising the minds of country members regarding which I hope the Government will try to do something concerns the damage to our roads by troops. I will not speak of the damage done to our fences and the general deterioration of our paddocks due to the activities of the soldiers, because I do not think the State Government can do much about that, but there should be co-ordination between our Works Department and the soldiers. Pressure could be put on the military authorities, without very much trouble, to make these chaps repair our roads as they damage them. Thousands of soldiers have finished their training. The authorities do not know what to do with them, so they take them joy riding through the country. That is no joke; it is a positive fact.

I have seen from 10 to 20 trucks go through the district where I am farming, one after another. They generally pick a wet day—I do not know why—and the trucks do considerable damage to the gravel. The result is that our roads are in a deplorable state. Going to Northam the other day I was bogged in the middle of the main road—a well-used thoroughfare between Spencer's Brook and Hamersley Siding. I was there for about two hours until a truck came along and pulled me out. There should be some co-ordination between the Main Roads Department and the Military Department so that something could be done about

the matter. The road boards cannot do anything; they have not the manpower and their graders have been taken away. The soldiers could be employed in filling up the holes with gravel and keeping the roads in a reasonable state of repair. It might be part of their training. When I was coming from York the other morning, a three-ton truck with six tyres passed me at 50 miles an hour. That is no exaggeration, because I kept up with it for a couple of hundred yards and checked its speed by my own speedometer. No-one seems to care about this sort of thing. Soldiers are driving at excessive speeds practically all the time.

Butter rationing is another matter that greatly concerns country people. I have never before known any Government to do such a silly thing as the Commonwealth Government did when it instituted butter rationing. I am prepared to admit that people can make mistakes, but when a mistake has been made, surely the authorities should take some notice of the advice of those who know something about the matter. Before the advent of rationing, butter was made by country people—particularly farmers' wives—to the extent of thousands of lbs., which is not now being made, because these people cannot sell their product. Purchasers will not buy farm butter because they are not prepared to surrender coupons for that class of butter when they can buy the product of factories. Some farmers who were making 40 lbs. of butter a week are not making any now, except perhaps two or three lbs. for themselves.

I know one farmer's wife who is not making any butter at all, but is buying factory butter. It is not worth her while to keep a cow for the sake of a couple of lbs. of butter. I was told at Konnongorring that farmers in that district used to make butter in winter from the proceeds of which they were able to buy butter in the summer when they could not make it. But they are not doing so today. We took a deputation to the Minister for Agriculture and he promised to try to do something about the matter. I hope that the Government will draw the attention of the Commonwealth authorities to the difficulties existing in Western Australia. I know the idea is that farmers should be induced to send their cream to the butter factories, but, as we have only half a dozen factories in Western Australia, it is quite impossible to do so.

There has been a good deal of talk lately about phosphatic rock. I hope the Government will make an early announcement regarding the position at Dandarragan. Goodness knows, it has had long enough to think about the matter, which Mr. Baxter and I brought up in this House in 1940, long before Japan came into the war and the handling facilities at Nauru were destroyed. Yet we do not know where we are today in regard to the Dandarragan deposits—whether they are good or not, whether they are worth working or not. All sorts of opinions have been expressed. Three years ago the Chief Secretary told us the Government had the aid of some chemical expert to go into the matter, yet we do not know today whether the deposits are good or not. I hope the Government will make an early announcement in that regard.

The rabbit menace is very serious today. The only way to deal with these pests at present is to poison them with strychnine. The Government seems to have done nothing to obtain adequate supplies of that poison. It is very necessary that supplies should be brought into the State. In winter-time the farmers used to get rid of a number of rabbits by means of fumigation, but now they have no men available for that work. I urge the Government to do all it can to get men out of the Army to destroy rabbits and to see that adequate supplies of strychnine are brought into the State. I have seen some marvellous results recently from the use of strychnine. Never more will I be afraid of the rabbit menace. Wonderful work has been done with strychnine even around crops. Compared with other methods this one is easy to employ.

Hon. L. Craig: Do you use oats?

Hon. G. B. WOOD: Both oats and barley are used. A little while ago I was terribly worried about the position owing to the lack of manpower. Now I feel it would be possible to clean up a reasonably large property within a week by adopting the method I have referred to. I hope the Government will give early attention to this important point. We have small strychnine supplies in the State. The road board with which I am associated bought all the strychnine it could get hold of, and has been able to sell the poison to its ratepayers at a cost of 8s. 3d. per oz. Other people have cornered supplies, and have been charging

up to 14s. 6d. per oz. Something will have to be done to prevent that sort of thing.

Hon. L. B. Bolton: You should dig out the rabbits.

Hon. G. B. WOOD: I have already referred to the shortage of manpower. The man who will talk about digging out rabbits does not know much about the position in the country. Of course, he may have men available or may have sons to do the work.

Hon. L. B. Bolton: Not so in my case.

The Honorary Minister: Mr. Bolton would dig them out himself.

Hon. G. B. WOOD: He would not get out many by that means. It would be easier to fumigate the burrows.

Hon. L. B. Bolton: The only way to get rid of them is to dig them out.

Hon. G. B. WOOD: That is all right in normal times. I know what Mr. Lefroy did on his 20,000-acre estate, but then he employed 20 men and had 30 dogs.

Hon. L. B. Bolton: You had the same opportunity when you had plenty of labour.

Hon. G. B. WOOD: That gentleman had the boundaries of his property netted with rabbit-proof netting and it was also subdivided. He did a wonderful job, but everybody cannot follow his example. I advise every farmer to try the method I have described. The result would amaze all those who tried it. I did not know that it was possible to poison rabbits in this way during the winter, although I knew it was possible to do so in the summer.

I take exception to the remarks of Mr. Bolton regarding gas-producers. I was amazed to hear him speak in the scathing tones he did yesterday of the gas-producer industry. That industry and the manner in which people have used gas-producers in the last two or three years have been wonderful. The person who runs down the gas-producer today is either incompetent—I am not referring to Mr. Bolton—does not know anything about the matter, is lazy, or has a gas-producer which is no good. I know what I am talking about. I went to a field-day at Wongan Hills recently and noticed that out of the 40 cars and trucks there, 35 of the vehicles were fitted with gas-producers.

Hon. J. Cornell: That is not to say they would pull a 10-ton load.

Hon. G. B. WOOD: I quite agree with the hon. member.

Hon. L. B. Bolton: If people could revert to petrol tomorrow, gas-producers would go off the market.

Hon. G. B. WOOD: That would depend upon the price of petrol, which is never likely to be cheap again. The fuel may come into Australia at a cost of 9d. per gallon, but the consumers will not get it at that price. Petrol will certainly be one of those commodities that will always bear a high tax. If I lived in the city I do not say that I would use a gas-producer. I am sorry those remarks were made by Mr. Bolton.

Hon. L. B. Bolton: I was speaking of the future.

Hon. G. B. WOOD: Professor Blakey of the University has done so much research work with a view to furthering this industry, that I think it is a pity any member of Parliament should run it down. The gas-producer has played a wonderful part in the country during this war, and will play a still further part in our plans for the future.

Hon. L. B. Bolton: Professor Blakey has not a gas-producer on his own car.

Hon. G. B. WOOD: I admit that if I lived in the city I would not use a gas-producer either. Mr. Bolton has two vehicles fitted with gas-producers, and there must have been something wrong with them for him to complain as he did. I know that many men who are employed by other people run down gas-producers because they do not want to have anything to do with them. Gas-producers are dirty and there is a good deal of work connected with them, but nevertheless I hate to hear anyone condemning them.

Hon. L. B. Bolton: I use mine every day. I was referring to the future of the industry.

Hon. G. B. WOOD: The hon. member also said it was a horrible thing to use.

Hon. L. B. Bolton: So do you.

Hon. G. B. WOOD: Not altogether.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I point out that Mr. Bolton has already spoken on the Address-in-reply.

Hon. G. B. WOOD: I was glad to hear Mr. Parker bring up the question of parsons and politics. I believe that certain parsons fell down on their job when they entered into the realm of party politics. That is not their job, which is to spread goodwill and a spirit of tolerance amongst politicians and people generally. There is room for work in that direction. Parsons can talk along those lines without taking sides in politics.

During the last election campaign a lot of hard and bitter things were said. For our clergymen to go on the air and on platforms and talk party politics was only to make things worse and was very wrong.

Hon. V. Hamersley: Unchristian!

Hon. G. B. WOOD: That is the word. Parsons are not paid to do that sort of thing. They have plenty of scope in other directions. They can if they like tell politicians to show more tolerance towards each other and not to war among themselves. They should certainly not take sides. It may be said that Mr. Parker and others should not have brought this question up in the House. Only one thing will stop that practice, namely, public opinion. This is the place in which we ought to start the people thinking about this sort of thing so that a stop can be put to it. I am not referring to any particular sect, but I was disgusted with the attitude of one or two clergymen, who ought to have known better. I compliment Mr. Parker for bringing up this question and endorse everything he said. I do not think daylight saving is desirable in Western Australia. Many reasons can be given for that view.

Hon. A. Thomson: Mr. Parker dealt very freely with that matter.

Hon. G. B. WOOD: Yes, and I do not intend to repeat what he said. I attended a meeting of poultry-farmers last night and the question of daylight saving came up. "I said, 'Why do you not like this proposal?' The farmers said, 'We never have any time to go anywhere at night. We cannot put the fowls to bed until 9 o'clock, and then it is too late to go anywhere.'"

Hon. J. Cornell: That is the way in which to bring them up.

Hon. G. B. WOOD: That is the reason they expressed for their objection. They cannot knock off work until dark. The same thing happens in connection with other primary industries. I hope something will be done by the State Government to get an expression of opinion from members of Parliament with a view to Western Australia being left out of the proposal.

Hon. A. Thomson: The Government should have asked the House for its opinion in the first place.

Hon. G. B. WOOD: It should listen to the views of the primary producers and take some notice of them. I thank members for their patience in listening to my remarks, and have much pleasure in supporting the motion.

HON. C. F. BAXTER (East): I join with other members in the pleasure they have expressed that the tide of war has turned favourably for the Allies. It is also comforting to read what has been said in the last few days at Quebec where the British Prime Minister, Mr. Churchill, and the President of the United States, Mr. Roosevelt, have been in conference. We can expect big things to happen against the treacherous and brutal race which will undoubtedly reap its deserts before many months are over. Again we have the Lieut.-Governor's Speech before us. In glancing through it I can come to only one conclusion, namely, that it is a masterpiece of complacency. There is nothing in it at all. True, there is the preamble which has been published time and time again, and every one knows it. It may be useful to have it on record, but I am not concerned with that. What I am concerned with is letting Parliament and the people know on the opening day what the Government proposes in the way of legislation. That practice has been departed from in late years. In the Speech this year we have only one brief reference to the legislation for the current session, namely, the Bill relating to the vote of the Fighting Services. Notwithstanding that, within the last few days a number of Bills has been brought down.

Hon. C. B. Williams: The election was held in between those times.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: The Government could not have got those Bills ready between then and now. They take some time to prepare. Let us hope the current session will be fruitful, notwithstanding that the Speech does not contain any reference to the legislative programme of the Government. I did not intend to speak on the Address-in-reply because I rather felt I should give myself more time to get back to good health, although I am feeling well at present. Certain recent happenings, however, have caused me to rise in my place this afternoon. I refer particularly to the control of matters affecting this State being taken out of the hands of the Government and handed over to the Federal sphere. I thought we were safe from that sort of thing as far as the Government was concerned when the Premier made his statesmanlike speech on the 12th December last. He was dealing with what had been said

by the Commonwealth Government and what was eventually brought before us in the Commonwealth Powers Bill. The Premier showed what a retrograde step it would be for the State to take and also indicated in his speech how the electors of Western Australia had stood in the past in regard to any move towards unification. There is no doubt that the people have displayed a very decided objection every time they have been called upon to vote on a referendum dealing with that question.

Hon. J. Cornell: Last Saturday's vote does not bear that out.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: Last Saturday's vote is no guide to the feelings of the people or their attitude to unification. The hon. member, if he went through the wheat-growing districts, would know that farmers who never previously had voted Labour did so on this occasion because they thought there might be a chance of getting more than 3s. 10d. per bushel for their wheat.

Hon. J. Cornell: That is why they will vote for unification. They will think they can get more from the Commonwealth.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: I was not only surprised but also a little annoyed the other day when I read that the Premier had assured the Commonwealth Government that this State approved of the re-introduction of day-light saving. Surely it was a matter for the consideration and decision of both Houses of Parliament, the members of which represent the people who have to suffer under day-light saving. I am not prepared to say that day-light saving may not have some advantages in the metropolitan area, but surely it is a matter for members of the Legislature to consider and then give a decision as to whether day-light saving can reasonably be applied in this State.

Bureaucracy is ruling the State today. Let nobody talk to me about democracy; that has gone long ago. We are living under bureaucratic control. Perhaps the Government discussed the question of day-light saving with officials or else took it upon itself to reach a conclusion. Whichever course was adopted, the decision was wrong. The Government had not the necessary knowledge to enable it to reach a decision. Ministers do not suffer under day-light saving. The question should have

been determined by Parliament. If the motion of which Mr. Williams has given notice is carried, I hope the Government will give heed to it, though there may be some difficulty in approaching the Commonwealth and asking to be allowed to retract. The application of day-light saving to our primary industries is both ridiculous and unwarranted. If it could be applied to the metropolitan area alone, I would have no cause to complain, though in saying this I admit that I am speaking without knowledge.

Hon. C. B. Williams: The metropolitan area does not want it. The workers do not want it.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: I hope the Chief Secretary, who is also Minister for Education, will take cognisance of the trouble that daylight saving will cause in the country from the point of view of education. All the manpower possible has been taken from the country districts, and it has become the practice for children on the farms and in other activities to do certain work before going to school each day. Under daylight saving this will be absolutely impossible. There will also be difficulty in connection with the bus services that convey children to school. Some of the children will have to walk two or three miles to pick up the bus at twenty to six in the morning, and this would mean getting up at about 4 a.m. I hope the Minister will see that the children in the country are put on the same basis in the matter of daylight as they occupy at present.

I have already remarked that the Government has been too free in handing over to the Federal Government powers that should be controlled by the State. I was under the impression that the Government was opposed to unification, but I am being forced to the conclusion that some members at least of the State Government favour that policy. I wonder whether those Ministers realise what unification would mean to Western Australia. If not, they will soon find out. Frequently we have to send representatives to the Eastern States to discuss matters with the Commonwealth authorities, and only with the greatest difficulty are we able to get anything like reasonable treatment at the hands of the Commonwealth Government. What has Western Australia got in the way of war industries? True, Government activi-

ties have benefited tremendously; the expenditure of war funds has improved the financial position of the State, but this is due to activities being carried on here by the Commonwealth Government.

When the war ends, how will the State stand, seeing that so little has been done in the way of establishing industries in Western Australia during the war? The State Government has been pushing ahead with some industries, but it cannot do very much when the Commonwealth has not established industries here. What have we in the way of factories, apart from the one at Welshpool? And this in a State of which the Prime Minister is one of the representatives! It would have been advantageous to Australia as a whole had factories been started in this part of the continent, but very little has been done. Therefore I ask, what can be expected when the war is over if unification is brought about? At an anniversary celebration of the Commercial Travellers' Association on the 14th August, the Minister for Mines, Mr. Panton, let himself go on the subject of unification and told the gathering exactly where he stood. In him we find a new champion of unification.

Hon. C. B. Williams: He said he spoke as an individual.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: He was speaking as a member of the Cabinet.

Hon. C. B. Williams: No.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: The Minister was speaking as a member of the Cabinet and this is what he is reported to have said—

At the risk of being misunderstood, he would assert that, whatever happened next Saturday, if, after the war there was to be reconstruction for the benefit of Australia, there would have to be a reconstruction of the Parliamentary system. He could not believe that, after 43 years of Federation, Australians would be content to carry on with 13 Houses of Parliament.

There we have a straightout advocacy of unification. That fact cannot be denied. This being so, need we wonder why the State Government is handing over so much to the Federal authorities? Another illuminating statement made by the Minister for Mines on the same occasion was reported as follows:—

Under National Security Regulations it (the Commonwealth) had taken over a lot more powers. It was not likely to hand them back and would be very foolish to do so. Between

the two wars we had simply blundered along, because it was not to be expected that six State Parliaments and a Federal Parliament would have uniform systems.

When the Commonwealth Powers Bill was under discussion at the beginning of the year, it contained a provision restricting the transferring of powers to a term of years, and we were told that at the expiration of the period, the powers would be returned to the State. Yet here is a member of the Government that put the Bill up to Parliament telling us that there is no chance of powers taken over by the Commonwealth ever being returned to the State! I and other members told this House exactly what the position would be. After the 1914-18 war the Commonwealth did not return to the States the powers it had taken, and it is not likely to return them on this occasion. Although Parliament was assured by the State Government that the powers proposed to be transferred under the Bill would be returned to the States, the Minister for Mines now says they will not be restored to them. Surely that was an extraordinary statement to make following on the assurance given to Parliament by the Government of which Mr. Panton is a member! Surely that is not the way to put legislation before Parliament!

Hon. C. B. Williams: You do not make any reference to what Mr. Menzies said. He wants more power for the Commonwealth.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: Mr. Menzies is not a member of this Parliament.

The PRESIDENT: Mr. Williams will have an opportunity to speak at a later stage.

Hon. C. B. Williams: Then I had better leave the Chamber.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: The present Administration has shown exactly what this means. We had regulations tabled in the House dealing with the brown-out. During last session the regulations were disallowed by this House for three very good reasons. It was pointed out where hardship was being inflicted, that the brown-out was being applied too rigidly in this State and was resulting in loss of life and property. This loss could have been obviated had the regulations been less stringent. The Premier, in referring to this matter, said, "Mr. Baxter knows more than does General MacArthur or General Blamey." It would be interesting to know in what way General MacArthur and General Blamey were concerned about our

brown-out regulations. They were more concerned about other matters. This House disallowed the regulations on three grounds, and they were reasonable grounds. One would have thought that the Government would have amended the regulations and retained State control. In matters of this kind, State control should be jealously guarded at all times. But what happened? The Minister, Mr. Panton, got into touch with his comrade Minister in the East—I think that is how he described him—and six weeks later the whole of the regulations were again applied under the Commonwealth National Security Act.

No notice was taken of the decision reached by this Chamber, which I shall prove later to have been quite reasonable. Within a few months another place took a strong stand in the matter, with the result that the Ministry, which had handed over to the Commonwealth the control of the brown-out regulations in this State, had to go cap-in-hand, to the Commonwealth Government and ask for amendments regarding the matters to which this House had directed attention a few months previously. Later on, this Government had to go a step further. When the brown-out regulations were cancelled, it had to go cap-in-hand to the Commonwealth Government and ask for something which it had handed over to that Government.

Hon. J. Cornell: It is funny what Eddie Ward did about the Arbitration Court.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: He is no guide to this Government; not one member of this Government would be guided by Mr. Ward, thank goodness for that! We have a different class of Minister here. Other speakers have referred to the interference by the clergy in politics. It is deplorable that gentlemen of the cloth do not look after their own affairs; if they did so, they would have no time to devote to causing dissension among people whom they should try to persuade to remain at peace. I wonder how those gentlemen would feel if members of Parliament took up the same stand with regard to religion! Religion and politics have never mixed satisfactorily.

Hon. J. Cornell: They have much in common.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: Yes, but they cannot be amalgamated. All attempts to amalgamate them in the past have ended in war and bloodshed. It is a pretty state of affairs if we are to have interference by the clergy

such as has occurred recently. I hope the sectarian bodies concerned will put those transgressors in their place, which is in the pulpit to preach peace.

Hon. G. B. Wood: What about a deputation to those bodies?

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: I do not think such a deputation would have any effect whatever. I am sorry to make that statement, but I feel that is so in one direction. There has been another invasion of the political arena, a highly dangerous invasion from the standpoint of the Administration of this State. I have been informed that a leading Government servant has been speaking over the air in this State in support of one of our political parties. That is an impossible position for any Government officer to place himself in; because, on a change of Government it has always been recognised—as far as I am concerned at all events—that public servants swing over to the policy enunciated by the new Government and loyally support it. If our leading public officers are prepared to speak over the air and take sides in political matters, how will they be placed later on if there is a change of Government? What about their loyalty to the incoming Government? How could those leading officers control the officers under them? It is all very regrettable; and I understand that during the recent election this particular officer did much work in this way.

Hon. J. Cornell: At least you know where he is.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: Yes. If we allow that to creep into politics, what will be the finish? I look upon such interference as much more dangerous than the interference by the clergy.

Hon. E. H. H. Hall: Is he a prominent civil servant?

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: Yes.

Hon. E. H. H. Hall: Let us have his name.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: If the Chief Secretary desires his name, I will give it.

The Chief Secretary: I might mention two or three names.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: I think the Government is not doing its duty in allowing these officers to act in that way. It is absolutely wrong. I do not say that because he took up a side opposite to mine, but because the procedure is wrong in principle. The Federal policy with regard to prim-

any production, the feeding of the troops and of the people and in certain other directions has been one of despair. Our goldmining industry has been reduced to the minimum. Australia will suffer in consequence, but Western Australia will suffer most. From my own experience of mining, I know that many mines which have been closed will never be opened again. Some are being cared for, but no matter how they are looked after, the cost of bringing them into production again will be prohibitive unless the price of gold increases enormously.

Hon. J. Cornell: You may expect a few more mines to close down.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: Yes. At the end of the last world war our gold yield was fairly good, but it will not be so subsequent to the present war. In addition, at the end of the last war we had on hand a large quantity of wheat and other products. The wheat which is being stored in bulk during this war is not deteriorating to a very large extent owing to the ravages of weevil. But what will happen to our wheat industry? The area which could have been sown to wheat was reduced, and reduced only in this State. We shall want all the wheat we can possibly grow at the end of this war. I was in charge of the wheat scheme after the previous war and at that time we experienced difficulty in getting the ships loaded quickly, and we got wonderful prices for it. It is a pity we have not more wheat on hand at present; even now I see by this morning's paper that wheat will be required for the people in the countries bordering on the Mediterranean. Mr. Scully is reported to have said—

One of the most important effects of the revival of the flour export trade was that sufficient supplies of mill offals would be made available to meet the essential needs of the dairying, poultry and pig-raising industries. These have been seriously short of mill offals in the last two years.

That is so; there was not enough feed available for them. It has been a short-sighted policy to rob the wheat industry of so many workers. It was said they were wanted for the war effort, but there are hundreds of men in this State doing very little service. The point is that the labour of those men is required to feed both the Army and the people. It is no use saying that money can be found for industries after the war. It will be very difficult to finance industries then.

The greatest blunder was made in connection with the dairying industry of Australia. I forecast that it will be a long period of years before that industry recovers sufficiently to be able to export the same quantity of butter as was exported before the war. Mr. Wood has lately been travelling throughout our country districts and I myself have been doing so for the past six weeks. We both found that everywhere settlers had ceased making butter. I know of one place where six champion cows were turned out, four of which will be ruined for future milking. The owners would not bother about milking them, as they had too much butter on hand. The dairy farmers have been told to send their cream to the factories; but there is only a small percentage of first-grade cream which can be sent to factories from those dairies. The quantity of second-grade cream is so small that the dairy farmers would lose money if they sent it to the factories. Farm butter is being wasted; no one in the country will buy it for the reason that they must give coupons for it; the buyers prefer to give the coupons for factory butter. A tremendous loss is occurring because of the waste of farm butter.

One need have noted only the supplies of beef in the butchers' shops during the past 2½ years to be aware of the fact that the beef which has been sold has come largely from dairy stock. One can tell from the colour of the meat that jersey beef has been sold during that period. From Balingup, in Mr. Craig's district, I got a report from a man who took the census for the last 12 months that 2,000 good dairy cows had been sent to the butchers. I will not state the name of the man who took the census, but Mr. Craig knows that he is a person who would not send such a report to me if it were not true. Imagine the knock-back! And that is happening throughout Australia! Just visualise the time which must elapse before it will be possible to build up those dairy herds again so as to enable us to produce the quantity of butter Australia exported to the Old Country before the war! Our dairy products will be required by the Old Country and by other countries which have been devastated by the war; but I am sadly afraid that we will not be in the same fortunate position we enjoyed at the end of the last world war to supply those needs. That is where the shoe will pinch us very

hard indeed. However, the damage has been done. The position can be retrieved in the butter industry to a certain extent by permitting the use of farm butter; but it is useless to ask the dairy farmers to send their cream to the factories, because, as I have said, the quantity of second-grade cream available is not sufficient to cover the cost of despatch.

HON. C. R. CORNISH (North): Before touching on some of the items contained in the Lieut.-Governor's Speech, I would like to endorse the remarks by previous speakers when dealing with child delinquency. I trust that effect will be given to the recommendations contained in the report of the Royal Commission as soon as possible. I would also like to commend Sir Hal Colebatch on his effort in the final draft of the report. I support the remarks made by Mr. E. H. H. Hall and am pleased that he read to the House excerpts from the record of evidence submitted to the Commission. It was certainly very illuminating, and, in my opinion, the appointment of the Select Committee, as it was originally, was thoroughly justified. I had only one chance to go North and regret that as a result I was not able to inspect the institutions. However, I have been privately to some and I know that they are doing very good work for those children who have gone astray. These places are an asset to the State. I agree that there is room for the optimism in regard to the war situation expressed in the Lieut.-Governor's Speech. The position of the Allies has much improved compared with what it was 12 months ago. To my mind, however, we cannot afford to relax. Much hard fighting lies ahead. It is only by showing a firm and united front and the will to win, that the enemy will be beaten. We have a very difficult proposition in the Jap, as I know from my experience up North. We will need to exercise all our ability and tenacity to defeat him.

It is pleasing to note in the Speech that, despite the hazards and difficulties under which the citizens of the North-West are living, the production of beef, wool and minerals compares favourably with that of previous years. That is only what is to be expected of the people of the North and reflects the true character of the North-Westerns. The exploitation of our large deposits of blue asbestos, as well as of

beryl, mica and tantalite, should give the North the industrial activity to maintain a population in conjunction with the sheep and cattle industries. Any industries established in the North will help to bring and keep a population there. We must all agree, having seen the threat made against our country, that any further threats will come from the North and we will need a large population to protect our northern shores. I agree with Sir Hal that more of the amenities of life should be granted to the country districts generally, and to the North-West in particular. Certainly in some of the outback camps the amenities would not be comparable with those of the metropolitan area. The people in the North do not seem to trouble about that sort of thing, but the little towns, which are just as solid as Perth, should have granted to them the privileges of workers' homes and soldiers' homes. They could be built and paid for just the same as is the experience in the metropolitan area. Everything seems to be done only for the city.

Hon. A. Thomson: Do not workers' homes apply in the North?

Hon. C. R. CORNISH: No.

Hon. A. Thomson: They should.

Hon. C. R. CORNISH: Outside of the metropolitan area there are only a few towns, such as Katanning, to which the Workers' Homes Board will advance money for the erection of homes. I was interested to learn from the Lieut.-Governor's Speech that an up-to-date shipbuilding yard for the construction of wooden vessels has been established in this State. These boats are to be used for war purposes at present, but after the war we might get some of them at a cheap rate, and they could be utilised in fulfilling a very long-felt want along our North-West coast, by supplying sea transport. This is the cheapest form of transport, yet today in the North we are carting our wool and provisions, and other necessities, hundreds of miles along the coast over tracks—they could not be called roads. Small ships could do this work. Along the coast from Geraldton northwards we have a number of small ports or landings where little boats could trade. These places are approachable both from the sea and from the land. I have a list of the ports.

After leaving Geraldton and travelling North we come to Port Gregory, which was the home of the Western Australian salt

industry before the war. For want of shipping it has gone out of production and we now get our salt from the East. We then come to Denham, Brown's Landing and Hamelin Pool. At this last-named port there are thousands of tons of shell grit, containing 98 per cent. lime. This product is used by the poultry farmers and is at present practically unprocurable. At today's price it is worth £5 a ton. The pre-war cost was £3 a ton. Going further north we come to Gladstone and then Carnarvon. The next place is Maud Landing, then Point Cloates, where the whaling industry was established, Yardie Creek, Bay of Rest, Giralda, Onslow, Yardie Landing, Fortescue, and then Roebourne. After that there are Cossack, Balla Balla and Port Hedland. North of Port Hedland are Condon and Wallal. That makes a total of 20 ports from Geraldton to a little north of Port Hedland. Beyond Port Hedland there are many creeks, bays and landings to which small boats could ply and so keep that part of the world in communication with the main centres of the country. Due to their isolation, nothing is done with these ports. The first thing is to get transport to them.

Another point is the marine wealth that could be gathered along the coast. Prior to the war we had four Singapore boats and two Government boats, the "Bambra" and the "Kangaroo," together with the "Kurnalpi" and about three or four sailing boats that catered for these places. Now the old "Kurnalpi" has gone and all the small vessels have disappeared. Maud Landing, where a boat drawing 14 ft. could tie up, is not of much use now, although a little while ago it was patched up so that a boat drawing 7 ft. could use it. This little landing supplies the needs of a number of stations and saves the pastoralists the necessity of sending their goods to the bigger ports further away. Along this strip of coastline are five ports—Shark Bay, Carnarvon, Onslow, Roebourne and Port Hedland—where large boats call. In addition there are 15 landings to which small boats could ply.

Today the internal combustion engine fits into a small space and, with wireless to maintain contact, these boats should operate almost as economically, per ton, as the larger boats, providing they are not over-burdened with crew. The trouble, financially, with small boats is that they must have a captain

and three or four other officers, together with a chief engineer and three or four assistant engineers, and then a crew. If a working captain, who would work when the ship is loading and unloading could be employed, together with a good engineer who would operate the winch when the boat was in port, these vessels could run economically and supply a long-felt want in the North-West. Thousands of pounds have been spent all over the world in building canals in order to provide cheap transport. But here where we have this long coastline we are using the most expensive form of transport—trucks burning petrol.

The banana plantations have suffered a lot from the lack of cheap transport. During the last couple of years the industry has only been able to struggle along as a result of the hard work done by overland transport, which has meant carting fruit 300 miles to Geraldton, and then another 300 miles to market when trains are available. Frequently there has been no train and the fruit has had to go to waste. At one time at Carnarvon, due to lack of transport and bridges, 1,000 cases of prime fruit were left to rot. It was not possible to get them to the boat. The consignment was worth £2 per case in Perth so that the growers sustained a loss of £2,000. If that sum was put into a bridge it would pay good interest on the money now being lost. In the past our policy has been to spend £1,000 on a road, but instead of building a bridge a track is simply made over the bed of a creek, and when the creek starts to run it prevents traffic. A bridge would cost £4,000 or £5,000 and save these losses. In the early days £100 constituted a terrible loss to these people, but they had to stand the loss of £200 and £300. It is for that reason that industries do not get started in these isolated places.

The splendid aerodromes now constructed in the North will in the future supply us with the means of shipping a lot of our base minerals and bringing supplies to isolated mining areas, which will do a lot to develop the North. Good will come out of the war. A short time ago I was at the mica fields, and it was impossible to get a car out to where the men were working unless it was a pretty good one with a good man to push it. All the supplies for these mines had to pass over such roads and, of course, the

mica had to be transported over them to be shipped away.

Hon. J. Cornell: Air transport has put Canada on the map.

Hon. C. R. CORNISH: I think it will put the North on the map too. We must have good roads and transport to open up the country. They are the main things in order that the producers may get their supplies.

On motion by Hon. A. Thomson, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 5.59 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Thursday, 26th August, 1943.

	PAGE
Question: Country visitors to Perth, as to accommodation	147
Leave of absence	147
Bills: Financial Emergency Act Amendment, 1R.	147
Farmers' Debts Adjustment Act Amendment, 1R.	147
Industries Assistance Act Continuance, 1R.	147
Public Service Appeal Board Act Amendment, 1R.	147
Wood Distillation and Charcoal Iron and Steel Industry, 1R.	147
Trade Unions Act Amendment, 2R.	147
Fremantle Municipal Tramways and Electric Lighting Act Amendment, 2R.	149
Criminal Code Amendment, 2R.	151
Pensioners (Rates Exemption) Act Amendment, 2R.	152
Public Authorities (Postponement of Elections) Act Amendment, 2R.	153
Electoral (War Time), 2R.	153
Mine Workers' Relief Act Amendment, 2R.	155
Coal Mine Workers (Pensions), 2R.	157

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

QUESTION—COUNTRY VISITORS TO PERTH.

As to Accommodation.

Mr. McLARTY asked the Premier: In view of the fact that many country people are compelled to visit Perth for urgent business, medical, and other reasons and are unable to secure accommodation, even for one night, will the Government confer with the manpower and other authorities concerned, in order that the necessary accommodation shall be made available?

The PREMIER replied: Yes, inquiries will be made from the authorities concerned.

BILLS (5)—FIRST READING.

- 1, Financial Emergency Act Amendment.
- 2, Farmers' Debts Adjustment Act Amendment.

- 3, Industries Assistance Act Continuance. Introduced by the Minister for Lands.

- 4, Public Service Appeal Board Act Amendment.

Introduced by the Minister for Labour.

- 5, Wood Distillation and Charcoal Iron and Steel Industry.

Introduced by the Minister for Industrial Development.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

On motion by Mr. North, leave of absence for the remainder of the session granted to Mr. Abbott (North Perth) on the ground of service with the R.A.A.F.

BILL—TRADE UNIONS ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

THE MINISTER FOR LABOUR [4.38] in moving the second reading said: This Bill proposes to amend Section 5 of the Act, which became law in this State in 1902 and has not been amended since. That section is identical with Section 4 of the English Trade Unions Act of 1871. It allows trade unions registered under it to prescribe dues and to inflict fines, levies and the like, but it prevents any legal action being taken by a union to recover any contributions, fines, levies or the like which are provided for in the rules of the union. The section also permits and indeed compels provision in the rules of the union for the payment of benefits to members. Here again, however, there is no process of legal recovery open to any member of a union to compel the union to make available to him any benefit provided under the rules. The true effect of the section, therefore, is to make legal the establishment in the rules of the union of the payment of contributions by members, and also to make legal the provision in the rules of the union which requires that the union may inflict upon members levies or penalties for any breaches of the rules by members.

As I have already explained, the section, in addition, makes legal the inclusion in the rules of unions of provisions for the availability of benefits to members in the way of sick-leave payments and other concessions of a like character. The schedule to the Act