

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, 23rd September, 1954.

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The SPEAKER took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS.

UNIVERSITY OF W.A.

As to Students, Staff and Finance.

Mr. YATES asked the Minister for Education:

(1) How many students attend the University of Western Australia—

- (a) full time;
- (b) part time?

(2) How many are employed on the staff—

- (a) lecturing;
- (b) other staff?

(3) What was the cost of administration and other charges from the 1st July, 1953, to the 30th June, 1954?

(4) How much did the State Government provide in the way of grants during the year ended the 30th June, 1954?

(5) Are increasing financial commitments towards university education causing the Government concern?

(6) If so, would it be possible for a special case to be submitted to the Commonwealth Government concerning future grants, specifically for university education?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) Present enrolment—

- (a) 998;
- (b) 613.

In addition, 247 external students receive instruction by correspondence.

(2) (a) 185 (includes 12 part-time lecturers).

- (b) Library staff 16
- Administration and clerical 57
- Maintenance of grounds and buildings 65

Total 138

(3) Expenditure for year ended the 31st December, 1953.

	£	Per cent.
Administration	30,726	6.72
Guidance	1,854	.41
Teaching	266,258	58.26
Research	30,000	6.56
Library	20,002	4.38
Buildings, grounds, etc	61,859	13.54
Other	24,136	5.28
Public examination and lecture notes service	22,158	4.85
	<u>£456,993</u>	

	£
(4) (a) Statutory grant	40,000
(b) Special grant	271,979
	<u>£311,979</u>

(5) Yes.

(6) Requests have been submitted by this and other States for financial assistance from the Commonwealth Government for education, but these have been refused on the ground that the provision of education services is a function of the States. It is not considered that a renewed request at the present time would be received any more favourably.

WATER SUPPLIES.

As to Increasing Barbalin Reservoir Intake.

Mr. CORNELL asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

(1) What is the approximate quantity of water being pumped each 24 hours from the G.W.S. main conduit into the Barbalin reservoir?

(2) Is this the maximum quantity that can be pumped or could it be increased by working additional shifts and the installation of an additional booster pump?

(3) In view of the extreme gravity of the water position, will he give an assurance that everything possible will be done to ensure that the maximum quantity will be pumped into the Barbalin catchment and that pumping will be a 24 hours a day operation.

(4) If another booster pump will step up the intake into the Barbalin reservoir, will he consider the installation of one?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) 220,000 gallons per day.

(2) Yes, without adversely affecting some consumers. Booster pumping is proceeding at Karomin 24 hours per day for five days per week. Booster pumping is discontinued and normal flow from the Goldfields Water Supply main operates over the week-end to ensure that consumers adversely affected by booster pumping can get their tank supplies replenished. The provision of an additional booster pump is not practicable with the existing pipeline from Karomin to Barbalin.

(3) Pumping as outlined has been in operation since the 10th February last, and will be continued while necessary.

(4) Answered by No. 2.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL.

As to Time for Full Consideration.

Hon. C. F. J. NORTH asked the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government:

In view of the fact that the York municipality has urged that the Local Government Bill be introduced, but not completed, this session to enable sufficient time for the fullest consideration to be given to its numerous clauses, and that the Claremont municipality is urging the same thing, will he give this aspect due consideration?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied:

The time that the Bill will take to pass through Parliament is in the hands of members of both Houses.

All local authorities and members of Parliament have had copies of the Bill since July last, and have had ample time to fully consider the proposals in the Bill.

COLLIE COAL.

(a) As to Curtailment of Production.

Mr. MAY asked the Minister for Railways:

(1) Is he aware that it has now become a common occurrence for production of coal to be curtailed by reason of the fact

that empty railway wagons have not been supplied to some mine sidings until 12 o'clock noon on some days?

(2) Is this because of a shortage of railway wagons, or is it being done purposely to restrict coal production?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) No.

(2) Wagon supplies are adjusted daily in accordance with quotas, and orders generally are being met satisfactorily. A recent shortage, which was the first reported for some time, was due to the incidents of a main line derailment and overloading of wagons by the mines.

(b) As to Approved Grades for Railway Purposes.

Mr. MAY asked the Minister for Railways:

(1) Will he state whether the Railway Department has an approved list of suitable Collie coal for railway purposes?

(2) If so, will he name the various mines from which such approved coal is obtained?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) The list comprises—

Neath; Ewington Open Cut; Nalkina; Western No. 2; Western No. 3; Centaur and Wyvern mines.

but is subject to additions or deletions according to results obtained from laboratory tests and locomotive trials.

SUPERPHOSPHATE.

As to Rail Freight, Bassendean to Albany.

Mr. HILL asked the Minister for Railways:

(1) What do the railways receive, per ton, for the haulage of superphosphate from Bassendean to Albany?

(2) What is the approximate profit, or loss, per ton for that service?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) 57s. 6d. per ton.

(2) The return from the whole of the earnings of goods and livestock traffic for the year ended the 30th June, 1954, was 4.08d. per ton mile. Of this the superphosphate traffic returned 2.96d. per ton mile. This particular consignment shows a return of 2.07d. per ton mile.

RENTS AND TENANCIES LEGISLATION.

As to Appointment of Magistrate to Fair Rents Court.

Hon. Sir ROSS McLARTY (without notice) asked the Minister for Housing:

(1) I wish to refer to a statement made by the Minister for Housing, as reported in "Hansard" on the 1st July, 1954, page

211, when he said, during the Committee stages of the Rents and Tenancies Emergency Provisions Act Amendment Bill—

Bearing in mind the tremendous number of applications that would be made if the magistrate would be employed full time, it should not be a part-time job for a magistrate.

These remarks were made by the Minister when referring to the need for a magistrate to be appointed to the Fair Rents Court. What has happened in the interim to cause the Government to make the appointment of a magistrate to the Fair Rents Court who will also act as a magistrate in the Local Court, and will also be chairman of the Colliery Coal Tribunal and chairman of the Railways Reclassification Board?

(2) Is not this proof that the number of applications that will be made to the Fair Rents Court will be a greatly reduced number to that which the Minister said would be the case when speaking on the 1st July last?

The Minister for Lands: A fair sort of question without notice!

Hon. Sir ROSS McLARTY: Fair enough. Anyhow, you mind your own business!

The MINISTER replied:

First of all, let me say that it is a simple matter to take a portion of one's speech and draw certain conclusions therefrom. The point I was emphasising to the Opposition at the time was that there should be no hindrance or impediment in regard to approaches made to the court, and for that reason a special court should be established whose primary and principal—and if need be, full-time—function should be attending to the applications made to it. I have no doubt that first priority will be given to the requirements of the Rents and Tenancies Emergency Provisions Act by the magistrate who has been appointed to the Fair Rents Court.

Hon. Sir Ross McLarty: You do not consider it necessary to appoint a magistrate full-time to this work!

MIDLAND JUNCTION ABATTOIRS.

As to Killing Facilities.

Mr. PERKINS (without notice) asked the Minister for Agriculture:

Has the Minister noted a report in this morning's paper indicating that stock prices at Midland Junction yesterday were considerably affected by the limitation of killing facilities at the Midland Junction abattoirs? I understand that butchers are limited to seven-tenths of former numbers slaughtered for them. Will the Minister have the position investigated and killing facilities at the Midland Junction abattoirs expanded to meet the necessary demand?

The MINISTER replied:

I have not seen the report in this morning's paper, but I can well believe that it is approximately correct, because full-scale arrangements have not been made and equipment for this additional work at Midland Junction has not yet been installed. Only a portion of it is at present being used. But I will have the matter investigated.

BILL—MOTOR VEHICLE (THIRD PARTY INSURANCE) ACT AMENDMENT.

Introduced by the Minister for Transport and read a first time.

BILL—LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

As to Copies of Bill.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would point out to members that it is obvious that this Bill, which is in two parts, cannot be filed. Therefore, it will be necessary for each member to safeguard his own copy, as there are no spare copies available and if any member should happen to lose his own copy, he will not be able to have it replaced. There will be no necessity for members to forward copies to any of the local authorities in their electorates because the Government has already sent copies out to them. This is merely a word of warning, because members will have no chance of having any copies of the Bill replaced.

Second Reading.

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS (Hon. H. H. Styants—Kalgoorlie) [2.31] in moving the second reading said: This Bill has been—one might say—on the stocks for a number of years. If my memory serves me rightly, a committee was appointed to inquire into the subject of local government which was representative of local government authorities. That committee made certain recommendations in regard to a Bill that came before this Assembly but which received something of a stormy passage on the few occasions on which it was discussed. Only a few clauses were dealt with and the Bill was then dropped. Following that, a Royal Commission was appointed to inquire into the matter of local government and as a result of its recommendations, the present Bill was prepared embodying all the recommendations made by the Royal Commission, with a few exceptions. Those exceptions covered five proposals, namely, franchise, electoral matters, election of mayor or president, valuations, and audit.

Mr. Hutchinson: Fairly important ones.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS: Yes, they are important and I would say that they are the contentious recommendations. Largely, the Bill has been completely lifted from the Municipal Corporations Act and the Road Districts Act. In regard to the

question asked this afternoon as to when the Bill was likely to pass this Chamber, I would say that the answer lies in the hands of this Assembly. I suggest that so long as we restrict our criticism to the new or contentious proposals in the Bill—which could be limited to a very few—and do not get down to crossing t's and dotting i's, we should be able to dispose of the Bill in a reasonable time.

Mr. Hutchinson: Do you intend to get the Bill through this session or is it your intention to carry it through until next year?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS: That remains to be seen. On making some inquiries I have ascertained that if the usual procedure is adopted—that is, if amendments are made in this Chamber and the Bill has to be reprinted before it is sent to the Legislative Council—it will mean that two months will elapse before it has been reprinted and, incidentally, the re-printing will cost in the vicinity of £2,000. If that usual procedure is adopted, I would say that there is little chance of getting the Bill through both Houses this year.

However, if the usual procedure can be short-circuited by some means, I suggest that we could pass the Bill through the Committee stages and the third reading in this House this session and then revive it next year—because there is no Legislative Council election next year—and have it sent on to the Legislative Council immediately so that it could proceed to deal with it. Some investigation is being made to ascertain whether it will be possible, in the event of the Bill being passed through this House with a reasonable number of amendments, to have the usual procedure short-circuited and the amendments typed out to be sent on with a copy of the Bill to the Legislative Council and so have the matter proceeded with this session. The number of amendments to be made and the length of time that will be taken to debate the Bill in this Assembly remain in the hands of the members of this House.

I do not propose to speak at great length in introducing the Bill, but I have a number of notes and with the assistance of them I propose to outline briefly the contents of the measure. The object of the Bill is to provide one statute for all local authorities in Western Australia. At present they operate under two statutes known as the Municipal Corporations Act, 1906, and the Road Districts Act, 1919.

Under the Municipal Corporations Act a city or town is composed of a number of councillors with a mayor. The minimum number of councillors is six and the maximum is 12, with the addition of a mayor who is to be elected by the electors. Where a municipality is divided into wards there must be at least three councillors for each ward, irrespective of whether it exceeds the maximum number of 12 in a district that is not divided into wards.

Under the Road Districts Act a road district is composed of not less than five nor more than thirteen members. The chairman of a road board is elected by the members by choosing one of their number for the position. The Bill proposes that existing cities and towns under the Municipal Corporations Act shall remain as cities or towns, but that local authorities, now known as road boards, shall be shire councils. The minimum number of councillors for a city or town shall be six, with a maximum of 12, plus a mayor to be elected by the electors, with the provision that where a city or town is divided into wards, there shall be not less than three councillors for each ward, in addition to the mayor to be elected by the electors. This retains the existing provisions of the Municipal Corporations Act.

In the case of a shire, it is provided that there shall be not less than four, nor more than 12 councillors, plus a president to be elected by the electors, and where a shire is divided into wards, the number of councillors shall be such number as is, from time to time, declared by order. This retains the existing provisions of the Road Districts Act inasmuch as it will allow of more councillors being elected to one particular ward than another ward, with the exception that the president must be elected by the electors and not by the councillors.

The arguments in favour of election of the president by the electors are as follows:—

- (a) The Bill seems to provide administrative machinery for all local authorities that are now covered by two Acts and the local authorities covered by the two Acts may be termed, respectively, "urban" and "rural." Therefore, it is desired that the method of electing the mayor or president should be the same in each case.
- (b) The system raises the president to a position of dignity, honour and leadership which he could not enjoy as the "creature" of the members of the council.
- (c) It enables him to take a broad view and to adopt a policy for the benefit of the district as a whole rather than a "ward" view as applies to persons elected to represent only a ward.
- (d) The system overcomes the "log rolling" and underground working which is so often seen, particularly in capital cities where the system of electing a mayor or president is by the councillors themselves.
- (e) The system overcomes the possibility of deadlocks because of equal numbers of votes being cast for contending council members, an experience which has occurred in Western Australia in respect of road boards.

Under existing legislation, the chief executive or non-elective officer of a municipal city or a municipal town is that of Town Clerk; in the case of a road board—a secretary. The Bill provides that in the case of a city or town the chief executive officers shall be as follows:—

For a city—City Clerk.

For a town—Town Clerk.

For a shire—Shire Clerk.

The provisions in the Bill relating to the constitution and altering the constitution of municipalities is substantially the same as was contained in the previous two Acts.

There is a vital distinction in the Bill as it relates to the qualifications of the mayor, the president and the councillors. The measure provides that the qualifications should be as follows:—

Every person over the age of 21 years who is a natural-born or naturalised British subject and who has for a period of six months prior to his nomination been registered as an elector on an electoral roll and been residing in the district shall be eligible for election to the office of mayor, president or councillor.

The provision in the existing two Acts provides that the qualification shall be that of owner or occupier of rateable property and eligible to be registered on an electoral roll. The proposed qualification in the Bill introduces adult franchise into local government.

The following arguments are advanced in favour of adult franchise:—

(a) Adult franchise is rendered necessary by the fact that Australia was a subscriber to the Declaration of Human Rights passed by the United Nations Organisation—Article 21 of the Declaration—including—

(i) The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections and shall be by universal and equal suffrage.

(ii) Adult suffrage is in accordance with the democratic principle that no person of adult years should be subjected to taxation unless he has the right to representation, this particular point being one of the very reasons which inspired the rebellion against the rule of Charles the First. As occupiers of land whether in their own right or as boarders most people are making a contribution towards rates levied by local

authorities and they also contribute by motor registration fees to the funds of the local authorities most of which also secure Government grants to assist them in their work. All residents of a municipal district and all electors of that district must comply with the by-laws of the council and therefore every adult resident of that district should have the right to elect the persons who make the local by-laws. The dignity of human life should be accepted as superior to the rights of property in determining the method of election for any public body such as a municipal council.

(iii) The extension of the right to vote at local government elections to all persons over twenty-one residing in a district ensures that a larger proportion of the people play a more or less active part in the government of the area.

(iv) By restricting the right to membership and the right to vote to those persons who actually reside in the area any tendency in certain persons to occupy multiple positions in local government is prevented and this ensures that the energies of the members will be confined to bettering the conditions in the district in which they reside.

(v) As local authorities are now insisting that they are entitled to be treated as the third arm of the Government it can hardly be gained that each arm of the whole body of government should be elected upon similar terms and that the franchise for what some may regard as the least important arm should be as generous as that applying to the others.

(vi) As local authorities carry on their activities under powers delegated by the State Legislature a democratically elected State Government should have the right to insist that the subordinate to which it delegates its powers shall be elected on a democratic basis.

(vii) Adult franchise greatly simplifies the electoral provisions contained in the Bill.

Those are the reasons submitted for the consideration of the House in favour of adult franchise.

In relation to electors, provision is made in the Bill that a person is eligible to be registered on the electoral roll of any municipality if he has attained the age of 21 years, is a natural-born or naturalised British subject and has resided for at least the preceding six months in the district of a municipality or in the ward of a municipality.

With regard to elections, provision is made for an annual election to be held throughout the State on the third Saturday of April in each year, and for approximately one-third of the councillors to retire each year. Under existing Acts, elections for road boards are held on the third Saturday in April, but elections for municipal councils are held on the fourth Saturday in November each year. As previously explained, each elector will have one vote for councillor and one vote for mayor or president only. A mayor or president shall hold office for two years and a councillor shall hold office for three. At present, the chairman of a road board holds office for one year only. Apart from that, the provision is identical with existing legislation.

Polling hours are to be from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., which coincides with the hours for all parliamentary and municipal elections. In the past, road board elections have been held from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., which has caused much confusion. The provision in the Bill will therefore make polling hours uniform throughout the State. Power is given to the Governor to declare certain areas in which special provisions for polling can apply. Special provisions enable an elector to apply for a voting certificate that will enable him to vote in absence without any further reference until such time as he changes his address, or the returning officer has cause to believe that he is no longer resident in the same place. This is intended to apply to North-West areas only and to give some relief to the unsatisfactory method that now prevails in regard to voting in that area.

The Bill provides that the system of voting shall be preferential. At present parliamentary and municipal elections are conducted on those lines, while those for road boards are conducted on the method known as "first past the post." By bringing road boards—shire councils as they are referred to under the Bill—into line, the system of voting throughout the State for all purposes of government will be uniform.

The measure also provides that, for the more efficient administration of local government, the Governor may make regulations prescribing the respective educational and professional qualifications necessary to be held by persons occupying the respective positions of clerk, engineer and building surveyor, and makes provision for constituting committees for the purpose of examining these persons or class of persons. The regulations could, and would, no doubt, provide that all persons at present occupying positions similar to those mentioned would be exempt from examination, and power would also be given to exempt certain districts, particularly in the North-West, where it would be practically impossible to obtain applicants with the necessary qualifications.

At present, no qualifications are necessary, and many appointments, by force of circumstances, have been made to the position of chief executive officer of a local authority, with unsatisfactory results. The proposal has the full support of the Western Australian Institute of Municipal Administration, which caters for the advancement and improvement of proficiency for officers engaged in a local government career.

Provision is also made in the Bill that where a municipality credits service towards long service leave then, in the event of an officer ceasing with one municipality but immediately taking up employment with another, the municipalities concerned are to be responsible for the long service leave eventually becoming due and such leave credit is to be apportioned in accordance with the time spent by the officer in each municipality.

Ample power is given in the Bill to municipalities to make by-laws for any purposes of the Act. Power is also given to the Governor to make model by-laws which may be adopted by municipalities, with or without alteration. The object of this is to enable a model by-law to be prepared, and all that will be necessary will be publication of resolution of adoption without the necessity of advertising the by-law in full. Thus considerable advertising costs will be saved. Power is also given to the Governor to make a by-law for any purpose for which municipalities could make a by-law if such action were considered necessary. Any by-law so made by the Governor will override a by-law by a municipality. A similar provision is already contained in the Road Districts Act and a provision is contained in the Municipal Corporations Act in relation to buildings, but it has been found necessary to exercise this power only on rare occasions.

Municipalities are authorised to sell assets with a proviso that where any particular article to be sold is entered in the council's inventory at a value of less than £100, the council may sell it by private

treaty. Where the value is in excess of £100, the article can only be sold by resolution of an absolute majority of the council. In the case of a hall or trading undertaking, it can be disposed of only after authorisation has been conferred by a special meeting of ratepayers, and in all cases where the value exceeds £100 it must be sold by public auction.

Although in the past local authorities have adopted the practice of selling generally by public auction, there has been no compulsion to do so. Municipalities will be required to cause streets and ways to be properly sign-posted to indicate the street names. This provision will apply to all cities and towns. In a shire it will apply to townsites only. A similar provision at present exists under the Municipal Corporations Act, in the case of cities and towns so that the only addition is townsites in a shire.

Provision is made whereby, at the request of two or more municipalities, the Governor may constitute a county district or a regional district for local government purposes. This county or regional district can only carry out the powers placed in it by the municipalities agreeing to its constitution.

In the past much confusion has existed in the interpretation of the existing legislation dealing with the creation of a building line, and in order to clarify the position, particularly in regard to resumption and ownership, the most important provisions of the City of Perth Act, No. 11 of 1925, relating to building lines, have been incorporated in the Bill.

Part XX of the Bill deals with cattle trespass, pounds, pound-keepers and rangers and was inserted at the particular request of local authorities in order that they might know exactly what action could be taken in regard to straying stock and the correct procedure to be followed by way of impounding. The Cattle Trespass and Impounding Act, as it now stands, has been a bone of contention for years and is one of the most difficult Acts to interpret. All local authorities have experienced the greatest difficulty in this regard. The provision of Part XX of the Bill makes it quite clear to municipalities what can and cannot be done.

Part XXII, which deals with trading concerns, enlarges the power of municipalities and includes a specific provision authorising the planting of trees for afforestation combined with the maintenance of the forest and the selling of thinnings and timber from the forest. It also provides that a municipality may, with the approval of the Minister, engage in any other trading undertaking.

A further special provision in the Bill will authorise municipalities to construct and maintain weirs, levees or other embankments, excavate and open drains and

ditches, remove obstructions from a river, watercourse or stream, divert or straighten the bed of a river, stream or creek for the purpose of reducing flooding on to a street, reserve or other public place. The municipality will be enabled to carry out this work irrespective of whether the river flows through private property or otherwise.

Some local authorities in the country have experienced the greatest difficulty in endeavouring to prevent town flooding due to the fact that no provision is made in existing legislation authorising the carrying out of works on land other than that under the control of the local authority. The Bill gives the necessary power and it is most desirable that municipalities should have this authority.

The portion of the Bill dealing with application of the municipal funds includes a new provision authorising a municipality to insure its councillors against any injury to themselves or damage to personal property arising in the course of duty being carried out by any member of the council. A further provision authorises municipalities to purchase motor-vehicles for resale to officers of the council for carrying out their duties and there is a final provision whereby the Minister can authorise expenditure of the municipal funds in any other approved manner.

Further, in connection with ordinary revenue or municipal funds, it is provided that the council of a municipality shall have regard to the needs of the inhabitants of their district as a whole and shall not keep ward accounts for financial purposes. This, however, will not preclude a municipality from keeping a separate account to record the expenditure of a sum raised by differentiating in rating for a specific ward, or for some specific portion of the district of the municipality, or for loan charges in respect of a loan raised for the benefit of a particular ward. At present, under the Municipal Corporations Act, the keeping of ward accounts for finance is not permitted and, although there is no specific provision in the Road Districts Act authorising the keeping of ward accounts, the practice of doing this has grown up through the years.

It has developed to such an extent in some cases that no difficulty would be experienced in quoting instances where some local authorities whose districts are divided into wards, in their endeavour meticulously to try to see that the revenue of one ward is not expended in another, have gone to such extremes that the members of each ward actually constitute a separate board within the main board. Further, an instance can be quoted where separate estimates are actually put up for each ward of the local authority and then a combined estimate for the district.

Fortunately, some local authorities have abandoned this parochial idea and have treated wards for the purposes indicated by legislation, i.e. for the purpose of representation and, so far as works are concerned, the district is treated as a whole and essential works carried out where they are required irrespective of where the money comes from.

The provision in the Bill dealing with valuations makes it mandatory for every municipality to adopt the unimproved capital values of the Taxation Department and makes it an obligation on the Commissioner of Taxation to supply these valuations. At the present time local authorities can make their own valuations or appoint a valuer. In quite a number of cases, valuations are made by board members sitting around the board table. At the present time municipalities must rate on the annual rental value unless approval is obtained to rate on unimproved capital values. Road boards must rate on unimproved capital values, apart from certain limited exceptions, unless approval is given for rating on annual rental values.

In regard to the proposal that unimproved capital values only be used, attention could be given to the following aspects:—

- (a) The use of unimproved values encourages the use of land for the purpose to which it is most suitable and does not discourage building as in the case of annual values, which, as is well known, has the effect of causing a shortage of housing.
- (b) The use of unimproved values discourages speculation in land and leads to a reduction in the sale price.
- (c) Because of these facts the use of unimproved values assists in industry and business by lessening the load of rating upon those concerns while at the same time freeing some capital from land speculation for investment in business and industry.
- (d) It ensures justice as between ratepayers in that each holder of land contributes towards the cost of local control in exact proportion to the unimproved value of the land held by him and as this unimproved value has been created, not by his own efforts, but by the efforts of others, this means that he pays for the privileges conferred upon him by the possession of that land.
- (e) The use of unimproved values takes away what is known as the unearned increment from land and therefore encourages production as distinct from speculation. Unearned increment has always been regarded as a fit subject for

taxation. In the words of the well known economist Colin Clark—

Taxation on unimproved land values is in a class by itself for goodness. It is almost the only taxation which is without effect on the incentive to produce or save and it should therefore be exploited to the fullest possible extent.

- (f) It is interesting to note that there are 128 road boards at present in the State, each and every one of which rates on unimproved capital value with some exceptions whereby townsites areas are rated on annual rental values. There are 19 municipalities in the State and of these the municipalities of Albany, Bunbury, Geraldton and Midland Junction have adopted unimproved capital values throughout whilst the City of Perth has adopted unimproved capital values for its endowment land which is the choice residential portion of the district, including Floreat Park.

An examination of figures relating to the municipalities of the City of Perth, City of Fremantle and City of Subiaco shows:—

These municipalities are surrounded by the road districts of Nedlands, Perth, South Perth, Canning, Belmont Park, Fremantle and Melville. These districts rate on unimproved capital values and the rates average from 6.4/5thd. in the £ to 8½d. in the £. To enable the cities mentioned to obtain the same revenue from unimproved value rating as they now obtain under their present system, the following rate in the £ would be sufficient:—

City of Perth—2½d. in the £.

City of Fremantle—3d. in the £.

City of Subiaco—2¼d. in the £.

The Bill proposes that municipalities be authorised to strike one rate to cover all their obligations in carrying out the powers and duties conferred by the Health Act, Water Boards Act, Vermin Act, Road Districts Act, Noxious Weeds Act, Bush Fires Act and any other Acts administered and conferring a right or imposing a duty or obligation on the council. The maximum general rate to be so levied shall be—

Where the council provides a reticulated water supply:

3s. in the £ of unimproved value of rateable property and

where the council does not provide a reticulated water service:

2s. in the £ of the unimproved value of rateable property.

The rates shall be uniform throughout the municipality unless the municipality is authorised to differentiate in rating, but it is provided that only in the district of a shire council can there be any differentiating in rating.

Provision is made for all appeals to be dealt with by a valuation appeal court. This valuation appeal court is to be appointed by the Governor from time to time. Under existing legislation, with the exception of the City of Perth, all appeals are dealt with by municipalities and road boards themselves, and where these authorities also make the valuation, the appeal is actually one from Caesar to Caesar.

A further provision gives power to a municipality where rates are in arrears to serve notice upon the lessee of the premises requiring the lessee to pay to the council the amount of rent, if any, accrued, due, and as it becomes due under the lease until the amount of the arrears of rates payable has been liquidated.

The powers of sale of land for non-payment of rates as at present provided for in the Road Districts Act have been re-enacted, with the difference that land could be sold if rates had been in arrears for three years instead of five years as at present. The provisions of the Road Districts Act whereby vacant rateable property, whether enclosed with a fence or not and in respect of which no rates have been paid, could be reverted to the Crown, have been re-enacted, the important difference being that the provision in the Road Districts Act related to land situated wholly or partly within a townsite and rates had to be in arrears for at least seven years. The provision in the Bill applies to all land, and limits arrears of rates to three years.

The provisions relating to general borrowing powers are practically the same as those in existing legislation, but an additional clause has been added authorising the municipality, with the approval of the Governor, to borrow for other plant, machinery, things, works and undertakings not specifically set out. This is a considerable extension of powers.

The Bill provides that the accounts of all municipalities, that is, cities, towns and shires, shall be carried out by auditors who shall be known as "Government inspectors of municipalities." At the present time audit inspectors of the Local Government Department conduct the audit of all road boards throughout the State, numbering 128 in all, whilst the audit of accounts of municipalities, numbering 19 in all, is carried out by auditors elected by ratepayers of the municipality. Prior to 1933, the audit of accounts of road boards was carried out by ratepayers' auditors, but in 1933 the Government decided that the accounts of road boards should be audited by Government inspectors.

When the scheme was commenced, road boards did not want it and many protests were made. However, the Government of the day insisted and, as the years went by, the local authorities themselves found the auditors to be guides, counsellors and friends as well as auditors, and today it would be difficult to find a road board having any objection; in fact, rather the contrary. Under the Municipal Corporations Act there is no such provision and the auditors are elected by the ratepayers. It is true that they have to belong to a recognised institute of accountants but, without reflection in any way on the integrity or ability of these gentlemen, it is obvious that they would not have the knowledge of the statute to enable them to see that the administration of municipalities was strictly according to law.

The ethics of the accountancy profession, too, provide, generally, that no member be permitted to offer himself for election as auditor to a company, road board, municipality, shire or any other like body if the member of the institute at the time holding the position of auditor offers himself for re-election. Departmental officers entrusted with the audits of local government accounts are not only fully qualified and trained accountants, but they also have to prove by experience and practice that they understand the provisions of the Acts under which local government operates before receiving appointment to the position of an audit inspector. Under the Bill, the municipal year of all municipalities shall end on the 30th June. Under existing legislation, the financial year of a road board ends on the 30th June, whilst the financial year of a municipality ends on the 31st October.

As already indicated, under the Bill, there is now practically no limit, subject to approval, to what works or undertakings a municipality may engage in. It may be argued that ministerial approval or Governor's approval is over-emphasised. A little careful consideration, however, will convince members that this is not so. It cannot be envisaged that Parliament could give the same rights and powers to, say, the Shark Bay Road Board or the Peppermint Grove Road Board as it would give to the City of Perth Municipal Council or the City of Fremantle Municipal Council.

The Bill is designed to cover the activities of all local authorities throughout the State. Therefore it is essential that some provision for control be made in order that the smaller of the local authorities do not embark on undertakings which might possibly lead to serious financial difficulties and embarrassment. Further, the members of a local authority of today may not be in the same position tomorrow, thus emphasising the need for control.

No case has yet been put forward whereby the Governor or the Minister has irresponsibly interfered with or hampered the financial or administrative activities of a local authority. The fact is that the Minister and his department have repeatedly been called upon to advise and assist local authorities in many directions, particularly in the way of finance. The majority of the controls specified in the Bill were either in the Road Districts Act or the Municipal Corporations Act, and the amalgamation of these two statutes naturally tends to give the impression that ministerial control has been greatly enlarged. Actually this is not the fact.

There may be some doubt whether the Bill will override many other Acts. I draw attention to the Second Schedule of the Bill, which sets out all enactments which are not affected by this measure. The plea for a consolidated Act for local government in Western Australia has engaged the attention of local authorities, the Government, a special committee and finally a Royal Commission, over the last 25 years. It is felt that the Bill as now submitted is one that could be accepted and one that will prove itself by trial. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Mr. Perkins, debate adjourned.

BILL—BUSH FIRES.

In Committee.

Resumed from the 21st September. Mr. Moir in the Chair; the Minister for Lands in charge of the Bill.

The CHAIRMAN: Progress was reported after Clause 65 had been agreed to.

Clause 66—agreed to.

Postponed Clause 18—Restricted burning times:

The CHAIRMAN: The member for Harvey had moved an amendment to delete Subclause (5).

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I thought that as a result of a further consideration of the clause by the Bush Fires Committee and myself, we might be able to do what the member for Fremantle and others want so as to limit this matter to those people who are negligent and exclude those who conduct their activities under the provisions of the Act. But I find it is impossible to do that because all that the member for Fremantle requires is provided for in Clause 59 (3), which makes provision for the recovery of the expenses we are seeking here in regard to the Forests Department, local authorities and others associated in the control and putting out of fires; but only in cases where breaches of the Act have occurred.

Therefore we do not need to amend this clause, as what is sought is provided for elsewhere in the Bill. There is no liability so far as an offence is concerned under Subclause (5). It was only to bring that into line with Clause 59, which refers specifically to offences under the Act, that we brought this suggestion before the Chamber at all. We have accepted the principle of claiming some expenses in regard to bush fire brigades, Forests Department officers, and so on, and there is no sound reason why we should not accept it in respect of Subclause (5), especially as this very provision, without any limit so far as money is concerned, was in the original Act for 10 years at least, and was only left out of the 1950 legislation by mistake.

When the common law provision was re-inserted in the 1950 Act, the draftsman felt it covered the particular requirement in this Bill, and it was only afterwards that it was found that it did not. It left the local authorities and the bush fire brigades high and dry when it came to recovering normal expenses for assisting in putting out a fire; and that had been their right for 10 years under the Act. We are seeking to reintroduce the principle, but to make the amount £200 as was agreed to in Clause 59. Farmers who call on the bush fire brigades and local authorities to assist in putting out fires are saved, as a result, many hundreds of pounds.

The practice in country districts has always been, in such cases, for the bush fire brigade authorities to ask the person concerned for a donation, which has generally been no more than £10 to £15 at any time. They never asked for more, but very often got it. If they received a refusal, they could recover under the Act a similar amount. That position applied for at least 10 years. All we are asking is that the same situation should obtain now as obtained during that time; and that is why the conference that was held at Calingiri was convened. That conference represented no less than 83 bush fire brigades.

I do not think some members opposite who have participated in the debate and who represent areas from which the bush fire brigades concerned with this conference came, properly understand the local conditions and the requirements of those areas. The conference was called by the Victoria Plains Road Board and there were present officers of the Toodyay, Moora, Dandaragan, Goomalling, and Victoria Plains Road Boards. They unanimously asked for the insertion of this provision in the legislation. Great importance is placed on the opinion of that conference because the districts there represented contain no less than 83 bush fire brigades.

It was with that in mind that the committee decided to bring the Forests Department into the measure. The idea

originally arose in country districts where bush fire control officers were at a disadvantage when they could not obtain donations in the normal way from people who had been assisted, and thus found themselves with no legal redress. It was felt that if provision should be made to cover the bush fire brigades, the Forests Department should have the same right. Having checked with the department, through the Minister for Forests, in the last two days, I can say that it never has and never will refuse to assist in putting out a fire no matter whether the conflagration is approaching or receding from forest country, and irrespective of distance.

The Forests Department considers it is just as entitled to recover expenses as are the local authorities and I can assure members that if this provision is agreed to there is no possibility of it being misused. I am sure that if there was held in the South-West a conference of bush fire control officers, its recommendation would be the same as that of the conference at Calingiri. If the amendment is agreed to, I feel that the Committee should agree to a further amendment to make it clear that the money recovered shall go to the people who do the job—the bush fire brigades.

To that end I propose, in due course, to move that after the word "authority" there be included the words, "for recoup to its bush fire brigades." That would remove any doubt as to who was to receive the money. The bush fire brigades would have the option to prosecute or not, as the case might be. They could still ask for donations but, if they met with a refusal from some person who would not co-operate at any time, they could approach the court. The same would apply to the Forests Department. As the principle has been accepted earlier in the Bill I cannot see why it should not be accepted here.

Hon. A. V. R. Abbott: Do the Crown Law authorities advise that the local authorities would have the right to waive payment?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: Yes, it will be completely optional. I certainly oppose the deletion of this subclause.

The CHAIRMAN: The member for Harvey has moved to delete Subclause (5) of Clause 18. If he desires to proceed with the next amendment, it will be necessary for him to withdraw this one, because, if it is agreed to, he cannot go back to the other one.

Mr. MANNING: I desire the deletion of Subclause (5). I agree that Clause 59 fully covers the position, following the opinion expressed by the member for Fremantle, inasmuch as a person who commits an offence shall be liable to pay the expenses of those involved.

Point of Order.

The Minister for Lands: If this amendment is defeated, Mr. Chairman, will I be able to move to include the words, "for recoup to its bush fire brigades?"

The Chairman: No.

The Minister for Lands: I feel that if the amendment is defeated, provision should be made for the money recouped to go to the bush fire brigades.

Mr. Perkins: In order to meet both the Minister and the member for Harvey, would it not be better for the member for Harvey to withdraw his present amendment and move to delete all words in Subclause (5) on page 16, down to the word "shall"? If he is successful in having that agreed to by the Committee, he can then move to have all the other words in the subclause deleted. However, if his first amendment is defeated, the Minister can still move to insert words after the word "shall."

The Chairman: That would meet the position. It will be necessary for the member for Harvey to withdraw his amendment temporarily.

Committee Resumed.

Mr. MANNING: To meet the wishes of the Minister, I ask leave to withdraw my amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. MANNING: I move an amendment—

That the words "Where a person starts a fire on land, if the fire escapes from the land or if the fire is in the opinion of a bush fire control officer or an officer of a bush fire brigade out of control on the land, the person" in lines 9 to 13, page 16, be struck out.

This aspect has already been fully covered. I agree with the Minister that Clause 59 requires a person who commits an offence against the Act to pay the expenses of those who come to his assistance. But this subclause requires a farmer to pay expenses, up to £200, to those who come to his assistance, namely, the local authority's bush fire brigade or the Forests Department.

Clause 59 requires a person to pay expenses if he has committed an offence, but under this subclause no offence need be committed. The person concerned has met the whole of the requirements of the Act. If a fire occurs accidentally, everybody attends to help put it out. They do not do that with the idea of getting expenses or kicking a man when he is down. There might be a team of farmers helping to put out a fire, and how could the amount of £200 be divided among them?

The Minister for Lands: In few cases would the amount go beyond £10 or £15. You can cut the £200 down by half, so far as I am concerned.

Mr. MANNING: Does the Minister realise that the principle of charging a person, when he commits an offence, for the expenses incurred, and that of charging a person when he commits no offence are entirely different?

The Minister for Lands: That is right.

Mr. MANNING: I agree that a person who commits an offence should be charged with expenses, but if a fire-fighting unit is damaged it is covered by insurance.

The Minister for Lands: The bush fire brigades' expenses are covered by donations, and in this case they want power to recover it, if necessary.

Mr. MANNING: I do not want them to have that power. This clause is objected to by many members of the Farmers' Union and many farmers and bush fire brigades in my district.

The Minister for Lands: I would like to know who they are, because other people are unanimously in favour of it.

Mr. MANNING: My people are unanimous that this subclause should be struck out.

The Minister for Lands: I shall have to take your word for it, but I should like some substantial evidence in respect to it.

Mr. PERKINS: I hope the member for Harvey will accept the Minister's suggestion, because I think the Minister has gone some way towards meeting possible objections. I know that there are many local authorities who desire some provision such as this in the Act, for the reasons given by the Minister. This question goes a little further than the member for Harvey has assumed. If a person lights a fire during the burning-off season and it escapes, he is liable for all subsequent damage. I understand that he is classed as an insurer. If the bush fire brigade puts out a fire in such circumstances, it has rendered a great service, and surely it is not unreasonable to ask the owner of the land to pay whatever incidental expenses may be involved in attending and extinguishing the fire.

From the remarks of the member for Harvey I gather that, so far as his area is concerned, no elaborate bush fire-fighting organisation is maintained in the sense that most of the equipment is owned by the farming community. In other localities, the local authorities maintain expensive fire-fighting equipment. I know one bush fire brigade that maintains three trucks with expensive fire equipment mounted on them. The total value of those trucks could easily be £3,000 or even £5,000. Obviously, if those three trucks attend a fire, considerable expense must be involved. If the fire got into scrub and it was necessary to run the truck into rough country several tyres could be punctured and ruined. If that work is done for someone it is only reasonable to expect that the local authority

would not desire to levy on the ratepayers as a whole to cover the expense of something that was for the benefit of an individual.

Therefore, it is possible to understand the point of view of those local authorities that have put up this proposal to the bush fire brigades prevention committee, which the Minister has explained in this Chamber. I think the member for Harvey should accept the suggestion by the Minister and perhaps, to further safeguard the position, whittle down the amount of £200. I agree with the Minister that the amount claimed would probably be far less than that, and I do not see why the amount should not be halved or even further reduced.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: My objection to the clause in the first place was that it would be possible for a man who had taken all possible precautions, through some act of God, be forced to pay a certain sum of money. The Minister's amendment improves the position a good deal. I do not think there is any law in the land under which a claim could be forced home against a man who had done everything possible to prevent a fire from spreading.

Mr. HILL: I appreciate the way the Minister has met my objection to the clause. I objected to the word "shall." I think it is desirable that bush fire brigades and local authorities should have the power to collect the money if they so desire. If the Minister is successful with his suggestion it will be optional for the bush fire brigades and the local authorities. In the majority of cases they will not take advantage of that power; but should they meet with a snag, it is desirable that they should have that authority.

Mr. HEARMAN: I think we can settle on the Minister's suggestion, but I draw the attention of the Committee to the fact that the clause reads, "Where a person starts a fire on land if the fire escapes from the land." If a fire does escape, there would be no objection to a person calling in the bush fire brigade or the local authority. The clause goes on to read—

... or if the fire is in the opinion of a bush fire control officer or an officer of a bush fire brigade out of control on the land

According to that, a person could have arranged to burn, have ploughed all his firebreaks and received full permission to light a fire and after he has lit it—despite the fact that the fire is still burning and has not escaped in any shape or form—the bush fire officer might panic, call out the brigade and charge the costs to the man who lit the fire which has burned only where it was intended to burn.

The Minister for Lands: That would be an exceptional case. That could happen only when somebody panicked.

Mr. HEARMAN: There have been cases where the bush fire control officer has given permission to light a fire, but the local authority has regarded the conditions as being dangerous.

The Minister for Lands: It could also happen that a fire could be lit and be quite safe and then, because it is gradually moving towards a building somebody might panic.

Mr. HEARMAN: I am prepared to agree to the Minister's suggestion, but I am merely pointing out that the clause is far too drastic in its wording and I would like the Minister to express an opinion on what would happen if we struck out the words, "or if the fire is in the opinion of a bush fire control officer."

Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.6 p.m.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I oppose the amendment for the reasons I explained previously. There is no need to go over the same ground again, other than to refer to the remarks of the member for Blackwood. What he said could occur. Through panic or for some other reason a person might create some difficulty. Considering all the cases dealt with each year, it seems that a provision should be inserted in this clause to enable some person other than the farmer to speak with authority. That is the only reason why the committee mentioned the bush fire control officer in this subclause. It takes away the responsibility from the farmer to make a declaration regarding a fire.

There is some doubt as to the interpretation of "land." I could not say whether it meant all the land within the boundary of the farmer's property or all land within the boundaries of the fire-breaks. I know that bush fire control officers, with years of experience behind them, do not make too many mistakes. This provision should be continued in the Act. There is nothing contentious about this subclause. The circumstances envisaged by the member for Blackwood could sometimes occur.

Hon. Sir Ross McLarty: Cut the amount down to £50.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: It would be reasonable to reduce it to £100. Members cannot then say that the Government will not co-operate.

Hon. Sir Ross McLarty: The amount could be reduced to £50.

Mr. OWEN: I was very much opposed to the clause and supported the amendment of the member for Harvey. I chiefly objected to the inclusion of the word "shall," which makes it too mandatory. However, I am much happier with the suggestion of the Minister to include the

words, "He shall be liable." If the member for Harvey will withdraw his amendment, I shall support the proposal suggested by the Minister.

Amendment put and negatived.

Mr. MANNING: I move an amendment—

That after the word "shall" in line 13, page 16, the words "be liable to" be inserted.

There is no need to debate this point because I think members are clear on the meaning of the amendment.

Amendment put and passed.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: To make it absolutely clear that the money recouped shall be returned to the brigades, I move an amendment—

That after the word "authority" in line 13, page 16, the words "for recoup to its bush fire brigade" be inserted.

Amendment put and passed.

Mr. MANNING: In my opinion the penalties provided in Subclause (6) are too severe. A farmer might not be able to comply with all the requirements, or he might make a legitimate mistake. The penalty is a fine of not less than £10. For a trivial offence, that is completely unreasonable, and I want the amount altered to £2. That is the fine for a first offence; or there can be a term of imprisonment for six months. I think that that is too long a period, and I also think that 12 months for a second offence is unreasonable.

Hon. Sir Ross McLarty: Are you passing by the £200 for expenses mentioned in Subclause (5)?

The Minister for Lands: It has been passed.

Hon. Sir Ross McLarty: You said you would agree to a reduction.

The Minister for Lands: I said I was agreeable, but nobody asked for it. You can obtain it in the Legislative Council if you wish. It is not my job to move such amendments.

Mr. MANNING: Is it a fact that we have finished with Subclause (5)?

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member was dealing with Subclause (6).

Mr. MANNING: We can alter the amount of £200, can we not?

The Minister for Lands: You have accepted Subclause (5).

The CHAIRMAN: The member for Harvey can move any amendment to Subclause (5) to come after that which was moved by the Minister and agreed to, providing for a recoup to a brigade.

Mr. MANNING: Very well. I move an amendment—

That the words "two hundred" in line 15, page 16, be struck out with a view to inserting the word "fifty."

Amendment put and passed.

Mr. MANNING: I move an amendment—

That the word "fifty" be inserted in lieu of the words struck out.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I would like the Committee to agree to the insertion of the words "one hundred." The attitude that the member for Harvey has taken in regard to subsequent amendments which he proposes to move, indicates that his intention is to make the work and responsibility of bush fire brigades and local authorities as difficult as he can. He wants to push everything back to what it was. At annual conferences, these people have complained that the penalties have not proved a deterrent against the unlawful lighting of fires; yet here we have a responsible member who represents an agricultural area, insisting that we should retain the old penalties. In regard to this proposal relating to expenses, I think that £200 is far above the amount we would normally expect to recover. But I think that £100 is a reasonable compromise, and I would be prepared to move that the words to be inserted be "one hundred."

The CHAIRMAN: When two amounts are suggested, the lesser has to be submitted first. I therefore propose to put the amendment moved by the member for Harvey.

Hon. Sir ROSS McLARTY: I had hoped that the Minister would agree to make the amount £50. We had a long debate on the clause last Tuesday when all Opposition members representing agricultural constituencies complained of this penalty.

The Minister for Lands: They did no such thing.

Hon. Sir ROSS McLARTY: Yes, they did. It would be only on very rare occasions that more than £50 would be sought.

The Minister for Lands: Then why worry about it?

Hon. Sir ROSS McLARTY: Why make the amount £100 when it is unlikely that such a sum would be claimed. If the Minister accepted the amendment, he would have a better chance of getting the clause through another place, because members there are opposed to it.

Mr. MAY: I am surprised at the attitude of the Leader of the Opposition, representing, as he does, a country constituency. An amount of £50 would mean nothing to a farmer who was desirous of obtaining a good burn.

Hon. Sir ROSS McLARTY: It would mean a lot.

Mr. MAY: Many farmers desirous of getting a good burn would be willing to pay £50. As a matter of fact, £200 would not be too high. Unless the amount is substantial, some farmers will take the opportunity of burning on the most suitable day irrespective of whether it is within the permissible period for burning.

Amendment put and negatived.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I move an amendment—

That the words "one hundred" be inserted in lieu of the words struck out.

Amendment put and passed.

Mr. MANNING: The penalty provided for a first offence is a fine of not less than £10 or more than £200. I move an amendment—

That the word "ten" in line 22, page 16, be struck out with a view to inserting the word "two."

I appreciate that reasonable penalties should be provided, but while many of the provisions of the Bill are far-reaching and represent a big step forward, it is possible, in view of the many requirements demanded of the farmer, that he might make a slip and for a trivial offence the minimum penalty would be £10. In the circumstance, £2 would be reasonable.

Hon. L. THORN: I support the amendment, which should receive the favourable consideration of the Minister. The offence might be a trivial one and the minimum penalty proposed would in that instance be too high. If we provide that an offender may be fined anything from £2 to £200, the range would be wide enough to cover anything from a trivial to a serious offence.

Progress reported.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1954-55.

Message.

Message from the Lieut.-Governor received and read transmitting the Annual Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the financial year 1954-55, and recommending appropriation.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 1954-55.

In Committee of Supply.

The House resolved into Committee of Supply to consider the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year ending the 30th June, 1955; Mr. Moir in the Chair.

THE TREASURER (Hon. A. R. G. Hawke—Northam) [4.32]: This is the second Budget which it has been my privilege

to submit to Parliament. The actual financial results for the last financial year, 1953-54, showed total revenue at £43,146,000 and total expenditure at £43,249,000, leaving a deficit of £103,000 compared with an anticipated deficit of £88,000. The total estimates for the current financial year are, revenue £44,907,312, and expenditure £45,048,383, leaving an estimated deficit of £141,071.

It is my intention in this speech to deal mainly with matters which have a substantial influence on the Estimates and on the general economy of the State.

Revenue, 1953-54.

After excluding revenue received from the operation of public utilities, the revenue received last year was £28,000,000. No less than £19,000,000 of that amount came from Commonwealth sources either by way of income tax reimbursement payments or by special grants. Nearly £12,000,000 of the moneys received from Commonwealth sources was by way of income tax reimbursement. Most of the balance of the State's revenue, excluding the earnings of public utilities, came mainly from departmental fees, territorial collections covering land, mining, timber, probate and stamp duties.

Under the methods adopted by the Commonwealth Grants Commission in assessing a special grant to be paid to this State, we have to keep up the measure of taxation in the small field of State taxation still left to us, to the level of that imposed in the standard States of Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland. In addition, our expenditure has to be limited to the standard adopted by those States. Any excess expenditure by this State leaves the State liable to be penalised to the extent of such excess expenditure.

The Commonwealth Grants Commission has continued to take a broad view of Western Australia's problems and needs. Yet the fact remains that the Treasurer of this State, or of any claimant State, is certainly circumscribed in his efforts to carry out Government policy within the limits of the finance available.

Results for 1953-54.

Although the actual deficit for 1953-54 was very close to the estimated deficit for that year, there were substantial variations between the amounts of estimated revenue and expenditure and the actual figures under both headings. Actual revenue was less than the estimate by £316,000; and actual expenditure was less than the estimate by £301,000.

Railway Revenue.

Railway revenue was £1,080,000 less than the amount anticipated. The main factor under that heading was the lesser quantity

of wheat transported over the railways. The loss of revenue in that connection was £315,000. Sales of wheat were severely restricted during the year and more grain was stored at country sidings than has been customary. In fact, 313,000 tons of wheat were stored in the country as at the 30th June last in excess of the quantity stored at the same date in 1953.

Revenue from railway coaching traffic failed to reach the estimate by £85,000. The decrease was attributed mainly to the falling off in suburban and country passenger traffic which was affected by the poliomyelitis epidemic. Another factor was the greatly increased number of motor-vehicles on the roads.

Railway Expenditure.

Unfortunately the railways also had an excess expenditure of £420,000 above the estimate. The total deficiency for the year in railway finance was £2,980,000 which was £1,500,000 above the estimate. This deficiency does not include interest of slightly over £1,000,000. That large loss creates a problem and is far greater than a community of our size should be expected to bear. Accordingly, action has been taken to try to keep railway expenditure more in check.

Together with the saving to be gained from the new rollingstock and a possibly better market for wheat, that effort should result in the finances of the railways showing a substantial improvement in this year and in following years until the financial operations of the system are brought to manageable proportions.

On this point I am in a position to report that the finances of the railways for the expired portion of the current year have improved considerably. In fact, in the month of August, the working expenses of the department were more than balanced by the total revenue earned by it.

Hon. Sir Ross McLarty: The present seasonal outlook is not very comforting to you, though, is it?

The TREASURER: No, it is not very good at the moment. However, the season is not over, and all of us would hope that during the next week there will be general rains of sufficient quantity to improve the seasonal prospects very greatly.

State Taxation.

In the field of purely State taxation, revenue from stamp duties amounted to £1,400,000 for the year, the figure being £277,000 above the estimate. Probate duty, which I know is dear to the heart of the Leader of the Opposition, brought in £47,000 more than the estimate, the total amount collected being £877,000. Territorial revenue at £964,000 was better than the estimate by £148,000.

State Trading Concerns.

The revenue of trading concerns amounted to £308,000 and was better than the budgeted estimate by £138,000. That better result was due in the main to increased profits from the State Saw Mills which were £71,000 above the estimate, and to an adjustment in amounts owing by the State Brick Works over several years. The losses incurred for several years were recouped and interest due to the Treasury was paid into Consolidated Revenue.

Expenditure, 1953-54.

The saving in total expenditure of £301,000 as compared with the estimate was due partly to the suspension by the Arbitration Court of quarterly adjustments to the basic wage. A saving of £170,000 resulted.

Expenditure on education was £151,000 less than was anticipated and smaller savings were effected in the Public Works and Lands Departments. These savings were offset by the increased expenditure in the railways, to which reference has already been made, the net overall saving being £301,000.

Apart from railway finance, the financial position for last year was reasonably satisfactory.

Seasonal Conditions.

The season was late in opening, good rains not falling until late in May. These rains were followed by favourable planting weather in June which enabled most farmers to do their seeding almost without interruption.

Dry weather after the germination of the seed retarded crop growth and encouraged in some districts the activities of the red-legged earth mite and the lucerne flea. As the season progressed and further rains came, most crops outgrew those pests.

Rainfall during the last eight weeks over the wheatbelt areas has not generally been sufficient to ensure a good crop and much concern is now being felt regarding the final result of the harvest.

The Wheat Position.

The total wheat crop last season amounted to 39,700,000 bushels from 2,900,000 acres. The preliminary estimate of this season's sown acreage is 3,100,000.

The average yield per acre for 1953 was 13.8 bushels, which is on our past experience, a high average for Western Australia.

Sheep Population.

In some agricultural areas hand feeding of sheep was necessary during June. The lambing percentage in some districts was disappointing, and reports indicate that the overall figure for the State will be lower than the average figure.

The wool clip for 1953 was 126,000,000 lb. which figure was 8,000,000 lb. higher than in the previous year. The increase was brought about mainly because of the increased sheep population, particularly in the agricultural districts, which carry about 75 per cent. of the total number of sheep in the State.

Advent of Mixed Farming.

We all remember very well the onset of the trade slump and economic depression in 1930. Those happenings did a tremendous amount of harm in all directions but, as the result of the experience which farmers suffered in those days, when they were dependent almost entirely upon wheat, mixed farming became the rule of the road from then onwards. In consequence, very few farmers today in our agricultural areas depend upon wheat alone for their income and a continuance of their existence as practical farmers. They have changed over substantially to sheep raising, with the result that they have not only strengthened their own economic existence but have also assisted in making a material contribution towards the strengthening of the total economy of Western Australia.

The Wool Industry.

The wool industry continues to be the mainstay of our rural production and of our economic system. Any substantial fluctuation of overseas prices would have a disturbing effect on the economy of the State.

Prices for wool at the opening sales in Australia have been slightly lower than last season but the market has hardened somewhat in recent days.

Dairying Operations.

The early opening of the season in dairying districts gave good promise with rainfall at approximately the normal level. Even at this late stage the season appears to be fairly comparable with last year in most areas. Stock generally are in good condition. The production of wholemilk and butterfat shows more than the usual seasonal increase.

The total factory production of butter for last year was 14,000,000 lb.

Meat Production.

The seasonal shipment of cattle from northern ports to the metropolitan area has now ceased. Killing for export ceased at the Wyndham Meat Works for the season, early this month with a total kill of 26,700, which was about equal to last year's figure.

The meat producing districts of the agricultural areas are experiencing a season when exports are below average due to the late opening of the season and the light rainfall in June.

The export of lamb carcasses is expected to be lower than last year's figure of approximately 97,000.

Agricultural Development.

Farmers now tend to concentrate on producing those commodities which they are reasonably sure are capable of being sold profitably in available markets. In the agricultural areas substantial development of their properties is being undertaken by many established farmers. Rapid development is growing in the north-eastern and south-eastern areas as well as at Esperance.

These activities have entailed a stepping-up of research into nutritional deficiencies, particularly the phosphatic and trace element requirements of the soil.

Mining Industry.

Activity in the State's mining industries is increasing substantially. Gold is still the basic mining activity, and 845,675 fine ounces of gold were produced for the year ended the 30th June, 1954, the value being £13,371,494. The comparative figures for the previous year were 786,889 fine ounces with a value of £12,743,286.

Some 960,000 tons of coal were produced last year, this figure being 190,000 tons higher than for the previous year. Much modern mechanisation has been achieved in a number of coalmines, which should not only assist production but also cheapen production costs and thereby lower the cost of coal to the consumers. I emphasise that it should do that.

A wide variety of minerals are now being produced, particularly in the north-western part of the State. Some of the major deposits being worked are iron ore at Yampi Sound, blue asbestos at Wittenoom Gorge, manganese at Peak Hill and Port Hedland, pyrites at Norseman, columbite on the Pilbara mining field, tin at Greenbushes, and gypsum in various parts of the State. Other minerals being mined include copper, clay, felspar, ochre, silver and talc.

Oil Exploration.

In the search for oil—this is a very topical and touchy subject—West Australian Petroleum Pty. Ltd., now has four modern deep drills in the field near Exmouth Gulf. Two of these drills are in operation and two are in the course of being erected. The company is also rapidly preparing to undertake deep drilling operations in the Kimberleys and has numerous technical parties at work in several areas doing geological and geophysical surveys.

The Associated Freney Co. expects to have a deep drill in operation in one of its Kimberley areas early next year. Other companies that hold permits to explore for oil, are also active and are undertaking ground exploration in various parts of the State.

Timber Production.

A total of 217,000,000 super feet of sawn timber was produced last year, which was 12,000,000 super feet greater than for the previous year. Since the first year after the war, production of sawn timber within the State has doubled. This is due in the main to the saw mills existing at the end of the war now working at full capacity and also to the establishment of a number of new mills.

Employment Situation.

The estimated total employment within the State, not including rural and domestic workers, was 177,750 persons at the end of June; for the benefit of the member for Subiaco, I may mention that that figure does not include housewives. The number of unemployed persons then registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service was 1,800. Increased employment has been provided in the expansion of work on the oil refinery being constructed at Kwinana, and because of improved business conditions generally throughout the State.

A total of 2,342 vacancies for employment was registered in the State at the end of June, the greatest number being for skilled metal and electrical trades workers and also for workers in the building trades. The general level of economic activity gives every indication of rising still higher. Retail trading is very active. With few exceptions, the production of basic commodities is satisfactory and the future should see new developments in many directions.

Estimates for 1954-55.

I have budgeted for a deficit of £141,000 for the current financial year, as against the actual deficit of £103,000 for last year.

Provision has been made in this year's expenditure for an extension of work in several departments necessitating increased expenditure, and the amount of a special grant recommended by the Grants Commission to be paid to Western Australia this year is £250,000 less than the amount received last year.

North-West Expenditure.

An alteration has been made to the set-up of the printed Estimates this year, due to a belief by the Government regarding the needs of the North-West. All North-West expenditure is shown under a North-West heading and not, as previously, under the individual departments concerned. More liberal provision has also been made for expenditure in the North-West as the Government feels it is necessary to provide more services and amenities in that part of the State. Increased loan expenditure will also be shown for the North-West in this year's Loan Estimates.

Revenue for 1954-55.

The total revenue for the current year is estimated at £44,900,000, an increase of £1,760,000 over the revenue actually collected last year. Taxation is expected to yield £716,000 more than last year, but no new taxation is proposed.

Hon. Sir Ross McLarty: That is comforting.

The TREASURER: No new net taxation, at any rate.

Hon. Sir Ross McLarty: Do not qualify it!

The TREASURER: The amount expected to be received this year from the Commonwealth Government under income tax reimbursement payments is £11,872,000 compared with £11,347,000 last year, an increase of £525,000. The total amount made available by the Commonwealth Government to all States by way of income tax reimbursement payments for this year is £150,000,000, an increase of only £7,500,000 compared with last year.

The amount of additional assistance being rendered by the Commonwealth Government over and above the actual formula is becoming progressively less each year. Last year the special payment was £22,000,000; for 1951-1952 it was £33,600,000; this year it is only £19,500,000.

Uniform Taxation.

So far as the taxpayers of our State are concerned, uniform taxation has many advantages. If the State had to collect from its own taxpayers the same amount of revenue by income tax as it receives from the Commonwealth, taxpayers in Western Australia would have to bear a more severe burden of taxation than they do at present.

However, that condition may not continue very much longer. For example, the discovery of oil in payable quantities would increase substantially the national income of the State and would cause our taxable capacity to rise, possibly to the level at which we are now being reimbursed under the uniform taxation system.

Financial Benefit from Oil Discoveries.

Much speculation has been indulged in regarding the financial benefits to be enjoyed by the State in the event of oil being discovered within the State in payable quantities. However, it has to be remembered that the State Government would not benefit financially until the revenue coming to the Government by way of royalties and other means from the discovery of oil had exceeded the sum of over £7,000,000, as that amount would be required to balance the approximate total grant now being paid to us on the recommendations of the Grants Commission.

During such a period the Commonwealth Government would be the main beneficiary in a financial sense from the discovery of oil in payable quantities, because as our increasing revenue lessened the State's dependence on Commonwealth financial assistance, the special Commonwealth grant to the State would be correspondingly reduced.

Other Revenue.

It is expected that revenue from other sources of taxation will increase by approximately £200,000 over the collections of last year. Consideration is being given to the question of amending the law relating to rates of probate duty. There are now several anomalies due to the breaks in the rates as the values of estates increase. It is hoped to provide a graduated scale to remove all anomalies.

Territorial revenue is estimated to be about £38,000 less than the total amount collected last year. Revenue from land sales by the Government last year was augmented by the sale of blocks of land held in the metropolitan area, which land realised high prices. Departmental revenue is expected to be £240,000 above the amount received in 1953-54, at a total figure of £4,400,000.

Commonwealth Grant.

The special grant recommended by the Grants Commission for this year is £7,100,000. The total grant recommended is £7,450,000, but of this sum £350,000 has to be applied towards the reduction of the deficit incurred in 1952-53. In that year, as the Leader of the Opposition will remember, we had a deficit of £508,000. I have not yet had an opportunity of studying closely the commission's report, but it is clear that we shall have to fund a deficit for 1952-53 of £158,000. This funding will be effected by a charge to loan funds.

Funding of Deficit.

The funding of a deficit is an expensive procedure, as the State has to pay a sinking fund of 4 per cent. to the National Debt Commissioners, for which it receives no assistance from the Commonwealth Government.

As members know, ordinary loan indebtedness is redeemed by a sinking fund payment of 5s. per cent. by the State and 5s. per cent. by the Commonwealth. Under the terms of the Financial Agreement, however, the funding of a deficit is the sole responsibility of the State concerned.

Copies of the Grants Commission's report will be made available to members in due course, and when I have had an opportunity to read the report carefully, I shall make a statement on it. Despite the fact that we are left with a deficit of £158,000, from the year 1952-53, I feel that the Grants Commission has dealt with us justly, and has recognised our special difficulties.

State Trading Concerns.

Estimated profits to be recovered from the trading concerns will be £38,000 less than the amount received last year. As I explained earlier, there were adjustments in the accounts of at least one of the trading concerns last year, which augmented the profits available to Consolidated Revenue. There are no such adjustments anticipated this year.

Public Utilities.

Revenue from public utilities is estimated at £16,000,000 as compared with £14,900,000 last year. The main improvement is in the revenue of the railways, where it is anticipated that revenue should amount to £12,353,000, as against £11,377,000 last year. Increased revenue is also anticipated from the Metropolitan Water Supply Department to the extent of £119,000; from the State Abattoirs and Saleyards, £65,000; and Country Areas Water Supply, £22,000.

Expenditure for 1954-55.

Expenditure is estimated at £45,048,000—an increase of £1,800,000 on the expenditure of last year. Expenditure under Special Acts, estimated at £8,400,000 is £830,000 greater than the amount spent last year.

The costs of interest and sinking fund payments on the public debt are expected to total £6,800,000, being £740,000 greater than the expenditure last year. With the annual increase in the public debt, the cost of servicing it must necessarily be greater year by year.

Special Acts.

Payments under other Special Acts, estimated at £1,578,000, will be approximately £100,000 in excess of the expenditure under these Acts last year. The main items of increase are in regard to the transfer of forestry revenue to the Forests Department.

In the past, the Reforestation Fund has been assisted by payments from Consolidated Revenue by an appropriation under the Treasury Miscellaneous Vote. It is proposed to amend the Forests Act and grant a greater proportion of the net revenue from timber to the Forests Department.

An increase of £16,000 is expected under the Superannuation and Family Benefits Act. The payments expected this year are £505,000 as compared with £489,000 last year.

Departmental Expenditure.

Departmental expenditure—that is, excluding expenditure on public utilities—is estimated at £18,667,000; an increase of £571,000 over last year's figures. Expenditure under the Education Vote—estimated at £5,018,000—will be £315,000

greater than last year. The Department of Native Affairs will also have increased expenditure; the estimate being £152,000 which shows an increase of £44,000 over last year.

In addition to the expenditure shown for these two departments under the departmental estimates, there will be increases in expenditure in the North-West for education of £13,000 and for native welfare of £72,000.

Public Utilities are expected to spend £17,974,000 as compared with £17,580,000 last year—an increase of £394,000. Railway expenditure will be approximately £150,000 greater than last year. As revenue will be £1,000,000 greater than that collected in 1953-54, the overall position of this public utility should show an improvement. Metropolitan water supply expenditure will be greater than it was in the previous year by £116,000.

Overall Economic Position.

The overall economic position of the State is healthy. Apart from the present uncertainty in regard to the sale of wheat, which could be temporary, the outlook for our primary products is good; employment is plentiful; and industrial expansion is proceeding satisfactorily.

Oil in commercial quantities could be discovered this year. Great developments are taking place in the Kwinana area. Western Australia is emerging from the position of being a community dependent largely on one type of production—namely, primary. Our economy is becoming much more balanced. We are in a better position now to withstand any gradual, or even sudden drop in our national income.

The further development of our known mineral resources, and the discovery of new and valuable minerals—which is likely—will make us less dependent on the one mineral, namely gold, which was initially the basis of our economy and which is still very important.

We can, therefore, look forward to the future with confidence, feeling that in the absence of any major international disturbance, our progress should be substantial and steady.

Native Welfare Provision.

During the expired portion of the current financial year, Government expenditure has been increased through such departments as Native Affairs and Child Welfare, and further increased expenditure over last year is certain to take place. This increased expenditure underlines the anxiety of the Government to expand activities which are calculated to promote increased welfare among white children and among all natives.

Most of the increased expenditure in regard to native welfare has been made through the medium of the various church missions which operate throughout the

State. It is thought they are the organisations most likely to achieve the greatest good in uplifting the native population and particularly in training native children to become good citizens.

Metropolitan Shelter Sheds.

The Government intends to press on, in co-operation with local authorities, in the erection of shelters for omnibus passengers in the metropolitan area. Several local governing authorities have already indicated their willingness to co-operate with the Government in providing shelters.

In the event of some local authorities refusing to co-operate on a reasonable basis, it might be found necessary to introduce legislation to obtain authority to compel a reasonable measure of co-operation.

Taxation on Racing Activities.

It is probable the winning bets tax will be abolished during the present calendar year. The loss of revenue from the abolition of the tax could be made up by the combination of a turnover tax on registered bookmakers and an increase in the stamp duty on betting tickets, or by some other method.

Retirement of Under Treasurer.

As members already know, the present Under Treasurer, Mr. Reid, will retire from the Government service early next month. It is hardly necessary to say that, in the position of Under Treasurer, he has rendered outstanding service to the Government and to the State. In addition to being Under Treasurer for some years, successive Governments have laid varied and heavy responsibilities in connection with many matters upon his shoulders. He has carried those additional responsibilities in a most capable manner, and has indeed played a tremendously important part in the progress and development of this State.

The Commonwealth has paid Mr. Reid the honour of making him a member of the Commonwealth Grants Commission, a position which he will take over in the near future. Since news was published of Mr. Reid's pending appointment to the Grants Commission, I have been very courteous, and indeed almost servile, to him! As a member of the Grants Commission, he will be in a position to exercise a marked influence upon the future financial welfare of the Government and, through that medium, upon the future economic welfare of the State.

He will be only one member among three and will therefore not constitute a majority on the commission, but I am sure that he will, by his great knowledge of the State and his detailed understanding of our special needs and problems, be able to convince his colleagues from time to time—if they need

convincing—that this State does still require a considerable amount of financial help and encouragement from the Grants Commission and, on the basis of their recommendations, from the Commonwealth Government.

Hon. A. V. R. Abbott: He will know a few of the Premiers' tricks too. I said "Premiers," plural.

Appointment of Mr. Byfield.

The TREASURER: The new Under Treasurer will be Mr. Byfield, who has been in the Treasury Department for some considerable time. I have no doubt that Mr. Byfield will follow in the steps of his predecessor and will, in co-operation with the Treasurer of the day—no matter who he might be—give to the Government and, through the Government, to the people of the State, conscientious and capable service. The Treasury Department is a very silent one; the officers within the department work consistently and quietly, and naturally try to husband the State's resources. They do not easily say "yes."

The Minister for Housing: Hear, hear!

The TREASURER: They like to see £2 worth of value for each £1 expenditure they approve. There is no doubt that the Treasury Department is a most important department of the Government.

Conclusion.

This afternoon I have been talking in millions of pounds; metaphorically, I have been throwing millions of pounds around in all directions. This morning, however, I had a most embarrassing experience. The Deputy Premier and I, without knowing it, each had a similar inspiration—that is the only extent to which the Deputy Premier comes into this experience. We each decided, on our own initiative, to visit a hairdresser. The one I visited was quite different from the one visited by the Deputy Premier. When my hairdresser had finished his operations—they did not take him long—I began to search my pockets, and this very day when I was to introduce a budget to cover expenditure of well over £40,000,000, I was unable to find even 2s. in my own pocket.

Hon. Sir Ross McLarty: Is that all they charge you?

The TREASURER: No; 3s. 3d. Accordingly, I had the embarrassing experience of having to leave my hat in the hairdressing saloon as security while I went to my office and borrowed 3s. 3d. from one of the staff. I now have much pleasure in moving the first division of the Estimates, namely—

Vote—Legislative Council, £6,362.

Progress reported.

CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND. **ESTIMATE FOR 1954-55.**

	£	£	£	£
Deficit for year 1953-54				102,679
Financial Deterioration.				
Add Decreases in Estimated Revenue.				
Territorial—Land			51,743	
Departmental—				
Forests		13,188		
Mental Hospitals		12,116		
Public Health		26,651		
Minor Variations		13,876		
Treasury Miscellaneous Revenue—				
Albany Harbour Board	10,297			
Exchange	26,633			
Country Areas Water Supply	34,760			
Minor Variations	24,447			
		96,137		
Royal Mint			161,968	
Commonwealth—Grant			27,701	
Public Utilities—			250,000	
Fremantle Harbour Trust		36,601		
Minor Variations		2,876		
			39,477	
Trading Concerns—				
Profits recovered		38,270		
Recoup of Departmental Charges		13,085		
			51,355	
				582,244
Add Increases in Estimated Expenditure.				
Special Acts—				
Interest and Sinking Fund		739,288		
Reforestation Fund		15,020		
Superannuation Act		15,421		
Pension Supplementation Act		42,323		
Members of Parliament Reimbursement of Expenses		11,728		
Minor Variations		11,462		
			835,242	
Departmental—				
Child Welfare		17,057		
Department of Industrial Development		15,258		
Education		314,696		
Native Affairs		43,578		
Lands and Surveys		38,337		
Agriculture		47,953		
Police		19,678		
Medical		11,506		
Homes		28,021		
Tuberculosis		21,162		
Mental Hospitals		35,889		
Crown Law		19,540		
Forests		27,433		
North-West		20,487		
Minor Variations		72,332		
Treasury Miscellaneous Services :				
Library Board of W.A.	16,645			
University of W.A.—Additional Grant	37,963			
Rent reductions prefabricated houses	22,260			
Rural Bank—Cost of Government Agency Section	18,096			
War Service Land Settlement—Losses	100,000			
Minor Variations	44,829			
		239,793		
			972,729	
Public Utilities—				
Country Areas Water Supply		14,015		
Other Hydraulic Undertakings		43,734		
State Abattoirs and Saleyards		60,019		
Metropolitan Water Supply		116,235		
Railways		143,944		
Minor Variations		18,148		
			396,095	
				2,204,065
Carried forward				2,988,989

CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND—continued.

	£	£	£	£
Brought forward				2,888,989
Financial Improvement.				
Less Increases in Estimated Revenue.				
Taxation—				
Land Tax		28,157		
Income Tax Reimbursement		524,585		
Stamp Duty		102,337		
Probate Duty		23,075		
Entertainment Tax		34,782		
Minor Variations		2,801		
			716,237	
Territorial—				
Timber		11,820		
Mining		2,502		
			13,822	
Law Courts			4,829	
Departmental—				
Department of Industrial Development		14,016		
Harbour and Light		10,284		
Lands and Surveys		12,143		
Medical		9,524		
Native Affairs		21,970		
Police		12,568		
Public Works		38,291		
Minor Variations		25,080		
Treasury Miscellaneous—				
Rural and Industries Bank		23,231		
State Electricity Commission		11,320		
Fremantle Bulk Handling		13,008		
Railways		11,449		
Government Workers' Compensation Surplus		13,685		
Purchase of Stock and Plant		65,000		
Cropping		20,000		
Kwinana Fund—Rent and Capitalised Interest		51,745		
State Housing Commission Profits		30,000		
Minor Variations		23,701		
		263,149		
Public Utilities—			407,023	
Country Areas Water Supply		22,227		
State Abattoirs and Saleyards		64,729		
Metropolitan Water Supply		118,923		
Other Hydraulic Undertakings		16,901		
Railways		976,130		
Minor Variations		3,095		
			1,202,005	
Less Decreases in Estimated Expenditure :				
Special Acts—Minor Variations				405
Departmental—				
Premier's Department		21,195		
Printing		11,400		
Prices		36,251		
Public Health		37,749		
Minor Variations		12,749		
Treasury Miscellaneous Services :				
Spastic Welfare Association of W.A. (Inc.)		15,000		
W.A. Institute for the Blind		20,000		
Royal Mint—Additional Grant		17,000		
Rents from Army Huts and Evictees Flats—Reimbursement of Losses		50,000		
State Electricity Commission		15,510		
Dairy Farms Improvement Scheme—Loss		18,436		
Exchange on Overseas Interest		30,960		
Frozen Meat for Local Requirements—Losses		10,149		
State Brickworks—Losses		47,494		
Minor Variations		57,494		
		282,343		
Public Utilities—			401,637	
Minor Variations			2,110	
				2,747,918
ESTIMATED DEFICIT FOR YEAR, 1954-55				141,071

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[Return No. 1.]

I.—BALANCE SHEET OF THE GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
AT 30th JUNE, 1953, AND 30th JUNE, 1954.

Liabilities.	30th June, 1953.	30th June, 1954.	Assets.	30th June, 1953.	30th June, 1954.
	£	£		£	£
Public Debt	153,072,170	165,782,545	Invested in Works and Services, etc.	151,071,451	164,058,746
			Balance—General Loan Fund o/d.	2,000,719	1,723,799
	153,072,170	165,782,545		153,072,170	165,782,545
Balance General Loan Fund	2,000,719	1,723,799	Consolidated Revenue Fund	1,017,952	610,563
State Taxes, Arrears	602,877	609,206	Commonwealth Government—Tax Arrears	670,155	677,025
Hospital Fund Contributions, Arrears	67,278	67,819	Advances (under Appropriation "Advance		
Reserve Accounts	1,320	9,963	to Treasurer")	527,108	532,043
Suspense Accounts	1,158,676	1,407,532	Trading Concerns		
Trading Concerns	212,613	275,244	Expenditure in Suspense		
Trust Funds—			Stores Accounts	1,069,193	660,082
Governmental	7,080,041	7,631,240	Trust Fund Investments—		
Private	5,496,389	5,736,484	Governmental	2,817,662	2,400,844
			Private	4,132,464	4,532,060
			Cash in hand, etc.—		
			Banks Current Account	1,188,141	3,030,908
			Banks in Eastern States	99,333	92,491
			Debenture Deposit	4,884,417	4,807,766
			In London	76,436	37,310
			In Transit	17,962	20,432
			In Hand	119,090	59,763
	16,619,913	17,461,287		16,619,913	17,461,287

[Return No. 2.]

II.—CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1953-54, COMPARED WITH ESTIMATE.

SUMMARY.

	Estimate.	Actual.	Comparison with Estimate.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Revenue	43,461,453	43,145,840	....	315,613
Expenditure	43,549,548	43,248,519	....	301,029
Deficit	88,095	102,679	14,584	
Surplus .....	....	....
Net Retrogression			£14,584	

DETAILS.

Revenue.	Estimate.	Actual.	Comparison with Estimate.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Taxation	14,211,720	14,581,503	369,783	
Territorial	816,000	964,421	148,421	
Law Courts	213,000	227,371	14,371	
Departmental	4,152,192	4,189,035	36,843	
Royal Mint	115,000	122,701	7,701	
Commonwealth	7,823,432	7,823,432	....
Trading Concerns	169,430	307,605	138,175	
Public Utilities	15,960,679	14,929,772	....	1,030,907
Total Revenue	43,461,453	43,145,840	715,294	1,030,907
Net Decrease. ....	....	....	£315,613	

Expenditure.	Estimate.	Actual.	Comparison with Estimate.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
SPECIAL ACTS—				
Constitution Act	17,310	17,310	....
Interest—Overseas	1,196,911	1,186,656	....	10,255
Interest—Australia	3,630,560	3,683,728	53,168	
Sinking Fund	1,198,000	1,203,268	5,268	
Other Special Acts	1,401,639	1,482,102	80,463	
GOVERNMENTAL—				
Departmental	18,574,567	18,095,520	....	479,047
PUBLIC UTILITIES	17,530,561	17,579,935	49,374	
Total Expenditure	43,549,548	43,248,519	188,273	489,302
Net Decrease .....	....	....	£301,029	

II.—CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND.

REVENUE.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS FROM 1945-46 TO 1953-54 AND ESTIMATE FOR 1954-55.

Heads.	1945-46.	1946-47.	1947-48.	1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.	Estimate, 1954-55.
TAXATION—	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Land Tax	111,353	112,465	111,113	132,243	180,840	180,323	209,094	209,062	286,843	325,000
Income Tax Reimbursement	2,546,000	3,384,000	3,807,000	4,494,632	5,172,433	7,176,426	9,400,000	10,854,544	11,347,415	11,872,000
Income Tax Reimbursement—Additional Payment	912,559	.....	.....	.....	861,677	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Totals for Tax	172,141	152,650	168,787	177,817	181,520	207,398	241,430	219,993	217,450	220,000
Stamp Duty	325,776	417,491	462,122	530,885	704,913	923,788	953,537	1,043,851	1,307,163	1,500,000
Probate Duty	262,280	262,326	300,487	362,168	412,816	462,848	685,076	842,955	876,925	900,000
Entertainment Tax	98,195	.....	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
Licenses	96,530	124,166	125,682	138,495	160,012	181,468	227,253	247,600	280,489	280,740
Total	4,524,835	4,453,098	4,884,191	5,836,240	7,454,211	9,132,251	11,716,390	13,478,005	14,581,503	15,297,740
TERRITORIAL AND DEPARTMENTAL—										
Land	193,405	252,181	322,035	328,104	320,519	284,846	257,842	251,647	351,743	300,000
Mining	26,306	37,750	36,606	42,318	43,512	43,242	45,258	51,444	62,498	65,000
Timber	134,749	236,442	242,363	182,654	248,684	287,141	346,962	453,287	550,180	561,500
Royal Mint	47,323	51,794	53,240	63,610	78,965	101,327	115,543	132,969	122,701	95,000
Departmental Fees, etc.	1,250,492	1,552,844	1,787,356	2,282,230	2,866,457	2,955,418	3,431,259	4,278,290	4,189,035	4,434,090
Law Courts	75,655	76,981	98,569	114,745	135,770	187,121	203,187	227,371	227,371	232,000
Commonwealth Special Grant	950,000	1,245,000	1,977,000	3,600,000	5,180,000	5,021,730	5,088,000	(d) 8,200,000	7,350,000	7,100,000
Commonwealth Supplementary Grant .....	.....	628,000	1,000,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Commonwealth Interest Contribution	473,432	473,432	473,432	473,432	473,432	473,432	473,432	473,432	473,432	473,432
Total	3,160,362	4,554,224	5,090,601	7,087,102	9,333,317	9,302,915	9,925,417	14,044,256	13,326,960	13,261,022
PUBLIC UTILITIES—										
Perth Harbour Trust	292,209	208,544	263,312	357,478	461,980	303,048	283,514	202,137	256,601	220,000
Country Areas Water Supply Schemes (c)	305,053	341,798	363,270	349,574	352,425	363,675	362,788	404,207	424,473	446,700
Perth Abattoirs	79,010	89,839	98,038	140,236	133,805	155,848	178,694	186,328	65,121	129,850
Metropolitan Abattoirs and Sale Yards .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Metropolitan Water Supply Sewerage and Drainage	592,584	608,395	649,313	704,090	756,124	804,030	909,854	1,070,224	1,431,077	1,550,000
Other Hydraulic Undertakings	86,925	101,787	108,089	121,628	131,453	152,050	181,163	227,027	256,249	273,150
Railways	4,143,413	3,979,404	4,545,376	5,161,218	6,371,770	6,970,696	9,216,051	7,934,232	11,370,870	12,353,000
Tramways, Perth Electric	521,908	480,522	509,303	591,466	593,928	671,716	917,217	1,046,008	1,027,130	1,025,000
Electricity Supply	580,148	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)
State Ferries	10,562	9,878	10,406	11,879	12,665	10,294	11,480	12,384	10,746	10,000
State Batteries	25,196	49,002	56,081	60,257	57,667	86,502	74,877	69,252	47,983	50,000
Caves House, etc.	14,408	15,278	18,038	17,973	23,938	24,042	31,873	31,496	33,522	34,600
Total	6,651,416	5,884,447	6,621,220	7,515,799	8,895,755	9,542,559	12,167,461	11,192,345	14,929,772	16,092,300
TRADING CONCERNS	70,944	89,108	114,292	121,505	127,678	178,456	145,889	169,540	307,005	256,250
GRAND TOTAL	14,407,557	14,080,876	17,710,310	20,560,646	25,810,901	28,156,181	33,955,157	38,884,236	43,145,840	44,907,812

(a) Included in Income Tax Reimbursement.

(b) From 1st July, 1946, taken over by State Electricity Commission.

(c) Operated prior to year 1951-52 as "Goldfields Water Supply."

(d) Includes £159,000 provided from surplus of 1950-51.

II.—CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND.

EXPENDITURE.

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE FROM 1945-46 TO 1953-54, AND ESTIMATE FOR 1954-55.

Head.	1945-46.	1946-47.	1947-48.	1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.	Estimate, 1954-55.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Special Acts	4,654,844	4,709,004	4,826,367	4,947,537	5,188,288	5,508,867	6,128,797	6,576,444	7,573,064	8,407,901
Parliamentary	19,049	20,037	25,635	28,630	31,688	37,161	45,244	49,237	52,420	52,688
Premier	14,285	21,270	28,248	26,867	22,211	27,247	36,375	36,485	52,801	31,611
Treasury	32,400	35,761	30,728	45,809	62,801	62,801	79,225	91,411	98,108	104,000
Governor	3,268	3,336	3,385	4,111	4,708	7,041	14,045	19,212	19,129	17,953
London Agency	9,930	16,081	14,450	16,334	16,750	22,298	26,056	30,474	24,349	23,300
Public Service Commissioner	2,322	2,724	3,238	4,488	4,842	6,400	8,567	9,224	9,350	11,282
Government Motor Cars	3,841	2,679	4,786	4,290	11,249	6,014	14,647	11,450	18,100	10,170
Audit	18,272	21,327	23,737	23,757	32,430	39,355	47,425	52,687	55,993	60,000
Compassionate Allowances	4,716	2,578	5,616	5,153	6,818	2,737	3,269	2,415	2,406	2,574
Government Stores	21,672	24,073	26,814	37,456	51,117	58,304	72,914	82,080	67,482	90,082
Taxation	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
State Housing Commission	4,702	10,006	22,995	24,621	39,007	52,033	66,078	23,943	1,128	5
Superannuation Board	3,216	3,411	4,579	6,298	7,493	8,697	16,782	11,015	12,585	12,650
Printing	86,181	102,184	137,821	155,339	184,807	230,621	308,443	322,053	330,925	319,525
Tourist and Publicity Bureau	2,467	11,521	12,580	15,028	18,412	21,539	27,713	28,763	27,776	30,802
Literary and Scientific	13,241	16,989	21,852	21,947	27,467	32,968	(f)	(f)	(f)	(f)
Miscellaneous Services	1,278,720	1,403,057	1,890,819	2,896,322	4,005,909	3,504,899	4,087,297	4,379,790	1,843,809	1,801,259
Forests	161,025	84,056	77,272	108,808	128,870	194,870	184,870	239,820	239,735	267,168
Public Works	258,285	278,341	318,488	538,019	655,576	868,858	1,150,434	1,262,902	1,061,302	1,054,161
Local Government	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	19,921	22,019	29,660	29,862	31,800
Town Planning	2,211	2,457	2,939	3,602	4,095	5,649	6,308	11,945	29,017	37,400
Unemployment Relief	3,611	2,381	1,871	1,659	381	(c)	(c)	(d)	(c)	(c)
State Labour Bureau	85,028	119,910	159,884	186,163	283,334	295,370	407,321	437,517	526,000	564,946
Lands and Surveys	1,360	1,273	1,051	428	448	318	(e)	(e)	(e)	(e)
Farmers Debts Adjustment and Rural Relief										5
Rural and Industries Bank										
Agriculture										
College of Agriculture	168,518	182,292	211,863	257,363	345,789	400,394	492,858	551,007	600,673	613,936
Labour	1,990	3,110	4,623	3,847	4,519	5,365	7,378	7,118	9,285	11,275
Factories	8,415	9,420	11,784	18,416	13,724	17,178	20,753	23,902	24,233	25,730
Arbitration Court	6,152	7,620	10,181	11,906	12,909	14,700	15,309	17,712	19,120	20,023
State Insurance										5
Department of Industrial Development	16,975	21,107	21,058	24,499	65,859	118,035	112,669	160,602	175,300	190,818
Child Welfare	76,903	83,142	94,575	112,320	124,280	193,962	234,568	254,598	271,655	271,655
Mines, Explosives, Geological, etc.	193,482	162,539	185,657	193,802	208,362	246,789	281,905	349,169	392,321	400,080
Medical and Health	104,483	115,875	165,400	229,490	454,340	779,640	790,219	1,046,008	3,357,207	3,380,147
Mental Hospitals	159,468	176,990	217,893	255,564	316,759	363,270	508,219	585,093	624,120	660,018
Office of Chief Secretary	43,762	47,673	53,771	69,724	80,632	97,641	129,570	152,075	162,018	169,031
Prisons	51,637	59,741	64,858	74,040	88,082	101,220	130,910	147,517	152,224	157,318
Education	1,002,520	1,223,746	1,648,768	1,759,635	2,079,781	2,634,441	3,630,893	4,342,770	4,703,561	5,018,200
Police	302,784	337,326	418,425	518,388	591,877	750,425	909,761	1,128,309	1,178,056	1,107,738
Crown Law and Branches	120,810	149,884	157,911	229,979	319,477	399,295	399,295	416,290	360,137	335,944
Natives	60,000	64,800	73,736	95,102	129,008	143,704	158,304	167,079	109,673	152,251
Harbour and Light and Jetties	40,658	42,863	44,513	51,778	62,035	71,210	101,233	128,602	143,985	148,800
Fisheries	9,468	11,029	13,161	17,550	28,844	31,580	39,070	41,681	39,606	44,014
North-West	181	140					439		1,254,561	1,276,048
Supply and Shipping					670	2,198	6,396	6,708	7,060	7,635
Prices									87,176	925
Total, Departmental	4,340,028	4,880,668	6,238,115	8,070,190	10,480,439	11,501,345	14,673,001	16,693,573	18,058,051	18,668,562

II.—CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND.

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE FROM 1945-46 TO 1953-54, AND ESTIMATE FOR 1954-55.—continued.

Head.	1945-46.	1946-47.	1947-48.	1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.	Estimate, 1954-55.
PUBLIC UTILITIES.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Country Areas Water Supply Schemes (d)	180,930	195,887	229,024	270,819	313,871	405,405	500,042	677,410	718,995	733,000
Kalgoorlie Abattoirs	} 61,972	69,434	77,083	103,721	99,743	121,417	156,593	144,943	47,453	107,472
Metropolitan Abattoirs										
Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage	159,444	180,780	217,908	239,649	299,343	372,208	482,255	613,015	694,065	810,900
Other Hydraulic Undertakings	83,921	99,412	118,308	158,826	211,004	286,543	340,490	427,792	430,708	474,502
Railways	3,853,437	4,314,899	5,672,312	6,787,862	8,065,616	8,849,200	11,043,347	12,802,075	14,356,056	14,500,000
Tramways	427,832	466,243	572,133	685,385	996,613	771,963	1,010,794	1,154,042	1,153,308	1,161,400
State Ferries	18,690	15,583	13,639	15,454	16,985	15,502	16,510	18,146	18,510	16,400
Electricity Supply	589,373	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
State Batteries	44,663	75,283	78,708	80,525	91,209	140,709	182,665	152,014	126,041	129,505
Cave House	12,425	15,234	18,895	17,939	24,092	23,875	32,268	31,459	34,149	40,741
Total Public Utilities	5,412,687	5,432,755	6,997,910	8,360,180	10,118,470	10,936,822	13,744,070	16,022,102	17,579,935	17,978,020
GRAND TOTALS	14,407,557	15,028,427	18,062,392	21,377,907	25,787,203	27,996,834	34,546,768	39,392,119	43,248,510	45,048,383

(a) From 1st July, 1946, taken over by State Electricity Commission.
1951-52 as "Goldfields Water Supply."(b) Previously included in Public Works.
(c) Included in Lands and Surveys.(d) Transferred to Supply and Shipping.
(e) Now included in "Miscellaneous Services."

(f) Operating prior to year

[Return No. 5.]

II.—CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND.

STATEMENT SHOWING PUBLISHED BUDGET RESULT OF CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS 1900-01 TO 1953-54.

Published Details.			Published Budget. Result (a).	
Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus.	Deficiency.
	£	£	£	£
1900-01	3,078,933	3,165,244	....	87,211
1901-02	3,688,049	3,490,026	198,023	....
1902-03	3,630,238	3,521,763	108,475	....
1903-04	3,550,016	3,608,311	....	148,295
1904-05	3,615,340	3,745,225	....	129,885
1905-06	3,558,939	3,632,318	....	73,379
1906-07	3,401,354	3,490,183	....	88,829
1907-08	3,376,641	3,379,006	....	2,365
1908-09	3,267,014	3,368,551	....	101,537
1909-10	3,657,670	3,447,731	209,939	....
1910-11	3,850,439	3,734,448	115,991	....
1911-12	3,966,673	4,101,082	....	134,409
1912-13	4,596,659	4,787,064	....	190,405
1913-14	5,205,343	5,340,754	....	135,411
1914-15	5,140,725	5,706,541	....	565,816
1915-16	5,356,978	5,705,201	....	38,223
1916-17	4,577,007	5,276,764	....	699,757
1917-18	4,622,536	5,328,279	....	705,743
1918-19	4,944,851	5,596,866	....	652,105
1919-20	5,863,501	6,531,725	....	668,225
1920-21	6,789,565	7,476,291	....	686,725
1921-22	6,907,107	7,639,242	....	732,135
1922-23	7,207,492	7,612,856	....	405,364
1923-24	7,865,595	8,094,753	....	229,158
1924-25	8,381,446	8,439,844	....	58,398
1925-26	8,808,166	8,907,309	....	99,143
1926-27	9,750,833	9,722,588	28,245	....
1927-28	9,807,940	9,834,415	....	26,466
1928-29	9,947,951	10,223,919	....	275,968
1929-30	9,750,515	10,268,519	....	518,004
1930-31	8,686,756	10,107,295	....	1,420,539
1931-32	8,035,316	9,593,212	....	1,557,896
1932-33	8,332,153	9,196,234	....	864,081
1933-34	8,481,697	9,270,600	....	788,912
1934-35	9,331,430	9,498,525	....	167,095
1935-36	10,033,721	9,945,343	88,378	....
1936-37	10,185,433	10,556,638	....	371,205
1937-38	10,819,042	10,829,735	....	10,693
1938-39	10,949,660	11,170,102	....	220,442
1939-40	11,119,943	11,266,768	....	146,825
1940-41	11,432,068	11,420,957	11,111	....
1941-42	11,940,149	11,938,381	1,768	....
1942-43	13,151,678	13,127,242	24,436	....
1943-44	13,589,175	13,551,154	38,021	....
1944-45	13,953,830	13,949,340	4,490	....
1945-46	14,407,557	14,407,557	....	....
1946-47	14,980,875	15,028,427	....	47,552
1947-48	17,710,310	18,062,392	....	352,082
1948-49	20,560,646	21,377,907	....	817,261
1949-50	25,810,961	25,787,203	23,758	....
1950-51	28,156,181	27,996,834	159,347	....
1951-52	33,955,157	34,546,768	....	591,611
1952-53	38,884,236	39,392,119	....	507,883
1953-54	43,145,840	43,248,519	....	102,679

(a) Published Budget results for 1947/48 and subsequent years are preliminary only, since they do not take into account later adjustments in respect of Special Grants paid by the Commonwealth on the recommendation of the Commonwealth Grants Commission. (See 16th and subsequent Reports of the Commission for details of the changes in procedure enabling these adjustments to be made, and of their significance in overcoming difficulties caused by the time lag in assessment). Budget results, after allowing for later adjustments are shown in Return No. 6.

[Return No. 6.]

II. CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND.

STATEMENT SHOWING BUDGET RESULTS AFTER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT COMMON-WEALTH SPECIAL GRANTS RECOMMENDED FOR PAYMENT BY THE COMMONWEALTH GRANTS COMMISSION.

Year.	Special Grants included as Revenue for year of receipt. (See Return No. 3).	Published Budget Results after bringing to account Special Grants as per column 2. (See Return No. 5).		Special Grants not included as Revenue for year of receipt but applied towards extinguishment of previous years' deficits.		Negative adjustments in respect of previous years' Special Grants.		Adjusted Budget Results after bringing to account amounts listed in columns 5 and 7.	
		Surplus.	Deficit.	Amount.	Year of receipt.	Amount.	Year of deduction.	Surplus.	Deficit.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
£	£	£	£	£		£		£	£
1947-48	2,977,000	....	352,082	438,000	1949-50	....	....	85,918	....
1948-49	3,600,000	....	817,261	817,261	1950-51	....	....	....	....
1949-50	5,180,000	23,758	....	....	....	....	....	23,758	....
1950-51	5,021,739	159,347	....	....	....	159,000	1952-53	347	....
1951-52	5,088,000	....	591,611	450,000	1953-54	....	....	....	141,611
1952-53	(a) 8,200,000	....	507,883	(b)	....	(b)	....	....	....
1953-54	7,350,000	....	102,679	(b)	....	(b)	....	....	....

(a) Includes £159,000 transferred from the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

(b) Final adjustments in respect of the years 1952-53 and 1953-54 will be made in 1954-55 and 1955-56 respectively.

[Return No. 7.]

SOURCES OF REVENUE AND REVENUE PER CAPITA, 1949-50 TO 1953-54.

Details.	Year and Per Capita.				
	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.
	£	£	£	£	£
Commonwealth (Including Income Tax Reimbursement)	11,487,542	12,671,597	14,961,432	19,527,976	19,170,847
	£21 1 0	£22 3 9	£25 6 2	£31 17 5	£30 6 3
State Taxation	1,620,101	1,955,825	2,316,390	2,623,551	3,234,088
	£2 19 4	£3 8 5	£3 18 4	£4 5 7	£5 2 3
Departmental and Territorial	3,679,885	3,807,744	4,363,985	5,370,824	5,503,528
	£6 14 10	£6 13 3	£7 7 8	£8 15 4	£8 14 1
Public Utilities and Trading Concerns	9,023,433	9,721,015	12,313,350	11,361,885	15,237,377
	£16 10 8	£17 0 3	£20 16 7	£18 10 10	£24 1 11
Total	25,810,961	28,156,181	33,955,157	38,884,236	43,145,840
	£47 5 10	£49 5 8	£57 8 9	£63 9 2	£68 4 6

[Return No. 8.]

II. CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND.

MAIN FUNCTIONS OF EXPENDITURE AND EXPENDITURE PER CAPITA,
1949-50 TO 1953-54.

Details.	Year and Per Capita.				
	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.
Social Services	£	£	£	£	£
Education	2,507,708 £4 11 11	3,171,221 £5 11 0	4,278,609 £7 4 9	5,083,530 £8 5 3	5,545,294 £8 15 5
Health, Hospitals and Charities	2,250,527 £4 2 5	2,755,440 £4 16 6	3,806,039 £6 8 9	4,224,302 £6 17 11	4,749,239 £7 10 2
Law, Order and Public Safety	941,064 £1 14 6	1,155,164 £2 0 5	1,478,236 £2 10 0	1,704,562 £2 15 7	1,853,465 £2 18 7
Total, Social Services	5,699,299 £10 8 10	7,081,825 £12 7 11	9,562,884 £16 3 6	10,992,394 £17 18 9	12,147,998 £19 4 2
Development of State Resources	1,536,988 £2 16 4	1,930,477 £3 7 7	2,402,004 £4 1 3	2,682,252 £4 7 7	2,781,322 £4 8 0
Business Undertakings	10,907,671 £19 19 8	11,712,398 £20 10 0	14,552,725 £24 12 4	17,090,885 £27 17 10	18,717,562 £29 12 0
Legislative and General	2,984,140 £5 9 4	2,344,627 £4 2 0	2,731,680 £4 12 5	2,898,259 £4 14 7	3,113,819 £4 18 5
Public Debt Charges	4,659,105 £8 10 9	4,927,512 £8 12 6	5,297,475 £8 19 3	5,728,328 £9 7 0	6,487,818 £10 5 2
Total	25,787,203 £47 4 11	27,996,834 £49 0 0	34,546,768 £58 8 9	39,392,119 £64 5 9	43,248,519 £68 7 9

[Return No. 9.]

DISSECTION OF CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND EXPENDITURE,
1949-50 TO 1953-54.

Item.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.
	£	£	£	£	£
Interest	3,367,761	3,580,583	3,848,305	4,190,698	4,870,385
Sinking Fund	886,343	916,466	1,022,207	1,114,795	1,203,268
Exchange	980,526	478,331	389,898	294,409	376,960
Salaries and Wages	10,561,725	12,343,948	15,853,260	18,387,484	20,222,037
Materials	3,402,598	3,271,864	4,128,392	4,859,768	6,773,959
Grants	1,742,765	2,209,322	3,118,299	3,282,486	3,718,176
Pensions	563,352	555,926	665,575	700,865	750,314
All other	4,282,133	4,640,394	5,520,742	6,561,614	5,333,420
Total	25,787,203	27,996,834	34,546,768	39,392,119	43,248,519

[Return No. 10.]

III. GENERAL LOAN FUND.

LOAN REPAYMENTS.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE.

Year ended 30th June.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Balance.
	£	£	£
1928	154,108		154,108
1929	235,404	33,297	356,215
1930	153,583	216,647	293,151
1931	84,248		377,399
1932	112,361	171,800	317,960
1933	91,751	249,275	160,436
1934	100,935	215,740	45,631
1935	150,507	97,064	99,074
1936	107,906	74,791	132,189
1937	122,975	78,376	176,788
1938	134,462	154,825	156,425
1939	147,040	153,105	150,360
1940	127,470	101,086	176,744
1941	127,889	140,202	164,431
1942	171,232	89,867	245,796
1943	281,355	184,707	342,444
1944	256,153	198,896	399,701
1945	207,075	222,493	384,283
1946	287,043	210,595	460,731
1947	190,503	192,818	458,416
1948	498,087	282,155	674,348
1949	242,820	538,204	378,964
1950	252,183	298,639	332,508
1951	1,085,802	258,991	1,159,319
1952	1,006,310	1,088,671	1,076,958
1953	1,412,334	1,074,543	1,414,749
1954	1,640,343	1,293,140	1,761,952

III. GENERAL LOAN FUND.

LOAN EXPENDITURE FOR 1953-54 COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS YEARS.

(Up to 1945-46 Loan Suspense Expenditure was not charged to Loan Fund until the year following that in which it was incurred. The figures for 1946-47 and after include Loan Suspense Expenditure incurred during the year.)

Undertakings.	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47.	1947-48.	1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Railways, including Land Resumptions	72,936	72,637	268,370	286,548	362,344	2,211,093	2,304,380	8,023,913	7,344,170	6,587,884
Tramways—Perth Electric	6,269	1,388	3,273	54,418	97,537	43,279	325,809	237,587	296,341	82,401
Electric Power Stations	15,493	115,081	166,054	785,697	1,065,343	2,345,719	3,295,712	3,341,016	89,570	709,104
Fremantle Harbour Works	24,872	31,393	40,049	69,499	61,375	73,115	294,806	647,438	684,922	432,323
Harbours and Rivers generally	9,315	6,765	37,584	89,480	163,595	329,100	400,425	850,884	731,241	980,280
Sewerage—Perth and Fremantle	10,717	39,831	115,897	168,624	227,880	217,546	314,478	317,933	304,616	322,577
Sewerage—Country Towns					7,709	23,638	27,840	86,724	54,800	37,986
Water Supplies (a)	90,112	202,925	623,749	549,268	800,338	799,885	1,730,486	2,085,897	2,124,604	1,638,014
Development of Goldfields (b)	90,270	231,722	255,357	261,535	326,224	357,659	460,771	335,902	395,138	214,557
Development of Agriculture	15,024	59,235	51,948	78,986	125,103	399,277	317,309	410,065	311,636	300,907
Assistance to Settlers, Industries, etc.	2,000	2								
Land Settlement for Soldiers	1,207									
College of Agriculture				1,159	4,775	1,963	3,427		1,295	
Rural and Industries Bank—Working Capital						600,000			320,500	1,149,538
Purchase of Plant (Suspense)			125,000	75,000	50,000	180,000	320,000	105,000		
State Brickworks							135,000	245,000	385,072	40,000
State Saw Mills			50,000		37,650	70,000	197,450	195,950	333,802	188,133
Steamships							42,500	109,002		253,200
Workers' Homes—Working Capital								68,000	1,492,000	
Workers' Homes Board—War Housing	120,000									
State Hotels						911	1,302	2,729	5,404	13,440
Ferries		3,000		609	986	2,833				78
State Engineering Works	4,039					10,900				
Public Buildings	81,217	116,607	132,045	216,983	(d) 586,902	(d) 718,082	(d) 1,036,492	(d) 1,403,451	(d) 2,789,580	1,579,889
Hospital Buildings and Equipment, including Grants	40,000	110,000	255,000	367,131						
Sundries				10,724	20,841	2,021	1,960	243,031	(e) 643,084	2,000
Bulk Handling of Wheat	31,822	35,963	36,301	751	116	5,028	2,377	45,002	9,067	1,986
West Australian Meat Export Works	70,936	50,000			10,000	20,000	10,000			20,000
Welshpool Industries			46,328	64,300	71,100	29,246	161,880			4,990
Native Stations, Hospitals, etc.		5,000	15,000			10,000	20,000	1,700		
Kwinana Area Development									74,647	218,501
Kwinana Area Housing									600,000	1,123,000
Provision for Funding Revenue Deficits										60,068
	695,229	1,081,549	(c) 2,230,964	3,030,763	3,818,724	8,351,015	11,404,253	18,757,784	10,011,875	15,884,246
Add Discounts, Expenses, etc.	2,938	26,983	17,680	8,964	14,197	34,652	25,758	19,687	15,129	33,017
Total Expenditure	698,165	1,108,532	2,248,653	3,039,727	3,832,921	8,385,667	11,430,011	18,777,471	10,027,004	15,917,263

(a) Including Goldfields Districts. (b) Excluding Water Supplies. (c) Excludes Recoup to Loan Suspense Account 1945-46. Development of Goldfields £350; Purchase of Plant (Suspense) £40,000; W.A. Meat Export Works £30,911; Total £71,161. (d) Includes Hospitals. (e) Includes assistance to Fishing Industry for loss on guaranteed Accounts £134,261; Loans for Purchase of Motor Vehicles for Departmental Officers £200,000; Government Printing Office Purchase of Stores Material and Equipment £303,016.

[Return No. 12.]

IV.—PUBLIC DEBT.

(a) LOAN AUTHORISATIONS AND FLOTATIONS.

	£	£	£
Authorisations to 30th June, 1953	....	193,712,197	
Authorisations, 1953-54	....	17,854,467	
		<u>211,566,664</u>	
Flotations—			
Inscribed Stock, Debentures, Treasury Bonds, etc., issued in Australia and Overseas—Net proceeds :—			
	£		
For Works and Services	.... 177,761,045		
For Funding Deficits	.... 12,175,156		
	<u>189,936,201</u>		
Discounts and Flotation Expenses (including Cost of Conversion Loans), net :—			
	£		
On Works Loans	.... 5,345,601		
On Deficit Loans	.... 753,278		
	<u>6,098,879</u>		
		196,035,080	
Short Term Debt current at 30th June, 1954—			
London	....	2,959,714	
Total Flotations	....		198,994,794
Balance available for Flotation	....		<u>12,571,870</u>

(b) LOAN INDEBTEDNESS.

	£	£	£
Total Amount raised to 30th June, 1953	....	....	184,977,994
Flotations during the year—			
Counter Sales	....	6,000	
Instalment Stock	....	1,929,000	
Commonwealth Loans (Aust.)	....	12,081,800	
		<u>14,016,800</u>	
			198,994,794
Redemptions—			
Total to 30th June, 1953	....	31,905,824	
During the year—			
National Debt Commission :			
Securities repurchased	....	155,329	
Securities redeemed under Option (New York)	....	645,470	
Securities redeemed at Maturity (Australia)	....	345,106	
Instalment Stock redeemed (Australia)	....	80,419	
Special Deficit Loans redeemed	....	80,101	
		<u>1,306,425</u>	
			33,212,249
Gross Public Debt at 30th June, 1954	....		165,782,545
Sinking Fund	....		410,841
Net Public Debt at 30th June, 1954	....		<u>165,371,704</u>

[Return No. 12—continued.]

IV.—PUBLIC DEBT.

(c) SUMMARY OF GROSS LOAN RAISINGS AND DISBURSEMENTS.

<i>Raisings.</i>	£	<i>Disbursements.</i>	£
Total Flotations, as per Return 7 (b)—		Discounts and Expenses—	
To 30th June, 1953	184,977,994	To 30th June, 1953 (Net)	5,294,233
During Year 1953-54	14,016,800	During the Year 1953/54—	
		Paid from Loan Proceeds	33,018
		Discount on New Loans	18,300
Receipts from Loan Repayments—		Redemption of Agricultural Bank	
To 30th June, 1953	7,741,538	Mortgage Bonds	1,566,000
During Year 1953-54	1,640,343	Deficits Funded (including Discount	
		and Expenses)—	
		To 30th June 1953	12,868,366
		During Year 1953/54	60,068
		Expenditure on Works and Services	
		To 30th June, 1953	170,988,663
		During Year, 1953-54	15,824,178
		Balance of General Loan Fund	1,723,799
	208,376,675		208,376,675

(d) NET PUBLIC DEBT PER HEAD OF POPULATION ON 30TH JUNE EACH YEAR.

Year.	Debt per Head.		Debt per Head.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
1921	*124 15 11	1938	202 19 8
1922	137 1 0	1939	204 7 1
1923	142 9 6	1940	203 15 7
1924	146 13 6	1941	204 18 7
1925	146 3 11	1942	202 17 4
1926	155 14 8	1943	202 1 11
1927	157 14 4	1944	198 19 2
1928	165 10 7	1945	195 9 0
1929	162 6 9	1946	195 3 1
1930	163 9 9	1947	195 16 11
1931	174 2 6	1948	194 5 11
1932	180 3 8	1949	194 10 10
1933	187 4 8	1950	196 4 7
1934	193 7 6	1951	211 16 8
1935	197 11 11	1952	222 9 2
1936	199 7 10	1953	†244 10 10
1937	201 15 2	1954	257 11 9

* Compared with the previous year, £2 16s. 11d. of the increase is due to an adjustment in the figures of the population at the Census.

† Adjusted on corrected figures of population.

(e) CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AT 30TH JUNE, 1954.

	Securities Issued.	Re-deemed.	In Circulation.	Funds Invested.
Metropolitan Market Act	58,000	8,268	49,732	....
State Housing Act	859,000	52,238	806,762	....
State Electricity Commission Act	4,972,980	13,880	4,959,100	28,368
	5,889,980	74,386	5,815,594	28,368
Bank Guarantees in force	....	....	7,142,502	....
Total, Contingent Liabilities	....	....	12,958,096	....

[Return No. 13.]

IV. PUBLIC DEBT.

LOAN LIABILITY—STATEMENT SHOWING AMOUNTS MATURING EACH YEAR.

Earliest Date of Maturity.	Latest Date of Maturity.	Interest Rate.	Repayable in—		
			London.	New York.	Australia.
		%	£	£	£
....	1954	2½	*2,959,714	....	....
....	1954	2	....	....	936,420
1952	1954	3½	....	....	570,190
1952	1954	3½	....	....	3,167,950
....	1955	2	....	....	10,591,390
....	1955	3	....	....	7,198,000
1935	1955	3½	3,204,904	....	....
1953	1955	3½	....	....	2,467,805
1952	1955	5	....	852,975	....
1950	1956	3½	....	....	896,540
....	1957	3	....	....	1,435,000
1950	1957	3½	....	....	2,397,521
....	1957	3½	....	....	131,402
....	1957	3½	....	263,570	....
1950	1958	3½	....	....	1,471,010
....	1958	3½	....	....	152,385
1955	1958	3½	....	....	1,237,630
1950	1959	3½	....	....	481,700
....	1959	3½	....	....	331,057
1956	1959	3½	....	....	4,583,845
....	1960	3½	....	....	407,864
1950	1960	3½	....	....	895,600
1957	1960	3½	....	....	1,300,810
1950	1961	3½	....	....	5,159,700
1956	1961	3½	1,733,526	....	....
....	1961	3½	....	....	281,350
....	1961	4½	....	....	1,538,000
....	1962	3½	....	....	167,225
....	1962	3½	....	....	6,228,810
....	1962	4½	....	....	8,941,010
....	1963	3½	....	....	176,840
1960	1963	3½	....	....	11,819,010
....	1964	3½	....	....	1,566,000
....	1964	3½	....	....	143,657
1961	1964	3½	....	....	17,653,632
....	1965	3½	....	....	29,241
1962	1965	3½	....	....	6,181,100
....	1966	3½	....	....	417,104
....	1966	4½	....	....	5,477,000
....	1967	3½	....	....	501,790
....	1967	3½	....	252,954	....
....	1967	4½	....	....	5,997,800
....	1969	3½	....	....	367,454
1965	1969	3½	7,915,050	....	....
....	1970	3½	....	....	370,023
....	1971	3½	....	....	372,516
1967	1971	2½	3,150,661	....	....
....	1972	3½	....	....	374,936
....	1973	3½	....	....	547,495
....	1974	3½	....	....	746,756
1964	1974	3½	8,380,800	....	....
1972	1974	3	3,747,250	....	....
....	1975	3½	....	....	251,274
1970	1975	2½	4,100,003	....	....
....	1976	3½	....	....	3,971,792
....	1977	3½	....	....	1,846,818
1975	1977	3	627,700	....	....
....	1978	3½	....	....	2,093,321
....	1983	1	....	....	4,727,665
Average Rate 3.263 %			35,819,608	1,359,499	128,603,438
				165,782,545	

* Floating Debt.

[Return No. 14.]

IV. PUBLIC DEBT. SINKING FUND.

A.—TRANSACTIONS DURING THE YEAR, 1953-54.

Receipts:	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Balances brought forward, 1st July, 1953—				
National Debt Commission			930,677	11 7
Contributions:				
State—				
5s. per cent. on loan liability	414,225	10 8		
15s. per cent. on Special Deficit Loan	40,425	0 0		
4½ per cent. on cancelled securities	748,617	5 3		
Special contribution under clause 12 (20) of Financial Agreement	864	2 7		
Commonwealth—				
5s. and 2s. 6d. per cent. on loan liability	355,916	18 8		
Net earnings on investments	3,450	14 4		
			1,563,505	11 6
			2,494,183	3 1
Disbursements:				
Redemptions and Repurchases, etc., at net Cost (including Exchange)			2,083,342	0 10
Balance, Sinking Fund, 30th June, 1954			410,841	2 3
			2,494,183	3 1

B.—TRANSACTIONS FROM 1ST JULY, 1927, TO 30TH JUNE, 1954.

Receipts:	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Balances brought forward				
1st July, 1927—Endowment Policy (M.V. "Kangaroo"), Premiums paid	57,697	10 0		
1st July, 1929—Crown Agents	897,347	0 10		
			955,044	10 10
Contributions:				
On account M.V. "Kangaroo"	47,250	0 0		
On account, Crown Agents	40,312	13 5		
State—				
5s. per cent. on loan liability	6,702,696	7 1		
15s. per cent. on Special Deficit Loan	404,250	0 0		
4½ per cent. on cancelled securities	7,863,758	4 3		
Under Federal Aid Roads Act	373,084	13 1		
Special contribution on account loan for purchase of M.V. "Koolama"	206,905	8 4		
Exchange on contributions re M.V. "Koolama"	52,502	5 0		
Payment under Clause 12 (20) of Financial Agreement as amended	78,194	16 9		
Profit arising out of Conversion of a Loan in London	8,812	15 0		
Commonwealth—				
5s. and 2s. 6d. per cent. on Loan Liability	4,811,217	1 7		
Net earnings on investments	425,164	4 10		
Accretions to Endowment Policy at maturity	35,052	10 0		
Exchange on remittances	29,504	6 1		
			21,078,705	5 5
			22,033,749	16 3
Disbursements:				
Redemptions and Repurchases, etc.	20,310,863	1 9		
Repurchase from Special Sinking Fund	86,072	4 5		
Contributions refunded to the State	630	17 11		
Contributions to Crown Agents	39,934	2 8		
Premiums on Policy account M.V. "Kangaroo"	47,250	0 0		
Repayment of 1934 Loan (Crown Agents)	993,353	7 3		
Repayment of 1936 Loan (M.V. "Kangaroo")	140,000	0 0		
			21,622,908	14 0
Balance, 30th June, 1954—			410,841	2 3
National Debt Commission			22,033,749	16 3

[Return No. 15.]

IV.—PUBLIC DEBT.

SUMMARISED CLASSIFICATION OF LOAN ASSETS, 1953-54 (a).

Undertaking.*	Loan Liability. (b)	Capital Charges (c).			Net Earnings.	Surplus.	De- ficiency.
		Interest.	Sinking Fund.	Exchange.			
Fully Productive.							
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
State Engineering Works	149,525	4,477	1,160	346	19,942	13,959	.....
State Saw Mills	1,125,960	33,713	7,515	2,605	124,676	80,843	.....
State Hotels	78,516	2,351	534	182	14,761	11,694	.....
West Australian Meat Export Works	275,235	8,241	1,984	637	23,366	17,504	.....
Metropolitan Markets	145,620	4,360	1,133	337	8,073	2,248	.....
Small Loan Scheme	41	1	2	.....	13	10	.....
Bulk Handling—Bunbury	79,829	2,390	603	185	3,864	686	.....
Pine Planting and Re-forestation	1,844,515	55,228	13,541	4,263	76,269	3,232	.....
Abattoirs, Sales Yards, Grain Sheds and Cold Storage	1,039,107	31,113	6,932	2,405	47,646	7,196	.....
Kwinana Housing	1,602,500	47,982	4,600	3,703	60,055	3,765	.....
Loans to Public Bodies	15,345	461	164	35	876	216	.....
	6,356,193	190,317	38,163	14,708	384,546	141,353	.....
Partially Productive.							
Wyndham Meatworks	1,071,495	32,083	8,215	2,431	20,000	.....	22,779
Rural and Industries Bank—Government Agency and Delegated Agency	1,166,441	34,925	9,964	2,699	26,626	.....	16,982
Electricity Supply	11,917,576	356,836	97,653	27,578	396,180	.....	81,907
Harbours and Rivers (d)	11,552,984	345,920	80,224	26,734	8,301	.....	444,577
State Brickworks	846,119	25,354	6,270	1,958	15,005	.....	18,557
Soldiers Land Settlement (f)	1,934,485	57,922	14,831	4,476	12,133	.....	65,096
Rural and Industries Bank	7,078,231	238,885	55,733	18,462	226,769	.....	86,311
Plant Suspense	1,063,127	31,832	8,183	2,460	23,395	.....	19,080
Roads and Bridges	3,424,265	102,530	26,270	7,924	77,395	.....	59,329
Miscellaneous	975,442	29,206	7,130	2,257	2,828	.....	35,765
State Housing Commission	2,178,032	65,215	16,825	5,040	78,942	.....	8,138
Kwinana Area Development	293,149	8,777	572	678	825	.....	9,199
Mining Generally	1,700,815	50,925	12,600	3,935	10,602	.....	56,853
Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage	28,820,721	862,950	207,101	66,692	226,182	.....	910,581
Assistance to Industries	207,414	6,210	1,976	480	155	.....	8,511
Charcoal Iron and Steel Industry	1,350,169	40,427	9,761	3,124	321	.....	52,991
	76,480,465	2,289,977	549,308	176,978	1,119,642	.....	1,896,621
Totally Unproductive.							
Railways (g)	38,360,642	1,148,595	251,667	88,768	†2,790,635	.....	4,279,665
Tramways	1,377,269	41,238	11,708	3,187	†118,459	.....	174,592
Assessed Expired Capital—(A)							
Railways	12,241,501	366,535	93,859	28,327	.....	.....	488,721
Tramways	665,375	19,923	4,549	1,540	.....	.....	26,012
Electricity	1,272,666	38,106	9,757	2,945	.....	.....	50,808
Frequency Changer—Metropolitan District	417,416	12,498	2,057	986	.....	.....	15,521
Kent River Mill	157,976	4,730	1,062	366	.....	.....	6,158
State Shipping Service	745,974	22,336	3,800	1,726	†498,792	.....	526,654
Group Settlement	2,955,747	88,501	22,660	6,839	.....	.....	118,000
Rabbit Proof Fence	332,527	9,957	2,549	770	.....	.....	13,276
Agriculture Generally	3,265,568	97,778	26,817	7,557	†40,193	.....	172,350
State Batteries	479,493	14,357	3,487	1,110	†78,952	.....	97,908
Public Buildings, including Schools, Police Stations, Gaols, Court Houses, etc.	13,278,865	397,595	89,871	30,729	†288,275	.....	806,470
Aborigines Stations	145,852	4,367	1,118	337	†232,450	.....	238,272
Bulk Handling—Albany	6,765	203	52	16	.....	.....	271
Bulk Handling—Geraldton	1,370	41	.....	3	.....	.....	44
Ferries	9,612	288	79	22	†7,764	.....	3,153
Tourists Resorts	145,189	4,348	1,051	336	†15,727	.....	21,462
Campan Alunite Deposits	220,126	6,501	4,988	509	.....	.....	12,088
Welshpool Industries	354,421	10,612	2,685	820	†10,820	.....	24,937
	76,434,354	2,288,599	533,816	176,873	†4,082,072	.....	7,081,360
Summary.							
Fully Productive	6,356,193	190,317	38,168	14,708	384,546	141,353	.....
Partially Productive	76,480,465	2,289,977	549,308	176,978	1,119,642	.....	1,896,621
Totally Unproductive	76,434,354	2,288,599	533,816	176,873	†4,082,072	.....	7,081,360
Special Deficit Loan	4,727,665	48,078	66,626	.....	.....	.....	114,704
Deficits Funded	60,069	1,799	.....	139	.....	.....	1,938
Balance of General Loan Fund	1,728,709	51,614	15,350	3,989	.....	.....	70,958
	165,782,545	4,870,384	1,203,268	372,687	†2,577,884	141,353	9,165,576

Public Debt, 30th June, 1954

£165,782,545

Net Deficiency £9,024,223

*For details see Return No. 11. †Debit.

(a) This statement distributes the net cost of loan charges for the year over the various assets. (b) Total expenditure from loan funds (including the proportionate cost of raising), after allowing for sinking fund redemptions and other adjustments. (c) Actual expenditure averaged over all assets. (d) To this should be added £385,524 included in Railway Capital. (e) Represents expenditure by P.W.D. on roads, bridges and drainage, and by Lands Department on repurchased estates. (f) Includes £385,524 being part of Capital Expenditure on Harbours and Jetties controlled by Railway Department. (g) Capital Charges met by Treasury.

[Return No. 16.]

IV.—PUBLIC DEBT.

DETAILED CLASSIFICATION OF LOAN ASSETS 1953-54.*

Undertaking.	Loan Liability.	Capital Charges (a).			Net Earnings.	Surplus.	Deficiency.
		Interest.	Sinking Fund.	Ex-change.			
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Railways (b)	38,360,642	1,148,595	251,687	88,768	†2,790,035	.....	4,279,665
Railways—Assessed Expired Capital (c)	12,241,501	366,535	98,859	28,327	.....	.....	488,721
Tramways	1,377,269	41,238	11,708	3,187	†118,459	.....	174,592
Tramways—Assessed Expired Capital (c)	665,375	19,923	4,549	1,540	.....	.....	26,012
Electricity Supply	11,917,576	356,836	87,053	27,578	390,160	.....	81,907
Electricity Supply—Assessed Expired Capital (c)	1,272,660	38,108	9,757	2,945	.....	.....	50,808
Frequency Changer—Met. District	417,416	12,498	2,057	966	.....	.....	15,521
	66,252,445	1,983,781	461,250	153,311	†2,518,934	.....	5,117,226
<i>Harbours and Rivers.</i>							
Fremantle Harbour Trust	4,154,551	124,388	30,787	9,814	250,801	91,804	.....
Fremantle Other	819,866	24,548	6,271	1,897	4,017	.....	28,699
Bunbury Harbour Board	1,165,681	34,908	8,836	2,697	†37,837	.....	84,073
Bunbury Other	285,871	8,553	2,190	661	†40,401	.....	51,805
Geraldton (c)	709,463	21,243	5,440	1,642	†2,031	.....	30,350
Albany	1,581,732	47,331	10,493	3,660	14,964	.....	48,555
Esperance (c)	15,851	475	122	37	†11	.....	645
Busselton (c)	32,902	985	252	76	†1	.....	1,314
North-West Ports	639,845	19,158	4,855	1,481	†168,748	.....	192,237
Swan River	598,420	17,858	4,389	1,380	†4,452	.....	23,059
Dredges, Steamers and Plant	623,043	18,078	3,891	1,443	†2,750	.....	26,786
Other Jetties and Works	155,359	4,652	1,191	380	†13,046	.....	19,249
Cockburn Sound	771,980	23,115	1,722	1,786	.....	.....	26,623
(c)	11,562,984	345,920	80,224	28,734	8,301	.....	444,577
<i>Water Supplies.</i>							
Metropolitan	13,897,039	416,123	96,878	32,180	736,412	101,251	.....
Goldfields Water Scheme	5,201,594	155,746	38,137	12,036	†302,389	.....	508,308
Country Towns	2,272,623	68,047	16,056	5,259	†43,314	.....	132,706
Country Areas	2,060,523	61,696	15,122	4,788	†40,998	.....	122,584
Goldfields Areas	987,205	28,960	7,415	2,238	†8,820	.....	47,433
Irrigation and Drainage	3,929,643	117,662	30,107	9,993	†115,844	.....	272,806
Other Works	225,465	6,751	1,637	522	†2,882	.....	11,792
Sewerage for Country Towns	266,029	7,965	1,749	616	4,147	.....	6,183
	26,820,721	862,950	207,101	66,692	226,182	.....	910,561
<i>Trading Concerns.</i>							
Wyndham Meatworks	1,071,495	32,083	8,215	2,481	20,000	.....	22,779
Brickworks	846,119	25,334	6,270	1,958	15,005	.....	18,557
Engineering Works	149,525	4,477	1,160	346	19,942	13,959	.....
Saw Mills	1,125,960	33,713	7,515	2,605	124,676	80,843	.....
Kent River Mill	157,978	4,730	1,062	366	.....	.....	6,158
Shipping Service	745,974	22,338	3,800	1,726	†498,792	.....	526,654
Hotels	78,516	2,351	534	182	14,761	11,694	.....
West Australian Meat Export Works	275,235	8,241	1,984	637	28,366	17,504	.....
	4,450,800	133,265	30,540	10,801	†276,042	.....	450,148
<i>Development of Agriculture.</i>							
Soldiers' Land Settlement (d)	1,934,485	57,922	14,891	4,476	12,133	.....	65,096
Rural and Industries Bank	7,978,231	238,885	55,733	18,402	226,769	.....	86,311
Rural and Industries Bank—Government Agency and Delegated Agency	1,166,441	34,925	5,964	2,609	26,026	.....	16,962
Group Settlement	2,955,747	88,501	22,660	6,839	.....	.....	118,000
Rabbit-proof Fence	332,527	9,957	2,549	770	.....	.....	13,276
Generally	3,265,568	97,778	26,817	7,557	†40,193	.....	172,350
	17,632,999	527,963	128,554	40,803	225,330	.....	471,995

* This statement distributes the net cost of loan charges for the year over the various assets.

† Debit.

[Return No. 16—continued.]

IV.—PUBLIC DEBT.

DETAILED CLASSIFICATION OF LOAN ASSETS 1953-54—continued.

Undertaking.	Loan Liability.	Capital Charges. (a)			Net Earnings.	Surplus.	De- ficiency.
		Interest.	Sinking Fund.	Ex- change.			
<i>Abattoirs, Saleyards, etc.</i>							
Metropolitan Abattoirs	£ 883,295	£ 26,448	£ 5,738	£ 2,044	£ 42,735	£ 8,505	£
Kalgoorlie Abattoirs	84,030	2,516	644	195	4,911	1,556	.....
Generally	71,782	2,149	550	166	.....	.....	2,865
	1,039,107	31,113	6,932	2,405	47,646	7,196	.....
<i>Development of Mining.</i>							
State Batteries	479,493	14,857	8,487	1,110	178,952	.....	97,906
Generally	1,700,815	50,925	12,600	3,935	10,602	.....	56,558
	2,180,308	65,282	16,087	5,045	198,350	.....	164,764
<i>Public Buildings.</i>							
Education (including Narrogin School of Agriculture and Muresk College of Agriculture)	6,518,897	195,189	43,463	15,085	177,359	.....	431,096
Police Stations, Quarters, etc.	257,204	7,701	1,779	595	120,619	.....	30,694
Court House, Quarters, etc.	47,123	1,411	365	109	120,225	.....	22,110
Goals	99,908	2,812	720	217	141,402	.....	45,151
Hospitals	4,265,630	127,732	28,442	9,871	72,691	.....	93,344
Institutions	909,200	37,222	6,450	2,104	116,103	.....	51,885
Buildings generally	1,166,689	35,538	8,646	2,748	786,258	.....	132,190
	13,278,866	397,595	89,871	30,720	1288,275	.....	806,470
<i>All Other.</i>							
Aborigines Stations	145,852	4,367	1,118	337	1232,450	.....	238,272
Assistance to Industries	207,414	6,210	1,976	480	155	.....	8,511
Bulk Handling—Albany	6,765	203	52	16	.....	.....	271
Bulk Handling—Bunbury	79,820	2,390	603	185	3,864	686	.....
Bulk Handling—Geraldton	1,370	41	.....	3	.....	.....	44
Ferries	9,612	288	79	22	17,764	.....	8,153
Loans to Public Bodies	15,345	461	164	35	276	216	.....
Metropolitan Markets	145,620	4,360	1,133	337	8,078	2,243	.....
Miscellaneous	975,442	29,206	7,130	2,257	2,328	.....	35,765
Pine Planting and Re-forestation	1,844,515	55,228	13,541	4,268	70,269	8,232	.....
Plant Suspense	1,063,127	31,832	8,183	2,460	23,395	.....	19,030
Roads and Bridges	3,424,265	102,530	26,270	7,924	77,395	.....	59,329
Small Loans Scheme—State Housing Commission	41	1	2	.....	13	10	.....
Charcoal Iron and Steel Industry	1,350,169	40,427	9,761	3,124	321	.....	52,991
Tourist Resorts	145,180	4,348	1,051	336	115,727	.....	21,462
State Housing Commission	2,178,032	65,215	16,825	5,040	78,942	.....	8,138
Campan Alumite Deposits	220,126	6,591	4,088	609	.....	.....	12,038
Welshpool Industries	354,421	10,612	2,655	820	110,820	.....	24,937
Kwinana Area Development	293,149	8,777	572	678	828	.....	9,199
Kwinana Area Housing	1,602,500	47,032	4,600	3,708	90,055	3,765	.....
Special Deficit Loans	4,727,665	18,078	60,626	.....	.....	.....	114,704
Deficits Funded	60,069	1,790	.....	139	.....	.....	1,938
Balance of General Loan Fund	1,723,799	51,614	15,350	3,939	.....	.....	70,953
	20,574,316	522,560	182,709	36,667	66,258	.....	675,678
TOTAL	165,732,545	4,870,384	1,203,208	372,687	12,377,884	.....	9,024,223
Public Debt, 30th June, 1954	165,732,545						

† Debit.

(a) Actual Expenditure averaged over all assets.

(b) Includes £385,524 being part of Capital Expenditure on Harbours and Jetties controlled by Railway Dept.

(c) To this should be added £385,524 included in Railway Capital in respect of the following Harbours and Jetties—Busselton, £37,997; Geraldton, £232,433; Esperance, £65,030.

(d) Represents expenditure by P.W.D. on roads, bridges and drainage, and by Lands Department on repurchased estates.

(e) Capital Charges met by Treasury.

[Return No. 17.]

V.—BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF OPERATIONS.

(a) Public Utilities.

Public Utility.	Return No.	Trading Results 1953-54	
		Profit.	Loss.
		£	£
Fremantle Harbour Trust	18	.....	6,036
Country Areas Water Supply	19	.....	639,095
Other Hydraulic Undertakings .....	.....	(a)	(a)
Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage	20	64,991	.....
Railways Commission	21	.....	4,514,604
Tramways	22	.....	156,912
Ferries	23	.....	8,803
State Batteries	24	.....	118,826
Caves House	25	.....	2,955
Total .....	.....	.....	5,382,240

(a) No composite commercial accounts are prepared.

In Return 18 the average cost of Servicing the Public Debt has been applied to all undertakings. In Return 17-25 the figures as shown have been prepared in accordance with the published Commercial Accounts of the Utilities.

[Return No. 18.]

FREMANTLE HARBOUR TRUST.

Details.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.
	£	£	£	£	£
Loan Capital	2,976,677	3,119,590	3,570,368	4,035,606	4,128,141
Revenue Capital	140,497	206,545	320,754	296,276	300,209
Total	3,117,174	3,326,135	3,891,122	4,331,882	4,428,350
Total Annual Revenue	1,243,046	1,497,436	1,923,402	1,815,520	2,029,053
Working Expenses	742,596	983,358	1,354,466	1,430,592	1,579,741
Interest	117,791	119,067	124,593	142,006	159,642
Depreciation including Sinking Fund	32,721	146,217	186,405	242,397	281,634
Provisions and Other Charges	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Total Annual Cost	895,108	1,250,642	1,667,464	1,816,995	2,023,017
Profit	347,938	246,794	255,938	.....	.....
Loss .....	.....	.....	.....	1,475	6,036

[Return No. 19.]

V.—BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS.
COUNTRY AREAS WATER SUPPLY.

Details.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.
	£	£	£	£	£
Loan Capital	3,762,485	4,202,883	4,496,944	4,711,330	4,841,781
Total Annual Revenue	346,660	359,468	366,755	398,057	432,502
Working Expenses	321,642	415,152	510,211	692,473	728,562
Interest	149,911	161,710	184,214	197,395	211,299
Depreciation including Sinking Fund	91,705	94,370	107,489	118,677	129,097
Provisions and Other Charges....	3,356	2,086	4,484	1,491	2,639
Total Annual Cost	566,614	673,318	806,398	1,010,036	1,071,597
Loss	219,954	313,850	439,643	611,979	639,095

[Return No. 20.]

METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY, SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

Details.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.
	£	£	£	£	£
Loan Capital	9,409,782	10,199,805	11,273,319	12,637,095	13,897,638
Total Annual Revenue	727,069	776,994	883,789	1,021,410	1,353,975
Working Expenses	271,207	347,567	445,032	546,820	644,540
Interest	369,016	394,523	434,971	478,478	536,613
Depreciation including Sinking Fund	52,177	55,985	88,448	97,886	107,831
Total Annual Cost	692,400	798,075	968,451	1,123,184	1,288,984
Profit	34,669	.....	.....	.....	64,991
Loss .....	.....	21,081	84,662	101,774	.....

[Return No. 21.]

V.—BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS.

RAILWAYS COMMISSION.

Details.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.
	£	£	£	£	£
Loan Capital	29,530,921	19,256,385	26,373,297	32,827,629	38,360,642
Loan Capital—non-interest bearing .....	.....	12,326,349	12,326,349	12,326,349	12,326,349
Revenue Capital	640,062	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total	30,170,983	31,582,734	38,699,646	45,153,978	50,686,991
Total Annual Revenue	6,472,049	7,196,214	9,163,532	7,972,259	11,374,307
Working Expenses	7,501,395	8,618,863	10,601,918	12,023,188	13,653,573
Interest	1,093,147	741,592	744,903	869,919	1,175,667
Depreciation including Sinking Fund .....	.....	520,583	660,394	777,043	898,365
Rehabilitation of fully depreciated assets (a) .....	.....	.....	.....	(a) 184,865	(a) 161,306
Total Annual Cost	8,594,542	9,881,038	12,007,215	13,855,015	15,888,911
Loss	2,122,493	2,684,824	2,843,683	5,882,756	4,514,604

(a) Refunded from General Loan Fund in following year.

[Return No. 22.]

TRAMWAYS.

Details.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.
	£	£	£	£	£
Loan Capital	1,575,819	1,796,685	1,341,121	1,528,704	1,377,268
Loan Capital—Non-interest bearing .....	.....	.....	593,426	591,932	665,375
Total	1,575,819	1,796,685	1,934,547	2,120,636	2,042,643
Total Annual Revenue	603,778	744,890	982,375	1,114,678	1,065,659
Working Expenses	692,386	733,555	955,861	1,055,036	1,062,085
Interest	32,685	37,056	51,140	54,072	57,696
Depreciation including Sinking Fund	54,569	56,481	86,719	102,571	102,790
Provisions and Other Charges .....	.....	.....	.....	19,400	.....
Total Annual Cost	779,640	827,092	1,093,720	1,231,079	1,222,571
Loss	175,862	82,202	111,345	116,401	156,912

[Return No. 23.]

V.—BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS.**FERRIES.**

Details.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.
	£	£	£	£	£
Loan Capital	13,318	12,486	11,070	10,303	9,612
Revenue Capital	1,822	1,638	1,521	1,404	1,287
Total	15,140	14,124	12,591	11,707	10,899
Total Annual Revenue	12,669	10,311	11,472	12,384	10,754
Working Expenses	15,145	15,032	16,348	18,179	18,272
Interest	501	517	458	428	399
Depreciation including Sinking Fund	650	1,016	883	882	886
Total Annual Cost	16,296	16,565	17,689	19,489	19,557
Loss	3,627	6,254	6,217	7,105	8,803

[Return No. 24.]

STATE BATTERIES.

Details.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.	1953.
	£	£	£	£	£
Loan Capital	413,924	422,137	424,660	427,609	443,252
Total Annual Revenue	55,440	82,163	77,151	76,580	47,644
Working Expenses	74,329	106,871	138,171	148,447	130,963
Interest	17,569	16,737	16,986	17,105	17,730
Depreciation including Sinking Fund	6,707	10,144	13,713	11,888	15,982
Provisions and Other Charges	1,453	1,481	1,363	1,772	1,795
Total Annual Cost	100,058	135,233	170,233	179,212	166,470
Loss	44,618	53,070	93,082	102,632	118,826

[Return No. 25.]

V.—BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS.

CAVES HOUSE.

Details.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.
	£	£	£	£	£
Loan Capital	32,549	33,016	34,127	34,127	34,206
Total Annual Revenue	22,988	24,063	31,353	31,544	34,106
Working Expenses	21,748	23,867	30,127	31,518	35,351
Interest	1,302	1,302	1,365	1,365	1,368
Depreciation	194	258	330	308	342
Total Annual Cost	23,244	25,427	31,822	33,191	37,061
Loss	256	1,364	469	1,647	2,955

[Return No. 26.]

SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF OPERATIONS.

(b) State Trading Concerns.

Trading Concern.	Return No.	Trading Results, 1952-53.	
		Profit.	Loss.
		£	£
State Engineering Works	27	35,552	....
State Brickworks	28	....	4,754
State Sawmills	29	77,677	....
State Shipping Service (a)	30	....	....
Wyndham Freezing Works	31	6,036	....
State Hotels	32	5,576	....
W.A. Meat Export Works	33	15,917	....
Net Profit ....	....	136,004	....

(a) After receipt of Treasury Grant of £588,274.

In Return 16 the average cost of servicing the Public Debt has been applied to all undertakings. In Return 26-33 the figures as shown have been prepared in accordance with the published Commercial Accounts of the Concerns.

[Return No. 27.]

V.—BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS.
STATE ENGINEERING WORKS.

Details.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.
Loan Capital	£ 153,924	£ 152,255	£ 152,632	£ 151,286	£ Details not available.
Revenue Capital ....	....	14,233	82,839	105,077
Total	153,924	166,488	235,471	256,363	
Earnings	341,306	402,613	488,467	500,790	
Increase in Stocks ....	....	6,487	....	....
Decrease in Stocks	3,904	....	18,082	3,339
Total Annual Revenue	337,312	409,100	470,385	497,451	
Working Expenses	274,514	350,060	401,126	420,642	
Interest	5,993	6,124	6,550	6,971	
Depreciation including Sinking Fund	(a) 17,001	(a) 18,436	(a) 18,774	(a) 18,906	
Provisions and Other Charges	9,792	11,460	14,609	15,380	
Total Annual Cost	307,300	386,080	441,059	461,899	
Profit	30,012	23,020	29,326	35,552	

(a) Includes Sinking Fund charged, in the accounts of the Concern as follows :—
£994 £1,076 £1,122 £1,180.

[Return No. 28.]

STATE BRICKWORKS.

Details.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.
Loan Capital	£ 48,693	£ 183,382	£ 427,208	£ 810,207	£ Details not available.
Revenue Capital	1,774	1,774	1,774	26,862	
Total	50,467	185,156	428,982	837,069	
Earnings	75,236	92,273	139,799	234,250	
Increase in Stocks ....	....	305	5,419	2,934
Decrease in Stocks	63	....	....	....
Total Annual Revenue	75,173	92,578	145,218	237,184	
Working Expenses	67,175	84,163	139,797	215,055	
Interest	2,164	2,946	3,002	7,805	
Depreciation including Sinking Fund	3,474	4,652	7,585	15,412	
Provisions and Other Charges	2,150	1,350	2,628	3,666	
Total Annual Cost	74,963	93,111	153,012	241,938	
Profit	210	....	....	....
Loss	533	7,794	4,754	

[Return No. 29.]

V.—BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS.

STATE SAW MILLS.

Details.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.
Loan Capital	£ 405,958	£ 537,390	£ 672,394	£ 980,273	Details not available.
Earnings	1,054,912	1,206,682	1,534,650	2,054,587	
Increase in Stocks	12,879	64,183	131,576	.....
Decrease in Stocks .....	.....	.....	.....	5,271
Total Annual Revenue	1,067,791	1,270,865	1,666,226	2,049,316	
Working Expenses	903,665	1,178,111	1,586,231	1,856,353	
Interest	14,319	17,889	31,157	39,582	
Depreciation including Sinking Fund (a)	17,858	22,215	32,521	53,303	
Provisions and Other Charges	71,960	23,549	9,497	22,401	
Total Annual Cost	1,007,802	1,241,764	1,659,406	1,971,639	
Profit	59,989	29,101	6,820	77,677	

(a) On assets acquired since 1940-41—no depreciation charge made for assets acquired prior to 1940-41.

[Return No. 30.]

STATE SHIPPING SERVICE.

Details.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.	1953.
Loan Capital (a)	£ 346,396	£ 386,396	£ 388,896	£ 495,681	£ 492,980
Earnings	341,983	421,736	498,579	587,491	645,797
Treasury Grant	437,166	259,316	360,818	495,568	588,274
Total Annual Revenue	779,149	681,052	859,397	1,083,059	1,234,071
Working Expenses	589,970	669,667	851,408	1,029,887	1,185,141
Interest	16,534	14,953	16,229	19,091	20,512
Depreciation including Sinking Fund	(b) 11,005	(b) 11,193	(b) 9,399	21,833	21,119
Provisions and Other Charges	201,660	11,676	9,989	12,248	7,299
Total Annual Cost	819,178	707,489	887,025	1,083,069	1,234,071
Loss	40,029	26,437	27,628	.....	.....

(a) Excludes Loan Capital written off amounting to £595,675.

(b) Sinking Fund not charged in the accounts of the Concern but included for comparison as follows :—

£1,732. £1,832. £1,945.

[Return No. 31.]

V.—BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS.

WYNDHAM MEAT WORKS.

Details.	1-2-49 to 31-1-50.	1-2-50 to 31-1-51.	1-2-51 to 31-1-52.	1-2-52 to 31-1-53.	1-2-53 to 31-1-54.
	£	£	£	£	£
Loan Capital	1,072,271	1,072,271	1,071,545	1,071,545	1,071,495
Revenue Capital	11,273	11,273	11,273	11,273	11,273
Total	1,083,544	1,083,544	1,082,818	1,082,818	1,082,768
Earnings	667,880	786,394	886,685	770,881	978,289
Increase in Stocks	10	.....	520	.....	4,484
Decrease in Stocks .....	.....	43	.....	509	.....
Total Annual Revenue	667,890	786,351	887,205	770,372	982,773
Working Expenses	605,726	713,409	818,648	714,489	902,268
Interest	45,125	42,891	42,868	42,862	42,862
Depreciation including Sinking Fund (a)	5,362	5,362	5,358	5,358	5,358
Provisions and Other Charges	12,500	10,000	10,000	6,985	10,000
Total Annual Cost	668,713	771,662	876,874	769,694	960,488
Profit .....	.....	14,689	10,331	678	22,285
Loss	823	.....	.....	.....	.....

(a) Sinking Fund not charged in the accounts of the Concern, but included for comparison as follows :—

£5,362	£5,362	£5,358	£5,358	£5,358
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[Return No. 32.]

STATE HOTELS.

Details.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.
	£	£	£	£	£
Loan Capital	66,836	65,589	65,095	69,649	Details not Available.
Total Annual Revenue	145,005	159,822	190,281	211,971	
Working Expenses	133,226	145,736	174,806	200,856	
Interest	2,754	2,673	2,623	2,685	
Depreciation including Sinking Fund	2,403	2,469	2,557	2,854	
Provisions and Other Charges .....	.....	2,000	2,000	.....
Total Annual Cost	138,383	152,878	181,986	206,395	
Profit	6,622	6,944	8,295	5,576	

[Return No. 33.]

V.—BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS.

WEST AUSTRALIAN MEAT EXPORT WORKS.

Details.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.
Loan Capital	£ 254,307	£ 262,579	£ 260,723	£ 258,783	Details not Available.
Revenue Capital	7,380	7,380	7,380	....
Total	261,687	269,959	268,103	258,783	
Total Annual Revenue	173,726	263,765	342,514	436,331	
Working Expenses	157,893	224,138	292,007	376,626	
Interest	9,955	10,504	10,835	10,663	
Depreciation including Sinking Fund	12,821	15,712	23,527	23,529	
Provisions and Other Charges	2,239	4,254	6,518	9,596	
Total Annual Cost	182,908	254,608	332,887	420,414	
Profit .....	.....	9,157	9,627	15,917	
Loss	9,182	.....	.....	.....

[Return No. 34.]

SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF OPERATIONS.

C. Other Business Undertakings.

Undertaking.	Return No.	Trading Results 1952-53.	
		Profit.	Loss.
State Electricity Commission	35	£ 46,618	£
Rural and Industries Bank—Rural Department	36	21,274	.....
Rural and Industries Bank—Government Agency Department	37	.....	25,309
State Government Insurance Office	38	197,619	.....
Charcoal Iron and Steel Industry	39	.....	44,404
Albany Harbour Board	40	.....	102
Bunbury Harbour Board	41	.....	81,486
Metropolitan Market Trust	42	59	.....
Net Profit .....	.....	114,369	.....

In Return 16 the average cost of servicing the Public Debt has been applied to all undertakings. In Returns 34-42 the figures as shown have been prepared in accordance with the published Commercial Accounts of the Undertakings.

[Return No. 35.]

V.—BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS.
STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION.

Details.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.
	£	£	£	£	£
Loan Capital	5,141,555	8,255,022	11,502,021	11,433,525	11,917,577
Loan Capital—Non-interest bearing .....	....	1,272,666	1,272,666	1,272,666	1,272,666
Total	5,141,555	9,527,688	12,774,687	12,706,191	13,190,243
Total Annual Revenue	1,977,699	2,684,610	3,848,664	5,030,459	5,726,390
Working Expenses	1,948,317	2,617,899	3,685,525	4,471,334	4,998,736
Interest	108,400	146,903	282,872	512,507	606,863
Total Annual Cost	2,056,717	2,764,802	3,968,397	4,983,841	5,605,599
Profit .....	....	....	....	46,618	120,791
Loss	79,018	70,192	119,733	....	....

[Return No. 36.]

RURAL AND INDUSTRIES BANK OF W.A. (RURAL DEPARTMENT).

Financial Years ending 30th September.

Details.	1950.	1951.	1952.	1953.	1954.
	£	£	£	£	
Loan Capital	6,113,510	6,729,885	6,921,351	7,447,141	Details not Available.
Total Annual Revenue	321,998	416,341	511,548	550,239	
Working Expenses	108,951	157,472	224,002	246,895	
Interest	176,857	193,728	215,070	225,313	
Depreciation	8,092	10,637	16,692	20,468	
Provisions and Other Charges	15,604	37,668	38,335	36,289	
Total Annual Cost	309,504	399,505	494,099	528,965	
Profit	12,494	16,836	17,449	21,274	
General Reserve	89,137	105,973	123,422	144,696	

[Return No. 37.]

V.—BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS.

RURAL AND INDUSTRIES BANK OF W.A.

(Government Agency Department.)

Financial Years ending 30th September.

Details.	1950.	1951.	1952.	1953.	1954.
Loan Capital	£ 1,903,711	£ 1,083,070	£ 828,903	£ 653,505	£ Details not available.
Total Annual Revenue	86,860	63,016	42,492	28,487	
Working Expenses	75,350	57,835	36,145	22,245	
Interest	82,088	61,208	38,923	30,703	
Bad Debts	74,771	31,310	4,934	848	
Total Annual Cost	232,209	150,353	80,002	53,796	
Loss	145,349	87,337	37,510	25,309	

[Return No. 38.]

STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE OFFICE.

Details.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.
Total Assets	£ 1,273,537	£ 1,475,757	£ 1,770,839	£ 2,025,898	£ Details not available.
Earned Premiums	394,040	430,145	504,796	552,781	
Other Revenue (Interest and Rents)	30,358	34,793	41,682	50,403	
Total Annual Revenue	424,398	464,938	546,478	603,184	
Claims Paid and Outstanding	221,451	221,137	198,004	338,977	
Working Expenses (including Taxes, Rebates, etc.)	37,573	38,365	50,230	68,588	
Total Annual Cost	259,024	259,502	246,234	405,565	
Taken to Reserves—					
Surplus	165,374	205,436	300,246	197,619	
Deficiency .....	....	....	....	....
Total Reserves	977,513	1,182,949	1,483,195	1,680,814	

[Return No. 39.]

V.—BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS.
CHARCOAL IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY.

Details.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.
	£	£	£	£	£
Loan Capital	830,000	1,131,518	1,182,792	1,271,031	1,350,169
Earnings	129,788	217,191	336,210	323,718	Details not Available.
Increase in Stocks	25,313	48,334	47,674	93,325	
Decrease in Stocks .....	....	....	....	....
Total Annual Revenue	155,101	265,525	383,884	417,043	
Working Expenses	210,933	292,772	282,246	375,232	
Interest	29,339	36,316	45,217	47,936	
Depreciation	32,440	37,527	34,721	37,620	
Provisions and Other Charges .....	....	95	....	659
Total Annual Cost	272,712	366,710	462,184	461,447	
Loss	117,601	101,185	78,300	44,404	

[Return No. 40.]

ALBANY HARBOUR BOARD.

Details.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.
	£	£	£	£	£
Loan Capital	133,078	289,208	828,976	1,203,635	Details not Available.
Total Annual Revenue	2,496	27,691	31,620	35,520	
Working Expenses	2,241	16,479	27,939	30,304	
Interest	1,085	4,466	5,029	5,318	
Total Annual Cost	3,326	20,945	32,968	35,622	
Profit .....	....	6,746	....	....
Loss	830	....	1,348	102	

[Return No. 41.]

BUNBURY HARBOUR BOARD.

Details.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.
	£	£	£	£	£
Loan Capital	815,997	1,002,244	1,259,942	1,332,646	1,371,970
Total Annual Revenue	20,508	20,600	21,159	29,468	34,147
Working Expenses	38,532	42,747	49,180	60,296	73,513
Interest	28,088	32,640	40,090	50,398	53,314
Depreciation	468	426	399	260	291
Total Annual Cost	67,088	75,813	89,669	110,954	127,118
Loss	46,580	55,213	68,510	81,486	92,971

[Return No. 42.]

V.—BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS.
METROPOLITAN MARKET TRUST.

Details.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.
Loan Capital	£ 158,963	£ 166,556	£ 173,899	£ 180,949	£ 195,351
Total Annual Revenue	24,189	26,469	28,008	32,803	41,929
Working Expenses	11,240	12,516	15,840	19,166	21,979
Interest	6,521	6,828	6,881	6,993	7,470
Depreciation including Sinking Fund	2,229	2,380	2,657	2,950	4,599
Provisions and Other Charges	3,562	4,165	3,279	3,635	7,824
Total Annual Cost	23,552	25,889	28,657	32,744	41,872
Profit	637	580	.....	59	56
Loss .....	.....	.....	649	.....	.....

[Return No. 43.]

VI.—TRUST FUNDS.

HOSPITAL FUND.—TRANSACTIONS DURING THE YEARS 1949-50 TO 1953-54.

Details.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.
<i>Receipts.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Balance from previous year .....	.....	744	.....	.....	.....
Treasury Grants	1,120,353	1,392,047	2,000,269	2,036,918	2,350,047
Miscellaneous Receipts	1,865	2,043	2,210	18,408	29,639
	1,122,218	1,394,864	2,003,479	2,055,326	2,379,686
<i>Payments.</i>					
Administration Expenditure	15,607	21,048	30,320	37,008	45,636
Hospitals Expenditure—					
Departmental	347,778	410,811	617,370	694,911	748,761
Non-Departmental Subsidies, etc.	728,066	921,166	1,264,647	1,267,379	1,511,052
Miscellaneous	29,993	41,839	91,142	56,028	74,237
Balance at end of year	774	.....	.....	.....	.....
	1,122,218	1,394,864	2,003,479	2,055,326	2,379,686

[Return No. 44.]

VI.—TRUST FUNDS.

ROAD FUNDS.—TRANSACTIONS DURING THE YEAR 1953-54.

Details.	Main Roads Trust.	Common- wealth Aid Roads, 1950.	Metro- politan Traffic Trust Account.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
Balances from year 1952-53	167,224	120,520	86,527	374,271
Receipts during year—				
License Fees and Permits .....	.....	.....	523,467	523,467
Recoups by Local Authorities	229,676	.....	.....	229,676
Commonwealth Government Recoup	12,562	.....	.....	12,562
Commonwealth Grants .....	.....	3,190,740	.....	3,190,740
Miscellaneous Receipts	27,710	.....	.....	27,710
Other Receipts in Suspense .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	437,172	3,311,260	609,994	4,358,426
Transfer to Other Funds	54,000	219,523	76,836	350,359
Transfer from Other Funds	350,359	.....	.....	350,359
Totals	733,531	3,091,737	533,158	4,358,426
Payments during year—				
Administration, Plant, Office Equipment, etc.	182,252	.....	55,126	237,378
Transferred to Consolidated Revenue Fund .....	.....	.....	70,000	70,000
Treasury—Interest and Sinking Fund	7,396	.....	.....	7,396
Road Construction, Maintenance Surveys, etc.	300,898	2,937,534	.....	3,238,432
Distribution to Local and Statutory Authorities .....	.....	.....	295,713	295,713
Traffic Control Lights, etc. ....	.....	.....	18,844	18,844
Other payments in Suspense	7,318	.....	.....	7,318
Totals	497,864	2,937,534	439,683	3,875,081
Balances on hand at 30th June, 1954	235,667	154,203	93,475	483,345

[Return No. 45.]

VI. TRUST FUNDS.

FOREST IMPROVEMENT AND RE-FORESTATION FUND—TRANSACTIONS DURING THE YEARS,
1949-50 TO 1953-54.

Details.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.
<i>Receipts.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Balance from previous year	393	947	460	1,883	217
Appropriation from Revenue Fund	130,914	150,314	188,651	250,165	294,980
Treasury—Special Grant	87,000	112,000	114,000	83,248	164,500
Sundry Receipts	32,346	59,179	59,393	103,711	125,544
	270,653	322,440	362,504	439,007	585,241
<i>Payments.</i>					
Expenditure on Forest Improvements and Re-forestation during year	269,706	321,980	360,621	438,790	574,407
Balance at end of year	947	460	1,883	217	10,834
	270,653	322,440	362,504	439,007	585,241

[Return No. 46.]

THE STATE HOUSING COMMISSION FUNDS—TRANSACTIONS DURING THE YEARS,
1949-50 TO 1953-54.

Details.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.
	£	£	£	£	£
Balance—Brought forward	258,676	245,958	57,343	Dr. 262,852	443,437
Receipts during year—					
General Loan Fund .....	.....	.....	198,634	1,427,000	.....
Other Borrowings .....	.....	.....	.....	170,000	500,000
Sale of Land and Leases	29,926	12,328	37,629	57,854	44,699
Rents	1,452	3,251	5,484	7,684	9,475
Principal Interest and Repayments from Borrowers	111,783	93,464	95,309	114,161	166,758
Construction	37,448	102	2,096	26,431	3,470
Fees and Agency Commissions	112,185	186,078	246,094	319,315	328,538
Other Revenue	68,594	64,841	76,074	108,849	68,307
Total Receipts	361,388	360,064	661,320	2,231,294	1,121,247
Payments during year :—					
Repayment of Borrowed Funds	17,295	16,947	15,305	19,215	28,157
Construction	87,467	129,645	482,969	825,373	538,675
Purchase of Land and Leases	16,334	50,152	82,041	145,541	100,850
Revenue Vote—Administration	142,351	203,691	266,816	318,673	360,561
Interest	19,691	14,405	21,096	65,212	76,422
Other	90,968	133,839	113,288	150,990	277,897
Total Payments	374,106	548,679	981,515	1,525,004	1,382,562
Balance on hand 30th June	245,958	57,343	262,852 Dr.	443,437	182,122

VII.—STATISTICAL SECTION.

STATEMENT SHOWING RECEIPTS FROM COMMONWEALTH TAKEN TO THE CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND, 1901-02 TO 1953-54.

Year.	Contribution towards Interest.	Surplus Revenue Returned.	Payment per Head, 25s.	Special Payment to W.A.	Grant Under Sec. 90.	Income Tax Reimbursement.	Tuberculosis Financial Aid.	Mental Institutions Benefits.	Immigration Subsidies.	Other Receipts.	Total.
Period Covered by Braddon Clause.											
(a) 1901-02 to 1910-11	£	£ 8,872,722	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£ 8,872,722
Period Covered by Per Capita Payments and Special Payment to W.A.											
1911-12 to 1926-27	£	£	6,632,264	2,556,248	565,905	£	£	£	£	(g) 462,010	10,216,427
Period Covered by Financial Agreement Act.											
1927-28	(c) 483,286	£	£	£	300,000	£	£	£	£	(g) 25,775	809,001
1928-29	(c) 463,578	£	£	£	300,000	£	£	£	£	(g) 47,868	811,446
1929-30	473,432	£	£	£	300,000	£	£	£	£	£	773,432
1930-31	473,432	£	£	£	300,000	£	£	£	£	£	773,432
1931-32	473,432	£	£	£	300,000	£	£	£	£	£	773,432
1932-33	473,432	£	£	£	500,000	£	£	£	£	£	973,432
1933-34	473,432	£	£	£	600,000	£	£	£	£	£	1,073,432
1934-35	473,432	(d) 183,000	£	£	600,000	£	£	£	£	£	1,206,432
1935-36	473,432	(d) 35,000	£	£	800,000	£	£	£	£	£	1,308,432
1936-37	473,432	(d) 83,000	£	£	500,000	£	£	£	£	£	1,006,432
1937-38	473,432	£	£	£	575,000	£	£	£	£	£	1,048,432
1938-39	473,432	£	£	£	570,000	£	£	£	£	£	1,043,432
1939-40	473,432	£	£	£	595,000	£	£	£	£	£	1,068,432
1940-41	473,432	£	£	£	650,000	£	£	£	£	£	1,123,432
1941-42	473,432	£	£	£	630,000	£	£	£	£	£	1,103,432
1942-43	473,432	£	£	£	800,000	2,546,000	£	£	£	(h) 73,640	3,803,072
1943-44	473,432	£	£	£	850,000	2,546,000	£	£	£	(h) 98,186	3,967,618
1944-45	473,432	£	£	£	904,000	2,546,000	£	£	£	(h) 98,186	4,021,618
1945-46	473,432	£	£	£	950,000	(e) 3,458,559	£	£	£	(h) 98,186	4,980,177
1946-47	473,432	£	£	£	1,873,000	3,384,000	£	£	£	£	5,780,432
1947-48	473,432	£	£	£	2,977,000	3,807,000	£	£	£	£	7,269,724
1948-49	473,432	£	£	£	3,000,000	4,494,632	£	£	12,292	4,225	8,621,077
1949-50	473,432	£	£	£	5,618,000	(f) 5,834,110	63,702	8,525	(i) 44,388	(i) 09,810	12,067,579
1950-51	473,432	£	£	£	5,839,000	7,176,426	136,496	17,225	(i) 58,015	(i) 13,708,077	13,708,077
1951-52	473,432	£	£	£	5,088,000	9,400,000	196,335	17,527	(i) 87,032	(i) 15,264,515	15,264,515
1952-53	473,432	£	£	£	8,041,000	10,854,544	513,920	17,783	(i) 84,412	(i) 10,885,087	10,885,087
1953-54	473,432	£	£	£	7,800,000	11,347,415	424,065	18,280	(i) 6,149	(i) 20,089,341	20,089,341
Total, 27 years	12,782,664	201,000	£	£	51,860,000	67,394,888	1,338,924	79,230	24,430	793,447	134,474,440
Total, 53 years	12,782,664	9,073,722	6,632,264	2,556,248	52,425,905	67,394,888	1,338,924	79,230	24,430	1,255,457	153,683,589

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(a) First complete year under Federation. (b) Including £868,963 from Special Tariff provided under the Constitution of the Commonwealth for 5 years after the imposition of uniform Customs duties. (c) Special payment under States Grant Act, pending passing of the Financial Agreement Act. (d) Proportion of Commonwealth Surplus distributed to States. (e) Includes special payment under the States Grants (Income Tax Reimbursement) Act, 1942 of £912,559. (f) Includes special payment on account of Coal Strike of £901,677. (g) Interest on transferred properties. (h) Entertainment Tax Reimbursement. (i) Price Control Reimbursement.

[Return No. 48.]

VII.—STATISTICAL SECTION.

RECEIPTS FROM COMMONWEALTH TAKEN TO VARIOUS FUNDS OTHER THAN CONSOLIDATED
REVENUE FUND, 1953-54.

Details.	Amount.
Trust Funds—	£
Sinking Fund (Financial Agreement)	355,917
Commonwealth Aid Roads and Works Act, 1950	3,190,740
Commonwealth and State Housing Agreement	3,780,000
War Service Homes	3,864,000
War Service Land Settlement	2,027,068
Meat Production—Encouragement of	133,000
Promoting Efficiency in Dairying Industry	10,000
Agriculture Extension Services	5,000
National Fitness	10,675
National Safety Council	9,900
Public Hospital Benefits	388,000
Pharmaceutical Benefits	106,673
Coal Mining Industry—Long Service Leave	40,542
Frequency Change—State Electricity Commission	31,688
Total—Trust Funds	13,953,203
Other Funds—	
Comprehensive Water Supply Scheme	333,047
University	113,212
Tuberculosis Financial Aid	81,500
Free Milk for School Children	107,137
Total—Other Funds	634,896
GRAND TOTAL	14,588,099

[Return No. 49.]

TOTAL NET COLLECTIONS OF STATE TAXATION TAKEN TO THE CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND,
TRUST ACCOUNTS, AND SPECIAL ACCOUNTS, FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1954.

Details.	Paid to C.R. Fund.	Paid to Trust or Special Accounts.	Total.	Taxation per Head. (a)
	£	£	£	£ s. d.
Probate and Succession Duties	857,669	...	857,669	1 7 1
Other Stamp Duties	1,196,932	...	1,196,932	1 17 10
Land Tax	292,387	...	292,387	9 3
Income Tax—Commonwealth Reimbursement	11,347,415	...	11,347,415	17 18 11
Entertainments Tax	165,218	...	165,218	5 3
Liquor Licenses	268,694	...	268,694	8 6
Racing—				
Stamp Duty on Betting Tickets	33,053	...	33,053	1 0
Totalisator Duty	217,450	...	217,450	6 10
Totalisator Licenses	2,994	...	2,994	1
Stamp Duty on Tote Dividends	2,030	...	2,030	1
Winning Bets Tax	164,890	...	164,890	5 3
Motor Taxation	88,147	1,250,091	1,338,238	2 2 4
Other Vehicle Taxation .....	...	3,155	3,155	1
Vermin Tax .....	...	72,983	72,983	2 4
Fruit Fly Eradication Registration Fees .....	...	9,969	9,969	4
Licenses not elsewhere included	25,601	...	25,601	10
Total	14,662,480	1,336,198	15,998,678	25 6 0

(a) Based on estimated mean population for year 1953-54, viz. 632,400.

VII.—STATISTICAL SECTION.
COST OF SOCIAL SERVICES—YEAR 1953-54.

Service.	Loan Li- ability.	Expenditure.				Receipts.	Net Ex- penditure.	Cost per Head.
		Indirect.		Direct.	Total.			
		Interest and Ex- change.	Sinking Fund.	Con- solidated Revenue Fund.				
								(*)
1.—Education—								
(a) Education Department and Schools	£ 5,970,630	£ 192,589	£ 39,731	£ 4,590,813	£ 4,823,133	£ 55,242	£ 4,767,891	£ s. d. 7 10 10
(b) University	113,712	3,668	794	320,752	325,214	...	325,214	10 3
(c) Technical Education	248,320	8,010	1,794	417,066	426,870	20,828	406,042	12 10
(d) Agricultural Education	186,235	6,007	1,144	100,433	107,584	48,983	58,601	1 10
(e) Library, Museum, Observatory, etc.	37,440	1,208	287	91,230	92,725	535	92,190	2 11
(f) Deaf, Dumb and Blind	884	28	7	25,000	25,035	...	25,035	10
Total 1	6,557,221	211,510	43,757	5,645,294	5,800,561	125,588	5,674,973	8 19 6
2.—Health, Hospitals and Charities—								
(a) Public Health	7,919	255	61	370,378	370,694	167,109	203,585	6 5
(b) Care of Sick and Mentally Afflicted, Health of mothers and Children	4,950,254	159,675	33,278	3,492,168	3,685,121	484,252	3,200,869	5 1 3
(c) Recreation Facilities	...	...	...	42,600	42,600	...	42,600	1 4
(d) Relief of Aged, Indigent and Infirm, Child Welfare	139,541	4,501	973	490,989	496,463	147,833	348,630	11 0
(e) Miner's Phthisis	...	...	...	70,328	70,328	1,559	68,769	2 2
(f) Natives	145,852	4,704	1,118	282,639	288,461	40,479	247,982	7 10
(g) Unemployment Relief	...	...	...	137	137	...	137	...
Total 2	5,243,566	169,135	35,430	4,749,239	4,953,804	841,232	4,112,572	6 10 0
3.—Law, Order and Public Safety—								
(a) Administration of Justice	47,128	1,520	365	347,091	348,976	323,053	25,923	10
(b) Police	277,815	8,961	1,937	1,242,860	1,253,758	101,680	1,152,078	1 16 5
(c) Gaols and Reformatories	93,908	3,029	720	170,658	174,407	15,198	159,209	5 0
(d) Public Safety	...	...	...	92,856	92,856	30,379	62,477	2 0
Total 3	418,851	13,510	3,022	1,853,465	1,869,997	470,310	1,399,687	2 4 3
GRAND TOTAL	12,219,638	394,155	82,209	12,147,998	12,624,362	1,437,130	11,187,232	17 13 9

(*) Based on estimated mean population for year 1953-54, viz., 632,400.

[Return No. 51.]

VII.—STATISTICAL SECTION.
WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.
Statistical Statement of Operations.

Details.	Year Ended 30th June.				
	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Average number of miles worked	4,252	4,228	4,113	4,108	4,111
Results of Operations (per train mile).					
Earnings	216·7d	226·41d	304·33d	340·34d	361·52d
Operating Expenses	256·23d	275·93d	359·47d	529·77d	440·91d
Depreciation .....	.....	16·03d	19·91d	30·78d	26·28d
Interest	38·64d	24·57d	25·20d	38·28d	37·69d
Operating Expenses plus Depreciation and Interest	294·87d	316·53d	404·58d	598·83d	504·88d
Deficit	78·17d	90·12d	100·25d	258·49d	143·36d
Operating Expenses per cent of Earnings	115·9	119·77	116·39	151·62	120·94
Passenger Traffic					
Rail					
Number of Passenger Miles	175,151,849	173,226,699	147,906,751	109,574,235	135,840,554
Earnings from passengers Carried	£830,684	£830,963	£912,919	£697,855	£882,841
Average Earnings per Passenger Mile	1·14d	1·15d	1·48d	1·53d	1·56d
Road Services.					
Number of Passenger Miles	20,161,576	25,541,096	28,264,964	32,914,008	27,046,551
Earnings from Passengers Carried	£114,348	£187,653	£235,452	£271,719	£224,255
Average Earnings per Passenger Mile	1·72d	1·76d	2·00d	1·98d	1·99d
Parcels Earnings	£372,116	£358,328	£382,730	£323,530	£406,931
Goods and Livestock Traffic Paying.					
Number of Ton Miles	426,358,732	459,973,271	469,747,561	409,590,736	537,798,882
Average haul per ton of Goods (miles)	149·95	151·65	153·38	156·4	167·73
Average tonnage per loaded truck	N.A.	N.A.	6·18	6·77	6·99
Average train load (tons)	113·61	111·73	111·45	122·11	118·71
Average Earnings per ton mile	2·52d	2·72d	3·56d	3·44d	4·08d
Earnings from Goods and Livestock	£4,749,052	£5,361,983	£7,148,052	£6,202,530	£9,308,162
Goods and Livestock Traffic Gross					
Average Tonnage per Loaded Truck	N.A.	N.A.	13·93d	14·65d	15·97d
Average train load (tons)	N.A.	N.A.	287	298	297
Average number of vehicles per train—Loaded	N.A.	N.A.	19·72	19·58	18·58
Average number of vehicles per train—Empty	N.A.	N.A.	6·49	6·9	7·03
Rolling Stock on 30th June.					
Locomotives Steam—No.	421	434	454	440	414
Locomotives Diesel Electric—No. ....	.....	.....	.....	.....	16
Passenger Vehicles	448	435	429	419	424
Brake Vans—No.	214	211	210	221	216
Goods Vehicles—No.	10,912	10,825	11,088	12,497	13,616
Omnibuses—No.	43	54	54	54	54
Staff—Average per Year.					
Salaried—No.	1,739	1,832	1,955	2,037	2,113
Wages—No.	9,625	10,006	10,094	10,454	11,352
Total—No.	11,364	11,838	12,049	12,491	13,465

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

STATEMENT SHOWING TONNAGE OF GOODS CARRIED.

Class of Goods.	1949-50.		1950-51.		1951-52.		1952-53.		1953-54.	
	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.
Coal, Coke, and Charcoal	413,537	14.54	486,130	16.02	515,082	16.82	464,831	17.75	536,091	16.72
Ores and other Minerals	244,774	8.81	258,676	8.53	290,777	9.69	231,014	8.82	271,205	8.40
Wool	36,562	1.29	41,009	1.35	51,997	1.70	21,279	.81	51,062	1.59
Hay, Straw, and Chaff	28,017	.99	26,240	.87	20,958	.68	17,811	.68	18,359	.57
Wheat	575,853	20.25	599,330	19.76	606,419	21.76	639,575	20.60	637,067	19.87
Other Grain and Flour	171,388	6.03	212,294	7.00	212,239	6.93	188,858	7.21	214,287	6.65
Firewood	77,592	2.73	51,279	1.69	45,316	1.48	28,841	1.10	23,742	.74
Local Timber	225,298	7.92	228,666	7.54	202,325	6.81	155,508	5.94	290,584	9.06
Imported Timber	1,108	.04	433	.01	247	.01	181	.01	62	.01
Fruit and Garden Produce	104,035	3.66	105,579	3.48	105,052	3.43	108,288	4.13	107,119	3.34
Fertilisers	235,271	8.27	219,385	7.23	224,365	7.33	247,017	9.43	341,248	10.65
All other goods	730,057	25.67	804,192	26.52	721,804	23.66	616,603	23.62	715,532	22.31
Total	2,843,292	100.00	3,033,213	100.00	3,062,041	100.00	2,618,806	100.00	3,205,958	100.00

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS—continued.

STATEMENT SHOWING EARNINGS ON GOODS CARRIED.

Class of Goods.	1949-50.		1950-51.		1951-52.		1952-53.		1953-54.	
	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.
Coal, Coke, and Charcoal	£ 367,637	8.19	£ 479,786	9.19	£ 692,172	9.93	£ 634,231	10.31	£ 986,702	10.78
Ores and other Minerals	189,243	4.22	228,188	4.37	367,707	5.28	376,573	6.42	549,112	5.99
Wool	131,821	2.94	151,032	2.90	227,771	3.27	104,476	1.78	275,381	3.01
Hay, Straw, and Chaff	31,025	.71	38,919	.75	48,027	.60	42,378	.72	90,405	.66
Wheat	650,799	14.51	687,014	13.18	928,886	13.26	719,704	12.27	1,111,930	12.15
Other Grain and Flour	177,540	3.96	220,865	4.23	295,570	4.24	259,707	4.43	394,741	4.32
Firewood	49,780	1.11	39,080	.75	80,460	.87	38,606	.68	39,920	.43
Local Timber	303,937	6.78	360,623	6.91	475,355	6.82	356,611	6.08	804,993	8.45
Imported Timber	2,426	.05	1,242	.02	789	.01	298	.01	252	.01
Fruit and Garden Produce	157,407	3.51	184,382	3.53	250,061	3.50	246,136	4.20	324,820	3.55
Fertilisers	163,980	3.60	181,134	3.47	342,800	4.91	365,100	6.23	689,441	7.54
All other goods	2,257,297	50.38	2,646,067	50.72	3,283,292	47.13	2,719,724	46.30	3,854,020	42.11
Total	4,483,781	100.00	5,219,218	100.00	6,967,270	100.00	5,893,543	100.00	9,152,317	100.00

VII.—STATISTICAL SECTION.

INDICATORS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

Details.	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47.	1947-48.	1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.
Wool exported	£4,553,439	£9,957,030	£10,260,373	£16,621,984	£21,534,904	£25,461,582	£56,279,477	£33,839,794	£39,560,894	£41,129,968
Wool produced (a) (c)—										
(quantity—lbs.)	84,140,800	82,067,200	80,524,000	89,527,500	93,769,000	92,750,000	102,911,000	116,142,000	120,726,000	†125,787,000
(value)	£5,256,000	£5,212,000	£8,047,000	£14,638,000	£18,731,000	£23,619,000	£59,027,896	£32,013,526	£37,223,000	†£40,000,000
Wheat Produced (bushels)	15,929,000	20,929,000	23,800,000	34,500,000	36,250,000	36,500,000	49,900,000	40,000,000	35,458,000	39,700,000
Wheat produced (value)	£3,963,936	£7,898,753	£10,890,000	£24,941,000	£20,784,000	£21,528,700	£28,488,830	£29,506,778	27,696,965	(e)
Hay produced (tons)	338,912	287,476	280,252	267,901	277,329	272,052	226,703	211,629	290,296	(e)
Gold produced (fine ozs.)	474,083	498,299	689,345	680,343	693,972	617,284	632,364	659,324	786,889	845,675
Gold produced (b) (value)	£5,018,160	£5,363,214	£7,419,077	£7,322,192	£7,468,877	£9,051,302	£9,796,388	£10,440,951	£12,843,286	£13,371,404
Coal produced (tons)	571,648	575,500	673,431	719,750	787,112	781,877	835,474	880,015	770,439	968,958
Coal produced (value)	£598,694	£632,180	£771,351	£847,082	£930,525	£1,150,081	£1,441,988	£2,106,049	£2,553,202	£3,240,546
Other Minerals produced (c)	£250,231	£327,082	£323,778	£446,454	£548,001	£632,318	£668,436	£1,102,310	£2,615,232	£2,782,045
Timber exported	£570,028	£722,061	£863,140	£1,099,073	£1,006,760	£1,002,160	£918,485	£1,032,909	£2,074,421	£2,250,149
Timber produced	£1,339,182	£1,412,677	£1,714,149	£2,114,357	£2,346,464	£3,023,703	£4,194,530	£5,570,404	£7,060,202	(e)
Number of Sheep†	10,049,587	9,765,973	9,787,973	10,443,798	10,443,500	10,923,167	11,361,908	12,187,752	12,474,672	13,087,108
Number of Cattle‡	852,563	833,567	811,949	815,610	864,131	964,936	841,204	851,534	846,261	829,694
Number of Horses	96,528	88,180	80,746	74,537	68,521	59,166	55,340	53,347	50,241	45,770
Area of land selected (acres)	231,400	229,022	558,676	703,160	804,128	870,802	1,385,380	1,022,956	1,280,397	1,027,861
Area of land leased (acres)	1,960,825	1,168,645	5,128,710	5,233,086	6,786,119	3,415,545	4,963,089	2,877,227	3,588,644	3,625,299
Area of land under cultivation (d)	13,627,548	13,860,553	14,621,424	15,223,328	15,901,130	16,555,472	16,859,349	17,688,006	18,642,705	19,779,488
Area of land under crop (acres)	2,756,000	2,875,048	3,532,445	3,936,118	4,102,348	4,292,730	4,532,756	4,507,924	4,636,654	4,477,102
Tonnage Shipping, Inwards	1,590,820	2,378,266	2,532,759	3,378,006	4,632,678	5,226,736	5,506,575	5,477,087	5,339,213	†5,250,774
Tonnage Shipping, Outwards	1,528,336	2,472,948	2,646,285	3,431,319	4,677,867	*5,271,814	5,552,156	5,523,959	5,413,420	†5,315,041
Exports, incl. Gold Bullion	£19,403,033	£26,544,880	£29,720,015	£55,731,230	£55,593,840	£61,865,636	£111,857,881	£97,692,527	£113,132,804*	£91,650,379
Exports, excl. Gold Bullion	£19,403,033	£26,544,880	£29,720,015	£51,903,380	£55,593,840	£61,864,459	£111,857,881	£91,121,243	£100,733,558*	£85,035,270
Imports (Australian Currency)	£18,039,357	£21,628,149	£30,591,097	£42,819,781	£52,628,846	£69,443,677	£88,172,421	£122,341,420	£98,480,531	†£125,212,340
Savings Bank Deposits	£21,262,769	£32,917,664	£26,140,983	£26,773,839	£28,389,145	£33,528,416	£42,950,423	£44,055,906	£46,698,191	£51,586,968
Savings Bank Withdrawals	£15,926,571	£26,826,571	£28,426,316	£27,810,784	£27,634,325	£32,072,387	£38,531,063	£42,285,902	£44,929,393	£49,679,397
Population end of Financial Year	487,692	492,510	502,480	515,302	532,667	557,918	581,486	601,266	622,203	†640,000

(a) Figures exclude Wool exported on skins. (b) Australian Currency Value, including premiums. (c) Calendar year first mentioned. (d) Area cropped, cleared, fallowed, ringbarked, etc. (e) Not available. * Revised † Preliminary figures, liable to revision. ‡ As at 31st March of year last mentioned.

**BILL—GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES
(PROMOTIONS APPEAL BOARD)
ACT AMENDMENT.**

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the 16th September.

HON. L. THORN (Toodyay) [5.17]: As explained by the Minister, this Bill makes provision to bring other Government instrumentalities under the Government Employees (Promotion Appeal Board) Act. In particular, the Minister mentioned the State Electricity Commission and the Transport Board. I have no objection, of course, to that. After all, I take it that officers of these other Government departments are entitled to be included under the Act and to have a right of appeal if they feel aggrieved.

As a matter of fact, I think it is a very good policy within the service—and probably would be without the service—if an employee who has a grievance can appeal, because, generally speaking, he would feel that in the set-up of the appeal board there is an unbiased body prepared to hear his grievances. If his appeal is heard—whether it is successful or not—that individual's mind is to a great extent set at rest because he has been granted the right to express his grievance, and even though he may have been unsuccessful, he will not nurse that grievance as he would if he had no right of appeal.

After reading the Minister's speech I am not satisfied in my own mind that it is necessary to amend the Act, because in explaining the Bill he said that a department means any department under the administration of a Minister of the Crown in the Government of the State. There is no department in this State, however small, which does not come under the administration of a Minister. In discussing the matter with the Public Service Commissioner he told me that to some extent this is a restrictive clause and there are doubts as to the right of different departments to be included under this Act.

In that regard we can all agree that these departments should be allowed to come under the Act that is now being amended, and that they should have the right to appeal. The State Electricity Commission and the Transport Board are two important departments, and quite large ones. The Bill also provides that the Minister may by proclamation bring other departments under the Act. I do not know if that is altogether a good idea. These two departments wish to have access to the Government Employees Promotions Appeal Board, and this is brought about by a Bill in this House upon which members may express their views. The Bill will be decided by a vote of Parliament. If other

departments desire to come under the appeal board Act a separate Bill should be introduced and Parliament should have the right to approve of their coming under the Act.

Mr. McCulloch: That is a slow process.

Hon. L. THORN: It would be to some extent, although the delay would at the utmost be 12 months, between two sessions of Parliament. If other departments can be brought under the Act by regulation it will be a better idea, because the regulations will be tabled. Members will have the opportunity of expressing their views and can disallow the regulations. If it is done by proclamation, members will have little say.

I have given the Bill close consideration and I do not suppose any harm can result from bringing these two departments under the Act because they are part of the Government service. Only Government instrumentalities can come under it and, if they eventually wish to avail themselves of the Government Employees Promotions Appeal Board Act, I see no reason why they should not be allowed to do so. Other members on this side of the House may hold different views. As I have said, I am not keen on the idea of proclamation, but I do not see any great danger in it so I support the second reading.

MR. JOHNSON (Leederville) [5.24]: I wish to add to the remarks that have been made. The amendments contained in the Bill were requested by the Civil Service Association. A request was also made during last session when this House dealt with a similar Bill, and it was agreed that the simplest method was to introduce a separate Bill, instead of tagging the amendments on to the end of another measure.

The point at issue is that the Transport Board, a Government instrumentality, apparently did not come under the definition of "department." It is an instrumentality set up under a separate Act. Although administered by a Minister, it apparently does not come under the Act. I do not think that we need worry about the matter of proclamation, because the Act will apply only to persons employed in the Government service in an instrumentality which is not, in itself, a department.

If there is the slightest objection to the proposed method of treating the staff of such departments, it could be raised during the debate on the Act under which a particular instrumentality is set up.

There need be no fear of any difficulties in this regard. The Civil Service Association has requested that the amendment contained in the Bill be made, and I have much pleasure in supporting the second reading of the Bill.

THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT

(Hon. H. H. Styants—Kalgoorlie—in reply) [5.27]: In replying on behalf of the Minister for Labour, I would like to deal briefly with the point raised by the member for Toodyay regarding the matter of proclamation. We need not worry about that because it is the policy of members on both sides of this House to extend to employees in the Government service, no matter to what section of it they belong, the right of appeal. If an employee feels aggrieved at the promotion of someone else to a higher position, to which he considers himself entitled by seniority or greater ability, he should have the right of appeal.

Last year, as Minister for Tramways I introduced an amendment to this Act to allow tramway employees to appeal to the promotions appeal board under certain conditions. Later on in the session a request was made by the schoolteachers to the then Minister for Education to be brought under the provisions of the same Act and the fire brigade employees made a similar request. Early this session I was requested by employees of the Transport Board to bring them under the provisions of this Act, and shortly afterwards the Minister for Labour received a request from the Civil Service Association and other persons to do likewise.

For this reason the provision to declare by proclamation was inserted so as to enable small sections of the Government service to be brought under the promotions appeal board. This will do away with the necessity of introducing amending Bills year after year to include these small sections.

Mr. Yates: I take it this Bill will not affect the Police Force to any degree.

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT: No. The Police Force has a special promotions appeal board itself which consists of the inspectors throughout the State, with the exception of the inspector at Broome.

Mr. Yates: Under this Bill the Police Force could be brought under the Act.

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT: This Bill will not cover the Police Force. The principle with which we all agree of giving Government employees the right of appeal is contained in this Bill. There is nothing to fear from the provision which enables small sections to be declared by proclamation from time to time as coming under this Act. Should there now be a

section of Government employees, with the exception of the Police Force, which does not come under the Government Employees Promotions Appeal Board, this Bill will enable them to be included by proclamation.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Mr. Moir in the Chair; the Minister for Transport (for the Minister for Labour) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 and 2—agreed to.

Clause 3—Section 5A added:

Hon. A. V. R. ABBOTT: It is advisable that the Government should be able to bring other departments under the provisions of this Act; but I would prefer it to be done by regulation, which would obviate delay. I move an amendment—

That the word "proclamation" in line 23, page 2, be struck out and the word "regulation" inserted in lieu.

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT: I would have no objection to the amendment if I were certain it was permissible to do this by regulation; but I do not think that even the mover knows whether it is permissible.

Hon. A. V. R. Abbott: It can be done.

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT: The member for Mt. Lawley has led us astray before. He is a man trained in the law; but he has prostituted his profession by making mis-statements from time to time with regard to the law, until we cannot depend on him, as we should be able to do, for a correct opinion on legal matters. I am not in charge of this Bill; and I do not think that the Minister who is sponsoring it would like the Committee to agree to this amendment until we have first found out whether it is permissible to declare by means of a regulation that these people can be brought within the meaning of the Act. If such a procedure had been possible, I feel sure the Minister for Labour would have included it in the Bill rather than have specified that it should be done by proclamation. I think we shall find that, despite the opinion expressed by the member for Mt. Lawley, it cannot be done by regulation.

Hon. A. V. R. Abbott: I suggest you should report progress and find out, if you are so ignorant of your own Bill.

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT: That remark shows the nature of the approach of the hon. member.

Hon. A. V. R. Abbott: You were not very kind in your approach.

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT: It would not be the first time the hon. member had led me astray, as far as the law is concerned, because he plays party politics in this Chamber instead of giving members the benefit of his undoubted knowledge of the law in many directions. If it is permissible for me, after having made a speech, to move that progress be reported, I would like to do so.

Progress reported.

BILL—LOCAL COURTS ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the 14th September.

MR. OLDFIELD (Maylands) [5.36]: I support the Bill, and have no criticism to offer concerning any part of it. Therefore I will not delay the House too long in speaking to it. There are one or two clauses in connection with which some members are at slight variance, and to which they would like to see minor amendments made. But I understand they will not be very insistent upon them. I myself am not keen to see the Bill altered in any way. With regard to one of the suggested amendments, I can readily see the point of view of those desirous of securing it. But I feel that the disabilities or anomalies that would arise from its acceptance would more than outweigh any benefits derived therefrom.

I have no quarrel with the Bill and I commend the Minister for continuing the policy he adopted last session and which he has adopted this session in bringing measures under his jurisdiction up to date. I feel that this measure will be of great benefit to many people who find it necessary from time to time to enter into litigation for the recovery of their just debts. Previously it had been necessary at times to take such action through the Supreme Court, and that is a costly business. Now, for any amount less than £500, litigants will be able to follow the less expensive method of making an approach through a lower court.

Personally, I would like the Minister to take advantage of the measure that was passed last session to permit him to order the reprinting of an Act when he considers it necessary. I feel that the time has come for the Local Courts Act to be reprinted. With the passing of this measure, if there is no reprint within a short time, there will be at least seven statutes dealing with the local courts. I therefore hope that the

Minister will order a reprint at the earliest opportunity. I have pleasure in supporting the second reading.

HON. A. V. R. ABBOTT (Mt. Lawley) [5.40]: The Bill is one of some importance because it proposes considerably to extend the jurisdiction of the Local Court. In my view, there are two sides to this matter. As I understand the existing provision, the Local Court has jurisdiction up to £100, and the plaintiff may also start an action in that court for a sum up to £250 and, provided the parties agree, it may be tried in that court. If, however, the defendant does not agree, the action is remitted to the Supreme Court for trial. If an action below the sum of £250 is commenced in the Supreme Court, then costs on the Local Court scale only are permitted to be awarded to the successful litigant.

The proposal now is to alter the complete jurisdiction of the Local Court by making the amount £500. This will mean that the plaintiff has a right to decide the court in which the action shall be tried without any recourse by the defendant to have the action tried by the Supreme Court, irrespective of what costs might or might not be allowed. This represents a big step forward. The option is all on the side of the plaintiff, and some plaintiffs are perhaps no more reliable than are some defendants, but it gives a plaintiff the right of selection without the defendant's having recourse, if he thinks fit, to the Supreme Court.

I have no very strong feeling in the matter. I would have preferred to see a provision inserted in the Act to enable a defendant, in a proper case, to apply to the Supreme Court to have the action remitted to the Supreme Court if the judge thought fit so to do, so that the judge would have power to bring it before the Supreme Court for trial. Some very important matters could be decided—

The Minister for Justice: All of these amendments have been approved by the judiciary.

HON. A. V. R. ABBOTT: Yes; the Minister told us that when moving the second reading. I think he might well have given a Supreme Court judge the right to say that, in a proper case, the action could be tried by the Supreme Court. Although on the question of law there is an appeal from the Local Court—

The Minister for Justice: The plaintiff has the option.

HON. A. V. R. ABBOTT: Yes, but why should he be the only one to have the option when, in certain circumstances, a judge might consider it to be in the interests of justice that the action be tried in the Supreme Court? It is acknowledged that Local Court magistrates have not

had the training or experience and have not the qualifications of a judge of the Supreme Court.

The Minister for Justice: Some of them have.

Hon. A. V. R. ABBOTT: Some may have, but I do not think that their qualifications are considered to be as high as those of a judge of the Supreme Court.

The Minister for Justice: They belong to your profession.

Hon. A. V. R. ABBOTT: Some do and some do not. A higher standard is expected of a Supreme Court judge than of a magistrate. The magistrate, of course, presides over a court with less jurisdiction. However, a provision along these lines is not included in the Bill, but I submit the matter for the consideration of the Minister.

The Minister for Justice: The parties may appeal.

Hon. A. V. R. ABBOTT: Yes, but the decision on the facts is generally so conclusive in the lower court that an appeal on a question of fact is seldom successful, and £500 could mean a good deal to a defendant.

The Minister for Justice: No more than £100 represented, say, 20 years ago.

Hon. A. V. R. ABBOTT: That may be so, but it seems rather hard that the whole decision as to the court in which the action shall be tried should be left to the plaintiff. I do not propose to move any amendments, but I thought it my duty to point out this matter to the House, and having done so, I support the second reading.

THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE (Hon. E. Nulsen-Eyre—in reply) [5.47]: I am pleased with the reception accorded the measure. I believe that the Bill will prove to be helpful. Much consideration has been given to its provisions, not only by the officers of the Crown Law Department, but also by the judges of the Supreme Court, and they have approved of them. The higher amount will keep the jurisdiction on the same basis, economically, if I may so describe it, as it was 10 or 20 years ago. Really there would be no difference at all.

Personally, I do not think that the member for Mt. Lawley is adamant on the point he raised. A plaintiff has the right to say whether he will take the case to the Supreme Court and have it tried by a judge and jury. On the other hand, the defendant may appeal and ultimately go to the Supreme Court.

Hon. A. V. R. Abbott: He cannot do very much on a question of fact. The Minister realises that.

THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE: That may be so. However, I do not think that the member for Mt. Lawley intends to insist on that point, and I hope that the Bill will be passed in its present form. If desired, members will have an opportunity in Committee to express their views on the point raised by the hon. member.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Mr. Moir in the Chair; the Minister for Justice in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 10—agreed to.

Clause 11—Section 50 amended:

Hon. A. V. R. ABBOTT: The section being amended by this clause deals with confessions which, when signed by defendants, enables judgments to be entered against them. The signing of a confession is an important matter because further proceedings can be taken as a result. The Bill, which proposes to enlarge the number of persons who may witness such confessions, provides that a member of the Commonwealth or State Parliament may do so. I have not strong views on this question, but I do not think it advisable for a State parliamentarian to have imposed upon him the duty of witnessing confessions of debt. There may be a dispute later by the defendant as to whether he actually signed the confession, and then the member of Parliament would be drawn into the dispute. I think this is a little outside the scope of our duties.

Mr. May: Could you define our duties?

Hon. A. V. R. ABBOTT: No. I, as a member of Parliament, would prefer not to be drawn into this.

The Minister for Justice: As a solicitor you would be.

Hon. A. V. R. ABBOTT: That is so, but as a solicitor I am not available at the moment. This would even be a little undignified for a member of Parliament. I move an amendment—

That the words, "a member of the Commonwealth or the State Parliament" in lines 7 and 8, page 3, be struck out.

THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE: The provision in the Bill would be a great convenience for people in the country. It is only a matter of witnessing a confession for debt, and there is very little to it. The member for Mt. Lawley does not want to strike out the reference to a commissioner for declarations, but every member of Parliament is automatically a commissioner for declarations. There is nothing *infra dig* about this. I would have no objection to signing a confession.

Amendment put and negatived.

Hon. A. V. R. ABBOTT: For the same reason, I think it is outside the duties of a police officer to be signing these confessions. I think the police should be kept out of such civil matters, if possible. I move an amendment—

That the words "a member of the Police Force" in lines 8 and 9, page 3, be struck out.

The MINISTER FOR JUSTICE: In the North, there would probably be only a police officer available to sign a confession. The members of our Police Force are very responsible persons, and they would be only too happy to oblige in this direction.

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 12 to 23, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment and the report adopted.

House adjourned at 6.2 p.m.

Legislative Council

Tuesday, 28th September, 1954.

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

ASSENT TO BILLS.

Message from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the following Bills:—

- 1, Land Act Amendment.
- 2, Droving Act Amendment.
- 3, Shipping and Pilotage Ordinance Amendment.
- 4, Warehousmen's Liens Act Amendment.

QUESTIONS.

HOUSING.

As to Government Policy on Flat-building.

Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH asked the Chief Secretary:

In view of the fact that the town planning consultant to the State Government. (Professor Gordon Stephenson) said at the local government conference yesterday that he saw no reason why, in this spacious State, we should build big flats to house a density of population which was twice that of flats now being erected in central London, where there were 10,000,000 people in one concentration, does the Government intend to persist in flat-building contrary to the advice of its town planning consultant?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied:

No advice of this nature has been submitted to the Government by Professor Stephenson.

RAILWAYS.

As to Inquiries into Derailments and Mishaps.

Hon. A. R. JONES asked the Chief Secretary:

In view of the considerable number of derailments and mishaps caused through derailments over the Government railway system during the last 12 months, and the little publicity given to the findings of inquiries held, will the Minister make available to this House a report covering such inquiries, their findings, and action taken?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied:

Main line derailments, the cause of which is not obvious, are investigated in all cases by a joint inquiry board which normally consists of three district officers, but may include assistant heads of branches or comprise heads of branches.

The finding of the board is examined by the heads of branches and the Railways Commission with the object of remedial action towards eliminating the causes of the derailments if at all practicable.

Derailments of rollingstock, particularly 4-wheeled vehicles, are causing the whole of the Australian railway systems much concern at the present time, and solution of the problem is not easy.

The W.A. Government Railways Commission recently collected a considerable amount of data on 4-wheeled derailments, full particulars of which have been forwarded to Australian and overseas systems seeking their assistance in ascertaining the causes.